

Idaho ranks at bottom of Western states preparing to add generation capacity *Study of federal statistics shows Idaho will add just 160 megawatts by 2010, well below numbers for other states*

Idaho is ill-prepared to face its future energy needs, according to a five-year study of proposed power plants compiled by the U.S. Energy Information Agency (USEIA).

Between 2007 and 2011, Idaho is scheduled to bring on line 160 megawatts of energy, mostly from wind and geothermal projects, putting it dead last among the Western states. The next-lowest state, Montana, is scheduled to start 500 megawatts of capacity. California is scheduled to develop the most capacity of the Western states: nearly 3,700 megawatts. Already, Idaho imports half its electricity, mostly from coal-burning plants in Wyoming and Nevada.

The Idaho Energy Complex (IEC), a 1,600-megawatt reactor proposed for Owyhee County, isn't included in USEIA listings because it's still in the preliminary stages and the plant will start generating electricity in 2015 at the soonest.

Still, the low ranking shows Idaho needs to start thinking seriously about its energy future and planning for it, said Don Gillispie, president and CEO of Alternate Energy Holdings, which is seeking to build the IEC. Gillispie said the IEC is the only sizable base-load plant currently proposed for Idaho. At the same time, the USEIA forecasts energy demand in the U.S. will grow by 42 percent by 2030.

"Idaho has about 1,100 megawatts of generating capacity and it took us nearly a century to build it up," Gillispie said. "If we're going to provide for our future energy needs, we've really got to get on the ball and start adding capacity."

Gillispie praised the state's efforts to put a higher priority on energy generation. These include the Idaho Department of Commerce hiring a person to work full-time on promoting energy generation in the state, and Gov. Otter establishing an Office of Energy Policy directly under him.

According to the USEIA figures, most states are relying primarily on natural gas plants, with some wind, geothermal, solar and coal in the mix.

"Our opponents are concerned the IEC's power may be sold out-of-state but in reality, it's much more likely we will be forced to import even more of our power, paying increased transmission and production costs to out-of-state utilities," Gillispie said. "Now, more than ever, we need the reliable, non-polluting, high-volume energy that nuclear produces. "

A megawatt is enough energy to power about 850 homes (fewer in times of high demand and more in times of lower demand), not counting agriculture, industry or commerce. In Idaho, residential counts for about one-third of the state's power consumption.

Idaho currently generates about 1,100 megawatts in-state and imports half its energy, while California imports just 22 percent of its energy. Most of the Idaho's imported energy comes from

coal plants in Wyoming and Nevada, according to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. Idaho does get about 1 percent of its electricity from the nuclear Hanford Generating Station in Washington.

Idaho looks a little better on a per-capita basis, adding about 114 watts per person between 2007 and 2010, based on a 2007 population of 1.4 million. By comparison, California will be adding about 103 watts per person during that time, based on a current population of 36 million.

Idahoans use more electricity, however. On a per-capita basis, Idahoans in 2003 used 15,510 kilowatt-hours (12th highest in the nation and second among Western states), compared to 6,732 per person in California (lowest in the nation).

www.energy.ca.gov/electricity/us_percapita_electricity_2003.html

Gillispie and other analysts said the power supply operates on a regional basis. The more regional supply exists relative to demand, the lower and more stable prices will be. So, even if an Idaho energy plant exports energy, that will increase regional supply and keep prices lower, than if the Idaho energy plant did not exist.

ABOUT THE IDAHO ENERGY COMPLEX: The Idaho Energy Complex (www.idahoenergycomplex.com) will be a 1,600-megawatt, \$4.5-billion advanced nuclear reactor with low cooling water requirements located about 65 miles southeast of Boise, in Owyhee County. The plant will also include a biofuels component, using excess reactor heat to produce fuels from local ag waste and crops. The company has filed a land use application with Owyhee County and has begun collecting data for the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval process. That process is expected to take three years and cost \$80 million. Construction could begin as soon as 2011 and finish with power generation beginning in late 2015.

Megawatts of electrical generation proposed by year for each Western state

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	TOTAL
California	1,533	358	1,724	1,350	1,377	6,342
Colorado	1,189	271	1,459	0	0	2,919
Nevada	135	1,571	0	28	658	2,392
Washington	448	862	0	310	339	1,949
New Mexico	110	1,356	0	0	0	1,466
Oregon	836	584	0	0	0	1,420
Wyoming	90	0	0	440	710	1,240
Arizona	0	249	630	0	0	879
Utah	579	30	0	120	0	729
Montana	2	500	91	0	0	593
Idaho	146	191	0	0	0	337

Source: United States Energy Information Agency table at www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epa/planned_capacity_state.xls

Total for western states: 20,266

3349 Natl gas 1475 394 110 483 568 319

92 fossils/coal 2 90

1667 Renewable 54 8 787 146 135 353 11 169

07 total is 5,108

08

5366 natl gas 217 294 271 173 500 1356 1321 584 650

220 fossils/coal 220

356 renewable 32 64 18 30 212

08 total is 5,942

09

2497 natl gas 180 1537 51 638 91

1,270 fossils/coal 450 820

137 renewable 136 1

09 total is 3,904

10

1605 natl gas 1295 310

540 fossils/coal 100 440

103 renewables 55 28 20

10 total is 2248

11

2319 natl gas 1322 658 339

710 fossils/coal 710

55 renewables 55

11 total is 3,084

western states natural gas total 15,136

western states fossils total 2,832

western states renewable total 2,318

Grand total is 20,286