

Case Study:

Utilities

The Key to Curtailment Success

The power market outlook for an Oregon utility looked bleak - skyrocketing prices, blackouts rolling through California, and a supplier calling for load reductions. The challenge became an opportunity, however, when the utility realized that reducing peak loads would let them sell any saved power and split the revenue with participating customers. A classic win-win situation.

The information technology required by this curtailment application was readily available, easy to implement and easy to use - Energy Profiler Online™ (EPO).

When approached with the idea of a curtailment program and shown the associated financial benefits, key accounts were interested, but afraid of adding administrative overhead by becoming "day traders" on the energy market. The automated EPO solution removed all fears, with installation and maintenance being completely transparent to the user.

The software is hosted by a Power Measurement data center and provides easy-to-access web-based views of load profiling and usage data. Real-time analysis helps the utility's customers make quick, intelligent decisions regarding curtailment, and track the payback of those decisions with minimal effort, technical expertise or training.

Recalls one energy manager: "I just showed the board that we could pay for the entire service for a year with the trading gains we'd make in a single day of operation - we were up and running in a couple of weeks."

Rather than paying the higher power costs they once anticipated from such a difficult market, energy customers are receiving healthy curtailment credits on their bills, which effectively offset any increase in base rates.