Intermountain Power Project Renewal Myths vs. Facts

The Intermountain Power Project ("IPP") is acting to cease generation of coal-fueled electricity by 2025 and transition to serving as a regional energy hub that integrates natural gas and renewable energy sources with emerging clean energy technologies such as compressed air energy storage and hydrogen-based energy storage and electricity generation.

IPP's renewal allows the continuation of regional cooperation that has provided reliable electricity generation to project participants for more than three decades. Regional cooperation will be key to achieving a clean energy future, and utilizing IPP's substantial existing energy infrastructure enables a rapid transition to vital new energy supply strategies.

This document separates the myths from the facts on IPP's renewal. Inaccurate and misleading statements about the renewal project's goals and structure have caused some confusion.



2045

The IPP renewal commits California participants to 50 years of natural gas-fueled power generation.

While the Intermountain Power Project was extended for 50 years, natural gas-fueled power generation is only one part of the overall project and is expected to shut down in 2045 to transition into clean energy.

Myth

Myth

Fact

Fact

Natural gas-fueled generation is not necessary.

To keep the transmission system that is needed to transport the renewable power to market operable, there must be a steady load of energy supplying the lines. Emerging technologies for supporting large transmission systems using only intermittent generating resources have not been deployed at this scale. Furthermore, natural gas-fueled generators represent the best opportunity for scaling up utilization of another emerging technology: clean-burning hydrogen as fuel.

Renewable energy sources and batteries are all that is needed.

Renewable energy such as wind and solar is currently not dispatchable. The transition to a 100% clean energy grid will require generating resources that are dispatchable (i.e. hydrogen) and energy storage resources with long-term, even seasonal, capabilities (i.e. compressed air energy storage and hydrogen). IPP's proximity to the only major geologic salt dome formation west of the Mississippi River makes it the ideal location for scaling up these critical emerging technologies.

The IPP renewal requires additional approvals.

Plans for the IPP renewal have been developed over a decade and all of the required regulatory bodies have approved the project.

IPP's renewal allows project participants to preserve valuable assets-including access to a rare salt cavern energy storage resource, valuable transmission lines, and renewable energy resources—that will help achieve renewable energy and climate change goals, including being carbon-neutral by 2045.

About IPP

The concept for the Intermountain Power Project originated in 1973 when utility leaders from Utah and California met to begin exploring interest in a joint action agency power project. Electricity generation at the Delta, Utah, site commenced in 1986 and the project evolved to include a two-unit coal-fueled generating station, two transmission systems, a microwave communication system and a railcar service center, all built as a joint undertaking by 35 utilities in Utah and California.

