

Utility Role in Microgrids



Thomas Bialek PhD, PE
Chief Engineer

September 3, 2015



Types of Microgrids

- Utility
 - Borrego Springs
- Military Bases
- Campus Environment
 - UCSD
- Greenfield Development
 - Third World Applications
- Homes

Microgrid Opportunities



- Support the integration of renewable resources
- Improve reliability and power quality
- Support emergency operations
- Ability to “ride through” outages
- Optimize energy usage
- Enable participation in new markets for demand response and ancillary services



Microgrid Project Benefits

- Allow more power to be delivered through existing infrastructure and reduce the need to build more in the future
- Increase in the reliability and security of the grid by adding elements that make the grid more stable and reconfigurable.
- Allow Utility to utilize and control customer-owned resources
- Optimize the design of circuit operations for microgrid capabilities given consumer DG, demand response, automated response, and other advanced tools

Borrego Springs Microgrid



Real World Experience



- 6/23/12 Planned Outage
 - Microgrid provided power to 2,128 customers for ~ 5.5 hrs
- Q1 2013 conducted 7 planned islanding events over 3 days
- 4/8/13 windstorm
 - Microgrid provided power to 1,225 customers for ~ 6hrs
- 8/25/13 flash flood
 - CES units islanded six customers for ~ 5.5 hrs
- 9/6/13 intense thunderstorms
 - Microgrid provided power for up to 1,056 customers for > 20 hrs

September 6 – 7 Outage

- 9 transmission and 11 distribution poles were down
- All roads into/out of Borrego Springs were closed



September 6 – 7 Outage

- Restoration efforts took 25 hours
- More than 200 employees involved



September 6 – 7 Outage

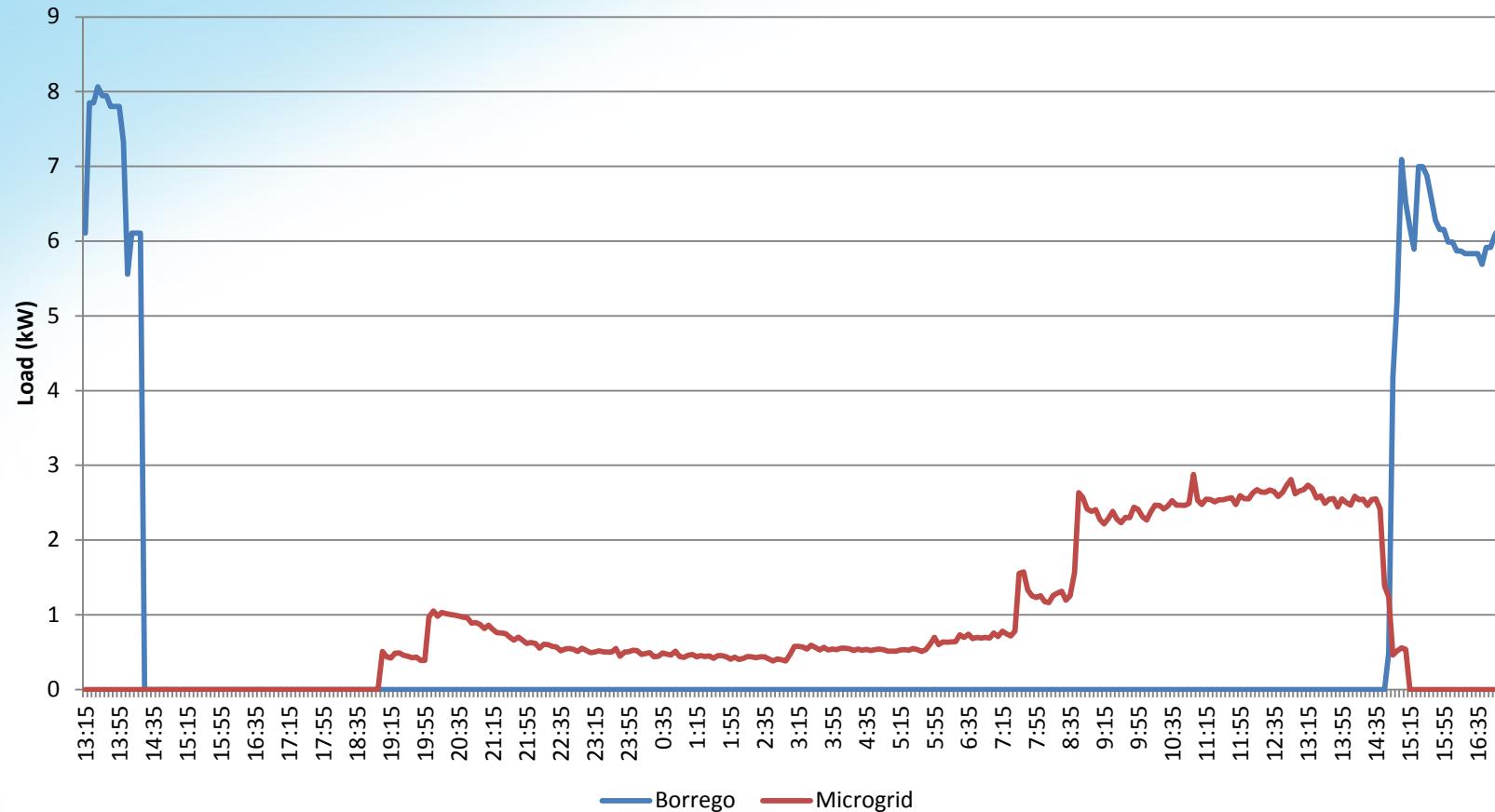


A Sempra Energy utility[®]



Borrego Outage 9/6-7

- At 1420, single transmission line to Borrego trips out
- 9 Transmission and 11 Distribution poles reported down
- 1056 total customers restored during outage

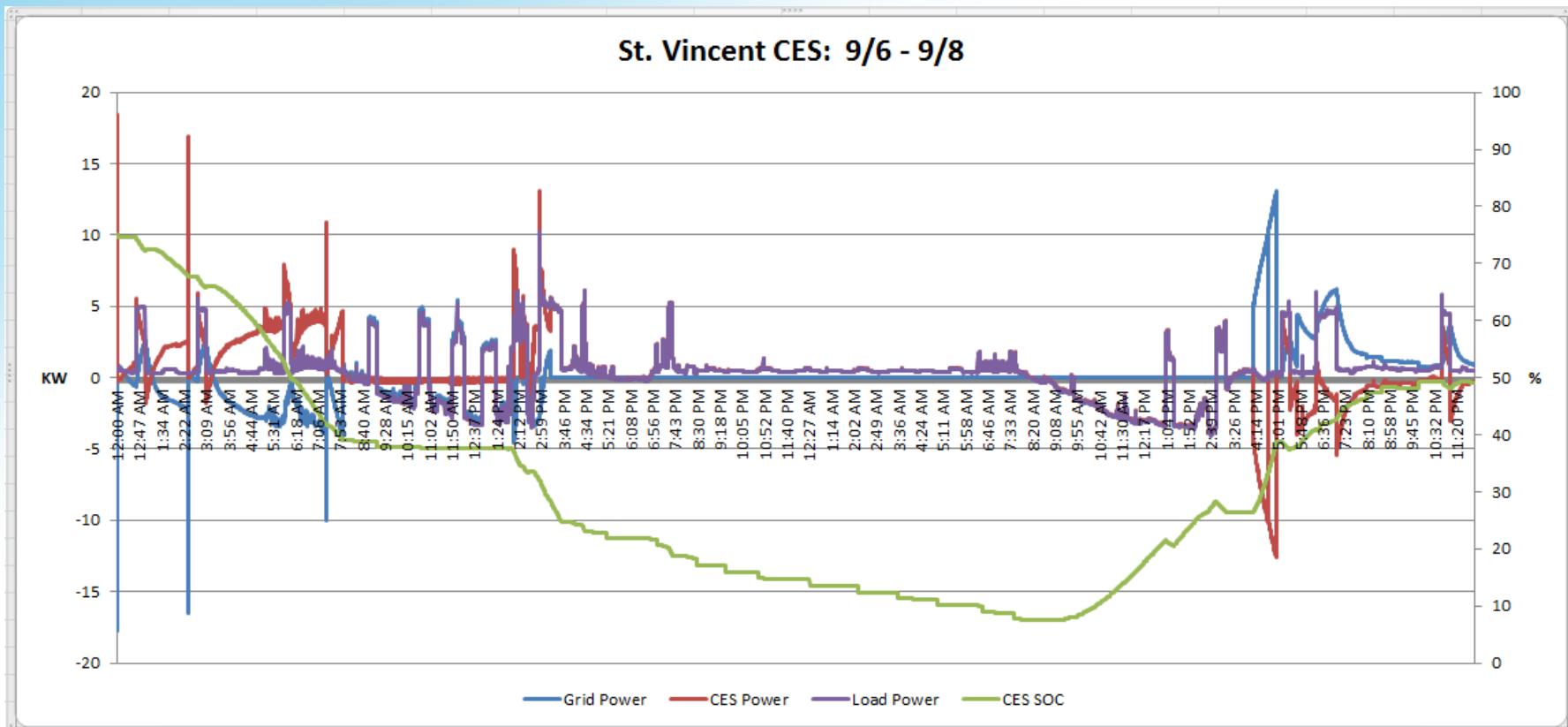


CES - Borrego Outage 9/6-7



A Sempra Energy utility[®]

- No outage seen at St. Vincent CES unit site



Borrego Microgrid 2.0 – Overview

Enhance the Borrego Springs Microgrid to be more flexible and automated in responding to a variety of potential outage situations, and leverage various new technologies and Distributed Energy Resources for increased Microgrid capabilities.

Goals

Enhance Emergency Readiness

Increase Operational Flexibility

Decrease Outage Response Times

Increase Grid Resiliency

Demonstrate New Microgrid Technologies

Increase Microgrid Load Capacity

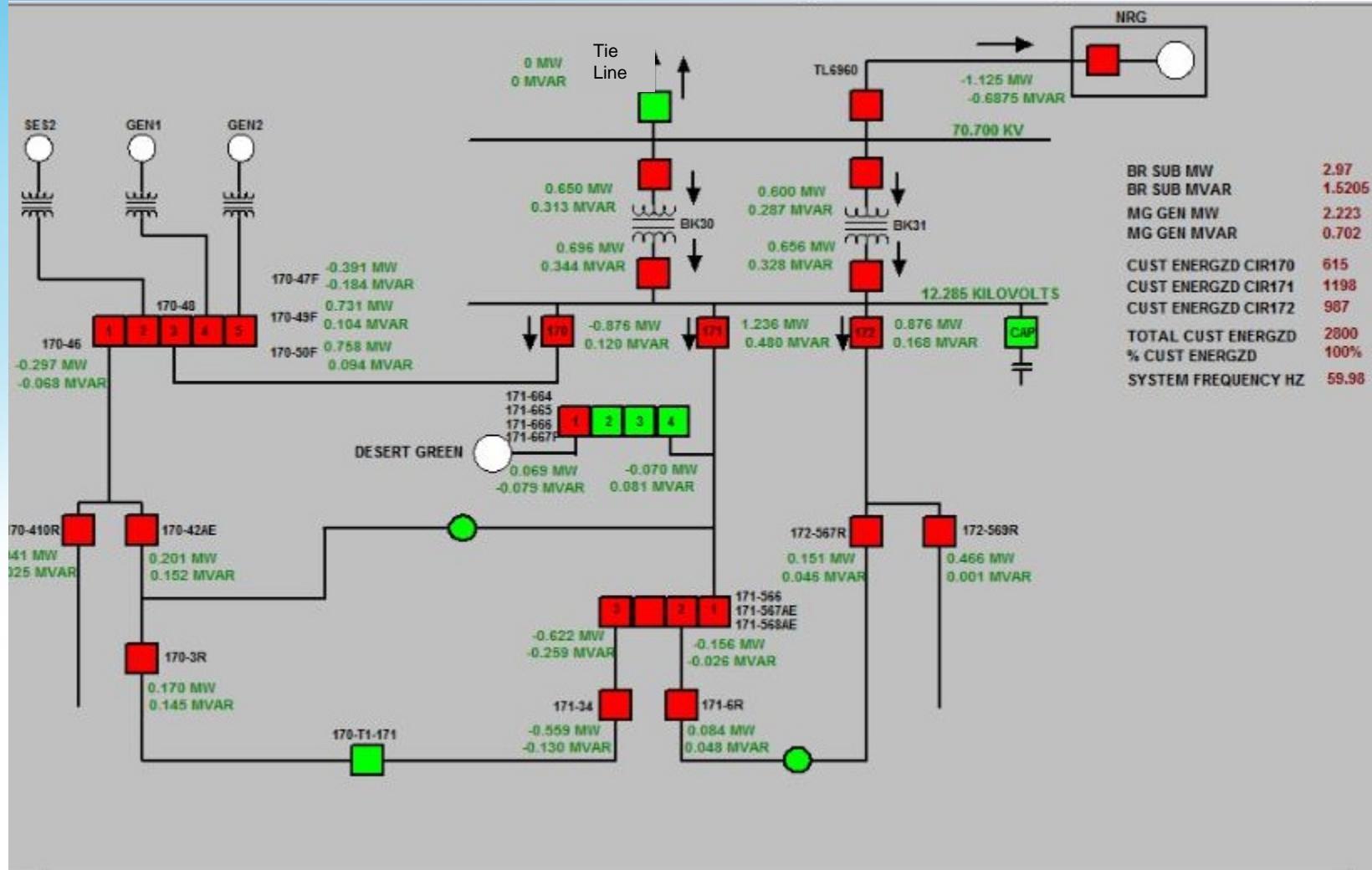
Borrego Microgrid 2.0 – Local PV Integration



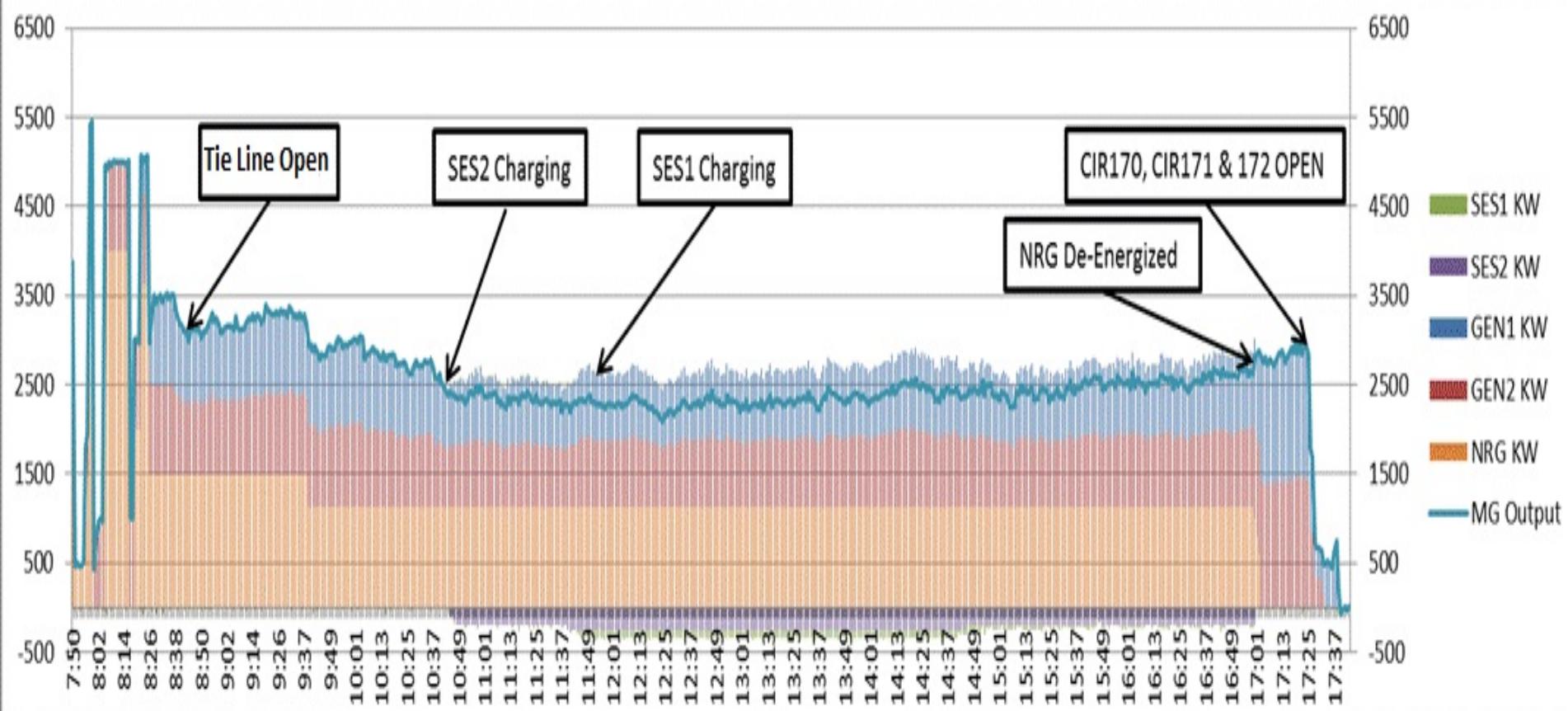
- Solar facilities can provide additional generation source
- Potential of islanding all of Borrego Springs during the daytime



May 21, 2015 Islanding Event



May 21, 2015 Islanding Event



Significance and Impact



- First large scale utility microgrid
- Actually island real customers
- Alternative service delivery model
- Prove advanced technologies for future applications
- Establish model to be used by other utilities



Key Takeaways

- Microgrids can be utilized for grid resiliency
- Microgrids are cost effective in some applications
- Technology cost reductions will drive new applications
- Regulatory framework evolving





Questions?

Thomas Bialek
Chief Engineer

tbialek@semprautilities.com
www.sdge.com/smartgrid/