

IRP Working Group Provides Input on a Variety of Topics at November Meeting

***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.*

Subject to Board approval, the 2024 Integrated Resource Plan will guide TVA as it makes power-generation decisions that ensure it continues to offer affordable, reliable, resilient and increasingly clean power over the next 25-plus years.

At the November 13-14, 2023, IRP Working Group meeting in Franklin, Tennessee, TVA and the Working Group discussed a wide variety of topics that impact IRP decisions – from forecasting and modeling, to environmental regulations and environmental justice, to innovation and the role new technology will play in the energy system of the future.

TVA forecasting team members presented information and answered questions on commodity, economic and load forecasts for the Carbon Regulation plus Growth scenario and the methodology used to develop the forecasts. These forecasts are used to shape the scenarios (possible futures) that will be studied.

TVA staff presented initial results for four cases, which pair draft scenarios with the Baseline Utility Planning strategy. Working Group members offered insight that will help refine the cases. After the scenarios and strategies are finalized, modeling will generate potential resource plans (portfolios) for each scenario and strategy combination. TVA will analyze all portfolios, considering key tradeoffs, and identify a preferred portfolio direction for the coming years.

Stakeholder input is vital to TVA, and three initiatives were discussed at the meeting:

- **Valley Vision 2035**, which is leveraging the strengths of the public power model to lead innovation and transformation in the energy industry
- **Valley Pathways Study**, a study performed in collaboration with TVA and the University of Tennessee Baker School of Public Policy & Public Affairs to understand the ways economic sectors can reduce carbon emissions in the region
- **Utility of the Future Information Exchange**, which provided considerations for the 2024 Integrated Resource Plan and overall strategy for the energy system of the future.

TVA and the Working Group discussed current and proposed environmental regulations and the role they play in power-supply and process decisions; the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which TVA follows to evaluate the environmental impacts of its decisions and engage the public in decision-making; and the ways TVA is incorporating environmental justice in its IRP process. The group also offered input on how to create a draft IRP that is easy to understand and accessible.

Building the energy system of the future will require innovative, new technology, and TVA and the Working Group discussed TVA's comprehensive approach to innovation and research as well as options for federal funding.

"TVA has a rich history of innovation and being a catalyst for change," said Joe Hoagland, Vice President, Innovation & Research. "Just as we built the dams in our earliest days, we will build the energy system of the future. And the IRP will help guide our decisions."