



Relicensing Briefing Card

ISSUE: VALUE OF HYDROPOWER

Brief: Hydropower is a clean, efficient, renewable source of electric generation. As one of the nation's top sources of electric power, hydropower generation adds a low-cost supply to the nation's fuel mix while reducing reliance on foreign energy sources.

- Hydropower provides a low-cost energy source. With no fuels to transport or burn, hydropower is cost competitive with other power resources. Its operating and maintenance costs are low and predictable.
- Hydropower is 100 percent renewable. In fact, hydro generation accounts for a major percentage of the nation's total renewable electricity generation.
- Hydropower is a clean, very low emission resource that generates no wastes for disposal. The use of hydropower to produce electricity avoids the release of carbon emissions, sulfur dioxides and nitrogen oxides as from the combustion of other fuels, such as fossil fuels.
- As a totally domestic energy source, hydropower supports U.S. energy security by increasing our energy independence. The greater use of hydropower means less reliance on foreign energy sources.
- Hydropower can provide non-power benefits too. Bartletts Ferry's non-power benefits include water supply, electric power grid stability for Columbus, and recreation.
- Hydropower is capable of being "turned-on" at the flip of a switch much more quickly than other generation sources, and plays an important role in electricity reliability.
- The U.S. has the ability to add thousands of megawatts of new capacity through traditional and new hydrokinetic technologies without building a single new dam. Only 3 percent of the nation's existing dams are currently used to generate electricity.

Bottom Line Take Away: Hydropower is a valuable domestic, low-cost, efficient, and environmentally friendly electric power resource for this century and beyond. It is important that we preserve and expand our use to meet our country's growing electric generation needs.

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