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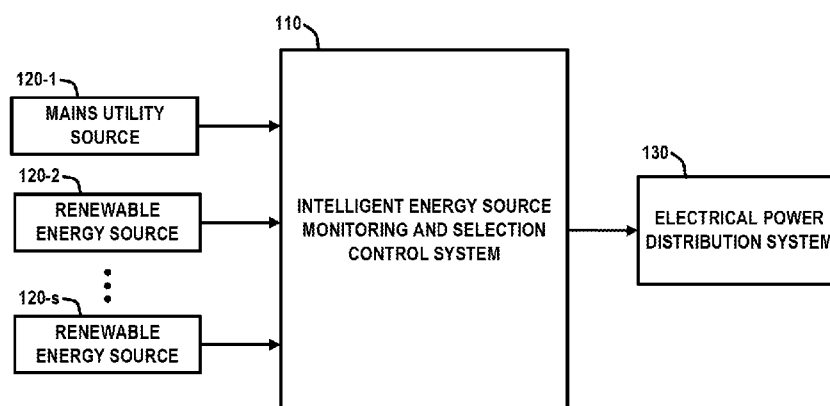
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FIG. 1

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(57) Abstract: Systems and methods are provided for intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control to enable power delivery in a multi-modal energy system. A multi-modal energy system includes a control system, power supply systems, and an electrical distribution system. The power supply systems are coupled to the control system. The power supply systems include a mains utility power system and at least one renewable power system. The electrical power distribution system is coupled to the control system. The control system is configured to monitor each power supply system to determine a power availability of each power supply system, determine an amount of power usage by the electrical power distribution system, and selectively connect and disconnect one or more of the power supply systems to the electrical power distribution system based on the determined power availability of the power supply systems and the determined power usage of the electrical power distribution system.

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INTELLIGENT ENERGY SOURCE MONITORING AND SELECTION CONTROL SYSTEM

Cross-Reference to Related Application

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/064,399, filed on August 11, 2020, the disclosure of which is fully incorporated herein by reference.

Technical Field

[0002] This disclosure relates generally to techniques for monitoring and controlling power delivery and consumption.

Background

[0003] Power consumption is constantly increasing as a result of the increased use of powered devices for commercial and residential applications. This increasing power usage is adding significant strain to existing utility power grids and, thus, increasing the demand for alternative ways to provide power, such as solar power, wind power, battery power, and other alternative forms of renewable energy. The use of renewable energy sources allows consumers to save money on energy. In addition, renewable energy systems provide significant benefits to utility power providers as the use of renewable energy systems allows the utility power providers to decrease peak demands and help manage demand response. For this reason, many utility power providers provide rebates to encourage consumers to consume energy in non-peak times and decrease the spike of demand through the use of renewable power systems such as solar power system and battery systems which can sustain a building (e.g., residential house) when utility power is in high demand.

Summary

[0004] Exemplary embodiments of the disclosure include systems and methods for providing intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control to enable power delivery in a multi-modal energy source system. For example, in one exemplary embodiment, an apparatus comprises a plurality of power supply channels, a power output channel, a power source selection system, energy monitoring and metering circuitry, and a control system. Each power supply channel is configured to connect to a corresponding power supply system of a plurality of power supply systems, which comprise a mains utility power system and at least one renewable power system. The power output channel is configured to connect to an electric power distribution

system. The power source selection system is coupled between the power supply channels and the power output channel. The energy monitoring and metering circuitry is configured to generate metering data which indicates a power availability of each power supply system connected to each power supply channel, and power usage of the electrical power distribution system. The control system is configured to (i) process the metering data to determine the power availability of the power supply systems and the power usage of the electrical power distribution system based on the metering data, and (ii) control the power source selection system to selectively connect and disconnect one or more of the power supply channels to the power output channel, and thereby connect one or more of the power supply systems to the electrical power distribution system, based on the determined power availability of the power supply systems and the power usage of the electrical power distribution system.

[0005] Another exemplary embodiment comprises a multi-modal energy system. The multi-modal energy system comprises a control system, a plurality of power supply systems, and an electrical distribution system. The plurality of power supply systems are coupled to the control system, where the power supply systems comprise a mains utility power system and at least one renewable power system. The electrical power distribution system is coupled to the control system. The control system is configured to (i) monitor each power supply system to determine a power availability of each power supply system, (ii) determine an amount of power usage by the electrical power distribution system, and (iii) selectively connect and disconnect one or more of the power supply systems to the electrical power distribution system based on the determined power availability of the power supply systems and the determined power usage of the electrical power distribution system.

[0006] Another exemplary embodiment includes a method which comprises monitoring each power supply system of a plurality of power supply systems that are configured to supply power to an electrical power distribution system, to determine a power availability of each power supply system, wherein the power supply systems comprise a mains utility power system and at least one renewable power system; monitoring power usage of the electrical power distribution system to determine an amount of power usage by the electrical power distribution system of each power supply system; and selectively connecting and disconnect one or more of the power supply systems to the electrical power distribution system based on the determined power availability of

the power supply systems and the determined power usage by the electrical power distribution system.

[0007] Other embodiments will be described in the following detailed description of exemplary embodiments, which is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying figures.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0008] FIG. 1 schematically illustrates a multi-modal energy system which implements an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0009] FIG. 2 schematically illustrates a multi-modal energy system which implements an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to another exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0010] FIG. 3 schematically illustrates an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0011] FIG. 4 is a flow chart of a method for performing intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0012] FIG. 5 schematically illustrates a bidirectional solid-state switch that is implemented in an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0013] FIG. 6 schematically illustrates a control system of an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0014] FIG. 7 schematically illustrates a system for remote monitoring and management of an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0015] FIG. 8 schematically illustrates a system for remote monitoring and management of an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to another exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

Detailed Description

[0016] Embodiments of the disclosure will now be described in further detail with regard to systems and methods for providing intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control

to enable power delivery in a multi-modal energy source system. It is to be understood that same or similar reference numbers are used throughout the drawings to denote the same or similar features, elements, or structures, and thus, a detailed explanation of the same or similar features, elements, or structures will not be repeated for each of the drawings. The term “exemplary” as used herein means “serving as an example, instance, or illustration”. Any embodiment or design described herein as “exemplary” is not to be construed as preferred or advantageous over other embodiments or designs.

[0017] Further, it is to be understood that the phrase “configured to” as used in conjunction with a circuit, structure, element, component, or the like, performing one or more functions or otherwise providing some functionality, is intended to encompass embodiments wherein the circuit, structure, element, component, or the like, is implemented in hardware, software, and/or combinations thereof, and in implementations that comprise hardware, wherein the hardware may comprise discrete circuit elements (e.g., transistors, inverters, etc.), programmable elements (e.g., ASICs, FPGAs, etc.), processing devices (e.g., CPUs, GPUs, etc.), one or more integrated circuits, and/or combinations thereof. Thus, by way of example only, when a circuit, structure, element, component, etc., is defined to be configured to provide a specific functionality, it is intended to cover, but not be limited to, embodiments where the circuit, structure, element, component, etc., is comprised of elements, processing devices, and/or integrated circuits that enable it to perform the specific functionality when in an operational state (e.g., connected or otherwise deployed in a system, powered on, receiving an input, and/or producing an output), as well as cover embodiments when the circuit, structure, element, component, etc., is in a non-operational state (e.g., not connected nor otherwise deployed in a system, not powered on, not receiving an input, and/or not producing an output) or in a partial operational state.

[0018] FIG. 1 schematically illustrates a multi-modal energy system which implements an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. In particular, FIG. 1 schematically illustrates a multi-modal energy system 100 which comprises an intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 110 (referred to as Energy Traffic Controller TM), a plurality of energy sources 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s (collectively, energy sources 120), and an electrical power distribution system 130. The energy sources 120 comprise different types of power supply systems that are configured to generate or otherwise provide power to the electrical power distribution system 130. The energy

sources 120 include, but are not limited, to a mains utility source 120-1, and one or more renewable energy sources 120-2, ..., 120-s which are configured to supply alternating current (AC) power. In some embodiments, the electrical power distribution system 130 comprises an AC electrical distribution system of a building (e.g., residential home, commercial building, industrial building, etc.). In some embodiments, the electrical power distribution system 130 comprises a public, stand-alone, electric vehicle (EV) charging station.

[0019] The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 110 is configured as an intelligent switching system which controls the connection of one or more of the available energy sources 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s to the electrical power distribution system 130. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 110 monitors each of the energy sources 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s using energy metering circuitry to determine power availability, power usage, etc., to make intelligent decisions on which energy source(s) to connect to the electrical power distribution system 130 at any given time.

[0020] FIG. 2 schematically illustrates a multi-modal energy system which implements an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to another exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. In particular, FIG. 2 schematically illustrates a multi-modal energy system 200 which comprises an intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 that is coupled to an AC power distribution panel 220 of a building (e.g., residential home, commercial building, industrial building, etc.). The AC power distribution panel 220 distributes AC power to AC branch circuits 222 of the building. As further shown in FIG. 2, it is assumed that the building comprises an EV charging station 224 (e.g., hard-wired, portable, etc.) which is connected to the AC power distribution panel 220. A plurality of energy sources (or power supply systems) are connected to the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 including a mains utility power system 230, and one or more renewable energy power supply systems including, but not limited to, a solar power system 240, a fuel cell power system 250, a wind power system 260, an organic waste energy system 270, and an electric battery system 280.

[0021] The mains utility power system 230 comprises a utility grid 232, and a net utility meter 234. The utility grid 232 distributes power that is generated by centralized power plants (or electric generator stations) of a commercial utility power supply company, and distributes the power to consumers through a distribution system which comprises, e.g., high-voltage

transmission lines and towers, medium-voltage transmission lines, transformers, and individual service drops (service lines) from utility poles to customer buildings and other premises. The net utility meter 234 comprises a device which implements net metering functions to record an amount of energy consumed from the mains utility power system 230, and an amount of energy supplied to the mains utility power system 230 in instances where, e.g., one or more of the renewable energy power supply systems 240, 250, 260, 270, etc., comprise an “on-grid” power system which is connected to the utility grid 232. The electricity produced by one or more of the renewable power supply systems 240, 250, 260, and 270, etc., is consumed by loads connected to the building AC branch circuits 222, while excess power that is generated by one or more of the renewable energy sources at any point of time is supplied back to the utility grid 232 for consumption by other customers of the mains utility power system 230. This allows a customer to receive a credit from the utility power company based on the net number of, e.g., kilowatt-hours, that the customer supplied back to the utility grid 232.

[0022] In some embodiments, the solar power system 240 comprises an array of solar panels 242, a solar inverter 244, and a battery bank 246. The solar panels 242 convert sunlight into DC power. The DC power is fed into the solar inverter 244. The solar inverter 244 converts the DC power into AC power (e.g., 240V AC, 60 Hz). The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can selectively connect the solar inverter 244 to the AC power distribution panel 220 where the solar inverter 244 supplies regulated AC power to the AC power distribution panel 220 for distribution to the building AC branch circuits 222 and the on-premises EV charging station 224. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can selectively connect the solar inverter 244 to the utility grid 232 to supply excess AC power, which is generated by the solar power system 240, to the utility grid 232.

[0023] In some embodiments, the solar power system 240 comprises a hybrid system which combines an “on-grid” connection to the utility grid 232, and the battery bank 246 which is configured to store excess solar power in DC batteries. More specifically, in a hybrid system, when the solar power system 240 is generating and outputting AC power to the AC power distribution panel 220 for consumption by electric devices and loads connected to the branch circuits 222 and/or EV charging station 224, any excess power generated by the solar power system 240 can be stored in the battery bank 246. Once the battery bank 246 is fully charged, the inverter 244 will stop sending power to the battery bank 246.

[0024] In a hybrid system, the solar inverter 244 is configured to (i) redirect DC power from the solar panels 242 to the battery bank 246, (ii) convert DC power from the solar panels 242 into AC power, and (iii) convert stored DC power in the battery bank 246 into AC power which is supplied to the AC power distribution panel 220 and/or utility grid 232, as desired. For example, the stored DC power in the battery bank 246 can be used to power the building during, e.g., peak periods when the cost of utility mains power is relatively high, as compared to off-peak periods. Further, as noted above, if the grid-connected solar power system 240 is producing more power than what the building consumes, the surplus solar power can be fed back into the utility grid 232 and/or a battery bank of another renewable energy system that is connected to the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210.

[0025] When the stored DC energy in the battery bank 246 is depleted, and/or when the solar power system 240 is not generating sufficient solar energy (e.g., at night, cloudy days, etc.), the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can selectively connect another power source (e.g., utility mains, or other available renewable energy source 250, 260, 270, and/or 280) to the AC power distribution panel 220 to supply power to the branch circuits 22 of the building. Furthermore, with a hybrid solar system, the solar inverter 244 can be configured to charge the battery bank 246 using, e.g., cheap off-peak electricity from the mains utility power system 230 or some other available renewable energy source.

[0026] Next, the fuel cell system 250 comprises one or more fuel cells 252 (e.g., hydrogen fuel cells), an inverter 254, and a battery bank 256. In some embodiments, the fuel cells 252 comprise hydrogen fuel cells that are configured to produce electrical energy using hydrogen fuel which is supplied from, e.g., a hydrogen fuel storage tank, other otherwise generated by some suitable hydrogen fuel generation system (not specifically shown). In some embodiments, the fuel cells 252 comprise proton exchange membrane fuel cells (PEMFCs). A PEMFC comprises a proton-exchange membrane that is configured to cause the transformation of chemical energy, which is generated by an electrochemical reaction of hydrogen fuel and oxygen, into DC power. The DC power output from the fuel cells 252 is converted to AC power (e.g., 240V AC, 60 Hz) via the inverter 254.

[0027] The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can selectively connect the fuel cell system 250 to the AC power distribution panel 220 where the inverter 254 supplies regulated AC power to the AC power distribution panel 220 for distribution

to the building AC branch circuits 222 and the on-premises EV charging station 224. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can selectively connect the inverter 254 to the utility grid 232 to supply excess AC power, which is generated by the fuel cell system 250, to the utility grid 232.

[0028] In some embodiments, the fuel cell system 250 comprises a hybrid system which combines an “on-grid” connection to the utility grid 232, and the battery bank 256 which is configured to store excess fuel cell power in DC batteries. More specifically, in the hybrid system, when the fuel cell system 250 is generating and outputting AC power to the AC power distribution panel 220 for consumption by electric devices and loads connected to the branch circuits 222 and/or EV charging station 224, any excess power generated by the fuel cell system 250 can be stored in the battery bank 256. Once the battery bank 256 is fully charged, the inverter 254 will stop sending power to the battery bank 256.

[0029] In the hybrid system, the fuel cell system inverter 254 is configured to (i) redirect DC power from the fuel cells 252 to the battery bank 256, (ii) convert DC power from the fuel cells 252 into AC power which is supplied to the AC power distribution panel 220 and/or utility grid 232, and (iii) convert stored DC power in the battery bank 256 into AC power which is supplied to the AC power distribution panel 220 and/or utility grid 232, as desired. For example, the stored DC power in the battery bank 256 can be used to power the building during, e.g., peak periods when the cost of utility mains power is relatively high, as compared to off-peak periods. Further, as noted above, if the grid-connected fuel cell system 250 is producing more power than what the building consumes, the surplus fuel cell power can be fed back into the utility grid 232 and/or a battery bank another renewable energy system that is connected to the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210.

[0030] When the stored DC energy in the battery bank 256 is depleted, and/or when the fuel cell system 250 is not generating DC energy (e.g., hydrogen fuel storage tank depleted), the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can selectively connect another power source (e.g., mains utility, or other available renewable energy source 240, 260, 270, and/or 280) to the AC power distribution panel 220 to supply power to the branch circuits 222 of the building. Furthermore, with a hybrid fuel cell system 250, the inverter 254 can be configured to charge the battery bank 256 using, e.g., cheap off-peak electricity from the mains utility power system 230 or some other available renewable energy source.

[0031] Next, the wind power system 260 comprises one or more wind turbines 262 (e.g., a single wind turbine for a small building, or a wind turbine farm for large buildings, etc.), a transformer/inverter 264, and a battery bank 266. In some embodiments, the wind turbines 262 are configured to generate AC power, and in other embodiments, the wind turbines 262 are configured to generate DC power. When the wind turbines 262 are configured to generate AC power (e.g., 600 V AC, 60 Hz), the transformer 264 is configured to step up, or step down, the AC output voltage to be compatible with the AC power requirements of the building which is supplied power by the AC power distribution panel 220. In other embodiments, when the wind turbines 262 are configured to generate DC power, the transformer/inverter 264 converts the DC power into AC power (e.g., 240V AC, 60 Hz).

[0032] The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can selectively connect the wind power system 260 to the AC power distribution panel 220 where the inverter transformer/inverter 264 supplies regulated AC power to the AC power distribution panel 220 for distribution to the building AC branch circuits 222 and the on-premises EV charging station 224. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can selectively connect the transformer/inverter 264 of the wind power system 260 to the utility grid 232 to supply excess AC power, which is generated by the wind power system 260, to the utility grid 232.

[0033] In some embodiments, the wind power system 260 comprises a hybrid system which combines an “on-grid” connection to the utility grid 232, and the battery bank 266 which is configured to store excess generated wind power in DC batteries. More specifically, in the hybrid system, when the wind power system 260 is generating and outputting AC power to the AC power distribution panel 220 for consumption by electric devices and loads connected to the branch circuits 222 and/or EV charging station 224, any excess power generated by the wind power system 260 can be stored in the battery bank 266. Once the battery bank 266 is fully charged, the transformer/inverter 264 will stop sending power to the battery bank 266.

[0034] In the hybrid system, the transformer/inverter 264 of the wind power system 260 is configured to (i) redirect power generated by the wind turbine 262 to the battery bank 266, (ii) transform/convert AC/DC power from the wind turbine 262 into AC power, and (iii) convert stored DC power in the battery bank 266 into AC power which is supplied to the AC power distribution panel 220 and/or utility grid 232, as desired. For example, the stored DC power in the battery bank 266 can be used to power the building during, e.g., peak periods when the cost

of utility mains power is relatively high, as compared to off-peak periods. Further, as noted above, if the grid-connected wind power system 260 is producing more power than what the building consumes, the surplus power generated by the wind power system 260 can be fed back into the utility grid 232 and/or a battery bank of another renewable energy system that is connected to the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210.

[0035] When the stored DC energy in the battery bank 266 is depleted, and/or when the wind power system 260 is not generating AC or DC power (e.g., insufficient wind to turn the blades of the wind turbine 262), the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can selectively connect another power source (e.g., mains utility power system 230, or other available renewable energy power systems 240, 250, 270, and/or 280) to the AC power distribution panel 220 to supply power to the branch circuits 222 of the building. Furthermore, with a hybrid wind power system 260, the transformer/inverter 264 can be configured to charge the battery bank 266 using, e.g., cheap off-peak electricity from the mains utility 230 or some other available renewable energy source.

[0036] Next, the organic waste energy system 270 comprises a biogas generation system 272, an electric generation system 274, and a battery bank 276. In some embodiments, the biogas generation system 272 comprises, e.g., an anaerobic digestion system which is configured to biologically process organic waste, such as animal manures and wastes, to generate a biogas such as methane. The biogas is then used to operate the electrical generation system 274 to produce AC power. For example, methane gas generated by the biogas generation system 272 is cleaned and used to power, e.g., a small engine-generator which is configured to generate AC electricity. The electric generation system 272 is configured to generate AC power (e.g., 240V AC, 60 Hz) to match the AC power requirements of the building which is supplied power by the AC power distribution panel 220.

[0037] The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can selectively connect the electric generation system 274 of the organic waste energy system 270 to the AC power distribution panel 220 to supply regulated AC power to the AC power distribution panel 220 for distribution to the building AC branch circuits 222 and the on-premises EV charging station 224. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can selectively connect the electric generation system 274 of the organic waste energy system 270 to

the utility grid 232 to supply excess AC power, which is generated electric generation system 272, to the utility grid 232.

[0038] In some embodiments, as with the renewable energy sources discussed above, the organic waste energy system 270 comprises a hybrid system which combines an “on-grid” connection to the utility grid 232, and the battery bank 276 which is configured to store excess power. More specifically, in the hybrid system, when the electric generation system 274 of the organic waste energy system 270 is generating and outputting AC power to the AC power distribution panel 220 for consumption by electric devices and loads connected to the branch circuits 222 and/or EV charging station 224, any excess AC power generated by the electric generation system 274 can be converted to DC power and stored in the battery bank 276. Once the battery bank 276 is fully charged, the electric generation system 274 will stop sending power to the battery bank 276.

[0039] In the hybrid system, the electric generation system 274 of the organic waste energy system 270 is configured to (i) convert generated AC power to DC power which is stored in the battery bank 276, (ii) generate AC power using biogas (e.g., methane) provided by the biogas generation system 272 which is supplied to the AC power distribution panel 222 and/or the utility grid 232, and (iii) convert stored DC power in the battery bank 276 into AC power which is supplied to the AC power distribution panel 220 and/or utility grid 232, as desired. For example, the stored DC power in the battery bank 276 can be used to power the building during, e.g., peak periods when the cost of utility mains power is relatively high, as compared to off-peak periods. Further, as noted above, if the grid-connected organic waste energy system 270 is producing more power than what the building consumes, the surplus AC power can be fed back into the utility grid 232 and/or a battery bank of another renewable energy system that is connected to the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210.

[0040] When the stored DC energy in the battery bank 276 is depleted, and/or when the organic waste energy system 270 is not generating AC power (e.g., no available biogas), the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can selectively connect another power source (e.g., mains utility 230, or other available renewable energy source 240, 250, 260, and/or 280) to the AC power distribution panel 220 to supply power to the branch circuits 222 of the building. Furthermore, with the hybrid system, electric generation system 272

can be configured to charge the battery bank 276 using, e.g., cheap off-peak electricity from the mains utility power supply system 230 or some other available renewable energy source.

[0041] Next, the electric battery system 280 comprises an inverter 282 and a battery bank 292. In an exemplary embodiment, as shown in FIG. 2, the battery bank 292 comprises the battery bank of an electric vehicle 290. The electric vehicle 290 can be a car, truck, heavy-duty fleet vehicle, school bus, public bus, etc., which utilizes the on-premises EV charging station 224 to charge the battery bank 292 of the electric vehicle 290. The electric vehicle 290 could connect to the EV charging station 224 to charge the EV battery bank 292 using AC power supplied to the AC power distribution panel 220 by one or more of the power supply sources 230, 240, 250, 260, and/or 270.

[0042] On the other hand, during periods of time when the electric vehicle 290 is not being used, a vehicle-to-grid configuration is implemented where the EV battery bank 292 is used as a renewable power source by connecting the inverter 282 to the EV battery bank 292, and operating the inverter 282 to convert DC power of the EV battery bank 292 into AC power. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210 can direct the AC power generated by the inverter 282 to (i) the AC power distribution panel 220 to power the electrical devices and loads connected to the AC branch circuits 222, or (ii) back to the utility grid 232, etc. For example, a vehicle-to-grid configuration can be particularly beneficial in instances where, e.g., heavy-duty fleet vehicles, such as buses or utility vehicles, which have substantial battery storage, are typically idle for long periods of time such as evenings and weekends, etc. While the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 2 shows a separate inverter system 282 connected to the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 210, in other embodiments, the EV charging station 224 comprises an integrated inverter system which is configured to generate covert DC power stored in the EV battery bank 292 into AC power, which is supplied to the AC power distribution panel 220 via the EV charging station 224.

[0043] In some embodiments, a public EV charging station, which is coupled to and utilizes multiple power sources (e.g., utility power and renewable power sources) for charging electric vehicles, can be designed to have an integrated intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system which is configured to control the power sources that are used by the public EV charging station when charging electric vehicles. In such implementation, a control module of an electric vehicle can provide various status information and supporting functions to

the integrated intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system for charging an EV at a charging station, or otherwise. For example, depending on the amount of charge (e.g., 50%, 75%, etc.) of a given electric vehicle and other status information as provided by the control mode of the electric vehicle, the integrated intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system can selectively connect one or more power sources to the EV charging station to expedite the transfer of energy to the electric vehicle (e.g., more power for lower charged electric vehicles for faster charging time, or less power for higher charged electric vehicles, etc.). In addition, depending on the type of electric vehicle and needed charge time, the integrated intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system can selectively connect one or more power sources to the EV charging station to provide, e.g., Level 1 charging, Level 2 charging, Level 3 charging, etc.

[0044] FIG. 3 schematically illustrates a multi-modal energy system 300 which implements an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. In particular, FIG. 3 schematically illustrates an exemplary architecture of an intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310, which can be implemented in the exemplary multi-modal energy systems 100 and 200 of FIGs. 1 and 2. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 comprises energy monitoring and metering circuitry 320, AC switch circuitry 330, a power source selection system 340, and a control system 350. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 comprises a plurality of power supply channels C1, C2, ..., Cs, wherein each power supply channel is configured to connect to a corresponding one of the power supply systems 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 further comprises at least one output channel 342 which connects an output of the power source selection system 340 to the electric power distribution system 130. The power source selection system 340 is coupled between the power supply channels C1, C2, ..., Cs, and the power output channel 342.

[0045] The energy monitoring and metering circuitry 320 comprises a plurality of energy metering circuits 320-1, 320-2, ... 320-s. The AC switch circuitry 330 comprises a plurality of bidirectional solid-state switches 330-1, 330-2, ..., 330-s. As shown in FIG. 3, each power supply channel C1, C2, ..., Cs is configured to connect a corresponding one of the energy sources 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s (or power supply systems 120) to the power source selection system 340. Each

power supply channel C1, C2, ..., Cs comprises an associated energy metering circuit and bidirectional solid-state switch.

[0046] In some embodiments, energy monitoring and metering circuitry 320 is configured to monitor the power supply systems 20 that are connected to the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 to determine the availability (presence or absence) of each power supply system 120 at any given time. For example, the energy monitoring and metering circuitry 320 is configured to determine whether a given power supply system 120 is available for use, or whether a given power supply system 120 is offline and not available at a given time, or if there is power outage of mains utility power, etc. In addition, the energy monitoring and metering circuitry 320 is configured to determine how much available power a given power supply system 120 can deliver at a given time, and monitor how power is transferred from the given power supply system 120 to the electrical power distribution system 130, and how much remaining power a given power supply system 120 has at any given time.

[0047] In some embodiments, the energy metering circuits 320-1, 320-2, ...320-s each comprise voltage sensors and current sensors, which are configured to determine the voltage and load current output levels from each power supply system 120, and utilize the determined voltage and load current levels to (i) determine power availability (presence or absence), (ii) determine an amount of available power that given power supply system 120 can supply at given time, and to (iii) generate energy usage data based on sensed load current flowing through each power delivery channel from the respective power supply system 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s, through the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310, to electrical loads connected to the electrical power distribution system 130. In some embodiments, the energy metering circuits 320-1, 320-2, ..., 320-s are configured to measure power and energy flow through the respective power supply channels C1, C1, ..., Cs and process instantaneous voltage and current waveforms to compute RMS values of voltage and currents, active, reactive and apparent power and energies.

[0048] The energy monitoring and metering circuitry 320 generates and outputs metered information regarding power source availability and energy usage data to the control system 350 for analysis. The control system 350 stores and analyzes the energy metering data to determine energy availability and usage of the various power sources 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s, and generates control signals to control the AC switching circuitry 330 and the power source selection system 340 to selectively connect one or more of the power supply systems 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s to the

electrical power distribution system 130. As explain in further detail below, in some embodiments, the control system 350 is configured to provide energy usage information for the different power supply systems 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s to a remote computing node or device via powerline communication, or over wired or wired network connection via a transceiver. This configuration allows remote energy monitoring and notification of energy usage and thereby improves energy awareness for various applications. An exemplary embodiment of the control system 350 will be described in further detail below in conjunction with FIG. 6.

[0049] The AC switching circuitry 330 is configured to selectively connect or disconnect the power supply channels C1, C2, ..., Cs to the power source selection system 340 in response to control signals output from the control system 350. In particular, the bidirectional solid-state switches 330-1, 330-2, ..., 330-s are configured to (i) allow the bidirectional flow of load current to/from the respective power supply systems 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s, through the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310, when the bidirectional solid-state switches 330-1, 330-2, ..., 330-s are in a “switched-on state” and (ii) block the bidirectional flow of load current to/from the respective power supply systems 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s, through the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310, when the bidirectional solid-state switches 330-1, 330-2, ..., 330-s are in a “switched-off state.” An exemplary embodiment of the solid-state bidirectional switches 330-1, 330-2, ..., 330-s will be discussed in further detail below in conjunction with FIG. 5.

[0050] The power source selection system 340 is configured to selectively connect one or more of the power supply channels C1, C2, ..., Cs to the electrical power distribution system 130 under control of the control system 350. In some embodiments, the power source selector circuit 340 comprises a multiplexer switching system which is configured to selectively connect one or more of the power supply channels C1, C2, ..., Cs to the output channel 342 which feeds the electrical power distribution system 130. In this regard, the power source selection system 340 is intelligently operated under control of the control system 350 to connect one or more of the power supply systems 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-3 to the electrical power distribution system 130 to provide power to electrical loads of the electrical power distribution system 130. In some embodiments, the power source selection system 340 is operated in conjunction with the AC switching circuitry 330 such that when a given power supply system 120 is not selected for use and the associated power supply channel is not coupled to the electrical power distribution system 130 through the

power source selection system 340, the associated bidirectional solid-state switch of the power supply channel is deactivated to provide further isolation between the non-used power source and the electrical power distribution system 130. The bidirectional solid-state switches 330-1, 330-2, ..., 330-s are further utilized to provide fast response times for disconnecting a given power supply channel from the input to the power source selection system 340 in instances where a power anomaly (e.g., excessive voltage, excessive load current, etc.) is detected by the energy monitoring and metering circuitry 320 of the given power supply channel. This provides a protection mechanism in which the control system 350 can deactivate a given bidirectional solid-state switch to quickly disconnect a given power source from the electrical power distribution system 130. In this configuration, it is assumed that faster response times for disconnecting power is achieved through the AC switching circuitry 330, as compared to the power source selection system 340.

[0051] The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 is configured to intelligently control power delivery to the electrical power distribution system 130 by selective connection of one or more of the available power sources 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s. The control system 350 is configured to execute software (e.g., proprietary software routines) for collecting and analyzing power usage data from the energy metering circuitry 320 for the different power supply channels, and to generate control signals that are applied to, e.g., the power source selector circuit 340 to control and manage power delivery from one or more of the power supply systems 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s to the electric power distribution system 130. For example, FIG. 4 is a flow chart which illustrates a method for performing intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. In some embodiments, FIG. 4 illustrates an exemplary mode of operation of the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 under the control of the control system 350.

[0052] Referring to FIG. 4, the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310 monitors multiple power supply systems, which are configured to supply power to the electrical power distribution system 130, to determine a power availability of each power supply system, and to determine an amount of power usage by the electrical power distribution system 130 of each power supply system that is currently connected to the electrical power distribution system 130 (block 400). For example, as noted above, the energy monitoring and metering circuitry 320 is configured to determine, for each power supply channel, whether a power source of a given power supply system, which coupled to a given power supply channel, is

available (e.g., present or not present) and a power availability of the power source (e.g., how much power can be supplied by the power source for a given period of time, such as kilowatt-hour, etc.). In addition, the energy monitoring and metering circuitry 320 is configured to determine how much power the electrical power distribution system 130 has consumed from a given power source connected to the electrical power distribution system 130, and how much remaining power the given power source has to supply to the electrical power distribution system 130.

[0053] Over time, the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310 will selectively connect or disconnect one or more of the available power supply systems to the electrical power distribution system 130 based on the determined power availability of the power supply systems and the amount of power usage of each power source by the electrical power distribution system 130 (block 401). By way of example, assume that at some given period of time, the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 is actively connecting a mains utility power source and a solar power source to the electrical power distribution system 130. Assume further that the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 determines that the power availability of the solar power system has significantly decreased due to, e.g., cloud cover, or nightfall), but that the power availability of a wind power supply system has increased due to, e.g., an increase in wind. In this instance, the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 can selectively disconnect the solar power system from the electrical power distribution system 130, while connecting the wind power system with expectation that the wind power system will provide sufficient supply power to the electrical distribution system 130 to supplement or otherwise decrease the power demand on the utility grid.

[0054] The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 performs the power availability/usage monitoring and selective connection/disconnection of the power sources on a continuous or periodic basis (loop control system of blocks 400 and 401). In instances when one or more of the renewable energy sources 120-2, ..., 120-s comprises a “grid-connected” system which is configured to supply excess power back to the utility grid of the mains utility source 120-1, a protection mechanism is implemented by the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 when a power outage of the mains utility power system is detected (affirmative determination in block 402). In such instance, the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 will send control signals to the AC switching circuitry 330 and

the power source selection system 340 to disconnect the mains utility source 120-1 from the electrical power distribution system 130 until the mains utility power supply is restored (block 403). This protection mechanism is implemented to ensure that no excess power from any of the grid-connected renewable power sources is supplied back to the utility grid until the mains utility outage condition is fixed and utility power is restored.

[0055] It is to be appreciated that the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 is configured to perform functions such as (i) bidirectional current regulation, (ii) adaptive line synchronization between various power sources and loads, (iii) energy discrimination to pull power from the optimal and most effective energy source based on current circumstances (e.g., power outages, low battery level, periods of higher price use of utility power, lack of wind, lack of sunlight, etc.), (iv) combining power from multiple different energy sources simultaneously, (v) independent operation of different line voltages and number of phases, (vi) providing power source scalability, (vii) energy conditioning with line and load protection, and (viii) load demand optimization (e.g., EV charging optimization), etc.

[0056] In this regard, the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 enables novel mechanisms for controlling power usage, power usage reporting that previously has not been possible. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 supports adaptive load synchronization between various types of grid power and various types loads through a single switching mechanism. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 is configured to determine the optimal type of power source(s) to be utilized as a given time, based on the downstream load demand, and to provide real-time instantaneous, or near real-time, response while recognizing the upstream power constraints from a variety of different power sources that are coupled to the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310.

[0057] Moreover, the intelligent synchronization between the different power sources allows for multiple sources of power to be utilized simultaneously. By way of example, for a given operating condition, the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 may control the power supply channel connections to different power sources to supply (i) 20% of power from solar power, (ii) 50% of power from a battery bank, and (iii) 30% of power from the utility grid. This intelligent control is made by the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 based on, e.g., recognizing the availability and quality of power that

is being supplied by the various energy sources 120-1, 120-2, ..., 120-s. In the example above, the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 may have intelligently selected such percentages by recognizing that the solar power system was yielding lower returns in a specific timeslot where the cost of utility power is high. Therefore, the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 will automatically recognize the optimal percentage of power that should be pulled from some or all of the available energy sources to sustain a given power demand of electrical loads of the electrical power distribution system 130.

[0058] In this regard, the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 is configured to intelligently control a power demand response of a given electrical load on both a micro-level basis, and a macro-level basis where an intelligent power demand response is even more beneficial. In particular, on a micro-level, consumers can utilize alternative forms of power generation through solar power or wind power in order to power their homes. The time when solar power or wind power needs to be utilized may not be the same time when such power was generated. Therefore, as noted above, the solar power or wind power can be generated and stored in a battery bank for access at some subsequent time, which maximizes the amount of harvested energy that can be utilized. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 controls the supply of power by the different power sources to the electrical power distribution system 130 in an intelligent manner to decrease an overall use of utility power and, thereby, decrease an amount of energy purchased from the utility company, the cost of which has become very expensive in regions throughout the world.

[0059] On a macro-level, the ability to manage power usage on the grid is very challenging. This problem exists in developed countries wherein there is a continuous increase in the number of power devices that are in use, as well as underdeveloped countries that are currently building power infrastructure. Managing demand and seasonal peaks is crucial in order to maintain grid integrity and reliability. On a macro-level, peak power demands create significant strains on the grid especially in specific seasons and at certain times of day. In this regard, the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 can be leveraged to efficiently and effectively smooth out these power demand peaks and valleys by interconnecting a large network of intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control systems in buildings connected to a utility grid to determine what types of power sources are available, what the current status is of these sources and what is the current demand within any given building. Through the aggregation of this data,

the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control systems are able to drive better decision making on the micro-level to have drastic effects on the macro utility grid. Indeed, through proactive insights into demand and recognition of power sources on a building level, intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control systems according to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure, which are implemented by other buildings on the same grid, can understand and react accordingly. This, in turn, will smooth out peak demand fluctuations and also smooth out the quality of power that is delivery to a building, e.g., residential home.

[0060] The process of switching a building between “on-grid” and “off-grid” creates fluctuations on the utility grid. In large quantities, such fluctuations become quite noticeable and lead to issues with “clean power.” This is especially a significant issue in underdeveloped countries. The intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 is configured to drastically reduce such fluctuations on the grid by ramping utility power up and down in relatively small increments, instead binary off/on switching. This will allow utility companies to effectively manage utility power during peak demands and also provide clean, stable utility power to their consumers.

[0061] FIG. 5 schematically illustrates a bidirectional solid-state switch 500 that is implemented in an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. The bidirectional solid-state switch 500 comprises a first switch 501 and a second switch 502 connected back-to-back in series, and associated switch control circuitry 504. In some embodiments, the first and second switches 501 and 502 comprise power metal–oxide–semiconductor field-effect transistor (MOSFET) devices and, in particular, N-type enhancement MOSFET devices, having gate terminals (G), drain terminals (D), and source terminals (S) as shown.

[0062] As further shown in FIG. 5, the first and second switches 501 and 502 comprise intrinsic body diodes 501-1 and 502-1, respectively, where each body diode represents a P-N junction between a P-type substrate body to an N-doped drain region of the MOSFET devices. The body diodes 501-1 and 502-1 are intrinsic elements of the MOSFET switches 501 and 502 (i.e., not discrete elements) and, thus, are shown with dashed-line connections. It is to be noted that the intrinsic body-to-source diodes of the first and second switches 501 and 502 are not shown as they are shorted out by the connections between the source regions and the substrate bodies (e.g., N+ source and P-doped body junction are shorted through source metallization).

[0063] The switch control circuitry 504 is configured to generate a gate control signal that is applied to the gate terminals of the first and second MOSFET switches 501 and 502 to place the solid-state bidirectional switch 500 into a switched-on state or a switched-off state. In particular, during operation of the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310, control system 350 will output control signals to the switch control circuitry 504 to activate or deactivate the bidirectional switch device 500. For example, in response to a switch activation control signal from the control system 350, the switch control circuitry 504 generates a gate voltage to the gate terminals of the first and second MOSFET switches 501 and 502 to activate the switches and place the solid-state bidirectional switch 500 in a switched-on state, which allows the bidirectional flow of AC current on a given power supply channel of the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 between a given energy source and a given load, when the power supply channel is selected for connection to the given load by operation of the power source selection system 340. On the other hand, in response to a switch deactivation control signal from the control system 350, the switch control circuitry 504 disconnects the gate voltage from the gate terminals of the first and second MOSFET switches 501 and 502 to thereby deactivate the switches and place the solid-state bidirectional switch 500 in a switched-off state. The switched-off state of the bidirectional switch 500 prevents the bidirectional flow of AC current on a given power supply channel of the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 310 between a given energy source and a given load, even when the power supply channel is connected to the given load by operation of the power source selection system 340.

[0064] FIG. 6 schematically illustrates a control system of an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. In particular, in some embodiments, FIG. 6 schematically illustrates an exemplary architecture of a control system 600 which can be implemented to control operations of, e.g., the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310 (FIG. 3), according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. The control system 600 comprises a power converter circuit 605, a powerline coupler circuit 610, a powerline modem 615, a memory device 620, a controller 625, a transceiver 630, an antenna 635, a plurality of sensors 640-1, ..., 640-s (collectively, sensors 640), and one or more status light-emitting diodes (LEDs) 645).

[0065] The power converter circuitry 605 is coupled to a hot power line and a neutral power line, and is configured to convert AC supply power, which is applied to the hot and neutral

power lines, into a direct current (DC) supply voltage to power the circuitry and components of the control system 600, and other circuitry of the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310. The controller 625 is configured to control and manage the energy monitoring and switching functions of the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310. In some embodiments, the controller 625 comprises a microprocessor, a microcontroller, an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field-programmable gate array (FPGA), or another type of programmable device, which is configured to implement control functions as described herein. In some embodiments, the controller 625 comprises internal cache memory, e.g., volatile random-access memory (RAM) such as static RAM, and an internal non-volatile flash memory to store program code (e.g., firmware) which is executed by the controller 625 to control and manage the energy monitoring and switching functions of the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310. In addition, the internal memory of the controller 625 can store configuration data which is utilized for provisioning the functions and operation of the energy monitoring and switching functions of the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310.

[0066] In some embodiments, the memory device 620 comprise a non-volatile memory device, such as a flash memory device, an SSD (solid state drive) device, or other types and combinations of non-volatile memory devices, which are suitable for the given application. The memory device 620 is utilized for various purposes including, but not limited to, storing program code which is executed by the controller 625, persistently storing an operating state of the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310, persistently storing metering data and power usage data that is locally collected by the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310, or which is received from remote network node, and providing local persistent storage for other purposes, as needed. The memory device 620 which stores program code for execution by the controller 625 or processor is an example of what is more generally referred to herein as a processor-readable storage medium having program code embodied therein, and may comprise, for example, electronic memory such as SRAM, DRAM or other types of random-access memory, read-only memory (ROM), flash memory, magnetic memory, optical memory, or other types of storage devices in any combination. Articles of manufacture comprising such processor-readable storage media are considered

embodiments of the invention. The term “article of manufacture” as used herein should be understood to exclude transitory, propagating signals.

[0067] The sensors 640 are configured to provide various sensing modalities for detecting and capturing different types of relevant data in a given environment. For example, in some embodiments, the sensors 640 include a temperature sensor which is configured to detect ambient temperature of the environment, a humidity sensor which is configured to detect a humidity level of the environment, gas sensors that are configured to sense hazardous environmental conditions such as, e.g., the presence of a hazardous chemical, the presence of a hazardous explosive gas, etc. and other types of sensors that are configured to detect hazardous conditions, which would warrant the controller 625 to output control signals to the AC switching circuitry 330 and/or the power source selection system 340 so that the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310 could effectively disconnect the power supply systems from the electrical power distribution system 130.

[0068] In some embodiments, the transceiver 630 comprises a wireless transceiver which is configured to enable wireless network communication with remote nodes, remote computing devices and systems. The transceiver 630 can implement proprietary or standard wireless communication protocols. For example, the transceiver 630 can implement a standard wireless communication protocol such as Wi-Fi®, near-field communication (NFC), Bluetooth®, Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), or ZigBee®, and other types of standards-based wireless mesh networks. In some embodiments, the antenna 635 comprises whip antenna or any other type of antenna system or device which is suitable for the given application. In some embodiments, the transceiver 630 comprises an interface for wired network communication (e.g., Ethernet, or other IP-based communication protocol) with remote nodes, remote computing devices and systems. In all embodiments, the transceiver 630 is configured to transmit metering and power usage information, which is collected or otherwise computed by the controller 625, and other information regarding the power availability of each power supply system connected to the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310 and the determined amount of power usage by the electrical power distribution system, to a remote node or system over a wired or wireless network connection.

[0069] In other embodiments, the powerline modem 615 and the powerline coupling circuitry 610 are configured to implement a powerline communication system which enables data

to be sent from, and received by, the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310 over (i) the utility grid of the mains utility system and/or (ii) the AC power distribution panel and the branch circuit wiring of the building, which are connected to the output of the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310. The powerline communication system allows the controller 625 to transmit metering and power usage information, which is collected or otherwise computed by the controller 625, and other useful information, to a remote node or system over the powerline network. In addition, as explained in further detail below, the powerline communication system allows the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310 for a given building to communicate with a remote energy traffic monitoring data center of, e.g., the utility mains power system, to provide power usage information which allows the mains utility to track and monitor power usage patterns over a wide area and more effectively manage power during peak demands and provide clean, stable power to their consumers.

[0070] In some embodiments, the powerline modem 615 implements any suitable broadband over powerline (BPL) protocol to enable the transmission of two-way data over existing medium voltage AC electrical distribution wiring networks, between transformers, and over existing low voltage AC electrical distribution wiring networks and building branch circuits. The powerline modem 615 implements a suitable modulation system which is configured for data modulation to transmit data over the powerline network to a remote node, and a suitable demodulation system which is configured for data demodulation to extract data received from a remote node over the powerline network. The powerline coupler circuitry 610 is configured to couple the input and output of the powerline modem 615 to the powerlines (line/neutral) using known techniques.

[0071] In some embodiments, the status LEDs 645 include one or more individual LED devices that are configured to illuminate in response to control signals received from the controller 625 to indicate an operating status the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310. The status LEDs 645 can have different colors (e.g., red, green, yellow, blue, etc.) and/or have different illumination patterns (e.g., continuous, blinking, etc.) to represent different operational states. For example, in some embodiments, the status LEDs 645 can have an LED associated with each power supply channel of the intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system 310 that which emit different colors (e.g.,

green “on”, red “off”) to indicate whether or not a given power supply channel is active. Other LEDs can be implemented to visually display an alarm condition (e.g., overheating, existence of hazardous environment, etc).

[0072] FIG. 7 schematically illustrates a system for remote monitoring and management of an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. More specifically, FIG. 7 schematically illustrates a system 700 which comprises an intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 710 and associated control system 712, and an AC power distribution panel 720 which is connected to an output of the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 710 using a power supply cable 715 (which comprises a two hot lines (H) and a neutral line (N) and a bare metal ground line (not shown). The AC power distribution panel 720 comprises an energy traffic monitoring status display module 725. The system 700 further comprises a computing device 740, a communications network 750, and a cloud monitoring system 760. The computing device 740 comprises an energy traffic monitoring status system 742. The computing device 740 is supplied power from the power distribution panel 720 by a branch circuit 722 to which the computing device 740 is connected. The computing device 740 can be a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a computer server, a mobile computing device, etc.

[0073] In some embodiments, the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 710 comprises an apparatus which comprises a system housing (e.g., a metallic housing) which contains the power metering circuitry, the AC switching circuitry, the power source selection system, the control system, and all the requisite wiring and electrical power buses to implement the power supply channels and to connect multiple power supply systems to an electrical power distribution system through the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 710. In some embodiments, the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 710 is disposed in a location of a building or power distribution system which is not readily accessible by customers.

[0074] In this instance, in some embodiments, the control system 712 of the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 710 utilizes a transceiver (e.g., wired or wireless) to transmit metering data, power availability data, power usage information, and other useful information, etc., which is collected or otherwise computed by the control system 712, to one or more of the energy traffic monitoring status display module 725 of the AC power

distribution panel 720, the energy traffic monitoring status system 742 (e.g., an application which executes on the computing device 740), and the cloud monitoring system 760, over the communications network 750. The communications network 750 comprises any combination of known wired and/or wireless communication networks such as, a global computer network (e.g., the Internet), a wide area network (WAN), a local area network (LAN), a satellite network, a telephone or cable network, a cellular network, a wireless network such as Wi-Fi or WiMAX, Bluetooth, or various portions or combinations of these and other types of networks. In this exemplary embodiment, any one of the systems 725, 740, and/or 750 can be configured and utilized for data processing, data storage, and/or data management of the metering data, power availability data, power usage information, and other useful information, etc., which is collected or otherwise computed by the control system 712 of the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 710.

[0075] In other embodiments, when the control system 712 of the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control system 710, the power distribution panel 720, and the computing device 740 implement a powerline modem and powerline coupler for powerline communication, the control system 712 can transmit the metering data, power availability data, power usage information, and other useful information, etc., which is collected or otherwise computed by the control system 712, to the energy traffic monitoring status display module 725 of the AC power distribution panel 720, and the energy traffic monitoring status system 742 via the powerline wiring 715 and 722.

[0076] FIG. 8 schematically illustrates a system for remote monitoring and management of an intelligent energy source monitoring and energy source selection control system, according to another exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. More specifically, FIG. 8 schematically illustrates a system 800 which enables a utility company to monitor power usage over a wide area of power distribution system by leveraging a plurality of network-connected intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control systems that are utilized in various buildings that are connected to the utility grid of the power utility component. As schematically illustrated in FIG. 8, the system 800 comprises a utility power plant 810, a network of high-voltage primary transmission lines 815, topology of primary, switching, and distribution substations 820, a network of secondary, medium voltage transmission lines 830 and 832 which feed different utility grids 840 and 842, a plurality of a plurality of intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control

systems 840-1, 840-2, ... which are connected to the utility grid 840, a plurality of intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control systems 842-1, 842-2, ... which are connected to the utility grid 842, and an energy traffic monitoring data center 850 which is run and operated by the utility company.

[0077] In the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 8, it may be assumed that each grid 840 and 842 is configured to distribute power to different towns or regions, or multiple towns or regions, etc., depending on the how the utility grids 840 and 842 are configured. In addition, in the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 8, the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control systems 840-1, 840-2, 842-1, 842-2, etc. are configured for powerline communication (e.g., broadband powerline communication) over the medium voltage wiring 830 and 832, and the low voltage wiring (e.g., service lines, or service drops) which supply utility power to the buildings and other structures which are connected to the utility grid.

[0078] As further shown in FIG. 8, the substations 820 implement powerline data traffic aggregation systems 825 which are configured to collect power usage information transmitted from the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control systems 840-1, 840-2, 842-1, 842-2 from the various utility grids 840, 842 (and other grids, not shown) over the low and medium voltage powerlines, etc. The powerline data traffic aggregation systems 825 are network connected (e.g., WAN, LAN, Internet, etc.) to the energy traffic monitoring data center 850. The system 800 allows the utility mains power system to collect power usage information over vast regions of the utility grid, and thereby track and monitor power usage patterns over a wide area and more effectively manage power during peak demands and also provide clean, stable power to their consumers. In addition, the system 800 allows the utility mains power system to detect for the beginning phases of power outages in the different grids 840 and 842, and thereby enable reconfiguration of the substation topology (via controlling switching stations) to redirect some mains power from one grid to another to mitigate potential widespread power outages, etc. Further, the system 800 allows the utility mains power system to provide power usage information, and other useful information (via the energy traffic monitoring data center 850) to the powerline network-connected intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control systems 840-1, 840-2, 842-1, 842-2 connected to the various utility grids 840 and 842, which allows the intelligent energy source monitoring and selection control systems 840-1, 840-2, 842-1, 842-2 to perform

intelligent power supply management operations based on the received information to thereby effectively manage power during peak demands, etc.

[0079] The descriptions of the various embodiments of the present disclosure have been presented for purposes of illustration, but are not intended to be exhaustive or limited to the embodiments disclosed. Many modifications and variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the described embodiments. The terminology used herein was chosen to best explain the principles of the embodiments, the practical application or technical improvement over technologies found in the marketplace, or to enable others of ordinary skill in the art to understand the embodiments disclosed herein.

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:
 - a plurality of power supply channels, wherein each power supply channel is configured to connect to a corresponding power supply system of a plurality of power supply systems comprising a mains utility power system and at least one renewable power system;
 - a power output channel configured to connect to an electric power distribution system;
 - a power source selection system coupled between the power supply channels and the power output channel;
 - energy monitoring and metering circuitry configured to generate metering data which indicates a power availability of each power supply system connected to each power supply channel, and power usage of the electrical power distribution system; and
 - a control system configured to (i) process the metering data to determine the power availability of the power supply systems and the power usage of the electrical power distribution system based on the metering data, and (ii) control the power source selection system to selectively connect and disconnect one or more of the power supply channels to the power output channel, and thereby connect one or more of the power supply systems to the electrical power distribution system, based on the determined power availability of the power supply systems and the power usage of the electrical power distribution system.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the energy monitoring and metering circuitry comprises a plurality of energy metering circuit blocks, wherein each energy metering circuit block is configured to generate metering data for a corresponding one of the power supply channels.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising bidirectional switching circuitry coupled to power supply channels, wherein bidirectional switching circuitry is responsive to control signals from the control system to selectively connect and disconnect one or more of the power supply channels from the power source selection system.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the power source selection system comprises multiplexer circuitry.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control system comprises a processor which is configured to execute software code to intelligently control the power source selection system.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control system comprises a transceiver which is configured to transmit power metering data and power availability data to a remote computing node over one of wired and wireless network connection.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control system comprises a powerline modem which is configured to transmit power metering data and power availability data to a remote computing node over powerlines of a power grid of the mains utility power system.

8. A multi-modal energy system, comprising:
a control system;
a plurality of power supply systems coupled to the control system, where the power supply systems comprise a mains utility power system and at least one renewable power system;
an electrical power distribution system coupled to the control system;
wherein the control system is configured to (i) monitor each power supply system to determine a power availability of each power supply system, (ii) determine an amount of power usage by the electrical power distribution system, and (iii) selectively connect and disconnect one or more of the power supply systems to the electrical power distribution system based on the determined power availability of the power supply systems and the determined power usage of the electrical power distribution system.

9. The multi-modal energy system of claim 8, wherein the at least one renewable power system comprises at least one a solar power system, a wind power system, a fuel cell system, an organic waste energy system, and a battery bank.

10. The multi-modal energy system of claim 8, wherein the electrical power distribution system comprises a power distribution panel of a building, and branch circuits of the building, which are connected to the power distribution panel.

11. The multi-modal energy system of claim 8, wherein the electrical power distribution system comprises an electric vehicle charging station.

12. The multi-modal energy system of claim 8, wherein in monitoring each power supply system to determine a power availability of each power supply system, the control system is configured to determine a presence or absence available power of each power supply system, and to determine an amount of power that can be supplied by each power supply system for a given time period.

13. The multi-modal energy system of claim 8, wherein the control system comprises a processor which is configured to execute software code to intelligently control functions of the control system.

14. The multi-modal energy system of claim 8, wherein the control system comprises a transceiver which is configured to transmit information regarding the power availability of each power supply system and the determined amount of power usage by the electrical power distribution system, to a remote computing node over one of wired and wireless network connection.

15. The multi-modal energy system of claim 8, wherein the control system comprises a powerline modem which is configured to transmit information regarding the power availability of each power supply system and the determined amount of power usage by the electrical power distribution system, to a remote computing node over powerlines of a power grid of the mains utility power system.

16. The multi-modal energy system of claim 8, wherein the control system is configured to receive power usage information from a remote power monitoring system of the mains utility power system, and wherein the processor is configured to process the power usage information received from the remote power monitoring system to further selectively connect and

disconnect one or more of the power supply systems to the electrical power distribution system based at least in part on the received power usage information.

17. A method comprising:

monitoring each power supply system of a plurality of power supply systems that are configured to supply power to an electrical power distribution system, to determine a power availability of each power supply system, wherein the power supply systems comprise a mains utility power system and at least one renewable power system;

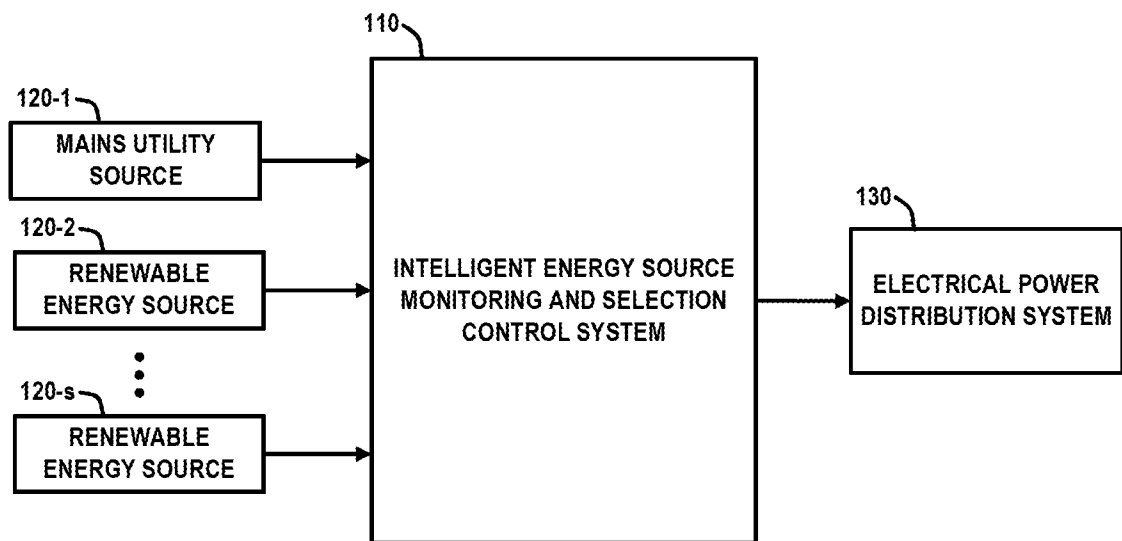
monitoring power usage of the electrical power distribution system to determine an amount of power usage by the electrical power distribution system of each power supply system; and

selectively connecting and disconnect one or more of the power supply systems to the electrical power distribution system based on the determined power availability of the power supply systems and the determined power usage by the electrical power distribution system.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the at least one renewable power system comprises at least one a solar power system, a wind power system, a fuel cell system, an organic waste energy system, and a battery bank.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the electrical power distribution system comprises a power distribution panel of a building, and branch circuits of the building, which are connected to the power distribution panel.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the electrical power distribution system comprises an electric vehicle charging station.

FIG. 1100

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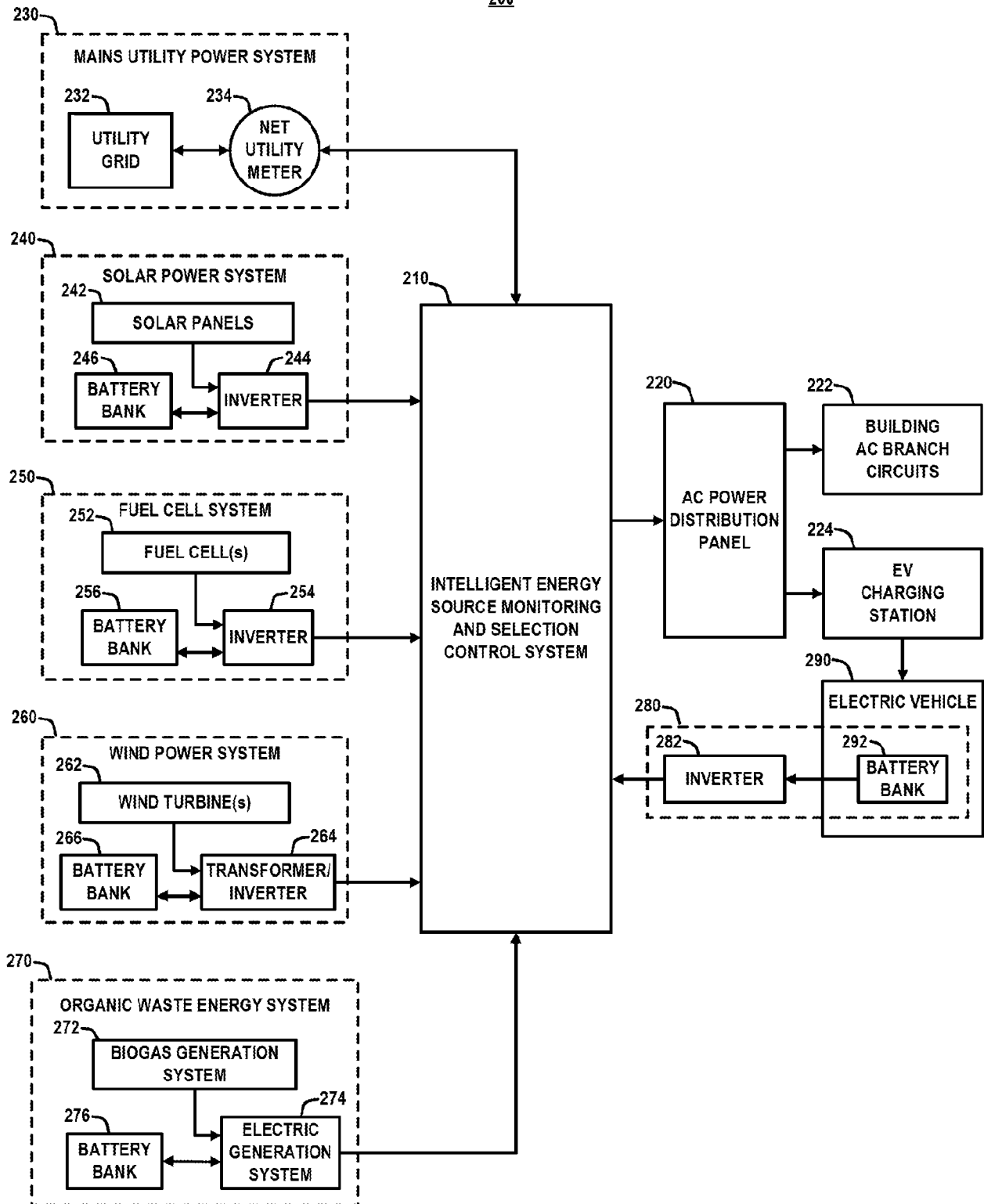
FIG. 2200

FIG. 3

300

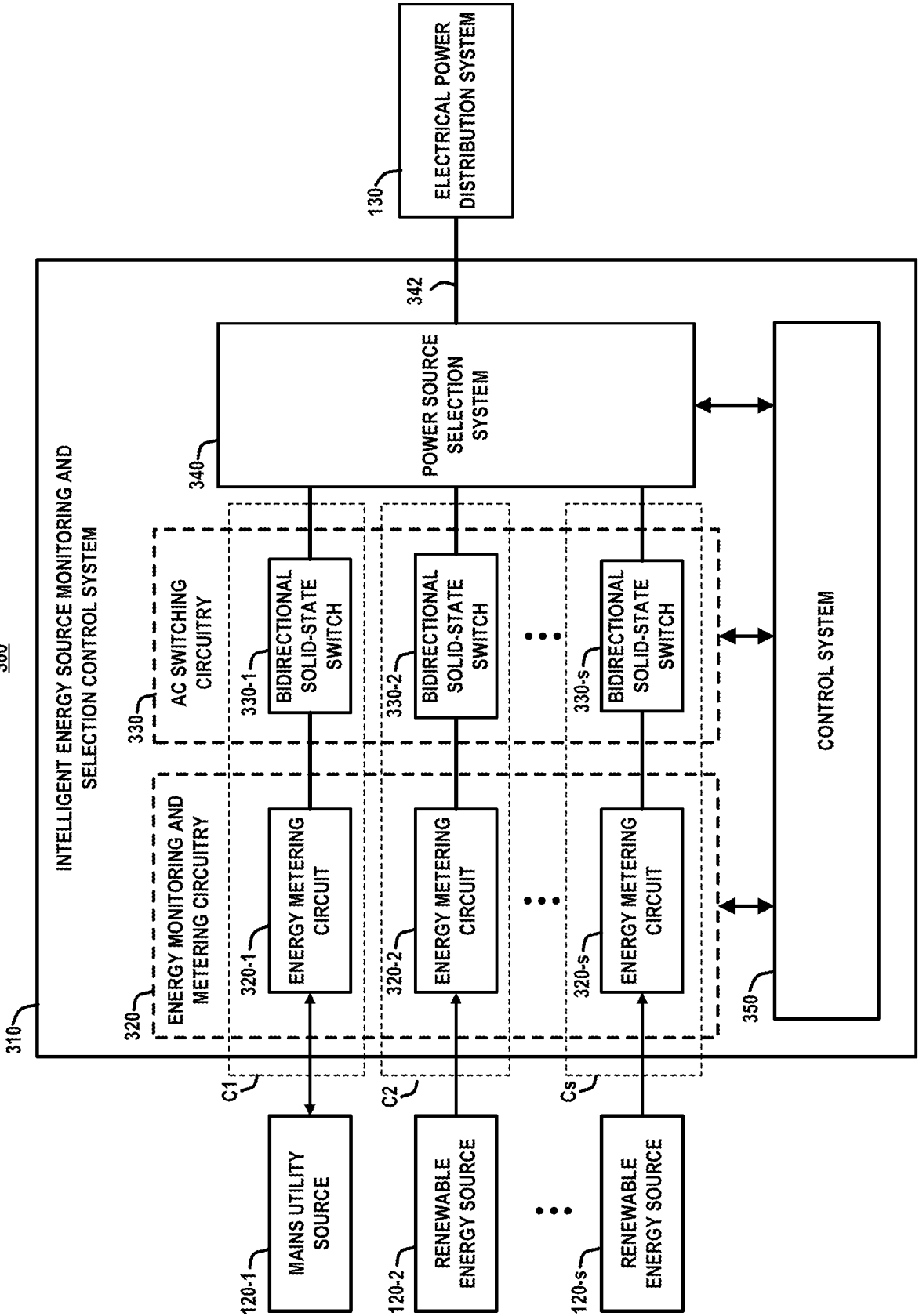


FIG. 4

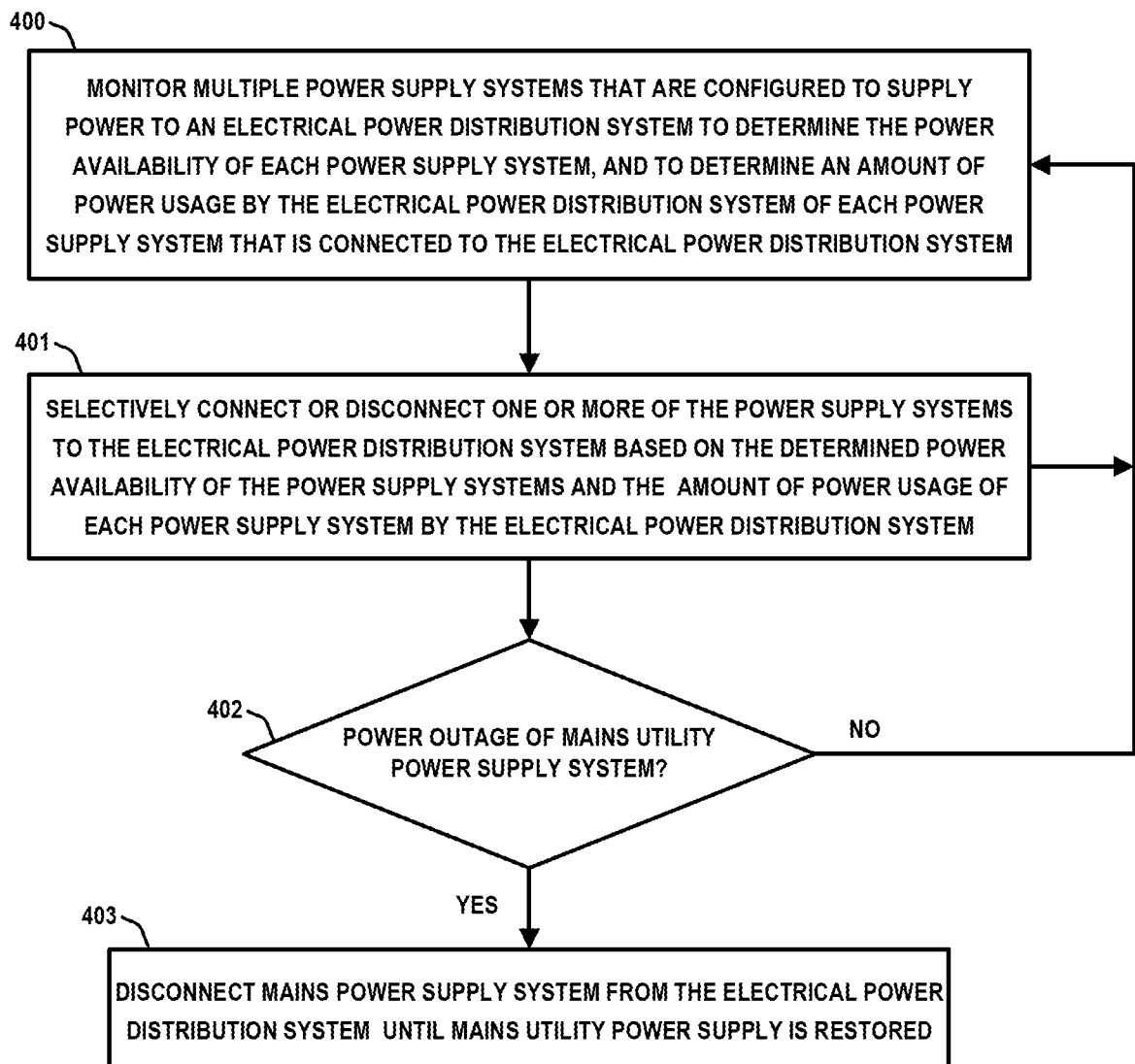


FIG. 5

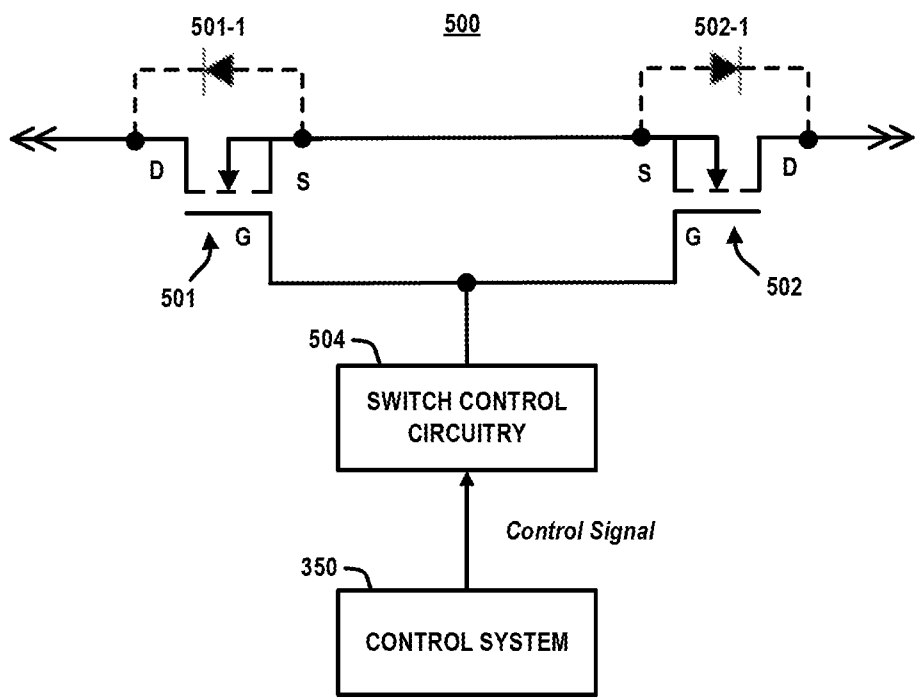
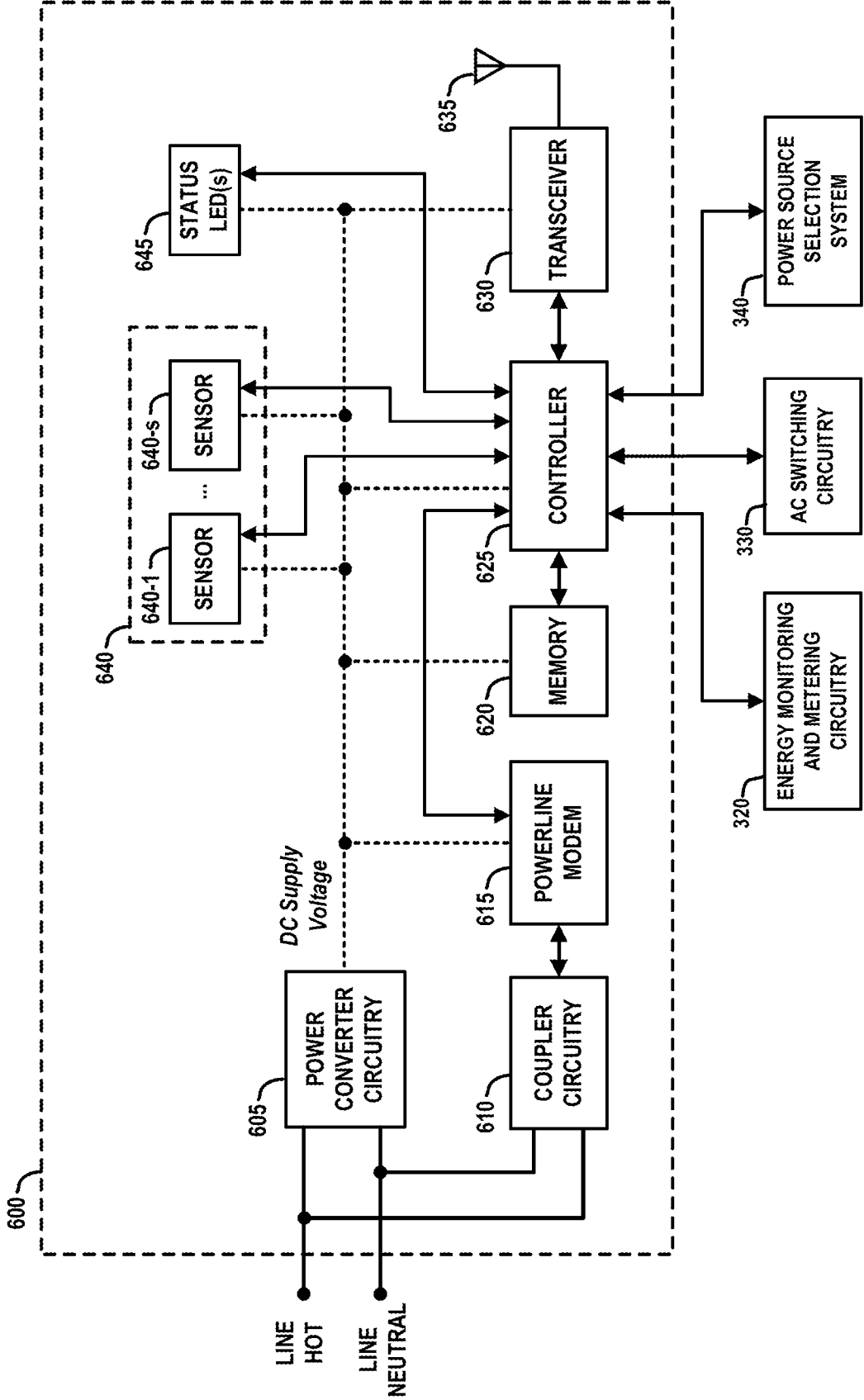
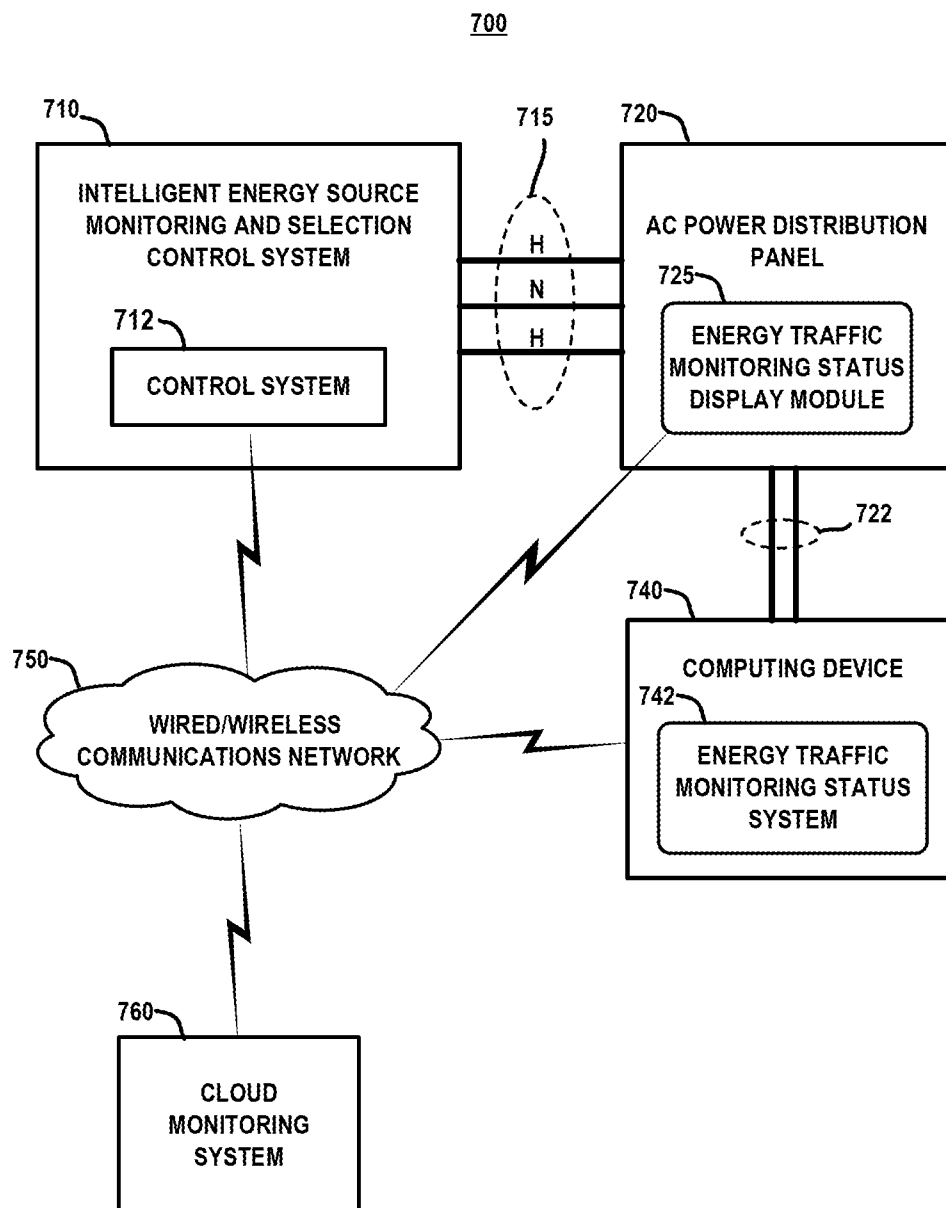


FIG. 6

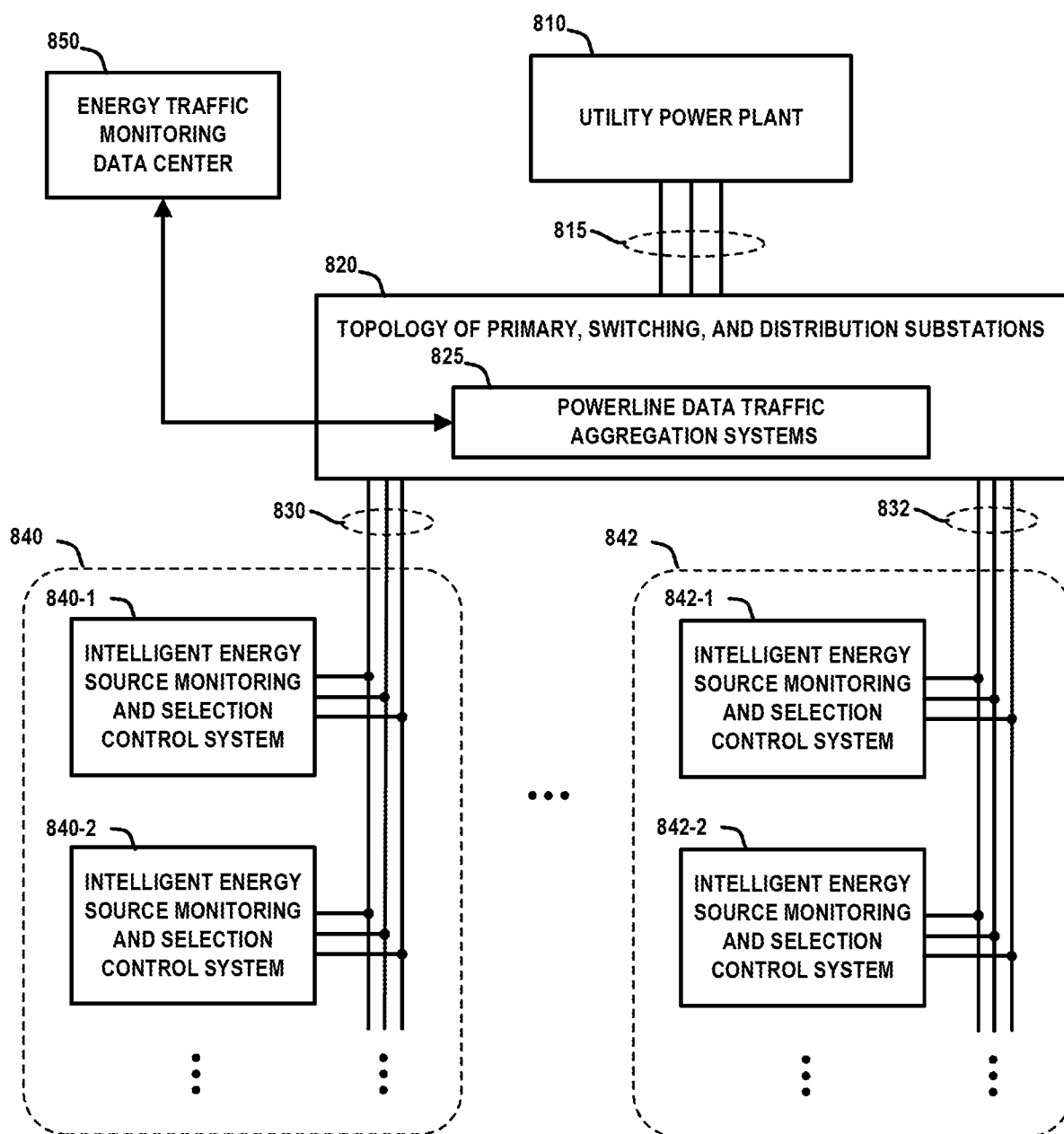


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FIG. 7



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FIG. 8800

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 21/45624

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC - H02J 9/00; H02J 4/00; H02J 11/00; H02J 3/38 (2021.01)

CPC - H02J 9/00; H02J 4/00; H02J 11/00; H02J 3/38; H02J3/382

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

See Search History document

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

See Search History document

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

See Search History document

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X — Y	US 2017/0168516 A1 (King Electric Vehicles Inc.) 15 June 2017 (15.06.2017) entire document, especially: para [0010], [0027], [0029], [0035]-[0036], [0040], [0045], [0048], [0051], [0069]	8-13, 16-20 ----- 1-7, 14-15
Y	US 2019/0222058 A1 (KATERRA INC.) 18 July 2019 (18.07.2019) entire document, especially: para [0022]-[0026], [0028]-[0031], [0039], [0046], [0048], [0064]	1-7
Y	US 2019/0181679 A1 (Briggs & Stratton Corporation) 13 June 2019 (13.06.2019) entire document, especially: para [0029]	6, 14
Y	US 2017/0214967 A1 (ASOKA USA CORPORATION) 27 July 2017 (27.07.2017) entire document, especially: para [0022], [0024], [0026]	7, 15
Y	US 8,295,950 B1 (Wordsworth et al.) 23 October 2012 (23.10.2012) entire document, especially: col. 12, ln 38-50; col. 13, ln 15-23, 53-65	4
A	US 2012/0080942 A1 (Carralero et al.) 05 April 2012 (05.04.2012), entire document	1-20

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 October 2021

Date of mailing of the international search report

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