

Subsidies for pumped storage power stations

Do pumped hydropower plants have to pay grid access fees?

Energy ministry and/or regulator to ensure an appropriate classification for energy storage which applies to pumped hydropower, or a separate classification for pumped storage. In several countries, PS plants are classified both as a generation asset and as a final consumer, requiring them to pay grid access fees twice.

What is pumped storage hydropower (PS)?

Pumped Storage Hydropower (PS) is the largest form of renewable energy storage, with nearly 200 GW installed capacity, providing more than 90% of all long duration energy storage across the world with more than 400 projects in operation.

What is a pumped storage power station?

The pumped storage power station consists of two circular concrete silos, each of about 32 metres (105 ft) internal diameter. Each of the silos houses a 250 megawatts (340,000 hp) turbine generator and pump set, giving a total capacity of 500 megawatts (670,000 hp).

How can policymakers accelerate development of pumped storage?

Policymakers can accelerate development of pumped storage in their countries by filtering the many potential sites and highlighting those with the best economic, social and environmental outcomes.

How can pumped storage improve the efficiency of the energy system?

The efficiency of the energy system can be greatly enhanced by integrating the development of pumped storage with the extension of grid infrastructure, and with wind or solar energy. Holistic site planning will therefore bring significant system benefits.

Should policymakers consider pumped storage flexibility?

Policymakers should recognise and value pumped storage flexibility as an essential service to the power system to achieve a successful energy transition, by utilising updated information on the technology's capabilities and benefits within their respective whole system energy modelling.



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