



Electricity Markets and Power Supply Resilience: an Incisive Review

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Abstract

Purpose of Review This paper focuses on the advances in the resilience of electricity systems and energy markets. The objective is to identify how the progress on system resilience may influence market rules while uncovering the gaps in the literature.

Recent Findings This review distills three findings. First, significant advances have been achieved both in the design and configuration of power systems for resilience. Second, topological and architectural advances appear isolated from market operations. Third, there is room to integrate self-healing resilience into power systems and bridge the bifurcation between increasing network resilience and having the market adequately value resilience.

Summary Evidently, the incidences of disruptions to electricity networks are on the rise, making a change from having a merely reliable electricity network to one that is resilient and adaptive a necessity. This review showcases the qualitative value inherent in processes to enhance adaptive resilience while promoting the requisite signals for power market integration.

Keywords Disruptions · Electricity · Market · Reliability · Resilience · Self-healing

Introduction

Today, electricity transactions and services vary across different regions of the USA. Different markets also value carbon-free power differently [1]. In centralized wholesale markets, transactions occur through Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) with operational oversight by the Federal Electricity Regulatory Commission (FERC). The characteristics of these RTOs include real-time, day-ahead, and capacity transactions. To a large extent, RTOs have provided a good platform for electricity transactions between generators and bulk power purchasers. However, there is a widening gap between the advancements in electricity generating technologies, the increasing scale of renewable penetration, and the market structures in which electricity is traded as a commodity. The increases in

disruptions to the power supply further exacerbate the gap. This paper aims to shed lights on the literature underlying advancements in electricity systems with emphasis on the interaction between resilience and energy markets. In the context of this paper, “resilience is the ability to withstand and recover from deliberate attacks, accidents, or naturally occurring threats or incidents” [2]. An intermediate outcome of this examination is to uncover the gaps at the intersection of the market and power systems resilience.

The motivation is underscored by the recent power outages across the state of Texas for 4 days in February 2021 due to unexpected significant drops in temperatures. Specifically, the sudden rise in the demand for electricity for heating needs and the sudden drop in supply, especially in thermal resources, inundated power plants as demand significantly exceeded supply. Consequently, many power plants shut down [3]. It is predicated on the physics of electricity that disallows a mismatch between supply and demand as a prerequisite for frequency and voltage to be within limited tolerances. The system failure resulted in the loss of more than eighty lives and billions of dollars of property damages. Though access to electricity is significantly dependable, the market where it trades is predominantly sophisticated. The mismatch between the market operations and the changing grid is a classic example of the clock speed hypothesis, i.e., the system must

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concurrently align new processes (emerging technologies) and redesign supply chains (existing markets) [4, 5].

The Texas debacle is reminiscent of prior disruptions that litter recent history on the magnified value of a resilient electricity system especially when the cascading consequences of the failures are considered. The outage of power leaves millions of customers with economic losses, pose threats to health and public safety, and holds the potential to compromise national security [6]. For example, the New England/Eastern Canada Ice Storm that occurred between January 4 and January 10, 1998, left more than 5.2 million customers without power. The absence of a resilient system meant that a month after the storm, hundreds of thousands of customers still had no power with economic losses to the tune of \$4 billion [7]. The Northeast Blackout in August 2003 caused by a confluence of factors including market operator errors led to a cascading collapse of the bulk power system across eight states and two Canadian provinces. The cascading failure affected more than 50 million people with power outages that lasted more than four days with economic cost estimated to be up to \$10 billion and 11 deaths [8]. Others such as hurricane Katrina in 2005 [9] and Superstorm Sandy in 2012 [10] further reiterate the value of designing electricity markets for enhanced resilience. It is clear that in every incident, the magnitude of the losses is an exponentially increasing function of the restoration time. Thus, there is an urgent need for market redesigns that accommodate resilience.

The market redesigns that are cognizant of the fast and vast changes in energy portfolios may minimize the vulnerability of the system. This literature survey spanning mainly 2015 through 2020 shows that significant advances have been achieved both in the design of power systems and their optimal configurations for resilience. Conversely, gaps are highlighting the role of autonomous or self-healing systems and the inadequacies of the markets at recognizing or valuing them. Thus, the exploration suggests an opportunity to fortify the power system's resilience by bridging the bifurcation between the efforts at network reconfiguration for resilience and having the market adequately value the improvements in resilience. Thus, the contribution of this review is on the qualitative value inherent in adaptive resilience while promoting the requisite signals to optimize market operation. This value proposition also encourages trading forward electricity more efficiently.

Methodology

The bibliometric analysis draws from related literature from databases including Google Scholar and Web of Science emphasizing papers mainly between 2015 and 2020. The

search criteria include keywords such as electricity markets, resilience, restoration, disaster mitigation, emerging electricity technology, self-healing, and autonomous power systems. Full articles based on these terms were downloaded for analysis in consistence with related methods in literature [11].

Figure 1 of the bibliometric network map was developed with the aid of VOSViewer [12], a visualization software. The major keyword nodes, made significant by dimension and relative count, in Fig. 1 provide the bases for establishing the central themes for this review with the lines showing how the nodes are related or connected. The figure also shows the colors indicating averaged aggregated publication by year with a scale at the bottom. Finally, NVIVO, a qualitative data analysis software, was used to deductively code the gaps [13, 14].

The figure shows several keywords and linkages that have been integrated into the following themes: (i) the evolution of electricity markets and trading, (ii) disruptions in electricity supply, (iii) policies and metrics for resilience, (iv) self-healing or bio-inspired networks, and (v) implications for a market redesign. These form the main sections of the review. The figure also shows that control, market designs, and self-healing power systems have not received significant attention in recent times as much as issues of vulnerability, trading, environmental performance, and enhanced resilience have. The following sections review the literature and identify gaps that demand research attention. Each section concludes with a box highlighting a deduced summary.

Electricity Markets, Cyberattacks and Trading

Energy markets have evolved considerably with the advent, and increasing penetration, of renewable generation capacities [15]. Integrated energy systems (IES) made up of subsystems including electricity, natural gas, heat/cooling, industrial processes, and hydrogen have offered the promise of reducing the dependence of the economy on fossil fuels. However, studies on these systems, particularly on their resilience, are still conducted not only independent of the other subsystems but also of the market [16, 17•]. The need for increased interconnectivity to match demand and supply has led some to coin the term, "Internet of Energy," i.e., a system that is inclusive of digitizing interdependence and cybersecurity [18•] or internet of things, IoT-enabled electricity network [19].

Nonetheless, there are still some considerable challenges related to how resilient the system may be to Cybersecurity risks [20, 21] compared with conventional centralized electricity system [22] and to what extent is the resilience

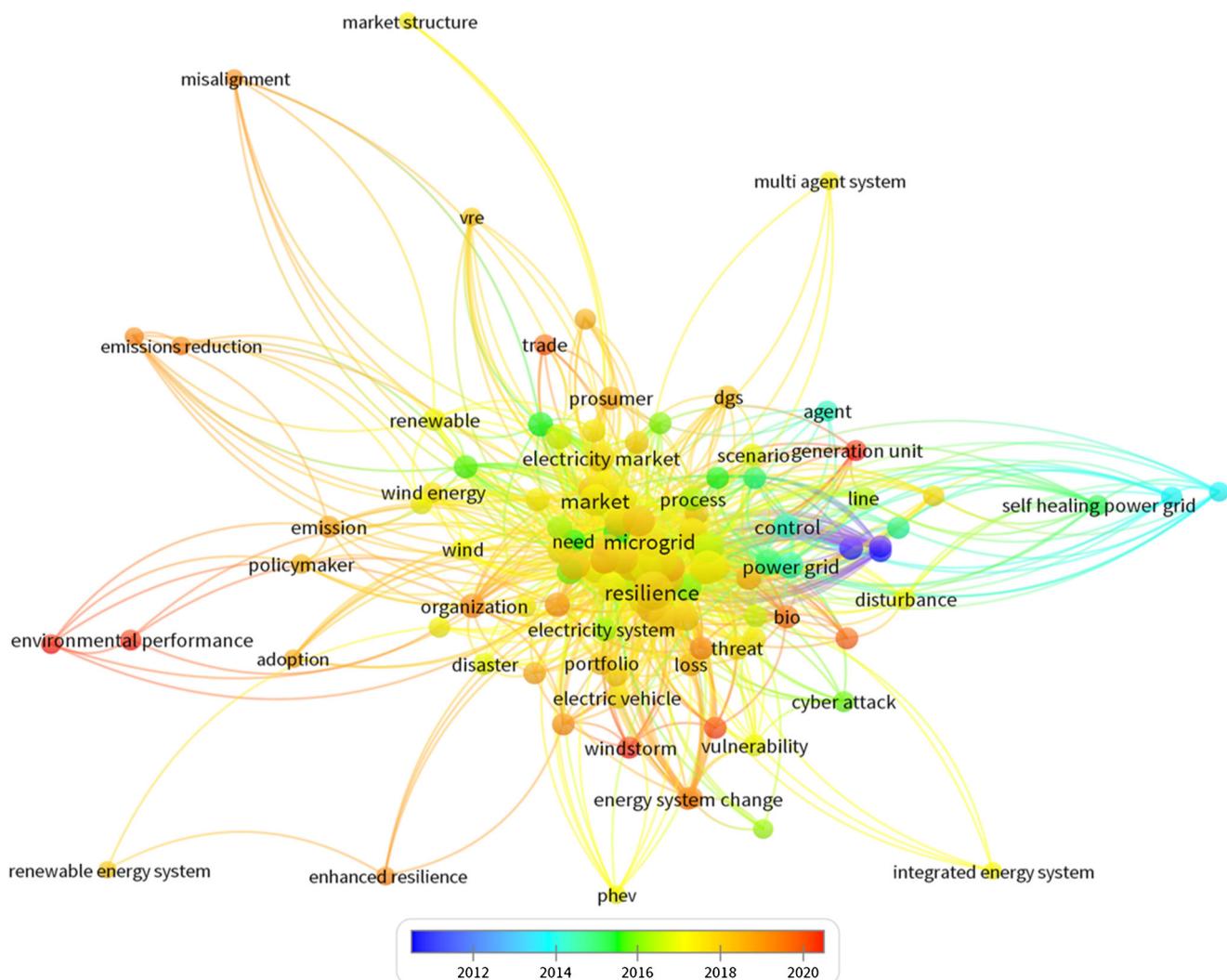


Fig. 1 Time-sequenced bibliometric network of keywords and themes

priced in the market. Cyberattack risks could manifest in the combination of high-wattage demand-side appliances with public information for attacks on the power grid through electric vehicle charging stations with smartphone application and the power grid data [23–25]. The value of resilience, if captured, may also vary by the geographical location of the market.

Beyond peradventure, evidence suggests that restructuring of electric utilities promotes competitive markets despite institutional and policy heterogeneity [6], and often leads to serious effects on market pricing. By the same token, electricity-intensive industries may be dependent on countries' power system resilience [26]. To illustrate, assessing electricity market integration in Europe, factors such as new interconnection, market coupling, and the share of intermittent generation have effects on spot and forward markets, especially on their resilience to shocks [27, 28••]. As systems integrally connect to electricity, such as transportation

systems, grid-to-vehicle integration, and markets for ancillary grid services may be prerequisites for resilience and decarbonization [29]. The reducing costs due to technological learning may also influence market signals [30].

Researchers develop optimization-based routines to carve out market structures specific to locational marginal prices to determine optimal market clearing conditions. For instance, an application of inverse optimization to the Midcontinent ISO (MISO) market shows the correlation of optimal prices to the actual MISO prices under different market conditions [31]. Complexity science algorithms, when applied to energy systems, integrate themes related to transportation, energy behavior, and physical infrastructure [32]. Unfortunately, such modeling frameworks are either difficult to communicate or have no direct bearing on the market dynamics. Multi-agent systems have been proposed with the premise of their suitability across multiple domains [33] to address these limitations.

Primal-dual gradient methods that incorporate line constraints to avoid congestion in bilateral trading have been proposed for clearing the market [34] to promote active market participation. Yet, these systems are limited at offering electricity markets the capability to respond to a consumer-centric generation that is bound to be a feature of future electricity markets [35].

The emergence of prosumers, agents that both consume and produce electricity through solar panels [36], plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) [37], battery storage [38–41], the value of flexibility [42], not only introduces risks for the market but also poses challenges to integrate them into competitive markets [43, 44]. Empirical analysis exquisitely demonstrates that peer-to-peer (P2P) prosumer electricity markets require the active contribution of intermediaries [45, 46]. However, it is unpersuasive how the system values such intermediaries in day-ahead or in real-time pricing or what their marginal economic benefits are [47, 48].

Evidently, the emergence of prosumers may dilute the concentration of supply bulks as their increasing presence offers avenues for multi-spatial supplies. There are three potential effects of their increasing emergence. First, the dilution of market power will have impacts on the level of the price that the market clears at. Second, the exogenous consequence could lead to bulk producers reconsidering their business models. For example, there could be an increase in the trend of major utilities investing in community solar projects. Third, in areas where net-metering is an option in the market, the greening of the electricity supply chain could be accelerated.

Deduction 1: Market Gap

Electricity markets are to supply minimum cost, reliable (and now resilient) electricity. Resource portfolio transition from mainly conventional to renewable options and the emergence of prosumers portend significant challenges. Though battery storage to address intermittent outputs and improved demand response have been touted as solutions, the absence of marginal costs coupled with rent-seeking prosumers suggests that new and responsive market rules are required.

Disruptions in Electricity Supply

Unfortunately, exposure of energy systems to disruptions range from climate change-induced hurricanes and floods,

artificial disasters such as cyber-attacks, ransomware, earthquakes to intermittent energy sources [20, 21, 49, 50]. These high-impact, low-probability (HILP) events are challenging the operation and resilience of power networks [51, 52]. The literature is replete with models that consider microgrids [53] to offer resilience enhancements because they are decentralized. For example, stochastic programming is used to evaluate microgrids by including uncertainties in the wind and real-time market prices to mitigate disruptions [54]. Models of mixed-integer linear programming and utilizing IEEE test systems have been considered for the resiliency of distribution systems given the rising levels of the renewable energy [55] or disruptions due to disasters such as earthquakes [41] or HILP events in general [56, 57]. Chaotic failure models for nodal resilience under windstorms have been proposed with promising insulation to disruption outputs [58]. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning methods [59] have been employed to identify network risks [60, 61] for emerging electricity systems. An incremental cost consensus algorithm examines three different network topologies of microgrids in emergency modes to decipher alternative ways to alleviate demand-supply mismatch [62].

The examples mentioned above illustrate significant advances that offer the preface to more integrated approaches for including disasters and disruptions into technology combination scenarios. Perhaps examining a unifying framework of these methods with the extant rules in power markets could help to reaffirm advances that could prevent the Texas debacle. While the acknowledgment of disruptions is inherently motivating, their effects can be magnified by power system planning that unconsciously ignores their cascading impacts [8].

Deduction 2: Lessons from Disruptions

The lesson from the literature is that disruptions have the unintended consequence of offering rationales for system redesign that may be agnostic of disaster type. Undoubtedly, the dearth of an integrated system of systems analysis implies that as the density of disruptions continues to transform into one with fat tails, the effects cascade and magnify. This dearth is not a deficiency of the extant literature taking disasters as exogenous to power network configurations. Rather, it is an aberration that future research must address.

Policies and Metrics for Resilience

It is essential to delineate how resilience is measured, given that only measurable parameters can be controlled. Earlier in 2013, the US government proposed steps to strengthen critical infrastructure resilience emphasizing energy infrastructures as being uniquely critical. The guiding principles on resilience metrics include: (i) usefulness — metrics must be relevant for decision making in contexts such as system planning, real-time operations, and policy decisions [56]; (ii) offer a mechanism for comparison — applicable across multiple systems and capable of differentiating enhanced systems from weak ones; (iii) extensibility — metrics must be scalable in time and geography; and (iv) quantitative and qualitative [2].

Independent of the research domain, resilience will minimize the effects of a catastrophic event across four functions, including resist, restabilize, rebuild, and reconfigure [63]. The criticality of having a resilient system has been orchestrated to improve equity in environmental and urban services. For instance, closeness to essential services, such as health care facilities, influences resilience benefits [64]. Nonetheless, indicators and metrics for resilience such as proximity to a critical resource or service are prerequisites for investments [65] and costs [66]. This example illustrates how policy could be influenced, as noted in Japan after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster [67]. In response to Japan's earthquake propensity, the country evaluated the possibility of having all electricity supply from renewables and demonstrated even higher levels of resilience [68]. The value of examining resilience beyond electricity generation into social and environmental considerations is crucial for a system of systems integration, and for the recovery of complex systems after a disaster [69].

While existing efforts at distributed resources offer promises of increased resilience, the calls for accelerated and expanded progress are growing louder such that a new technology consideration for resilience enhancement is distributed nuclear [70] to complement others. In the context of multi-energy systems, enhanced resilience with solar photovoltaic coupled with Lithium-ion batteries demonstrate how homes, companies, and regions may use renewable resources for their energy supply [71]. However, the pace requires policies that promote democratizing energy access [72]. Such policies could aid efficient building designs, and passive cooling devices [73, 74]. From the lens of a policymaker, microgrids offer a strategic role, particularly in the design of ancillary services markets for resilience [75]. One such examination considers resilience-constrained unit commitment (RCUC) in a proportional hazard model that simulates line forced outage to highlight the cost implications of preparedness [76].

The increasing enactment of renewable portfolio standard (RPS), a regulatory tool prescribing that a specific percentage of electricity generation be from renewables, correlates with the rise of strategic behavior (by firms that hold market power) in the market for renewable energy credit (REC). This observation has significant impacts on REC and electricity prices [77]. While behavior is strictly in the context of declining dispatchability, it is arguable to be more pronounced when the need for resilience of supplies in these markets is factored in. In sum, isolating RPS regimes from the market structure may have significant impacts such as welfare losses [78], and the ambivalence of policy could impact portfolios' capacity expansions [79, 80].

Deduction 3: Bridging the Metrics–Policy Gap

The failure of critical infrastructure systems in the event of a disaster is exacerbated by the inability of the systems to recover in “good” time in what some scholars call the *resilience triangle*. The demonstrated opportunity for research is how to harness the diversity of the characteristics of metrics to inform resilience policies. A second and more critical element is how the market may be bilaterally influenced by policies, and vice-versa.

Self-healing and Bio-inspired Networks

There is a growing emergence of power systems capable of self-healing in the event of a fault or disruption. Such systems may include advanced control schemes ranging from test demonstrations of fault location, isolation and service restoration (FLISR) [81, 82], two-layer algorithms with storage in an energy management system [83], phasor measurement unit (PMU) [84, 85], large-scale measurement with information-based control strategy [86], distributed communication protocols [87], maintaining the stability of the synchronous state of the grid [88], or adaptive restoration decision support system [89, 90]. At the minimum, local microgrid capacities may support an isolated part of a disrupted network [9]. For example, the distribution of power for contingency purposes use consensus algorithms [91].

In a bid to adopt self-healing lessons from nature, bio-inspired power system network designs have been modeled for system reliability, and resilience against disturbances [92]. Inspired by ecological robustness, transmission networks have been modeled in mixed-integer nonlinear programming to demonstrate improvements in optimized

robustness, reliability, and resilience in the face of synthetic contingencies [93, 94]. One of the benefits of adopting the architecture of biological systems is the way such systems strike a balance between redundancy and efficiency [95]. This balance motivates how a bio-inspired design of a supply chain network offers better resilience performance than one based on minimum cost [96]. Despite these advances, there is a striking disconnection between the proposed enhancements to power systems through self-healing systems and how the market either responds to the improvements or whether such are adequately valued.

Smartening the grid through self-healing strategies such as automatic switching plans dependent on network topology and load characteristics continue to aim at the dual goals of minimizing both the count of switching operations and the time to autonomous recovery [97]. Another bio-inspired approach is self-optimized butterfly mating optimization that shows improvements over existing routing schemes in power network communication [98]. While these efforts produce efficiency gains, the isolation of the grid from other systems abstracts it from systems interdependence [99]. One attempt to integrate electric and gas networks is a model that determines grid topology in the presence of gas constraints while minimizing the demand or load to be isolated from the network [100]. The benefits of this system integration through restrictions governed by interdependence demonstrate the potential for a system of systems analysis over and above gas and electricity networks [101]. Note that real-time responses to disruptions ought not to be strictly based on sectional isolation, the provision of redundancy or standby capacity [102], or insulation to avoid cascading impacts [103]. There should be coordination on pre-disruption plans for critical infrastructure systems with the system of systems interdependency [104].

Deduction 4: Valuing Resilience Autonomy

It is a paradox that the advances in the use of communication technologies in electricity systems and self-healing strategies to smartening the grid have not been directly integrated into market designs. Perhaps there is room for inserting the value of quality-of-service enhanced by self-healing in episodes of disruption into how the market rules are designed.

Market Redesign and the Cost of Resilience

While a number of electricity markets have explicit mechanisms for pricing reliability, it is not evident if there

are explicit approaches for pricing resilience. For example, Texas and Australia use scarcity pricing in an energy-only design [105, 106] and PJM uses an explicit capacity auction [107, 108]. Nonetheless, it is arguable that any policies or actions that improve reliability also tend to improve resilience. Yet, the value of resilience warrants that markets need to have new metrics that may be enhancements to those for reliability.

Although the rules in current markets require updating, the rise of non-dispatchable generation coupled with disruptions to the network exacerbates the challenges for restructuring [109••]. Resilience enhancement, in any of its ramifications, is not free. Nonetheless, it is crucial to note that investments into electricity system resilience are only feasible when the economic benefits of such investments outweigh the costs [110]. Subsequently, resilience implemented by islanding whereby a microgrid is used to power critical loads raises the issue of the best approach to price the contingency power. This issue is addressed in a variety of methods including: the use of models of load dispatch in a single-bid auction market with outcomes showing lower than on-grid market-clearing price of electricity in the island mode [111]; the use of HOMER to model a smart municipal grid with real-time prices in a system requiring resilience due to the mix of combined heat and power and variable renewable energy; indicates flexibility reduces leveled costs in the municipal grid when compared with market prices [112].

Justifying these models is complicated by the efficiency in market designs where, for instance, agreements are made at day-ahead prices, but are settled in real-time. To illustrate, PJM market rules highlight imbalances in how virtual transactions are settled [113]. Thus, considerations for wholesale market designs that include demand response, distributed generation, and storage are required [114]. Specifically, increasing variable renewable options in the market might minimize integration costs, but the electricity market, e.g., in Europe, is not optimized for this opportunity [115] because of market coupling issues and the EU emissions trading system [116, 117]. The equilibrium of peer-to-peer prosumer networks in market design with privacy issues also becomes important [44]. Though a summary of the relation between transactive energy and marginal distribution pricing has been provided [118], it is yet to be seen the extent of resilience in the consideration. There is room also to understand how the equity market values firms that invest in resilience [1].

It is arguable that pricing resilience might lead to the unintended consequence of inequitable access to supply. This implies that the market redesign may lead to a future where the “haves” have access to resilient electricity supply and the “have-nots” or low- and middle-income (LMI) households who do not have the financial means do not

have such access. This notion is viewed in a different lens from the observation on the access to renewable electricity such as rooftop solar panels. Specifically, a market design that incorporates the value of resilience would be integral to the electricity supply infrastructure just as existing markets value reliability and capacity. Such redesign would be no different from the modalities governing the current grid supplies. In other words, factoring the value of resilience would be *sine qua non* to the operation of the grid. In the same vein, it is critical for future market designs to implement such pricing changes without creating inequitable accessibility to resilient supply.

Deduction 5: Tranches of Market Redesign

Despite updates in market-clearing rules, the load curtailment penalty is weak. This weak penalty implies that resilience valuation either from the lens of market coupling or proliferating prosumer networks or financial markets is required to address price imbalances and incentivize resilience. Market redesigns for resilience must be void of inequity that may alienate certain income groups.

Conclusion

This paper presents an incisive review of the recent literature on electricity markets and resilience to shed light on market redesign opportunities. The increasing penetration of renewable generation options, the emergence of prosumers, the rising incidences of disasters combine to suggest that new and responsive market rules are required. Though the literature eloquently demonstrates that disasters call for increasing resilience, the absence of an integrated system of systems analysis implies that isolated efforts will not arrest cascading impacts of disruptions. The continued prolonged restoration time after every disaster to power networks shows that it is imperative for the market to harness a multi-metric approach to measuring resilience and, in turn, inform policy. The same argument holds for the market appreciation of communication technologies for a smarter grid, i.e., their direct integration into market redesigns through a measure of quality-of-service especially for intermittent renewables [119] and as may be induced by self-healing processes. In sum, this article calls for optimizing the market incentives for resilience-enhancing initiatives in power networks that not only preserves equitable access to electricity but also is robust to the rising potentials of cyberattacks.

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Declarations

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