

2016 EOY generation statistics show increase in renewables

Basin Electric - 05/10/16

Basin Electric owns generation in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Iowa, and additionally purchases power from facilities in Minnesota and Nebraska.

Basin Electric's projected generation statistics for 2016 end of year (EOY) are now posted online, and show continued increase in renewable generation capacity.

Basin Electric's total winter season generation capacity portfolio by 2016 EOY will be 6,555 megawatts (MW). Of that total, 45.6 percent, or 2,991 MW, is coal-based generation. Natural gas peaking generation projections climbed to more than 1,228 MW, or 18.7 percent of the cooperative's generation portfolio, while projections for renewable forms of generation climbed to more than 1,570 MW, or 24.1 percent of the cooperative's total generation capacity.

Find more detail on Basin Electric's [At a Glance](#) page.

According to Dave Raatz, Basin Electric vice president of Cooperative Planning, said the additional renewables come from North Dakota wind projects planned to be built and operational this year, from which Basin Electric will buy the power.

The additional natural gas capacity will come in when the third phase of both [Lonesome Creek Station](#) and [Pioneer Generation Station](#) are made commercial. The peaking plants are located near Watford City and Williston, ND, respectively, and are planned to come online later this year.

Raatz noted some power purchase agreements have changed, meaning that the generation portfolio looks different in the summer. For example, one agreement used to be a consistent 50 MW year-round, but is now concentrated solely in the summer. "That, combined with the ratings at Dry Fork Station being different in the winter than in the summer, means our coal-based generation seems to be lower than in previous years," Raatz said. "In fact, our summer coal-based generation is 3,168 megawatts, or 58.6 percent of the total."

The generation portfolio added a new category this year: unspecified purchased power. "This category represents the power purchase agreements we have that do not explicitly provide a specific resource in the contract from which the power we are purchasing comes from," Raatz said. "Previously we made assumptions based on the seller's resource portfolio being primarily coal. We decided it best to be more precise in that reporting, and created this new category."

At the close of 2015, coal-based resources held the largest share of Basin Electric's total capacity portfolio mix at about 55 percent, natural gas-based resources at about 18 percent, and renewable capacity at about 15 percent, when taking unspecified generation into account.

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