



## NEWS

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### **NGSA to FERC: Remember Natural Gas When Integrating Variable Energy Resources**

(Washington, D.C.) -- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) should recognize that, as electric demand increases, natural gas-fired power generation will be increasingly relied upon to provide baseload generation and complement variable energy resources (VERs) such as wind and solar energy because of its ability to quickly and reliably ramp up to meet electric customers' demands when wind or sun may be lacking, according to the Natural Gas Supply Association (NGSA). The association filed comments on FERC's Notice of Inquiry on Integration of "Variable Energy Resources" with the Commission today. [Docket No. RM10-11-000]

NGSA Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Patricia Jagtiani said, "FERC's policies on the integration of intermittent energy resources should treat fuels fairly and equitably and avoid creating barriers to the use of natural gas. Not only is natural gas an abundant fuel that contributes to meeting our carbon reduction goals, its responsiveness and reliability make it an ideal complement to renewable energies that may be more unpredictable and intermittent."

In its comments, the association said the intermittency of VERs will increase both the magnitude and frequency of use for responsive natural gas generation facilities such as combustion turbine natural gas capacity (quick-start units) that can come online in as little as ten minutes, and can respond reliably in real time when renewable generation is interrupted.

Jagtiani said, "The market will provide customers with the right mix of energy sources for reliability and cost savings, as long as there is non-discriminatory open access to the grid. However, to the extent that exemptions are granted to renewable resources because of their intermittency, exemptions also should be extended to the energy sources that will be called upon to generate power quickly when variable energy resources aren't able to meet customers' demands."

NGSA provided examples of possible exemptions for VERs that should be extended to natural gas to avoid discrimination, including enhanced balancing procedures over broad geographic regions. The association also said costs of transmission system upgrades to accommodate VERs should be allocated in a fair manner.

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NGSA represents integrated and independent companies that supply natural gas. Established in 1965, NGSA encourages the use of natural gas within a balanced national energy policy, and promotes the benefits of competitive markets to ensure reliable and efficient transportation and delivery of natural gas and to increase the supply of natural gas to U.S. customers. For more information, please visit [www.ngsa.org](http://www.ngsa.org),

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