

IRP Working Group Provides Guidance on Strategies, Draft Reference Case (1A)

***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 October 23-24, 2023, in Franklin, Tennessee, to provide input and guidance on TVA's work on the 2024 IRP.

At the meeting, the Working Group helped zero in on the strategies (business options within TVA's control) being considered for modeling. The group has also held a number of discussions on scenarios (future uncertainties beyond TVA's control) at its previous meetings. TVA will share the final scenarios and strategies with the public at a webinar on December 14, 2023.

After the scenarios and strategies are finalized, 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.

At the meeting, TVA presented initial draft results for the Reference Case using a Baseline Utility Planning strategy (1A), which represents TVA's current outlook based on least-cost planning, existing programs, planned asset builds and retirements, and a planning reserve margin target. Working Group members offered insight that will be incorporated as the reference case is refined.

Other presentations and discussions centered around:

- TVA strategic planning, which is grounded in six principles: low cost, risk informed, reliable and resilient, environmentally responsible, diverse and flexible – all in alignment with TVA's statutory obligations under Section 113 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992. TVA complies with Section 113 through its IRP process.
- A draft 2024 IRP metrics scorecard, with proposed metrics in four categories: low cost; risk informed; environmentally responsible; and diverse, reliable and flexible. Metrics will be used to understand the key tradeoffs among the 25 resource portfolios.
- Commodity, economic and load forecasts for the Carbon Regulation Scenario;
- An update on resource costs and characteristics, which will drive resource selection;

TVA's transmission system will play a critical role in the energy system of the future. As power demand grows, so must TVA's transmission capabilities. Aaron Melda, Senior Vice President, Transmission and Power Supply, talked with the Working Group and answered questions related to today's grid, load growth, new technology, future planning and new regulations related to interconnection procedures.

John Thomas, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial & Strategy Officer, stopped into the meeting to thank the group for its work. He said the IRP is extremely significant to power in the region, given changes in industry and society's expectations for energy.