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Large-scale energy storage in cascade power stations



Overview

Deploying pump stations between adjacent cascade hydropower plants to form a cascade energy storage system (CESS) is a promising way to accommodate large-scale renewable energy sources, yet the mechanism how renewable curtailment is converted to hydroelectricity is still unclear. Can pumped storage power stations be built among Cascade reservoirs?

The construction of pumped storage power stations among cascade reservoirs is a feasible way to expand the flexible resources of the multi-energy complementary clean energy base. However, this way makes the hydraulic and electrical connections of the upper and lower reservoirs more complicated, which brings more uncertainty to the power generation.

What is a cascade hydropower plant & pump station?

The CESS is an integrated system of cascade hydropower plants and pump stations, whose main function is to consume excess energy from renewables, while satisfying water and energy demands for the public. Essentially, the CESS belongs to a kind of pumped storage power station.

Why do we need pumped storage power stations?

Hence, construction of pumped storage power stations can effectively improve the flexibility of the clean energy base and support the depth of new energy consumption .

Can pumped storage power stations support a high-quality power supply?

Hence, to support the high-quality power supply, this research explores the complementary characteristics of the clean energy base building different types of pumped storage power stations, and recognizes the efficient operation intervals of the giant cascade reservoir.

What is the efficiency of a cascade hydropower system?

The efficiency is defined as a ratio of reduced renewable energy curtailment to

increased hydropower production, and it is calculated based on two scenarios (i.e., optimal operations of the cascade hydropower system and CESS). A case study using China's Longyangxia-Laxiwa CESS was conducted.

How pumped storage power stations can improve Ur and LR?

The construction of pumped storage power stations among cascade reservoirs can improve the flexible adjustment ability of the clean energy base, which also changes the water transfer and electrical connection of UR and LR at the same time.

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