

## Working Group Zeroes in on Scenarios; a Big First Step in IRP Process

***Editor's Note:** TVA is embarking on its next Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to study how it could meet customer demand for electricity between now and 2050 across a variety of potential future states. A programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will accompany the IRP to address its environmental effects.*

The IRP Working Group, which consists of stakeholders from across the region, met September 25-26, 2023, in Franklin, Tennessee, to provide input to TVA on a variety of topics related to the 2024 IRP.

One of the group's most significant actions was to close in on the list of scenarios (possible future conditions beyond TVA's control) that TVA will use in its IRP modeling. Final scenarios will be shared publicly, along with final strategies, at the December 14, 2023, Public Educational Webinar.

The IRP process evaluates scenarios that could arise over the next few decades and what strategies TVA could use to continue to provide affordable, reliable, resilient and clean energy in any future condition. Prior to the meeting, the Working Group members were sent a survey asking for their comments on the proposed scenarios and this input was incorporated, reviewed, and discussed.

TVA staff is compiling a running list of potential sensitivities based on internal and Working Group feedback, and it reviewed the list with the members.

TVA staff also walked through each of the possible strategies being considered and emphasized that TVA strategic planning is grounded in six principles: low cost, risk informed, reliable and resilient, environmentally responsible, diverse and flexible, in alignment with TVA's statutory obligations under Section 113 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

Metrics will help identify key tradeoffs between the various portfolios, and at the meeting, TVA staff reviewed potential metrics related to cost, risk, environmental stewardship, operational flexibility and Valley economics.

After both the scenarios and strategies are completed, modeling will generate potential resource plans (portfolios). TVA will analyze all portfolios, considering key tradeoffs, and identify a preferred portfolio direction for the coming years.

On Day 2 of the meeting, TVA President and CEO Jeff Lyash met with the Working Group, offering his thoughts on the importance of their work and discussing growth in the energy sector; the ways TVA is planning for the future; and the importance of diversity and flexibility in power generation and the continued push toward advanced technology. He answered questions on topics ranging from power options for the energy system of the future to how to achieve energy equity today and into the future.

Other presentations and discussions on Day 2 included demand-side program design (energy efficiency and demand response); nuclear expansion options to be studied in the IRP; an overview of TVA's resource planning work; and considerations and costs related to expansion resource options, including nuclear, solar, natural gas, wind, storage, hydroelectric power and coal.