BROOKINGS INDIA BROOKINGS INDIA QUALITY, INDEPENDENCE, IMPACT

Prosumers in India's Future Grid: Challenges and Opportunities

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November 14, 2017

BROOKINGS INDIA BROOKINGS INDIA BROOKINGS INDIA BROOKI SINDIA BIOId Grid vs. Future Gridenes india

• Old Grid

- Over-engineer to ensure supply is always equal to (rather, greater than) demand
 - Demand was the uncertainty
- Future Grid
 - Now, supply is itself variable
 - Options are
 - Over-engineer more?
 - Make demand CONTROLLED VARIABLE to match supply
 - Load shed more (bad idea)

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- Their bill?
- Their supply
 - Quantity
 - Quality
- What *can* they do?
 - Change their demand?
 - Short run operations
 - Long run capital stock
 - Change their supplier?

A Sample Bill

- What info does it convey?
 - Everything statutory!
- Is it nudging energy saving?
- Is it educating?

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A "better" bill (more info)

- What's the main difference?
 - WHERE does this come from
- Lots of small things that matter
 - 107 days of billing!
- Let's also worry about
 - TMI (complexity)
 - Cybersecurity/ Privacy

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Do you believe in the "Prius Effect"?

- US Dept. of Energy cited the value of information displays to guide behavior
- 2 problems
 - Many behaviors regressed back after a short time
 - Could "information" alone save money? [SENSE, THINK, ACT]
 - Priuses (?Prii) have a hybrid drivetrain
 - Early designs called for an "in-home display"
 - We don't necessarily need those any more

Is a prosumer ONLY someone with a Rooftop solar?

- What other modes are there?
 - Thermal storage and time shifting
 - Physical storage and time shifting
 - Other Demand Response
 - EVs
 - A battery?
 - A diesel generator?
- A big chunk of load can be modified
 - Price signal [retail ToD]
 - Control signal
 - Hybrid models (?)

3 Things Consumers Need for "Smart Appliances" and Smart Loads

- Convenience
 - Plug-and-play
 - No lock-in
- Incentives
 - Else, why bother shifting a load
- Control
 - If I want to take a warm shower, I WILL (utility should not control my hot water)

Avg. Daily Load Curve: All India Electricity Supply



What's one difference between DR and DSM?

- Saving energy vs. saving it at the right time
 - Can we value it differently than "marginal bill" (equiv. to one flavor of net metering)
- Does a utility (discom) benefit if a C&I consumer reduces their off-peak consumption?
- WHO will be the first to go for rooftop PV?

India is (luckily) not YET the West



For India, it's not renewables but theft and tiered slabs (tariffs) that can have similar impacts

Utility Death Spiral

Where are we relating to the Utility Death Spiral?

- Per one study (Prayas) half the units sold in Maharashtra are more expensive than solar
- BUT is it right to compare wholesale with retail?
 - Tariff distortions exacerbate the pressures
- Many policies support RE vis-à-vis other generation
 - CSS waivers, free banking, no wheeling charges, etc.
 - A (new) push to ask thermal to cycle down to 55% out for RE
- Why would we ever subsidize the rich? (the "paying customers")

"Solutions", rather, Evolution

- Stop treating all power the same ("Basket of Fruit")
 - Things vary by location, time, ramping, etc.
- Better pricing signals
 - Move from PPAs to markets
 - We don't have markets for power except a small niche
 - Reduce cross-subsidies make any subsidies up front instead
 - Move towards marginal cost signaling [granularity is the hallmark of "smart"]
 - Part of ACS and ARR challenges

BROOKINGS INDIA BROOKINGS INDIA BROOKINGS INDIA BROOKI Don't underestimate the Future dia

• Disruptors

- Rise of apps and digital
- Aggregators (sounds like "uberization")
- Storage
- DER
- EVs
- Etc.

- Total bill will not be the only marker
 - Predictability
 - Quality
 - Convenience
 - Choice

Utilities have a choice: resist OR enable

EA2003 mandated open access; is consumer RE risking similar resistance?

A Smart Future WILL work in India

- Western consumers take power for granted
 - A modified usage pattern *might* save ~\$2/month
 - "Slice of pizza smart grid syndrome" [not worth it]
- Few consumers in India take the grid for granted
- They're already engaged (sometimes not in the best way)
 - A new system can avoid diesel, darkness, etc.
 - Air pollution is also now a big deal
- Indian consumers are savvy, responsive, and respond to price signals
- Indian IT industry is also leading edge
- We only need to align utilities, consumers, service providers, etc. make this a win-win-win situation, not one of tradeoffs

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The future is already here - it's just not evenly distributed

-William Gibson