



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

January 21, 2010

Docket No. RM10-11-000

Item No. E-4

Chairman Jon Wellinghoff

Statement of Chairman Jon Wellinghoff on Efficient Integration of Renewables into the Grid

"Thank you for this presentation and for the Staff's fine work on this Notice of Inquiry.

Approximately 9,000 MW of variable energy resources went into commercial operation in the U.S. during 2009 and a similar number in 2008. Currently, there are thousands of MW of VERs, particularly wind, in the process of interconnecting to the electric grid. These new resources offer low operating costs and low greenhouse gas emissions, which can benefit consumers. As the staff indicated, VERs also have some operational characteristics which present challenges to system operators. Therefore, it is important that the Commission examine the most efficient ways to effectively integrate these resources into the electric grid, while maintaining reliability and operational stability. We want to examine whether existing rules, regulations, tariffs or practices within the Commission's jurisdiction hinder such efficient integration. I look forward to parties' comments on the issues and questions that the NOI identifies, and to thoughtful and thorough discussion of any reforms that may be needed to remove barriers to the full integration of VERS.

Thank you."