

Comprehensive characteristics analysis of Low Carbon - Environmental Protection Power Generation

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Abstract. The first step to study environmental problems caused by power generation is focusing on electrical energy and carbon emission coordination scheduling and classifying the generating units by near zero emission, ordinary fossil fuels and carbon capture. And then make an in-depth analysis on electrical energy and SO_x, NO_x and smoke based on coordination scheduling. Eventually form a multi-objective coordination framework between electrical energy and various pollutants after the comprehensive analysis of their coordination scheduling under the environmental constraints.

1 Introduction

Highlighting energy conservation and emission reduction, The Chinese Government regards reducing energy consumption per unit GDP by 20% as a rigid index during the period of “11th five-year plan”. China tried out energy-saving power generation dispatching to promote the electric power industry, mainly industry consuming primary energy and discharging pollution, carrying out energy conservation and emission reduction since the end of 2007.

There are a large number of literatures about the power generation scheduling. Ref [1-3] shows a energy-saving generation scheduling method based on all kinds of improved algorithm. Ref [4-6] presents an optimization model of energy-saving generation scheduling for two goals of economic operation and environmental protection. The research framework of low-carbon electricity technology is built after analyzing the situation and characteristics of low-carbon electricity in ref 7. The preliminary low carbon power dispatching decision-making model is set up and the electrical carbon scheduling characteristics of different types of power is described in ref 8. The importance of energy-saving generation scheduling to reduce the CO₂ emission and the relationship between energy-saving generation scheduling and low-carbon electricity scheduling are showed in ref 9.

The CO₂ emission should be taken seriously as well as generation scheduling in the electric power dispatching trading. Therefore, there is no doubt that electrical and carbon scheduling trading characteristics is the foundation of low carbon economy.

2 Comprehensive energy efficiency index system

In the low carbon power dispatching trading, the goal is to realize the maximization of resource utilization efficiency. The principle is make the most effective resources priority to produce electricity. Therefore, when arranging power plan, low carbon, energy saving, emission, economic marginal cost (power generation), all kinds of pollutants in the process of the electric power

production and management cost should be considered. There are four performances to evaluate power generation benefits.

1) Carbon emission performance. Carbon emission mainly refers to the carbon dioxide emission in the process of generating.

2) Energy consumption performance. Electricity energy consumption refers to the fuel energy consumption in the process of power generation.

3) Pollutant emission performance. Pollutants mainly refers to various types of generating units discharge sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and soot emissions in the process of generating.

4) A feed-in tariff performance. A feed-in tariff refers to various types of units of electricity price. It means the cost for power grid.

According to the analysis of the performances, the index system frame of comprehensive energy efficiency of generating units is shown as figure 1.

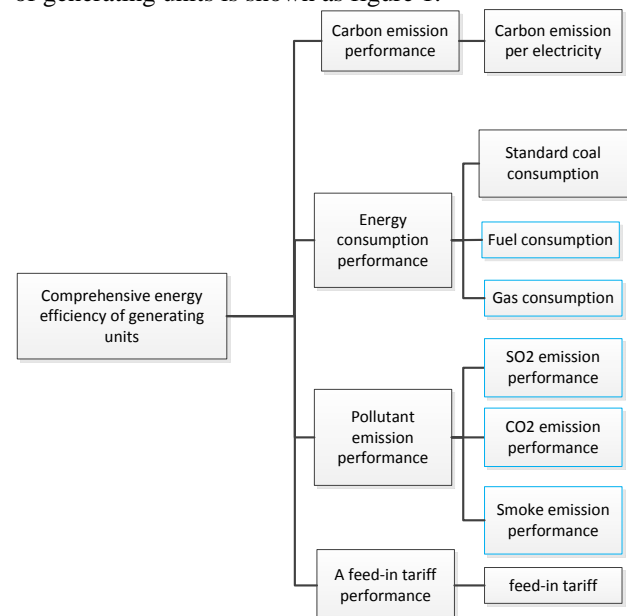


Figure 1 Comprehensive energy efficiency index system

3 Electricity - carbon scheduling transaction analysis

Define generated energy g as the independent variable and corresponding CO2 emission E as the dependent variable. $E=f(g)$, the function relationship between g and E , reflects the electrical and carbon scheduling trading characteristics. Electrical carbon characteristic function have three types according different types power.

3.1 Near zero emission power

Near zero emission power means renewable energy sources such as hydropower, nuclear power, wind power and photovoltaic power which discharge negligible CO2. The function can be expressed as:

$$E = f(g) = 0 \quad (1)$$

3.2 Ordinary fossil fuel power

Ordinary fossil fuel power means thermal power plant which generating by coal, oil and natural gas. This fuels produce CO2 when get fired to generate and discharge it to the atmosphere. The function of CO2 emission can be expressed as:

$$E = F \cdot f \quad (2)$$

F means the fuel quantity of consumed in the process of combustion. f means the amount of CO2 emission which unit fuel gets burned adequately. The function of generated energy can be expressed as:

$$g = F \cdot q \cdot \eta \quad (3)$$

q means calorific value of unit fuel. η is the generating efficiency.

United function (2) and (3), the electrical carbon characteristic function of this power can be expressed as:

$$E = \frac{f}{q} \cdot \frac{1}{\eta} \cdot g \quad (4)$$

The relationship of “generating- carbon emission” for ordinary fossil fuel power in scheduling can be expressed by the functions above. For other power plants, their electrical carbon characteristic functions are different with their different fuels and power technology. Generating efficiency usually waves in a small range with the change of the generating level. But generating efficiency remains a certain constant in this mode just for simple.

3.3 Carbon capture plant

Carbon capture plant means traditional coal-fired power plant with an individual carbon capture system which can separate CO2 from the emission and convey it to the safety storage site so that it can isolate from the atmosphere in the long term. In other words, carbon capture system reduces the CO2 emission equivalently.

It will reduce the external power output of power plant because capturing CO2 needs much energy. Define

α as the loss energy for capturing unit of CO2 and E_c as the total quantity of captured CO2. And then the equivalent emission of plant E' can be expressed as:

$$E' = E - E_c = F \cdot f - E_c \quad (5)$$

The external power output of carbon capture plant g' can be expressed as:

$$g' = g - \alpha \cdot E_c = F \cdot q \cdot \eta - \alpha \cdot E_c \quad (6)$$

United function (5) and (6), the electrical carbon characteristic function of carbon capture plant can be expressed as:

$$E' = \frac{f}{q \cdot \eta} \cdot g' + \left(\frac{f \cdot \alpha}{q \cdot \eta} - 1 \right) \cdot E_c \quad (7)$$

In the formula (7), E_c equals 0 if plant fails to capture CO2. And then formula (7) is simplified as formula (4). E_c takes the maximum E_c^{\max} when plant capture all CO2, that is:

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq E_c \leq E_c^{\max} \\ E_c^{\max} = \gamma \cdot E \\ g^{\min} \leq g \leq g^{\max} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

Substitute formula (4) into formula (8), than is:

$$E_c^{\max} = \gamma \cdot \frac{f}{q} \cdot \frac{1}{\eta} \cdot g \quad (9)$$

g^{\min} and g^{\max} mean the minimum and maximum of generating output. γ means the capture rate of carbon capture plant and its value is usually between 80% ~ 80%.

Compared formula (4) and (7), the relationship of generating and carbon emission is not match anymore. Carbon capture plant can change the emission of CO2 by adjusting the value of E_c at the fixed g so that the plant can run in different conditions. All of conditions form its operation range.

4. The scheduling transaction of electricity and other emission

4.1 The analysis of electrical and sulfur scheduling trading characteristics

In low carbon economy oriented electric power dispatching trading. Electrical and sulfur scheduling trading means scheduling trading considering SO2 emission. There is no doubt that electrical and sulfur scheduling trading characteristics is the foundation of low carbon economy oriented electric power dispatching trading.

Define generated energy g as the independent variable and corresponding SO2 emission E_s as the dependent variable. $E_s=f(g)$, the function relationship between g and E_s , reflects the electrical and sulfur scheduling trading characteristics.

It will greatly affect Es whether unit install the denitration device which can improve the SO₂ emission characteristics.

The desulfurization of electricity price will increase 0.015 yuan per kilowatt hour.

4.2 The analysis of electrical and nitrate scheduling trading characteristics

In low carbon economy oriented electric power dispatching trading. Electrical and nitrate scheduling trading means scheduling trading considering NO_x emission. There is no doubt that electrical and nitrate scheduling trading characteristics is the foundation of low carbon economy oriented electric power dispatching trading.

Define generated energy g as the independent variable and corresponding NO_x emission En as the dependent variable. $En=f(g)$, the function relationship between g and En , reflects the electrical and nitrate scheduling trading characteristics.

It will greatly affect En whether unit install the denitration device which can improve the NO_x emission characteristics.

The denitration of electricity price increased 0.008 yuan per kilowatt hour since January 2013.

4.3 The analysis of electrical and smoke scheduling trading characteristics

Electrical and smoke scheduling trading means considering the emission of smoke when scheduling trading under the environmental constraints.

5 The analysis of environmental scheduling trading characteristics

Scheduling trading under the environmental constraints should consider the emission of CO₂, SO₂, NO_x, and smoke. There is no doubt that “electrical-CO₂-SO₂-NO_x-smoke” scheduling trading characteristics is the foundation of low carbon economy oriented electric power dispatching trading.

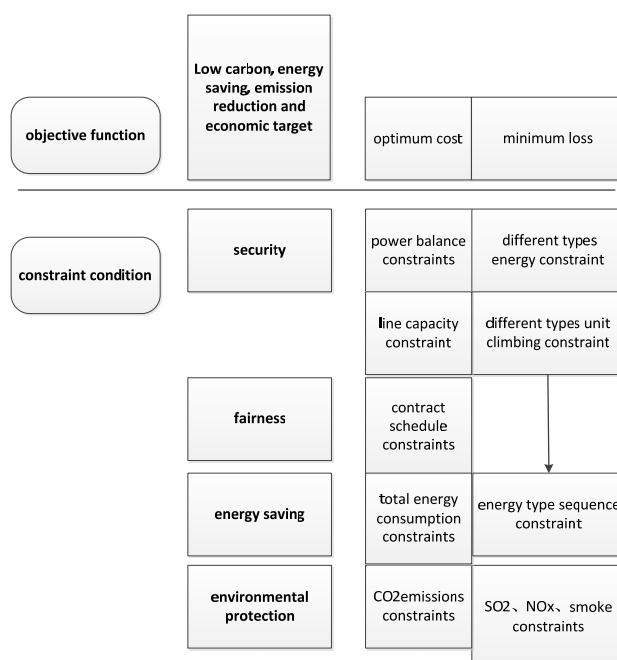


Figure 2 The multi-objective coordination framework of “electrical-CO₂-SO₂-NO_x-smoke”

The multi-objective coordination framework of “electrical-CO₂-SO₂-NO_x-smoke” is shown as figure 2.

(1)The target of objective function is to minimize the cost of power generation and the loss of power grid;

(2)The constraints condition shows the goal of safety, justice, energy saving, emission reduction and low carbon;

(3)Safety constraints include power balance constraints, line capacity constraints, different generators output constraints and climbing constraints;

(4)Justice constraints include contract schedule constraints;

(5)Energy saving constraints include energy consumption constraints and generating sequence constraint;

(6)Environmental constraints mean CO₂, SO₂, NO_x, and smoke constraints.

6 Conclusion

Different energy types have different unit power emission of “carbon, sulfur, nitrate, smoke” in actual power generation.

The higher the proportion of thermal power unit in the grid, the more negative indexes of “carbon, sulfur, nitrate, smoke”, because the emission of thermal power unit is obviously huge.

Gas thermal power unit only discharges 1/3 of CO₂ and 1/5 of NO_x than fossil-fired unit. And gas thermal power unit almost discharge negligible SO₂ and smoke.

Biomass energy is renewable energy but it will discharge CO₂ and smoke and face the same environmental problem as fossil-fired unit.

Other renewable energy and new energy units are positive in the target of “carbon, sulfur, nitrate, smoke”.

In conclusion, from the macroscopic view, the proportion of different energy resources in energy structure

has a strong affect to "carbon, sulfur, nitrate, smoke"; From the long term, it is the foundation way that lowering the propotion of thermal power to realize the scheduling transaction of "carbon, sulfur, nitrate, smoke".

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