

PSM-E24

Role of Hydropower to Meet Regional Requirements

+ Hydropower resources provide unique system benefits to support system needs in California and the Northwest

System Benefit	Hydropower Capabilities	Value Over Time
Capacity for Resource Adequacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydropower provides significant RA capacity through its maximum expected generation (CA) or sustained peaking capability (NW) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RA will be highly valuable across the planning horizon
Carbon Free Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydropower's carbon-free energy comes at low-cost without any new transmission needs or development risk Hydro energy also provides the financial benefit of avoiding natural gas fuel costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon-free energy will be increasingly valuable to both CA and the NW as clean energy policy targets become more stringent
Reserves and Flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydro provides a zero-emissions source of ancillary services (spin, regulation, etc.) and ramping capabilities to integrate variable renewable energy Flexibility may change as a function of time of year and water availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable integration value will be increasingly valuable though batteries can provide some similar services
Essential Reliability Services (ERS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydro also provides key reliability services (reactive power, inertia, blackstart, etc.), including some that cannot currently be provided by asynchronous generators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERS will be increasingly valuable as other synchronous generators retire

(Disclaimer, provisional, FOIA exempt)



Lower Snake River Dams

† The lower snake river dams:

- Are ~10% of the Northwest regional hydropower capacity
- Provide relatively low-cost and flexible carbon free power

Plant	Nameplate Capacity (MW)*	50-year Forecasted Costs** (real 2022 \$/MWh)
Lower Granite	930	\$22.69
Little Goose	930	\$15.71
Lower Monumental	930	\$12.58
Ice Harbor	693	\$15.84

Total = 3,483

* Nameplate capacities from BPA WIRIS book

** Costs provided by BPA, based on the CRSC EIS, including sustaining costs. Q&A and file = visible PSM(-E5) related costs.

Deliberations, pre-decisional, FOIA exempt

8

Comparison to the recent NWECC study

- The Northwest Energy Coalition study incorrectly describes the nameplate capacity of the four lower Snake River dams as 1,000 MW, when in fact, the capacity is more than 2,000 MW.
 - Although output averages at 1,000 MW, the region draws on the nameplate capacity of 2,000 MW often to avoid power shortages, such as during heat waves or cold snaps.
- The NWECC study understates the benefits that the four lower Snake River dams provide in terms of grid stability—the services required to keep the lights on.
 - For example, Bonneville is required to keep reserve power to avoid blackout if a generator trips offline (this is not hypothetical – it happens). PSM(-E37)
 - Obtaining these services would add to the cost of replacing the output of the dams, which is not articulated in the NWECC study.
- Baseline for the NWECC study assumes that Bonneville purchases 300 MW from the market to provide firm power.
 - By statute, Bonneville relies on the federal hydrosystem to provide firm power to its public power customers PSM(-E35)
 - BPA typically purchases market power when the hydrosystem can't produce enough to serve its customers during emergencies.

PSM(-E14)

PSM(-E33)

PSM(-E34)

Placeholder for graphic showing capacity of four Lower Snake River dams

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Important note about dam output







- By law, Bonneville can only provide **firm** sales of electricity (reliable energy that is available at all times) to its public power customers.
- That means the agency can only commit to providing the amount of electricity produced from a **low water year**, because that's the only amount of electricity that can be assured – high water years provide a "bonus," or surplus.
- If Bonneville committed to providing the amount of electricity produced from an average or high water year, there would be a **power shortage** during low water years.
- During extremely low water years, or during emergencies such as cold or heat snaps, Bonneville purchases power on the market to avoid a power shortage. PSM-E28
- During average or high water years, Bonneville sells the surplus on the secondary market to help keep public power rates low.

PSM-E17

PSM-E28

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Assumptions, or “dials” in the modeling

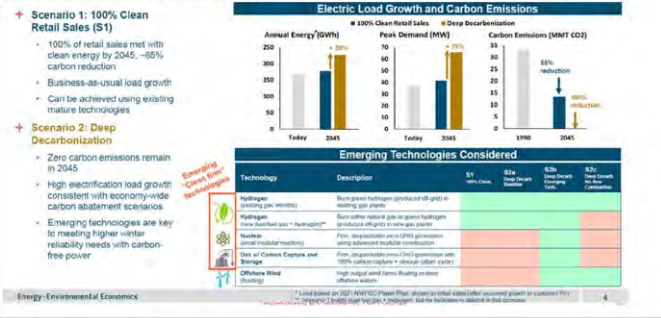
Element	Study Approach	Impact on Dams Replacement Needs
 Study Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 through 2045, including fuel price forecasts and declining renewable + storage costs 	Considers long-term needs
 Clean Energy Policy Scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggressive OR+WA legislation reflected, including coal retirements + carbon pricing Two electric emissions scenarios considered: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 100% clean retail sales (~85% carbon reduction) Zero-emissions (100% carbon reduction) 	Clean energy policy requires long-term replacement of LSR dams with GHG-free energy
 Load Growth Scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two load scenarios: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline (per NW/PCC 3rd Power Plan) High electrification load growth (to support economy-wide decarbonization) 	Higher load scenarios increase the value of LSR dams energy + firm capacity
 Reliability Needs <small>PSM-E9</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modeling ensures reliability needs during extreme conditions (e.g. high loads + low hydro) Captures ability (and limits) of renewables, battery storage, and demand response to support system reliability 	Reliability needs require replacement of LSR dams firm capacity contributors
 Consideration of Emerging Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad range of dam replacement technology options considered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline technologies: solar, wind, battery + pumped storage, energy efficiency, demand response, dual fuel natural gas + hydrogen combustion plants Sensitivities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging technologies No New Combustion 	Technology available for LSR dams replacement determines cost + feasibility
 Distributed Energy Resource Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy efficiency, demand response, and customer solar embedded into modeling inputs Additional energy efficiency and demand response can be selected 	Demand resource can help replace LSR dams, though forecast supply is limited

* A 100% clean retail sales target allows emissions for electric generation beyond that needed to serve "total loads", i.e., losses during transmission to retail loads and exported energy.

Deliberative, pre-decisional, PDA exempt

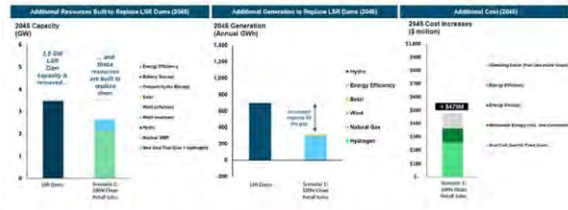
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Two clean energy scenarios – both consider emerging tech availability and the *increased* electricity use from *decreased* fossil fuels on the grid



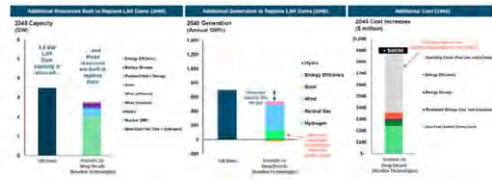
Scenario 1: 100% clean retail sales to replace lower Snake River dams

- + Capacity replaced with dual fuel natural gas + hydrogen turbines
- + Energy replaced by wind and net imports



Scenario 2: deep carbonization (baseline technologies)
to replace lower Snake River dams

- Capacity replaced with dual fuel natural gas + hydrogen turbines, energy efficiency, and energy storage
- Energy replaced by wind, reduced exports, energy efficiency, and increased hydrogen generation



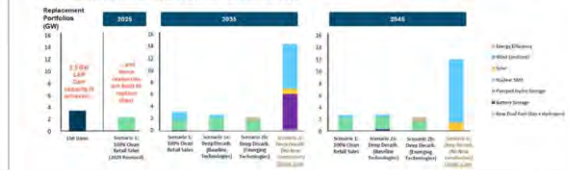
PSM-EIS

Differentiation: pre-economic, FOIA exempt

Across all scenarios: replacing four Lower Snake River dams capacity

→ Capacity replacement for additional scenarios and years is shown below:

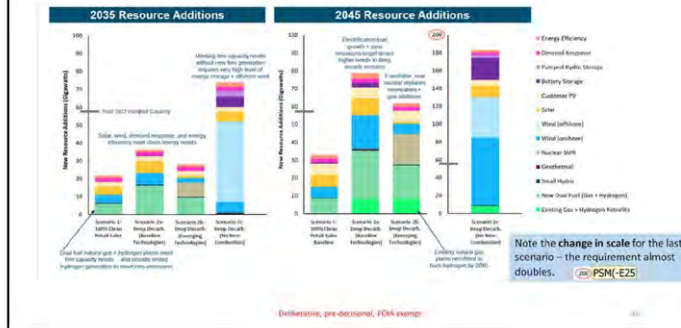
- Scenario 1 (100% Close Retail Sales, 2024 LSR Dam removal): similar to scenario 1, but with dual fuel natural gas + hydrogen turbines replacement in 2025
- Scenario 2b (Deep Decarbonization, Emerging Technologies): small modular nuclear reactors replace LSR capacity and energy, instead of additional wind power
- Scenario 2c (Deep Decarbonization, No New Combustion): very high replacement need as wind and solar alone struggle to replace LSR dam firm capacity and zero-carbon energy output



Decarbonize, pre-decisional, FOIA exempt

33

All scenarios show large levels of new resource additions



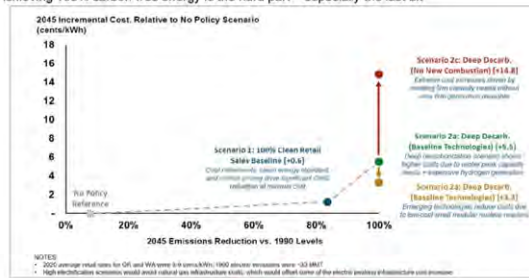
Even before we consider taking out the four lower Snake River dams...

- Regional policy requirements and legislation to reduce emissions is removing resources fossil fuel resources from the grid. This is happening now.
- Consequently, with retiring coal and gas plants, the region is **already** facing resource adequacy issues.
- Loss of the four lower Snake River dams, or reductions in their flexibility, while there are still fossil fuel generators on the grid will increase the timeframe and costs associated with shifting to a carbon-free electricity sector.

Placeholder for graphic showing coal retirements

Cost of carbon reductions

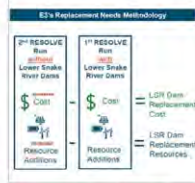
- Significant carbon reductions are possible at modest cost
- Cost to reach zero emissions depends on technologies available
- Achieving 100% carbon-free energy is the hard part – especially the last bit



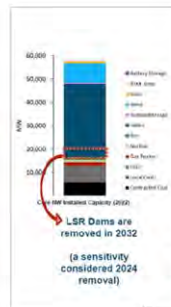
Increased costs and requirement for resources

- RESOLVE model determines replacement needs and cost by optimizing regional requirements with the dams, and then again without the dams
- The model does not consider **essential reliability** services for the transmission grid, such as voltage, reactive power, inertia, black start, etc.
- The RESOLVE model shows that, without the four lower Snake River dams, the region will experience increased costs and increased requirement for resources.

Electric Grid Benefit	
GHG-free Energy Output (MWh)	GHG-free energy displaces the costs and carbon emissions of NW coal + gas generation or imported power
Reliable Capacity (MW)	Firm capacity contributes towards resource adequacy
Flexibility and Operating Reserves (MW)	Sub-hourly ancillary service provision and renewable integration benefits



Deliverables: pre-economic, F0&A exempt



The cost of replacing power

- Replacing the greenhouse gas-free energy, capacity, and operational benefits of the dams requires investment in new resources at increased total system costs
 - Cost differences between scenarios driven by 2045 greenhouse gas-PSM-£26/gy replacement and the availability of "clean firm" emerging technologies
- Costs are expected to fall on Bonneville Power Administration's public power customers
 - Could increase public power costs by 8% (best case scenario with emerging tech) to 65%
 - Could raise residential electricity costs by ~\$100 –\$50 per year

Scenario	2045 Net Present Value	Annual Cost Increase			Increase in Public Power Costs (% increase for 4.8 million BPA 2015 average load)
		2045	2045	2045	
Scenario 1: 100% Clean Firm State	\$3.3 billion	---	\$29 million	\$413 million	0.0 cents/kWh (10%)
Scenario 2: 100% Clean Firm State (2045 dam removal)	\$7.2 billion	\$620 million	\$40 million	\$50 million	0.0 cents/kWh (10%)
Scenario 3: Deep Decarb. (Emerging Technologies)	\$1.0 billion	---	\$40 million	\$60 million	1.5 cents/kWh (18%)
Scenario 4: Deep Decarb. (Emerging Technologies)	\$1.0 billion	---	\$413 million	\$40 million	0.7 cents/kWh (14%)
Scenario 5: Clean Firm (BPA Rate Commission)	\$20 billion	---	\$1.0 billion	\$1.0 billion	2.2 cents/kWh (18%)

Notes:

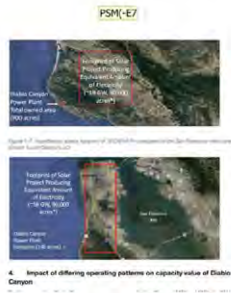
- Costs account for replacement energy, capacity, and emissions as well as avoided LSE capital expense, but do not include any costs for dismantling the dams, which would be an additional cost.
- BPA's annual cost increase estimates for the Northwest region are a metric, but the incremental costs are calculated relative to the 40% firm capacity for public power customers.
- To increase annual average value estimate (AV) + 10% average rate case are +1.5 cents/kWh. This does not include additional rate increases due to higher levels of clean energy needs that increase regional natural gas prices for other BPA non-residential end uses.
- Annual residential customer cost impact assumed 1.20¢/kWh for average residential customers in Oregon and Washington (cost = 1.00¢/kWh average) + 30% more residential energy growth.

Confidential, pre-decisional, FOIA exempt

20

Land use considerations

- Replacing the lost power with new solar-power resources would require roughly X acres (about X square miles) of land. **PSM-E36**
- Such a large build out of solar capacity would likely result in additional, but currently unknown impacts to natural and cultural resources, which may include vegetation, wildlife habitat, archeological resources, and traditional cultural properties (such as sites or land features that are important to tribes).



Conclusion and summary

- The study considers two important factors in replacing power from the four lower Snake River dams:
 - Power must **provide firm capacity** (reliable energy that is available at all times) to avoid power shortages
 - Power must be **free of greenhouse gasses** to meet regional carbon policies
- Policies and laws to decarbonize the region will **increase electricity use** (electric cars, replacing gas appliances, etc.)
- Acquiring replacement resources could require **building renewable resources at an unrealistic level**.
 - This would also require building transmission to bring the power from new resources to utilities
- Replacing the dams comes at a **substantial cost** for new resource replacement.
 - This would have a meaningful impact on the rates of Bonneville Power Administration's public power customers.
- The **availability of emerging technology** is a factor in achieving replacement resources that are free of greenhouse gasses.

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Thank you slide