

Do distributed photovoltaic systems contribute to the power balance?

Tom Key, Electric Power Research Institute. Distributed photovoltaic (PV) systems currently make an insignificant contribution to the power balance on all but a few utility distribution systems.

How do PV systems integrate with a utility?

Integration issues need to be addressed from the distributed PV system side and from the utility side. Advanced inverter, controller, and interconnection technology development must produce hardware that allows PV to operate safely with the utility and act as a grid resource that provides benefits to both the grid and the owner.

Can inverter-tied storage systems integrate with distributed PV generation?

Identify inverter-tied storage systems that will integrate with distributed PV generation to allow intentional islanding (microgrids) and system optimization functions (ancillary services) to increase the economic competitiveness of distributed generation. 3.

Do energy storage subsystems integrate with distributed PV?

Energy storage subsystems need to be identified that can integrate with distributed PV to enable intentional islanding or other ancillary services. Intentional islanding is used for backup power in the event of a grid power outage, and may be applied to customer-sited UPS applications or to larger microgrid applications.

Can PV inverters fold back power production under high voltage?

Program PV inverters to fold back power production under high voltage. This approach has been investigated in Japan, and though it can reduce voltage rise, it is undesirable because it requires the PV array to be operated off its MPP, thus decreasing PV system efficiency and energy production.

Can a PV inverter provide voltage regulation?

A PV inverter or the power conditioning systems of storage within a SEGIS could provide voltage regulation by sourcing or sinking reactive power. The literature search and utility engineer survey both indicated that this is a highly desirable feature for the SEGIS.

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