



County of Los Alamos

Los Alamos, NM 87544
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Council Meeting Staff Report

June 19, 2019

Agenda No.:	6.C
Indexes (Council Goals):	BCC - N/A
Presenters:	Bob Westervelt
Legislative File:	12021-19

Title

Approval of DOE/LAC Resource Pool Budget for Fiscal Years 2020/2021

Recommended Action

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve the 2020-2021 Resource Pool budget as presented and forward to the County Council for its approval.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of this 2019-2020 Resource Pool Budget

Body

The Electric Energy and Power Coordination Agreement (ECA) between the County of Los Alamos and the Department of Energy requires that a 24-month budget be approved each year. The budget process begins with both parties preparing a load projection by month for the budget period. From these load projections the Power Supply division prepares a Resource Supply Projection that matches the available resources to the projected loads, and also estimates the variable costs for both our owned resources and for purchased power. Finally, costs for projected generation, purchases, and transmission are allocated to the parties based on the terms of the ECA. This is normally accomplished in April or May of the preceding year.

This budget projects total costs per MWh of \$47.24 and \$49.77 for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, respectively. Actual costs for fiscal year 2019 through April were \$57.50 per MWh compared to budgeted costs of \$53.91 per MWh. The significant decrease is due to completion of the SNCR work at Laramie River Station, no planned outages at San Juan, and both Hydro's are anticipated to be on line with good production numbers.

The ten-year historical average cost per MWh for the fiscal years 2008 through 2017 was \$67.25. Beginning in FY2017 we are seeing the benefit of the lower coal price and a lower capital budget at San Juan, and retirement of the debt at LRS, which historically was passed through to the Pool through LRS direct charges. Note, the last round of environmental upgrades anticipated for San Juan were completed in FY16 with the SNCR project. Similar upgrades at Laramie River will be completed in FY19, the costs of which have been passed through to the participants over 36 months, ending in FY20.

Costs to the participants vary due to each party's load factors. The projected costs to the County per MWh are \$48.49 and \$51.39 for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, respectively.

Due to agenda documentation deadlines, the budget was not approved by the Operating Committee when this staff report was prepared, but is scheduled for approval by the Operating Committee on June 13, 2019. Should that approval not happen, this item will be pulled from the June 19, 2019

Board agenda.

Alternatives

If this budget is not approved by the Board and Council we will have to continue under the last approved budget while we continue to negotiate a budget. Certain costs are billed to the participants as budgeted (fixed charges associated with the various resources) and reconciled in the next budget cycle. Delay in approving a budget will result in adjustments being needed to reconcile actual billings with the budget after the fact when the budget is approved.

Fiscal and Staff Impact

None. DPU's expenditure authority for purchase power costs is incorporated into the budget approved by the Utilities Board and County Council during the normal budget cycle. Approval of this Resource Pool budget is a contractual requirement of the ECA. The Resource Pool budget may differ somewhat from the purchase power expenditure authority requested by DPU during the normal County budget cycle due to timing differences in the budget cycles.

Attachments

- A - Resource Pool 24-month Budget Package
- B - Loads and Resources worksheet fiscal year 2020
- C - Loads and Resources worksheet fiscal year 2021