Generation Attribute Tracking System
Hourly Certificate

New GATS Hourly Certificates Serve Market

The Generation Attribute Tracking System (GATS) is an "unbundled," certificates-based tracking system.

For every megawatt hour (MWh) of energy produced in PJM, the generation attributes or characteristics of that generation are separated from the MWh of energy and recorded onto a certificate. A unique serial number identifies each certificate. A certificate's value is that it allows trading of generation attributes separately from the corresponding MWh of energy.

GATS creates certificates in monthly batches on the last business day of each month. To serve a growing demand for more granular data, GATS implemented new functionality to create and retire certificates with hourly timestamps.

GATS hourly certificates allow electricity consumers, including large government and business customers, to tailor their energy consumption to the availability of carbon-free energy at all hours of the day. Demand for hourly certificates also provides market signals about specific times when renewable energy production is desired but currently lacking; this information can inform generation investment decisions.

No Change to Monthly GATS Process

GATS certificates continue to be created monthly in whole MWh quantities. Users who don't need hourly certificates may continue to use GATS as they have before. There are no changes to the monthly certificate creation timeline or to GATS fees.

Hourly, Timestamped GATS Certificates Process

Users now have the capability to view hourly generation as received from the PJM Market Settlement System for PJM generators registered in their GATS account. Hourly generation data can be viewed in GATS retroactive to January 2022 via the My Generation Report.

This new functionality allows GATS subscribers to convert monthly certificates to hourly certificates, in full or in part for that month, upon retirement.

- Users can convert and retire fractional (hourly) certificates for generation in specific hours down to the watt level.
- New hourly certificate serial number format identifies the date and hour in which generation occurred.
- Hourly certificates display generation hour and date, in addition to month and year.
- Hourly certificates may be retired for use in a voluntary market, Carbon Mitigation Standard (CMS), or Zero Emission Standard (ZES).
- The quantity of hourly certificates retired may not exceed the total amount of initially-created monthly certificates.

- Remaining available hourly generation associated with a monthly batch of certificates decreases as hourly certificates are retired. Remaining quantities, if applicable, are handled in the monthly certificate format.
- The amount of available hourly generation can be viewed, and is based on the ownership of certificates at the time of the monthly certificate creation.
- If a user has a Standing Order in place for a PJM generator, then available hourly generation is based upon the percentage designated within the active Standing Order at the time of the monthly certificate creation.

How to Convert Monthly Certificates to Hourly Certificates

Users may convert monthly certificates in two ways:

1. *CSV File Upload*

   Users may upload a CSV file in a standardized format that indicates the hours selected for conversion to hourly certificates. Partial generation can be designated from the available generation for each hour for each generating system. Note: Users may not upload more hourly generation than that processed for the month.

2. *REC Selection via the GATS*

   Users have the option to allow GATS to process the full month by using the REC Selection option. The user need only select the system(s) and month(s) for conversion to hourly certificates. GATS will then process each hour and display the hourly certificates in the Hourly Reserved report in their GATS account. NOTE: Conversions of monthly certificates to hourly certificates cannot be undone. GATS administrators do not have capability to reverse hourly certificates back to monthly certificates.

NOTE: The hourly certificate functionality is only available via the GATS User Interface and not via an Application Program interface (API), since GATS does not currently allow for retirements to be done via the API. This functionality may be considered in a future release.

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