

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
HYDRO CONDITIONS AND PURCHASE POWER REPORT
May 2020

	Generation (Megawatt-Hours [MWh])				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual		Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
Oct 19	3,234,188	2,557,218	1,905,123	2,547,426	167,584	\$8,232,725	\$3,634,722	\$4,039,531
Nov 19	2,916,091	2,321,588	1,744,440	2,242,597	226,842	\$6,958,854	\$3,094,132	\$6,712,448
Dec 19	2,742,006	1,826,992	1,739,496	1,779,560	284,850	\$12,700,352	\$5,611,408	\$8,270,536
Jan 20	2,966,530	1,926,745	1,885,817	1,791,669	240,549	\$9,907,656	\$6,032,484	\$6,466,172
Feb 20	3,567,534	2,261,069	1,721,387	1,798,829	187,895	\$7,706,513	\$4,922,309	\$4,177,233
Mar 20	4,484,330	2,180,682	1,933,209	2,027,637	187,454	\$8,617,415	\$6,414,599	\$4,910,734
Apr 20	4,303,166	2,421,544	2,292,639	2,353,332				
May 20								
Jun 20								
Jul 20								
Aug 20								
Sep 20								
Total	24,213,844	15,495,838	13,222,111	14,541,051	1,295,174	\$54,123,515	\$29,709,654	\$34,576,653
	Actual generation as a percentage of average: 110.0%					Cost per MWh: \$26.70		

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) generated a total of 14,541 gigawatt-hours (GWh) during October through April of fiscal year 2020, or 110 percent of the average. Actual purchase power data is currently available from October through March for all of WAPA’s Regions, and during this period total purchase power was 1,295 GWh and total purchase power expenses were \$34,576,653, which equates to \$26.70 per MWh.

The following pages indicate WAPA’s Regional snowpack, lake/reservoir inflow and storage, generation, and purchase power expenses. Snowpack is reported as snow water equivalent, which is the depth of water that theoretically would result if the entire snowpack is melted instantaneously.

The monthly purchase power numbers indicated herein are used by WAPA’s Regions as a forecasting tool, and therefore they do not reflect energy imbalance transactions and other such information that cannot be forecasted. Furthermore, the purchase power numbers have not been verified for financial auditing purposes. Consequently, these numbers will vary from those reported in WAPA’s year-end financial statements, and the latter should be considered the definitive source for WAPA’s purchase power data.



Colorado River Storage Project

	Snowpack (Inches in Snow Water Equivalent)		Lake/Reservoir Inflow (Thousand Acre-Feet)		Lake/Reservoir Content (Million Acre-Feet)		Generation (MWh)				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Median	Actual	Average	Actual	Average	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
Oct 19	1.90	1.30	514.42	265.00	15.01	13.03	247,024	402,923	382,430	389,492	57,894	\$5,712,150	\$1,470,094	\$1,620,344
Nov 19	4.80	4.70	474.23	404.00	14.91	12.86	241,664	386,154	388,155	378,475	70,539	\$5,110,150	\$1,581,991	\$2,312,315
Dec 19	8.10	8.40	362.96	353.00	14.86	12.60	279,537	463,233	437,962	465,261	36,300	\$6,299,733	\$1,046,122	\$1,035,644
Jan 20	11.50	12.10	361.45	277.00	14.98	12.28	329,144	451,898	457,394	444,843	59,569	\$5,112,308	\$1,657,329	\$1,488,034
Feb 20	15.10	15.70	392.01	288.00	15.99	12.01	285,980	392,973	390,580	382,355	67,140	\$4,550,403	\$1,638,298	\$1,440,824
Mar 20	18.90	19.50	666.27	475.00	16.77	11.82	300,884	410,473	390,170	401,865	56,174	\$3,588,199	\$952,202	\$1,187,057
Apr 20	19.40	17.30	1,057.14	475.00	16.74	11.69	299,431	404,268	397,861	397,639	39,810	\$1,970,254	\$210,904	\$789,957
May 20														
Jun 20														
Jul 20														
Aug 20														
Sep 20														
Total							1,983,664	2,911,922	2,844,551	2,859,930	387,426	\$32,343,198	\$8,556,940	\$9,874,175

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 100.5%

Cost per MWh: \$25.49

Lake/Reservoir Levels

Lake Powell's elevation was 3,599 feet at the end of April, about 101 feet below the maximum reservoir level and about 109 feet above the minimum generation level. The storage volume for Lake Powell was 11.7 million acre-feet (MAF) at the end of April, or about 48 percent of capacity.

Weather and Other Conditions

May forecasted water year 2020 inflow decreased by about 1.0 MAF from the April Forecast to about 7.4 MAF, or about 68 percent of average); however, there is still significant uncertainty around this forecast. The official WY 2020 annual release for Lake Powell will be 8.23 MAF, and current forecasts predict a 9.0 MAF annual release for WY 2021.



Desert Southwest Region

	Snowpack (Inches in Snow Water Equivalent)		Lake/Reservoir Inflow (Thousand Acre-Feet)		Lake/Reservoir Content (Million Acre-Feet)		Generation (MWh)				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Median	Actual	Average	Actual	Average	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
Oct 19	1.90	1.30	60.21	34.00	19.92	12.38	327,200	329,395	377,088	330,202	15,083	\$294,158	\$294,158	\$447,125
Nov 19	4.80	4.70	55.46	116.00	19.97	12.61	296,000	290,135	362,492	287,607	18,264	\$427,033	\$427,033	\$949,591
Dec 19	8.10	8.40	73.34	117.00	20.11	13.12	184,850	116,990	366,538	116,854	55,017	\$2,216,576	\$2,216,576	\$2,834,831
Jan 20	11.50	12.10	93.42	75.00	20.27	13.47	207,550	159,910	389,375	220,912	37,881	\$1,705,683	\$1,705,683	\$1,656,511
Feb 20	15.10	15.70	108.62	67.00	20.31	13.66	273,750	394,620	387,932	305,060	15,958	\$653,885	\$653,885	\$631,359
Mar 20	18.90	19.50	105.22	150.00	20.12	13.86	542,600	319,525	526,478	319,340	66,858	\$3,428,841	\$3,428,841	\$2,973,584
Apr 20	19.40	17.30	84.70	84.00	19.94	13.68	492,750	480,530	569,428	482,984	22,734	\$873,879	\$873,879	\$706,345
May 20														
Jun 20														
Jul 20														
Aug 20														
Sep 20														
Total							2,324,700	2,091,105	2,979,331	2,062,960	231,795	\$9,600,055	\$9,600,055	\$10,199,346

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 69.2%

Cost per MWh: \$44.00

Lake/Reservoir Levels

Lake Mead's elevation was 1,096 feet at the end of April, about 123 feet below the full storage level and about 146 feet above the minimum generation level. Lake Mead's elevation started WY 2020 at a minimum elevation of 1,083 feet in October and its elevation peaked at 1,099 feet in March.

Weather and Other Conditions

The Desert Southwest Region's (DSWR) hydrology is mostly dependent on the Colorado River Basin snowpack and precipitation above Lake Powell. The precipitation is currently 84 percent of average and the snowpack is 68 percent of median.

Note: DSWR's projected dry and most probable generation data are reported from studies conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.



Rocky Mountain Region

	Snowpack (Inches in Snow Water Equivalent)		Lake/Reservoir Inflow (Thousand Acre-Feet)		Lake/Reservoir Content (Million Acre-Feet)		Generation (MWh)				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Median	Actual	Average	Actual	Average	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
Oct 19	0.00	0.50	140.00	161.80	3.87	4.16	958,083	114,970	104,469	105,869	53,942	\$1,842,801	\$1,486,854	\$1,436,710
Nov 19	3.90	9.10	123.80	151.50	3.83	4.78	905,908	108,709	71,586	73,486	90,100	\$1,066,471	\$729,908	\$2,582,110
Dec 19	11.90	14.30	100.70	123.10	3.79	4.75	1,236,250	148,350	105,136	107,536	78,461	\$483,802	\$24,510	\$2,320,018
Jan 20	19.70	22.20	99.50	110.20	4.92	4.71	1,337,442	160,493	101,067	103,667	56,015	\$907,287	\$410,401	\$1,377,620
Feb 20	27.90	30.60	98.00	117.10	3.73	4.67	1,972,450	236,694	100,751	103,051	27,562	\$0	\$0	\$622,733
Mar 20	35.90	45.00	159.30	179.00	3.84	4.04	2,505,533	300,664	144,642	146,800	16,906	\$0	\$0	\$315,890
Apr 20	39.80	48.50	252.20	323.20	3.86	4.47	2,135,383	256,246	206,415	208,215	2,665	\$941,791	\$148,453	\$58,000
May 20														
Jun 20														
Jul 20														
Aug 20														
Sep 20														
Total							11,051,050	1,326,126	834,067	848,625	325,651	\$5,242,151	\$2,800,126	\$8,713,081

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 101.7%

Cost per MWh: \$26.76

Lake/Reservoir Content

Reservoir inflows were 96 percent of average at the end of April.

Weather and Other Conditions

Hydrologic conditions for the Loveland Area Projects (LAP) area can vary from one river basin and watershed to another. LAP is currently drought free. The snowpack is 90 percent of average in Colorado and 96 percent of average in Wyoming. The latest National Weather Service forecast indicates June through August temperatures have slightly higher chances to be above average in Wyoming and Colorado, and precipitation will be slightly below average for all of LAP. Spring generation in the Colorado River Basin is forecast to be average in June through August as continued run off takes place. Spring generation in the North Platte Basin and Big Horn Basin is forecasted to be average.

Note: The Rocky Mountain Region's (RMR) most recent reported actual generation and purchase power data are provisional values.



Sierra Nevada Region

	Snowpack (Inches in Snow Water Equivalent)		Lake/Reservoir Inflow (Thousand Acre-Feet)		Lake/Reservoir Content (Million Acre-Feet)		Generation (MWh)				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Median	Actual	Average	Actual	Average	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
Oct 19	N/A	N/A	335.00	349.00	5.51	7.84	195,000	190,000	163,000	287,596	40,285	\$383,616	\$383,616	\$508,746
Nov 19	22.22	2.00	381.00	356.00	5.47	7.63	83,000	93,000	104,000	156,862	47,391	\$355,200	\$355,200	\$864,154
Dec 19	27.27	9.00	960.00	692.00	5.84	7.78	42,000	57,000	143,000	110,113	53,378	\$355,200	\$355,200	\$738,876
Jan 20	27.91	12.00	844.00	736.00	6.19	7.97	32,000	107,000	163,000	41,046	59,939	\$232,060	\$232,060	\$986,093
Feb 20	28.21	11.00	1,533.00	378.00	6.81	7.95	46,000	266,000	195,000	103,091	48,897	\$209,420	\$209,420	\$673,863
Mar 20	29.63	16.00	1,574.00	514.00	7.52	7.94	133,000	138,000	207,000	182,229	42,769	\$231,353	\$231,353	\$358,618
Apr 20	26.67	8.00	1,452.00	899.00	7.93	8.21	380,000	350,000	288,000	306,150	28,049	\$215,080	\$215,080	\$265,445
May 20														
Jun 20														
Jul 20														
Aug 20														
Sep 20														
Total							911,000	1,201,000	1,263,000	1,187,088	320,708	\$1,981,929	\$1,981,929	\$4,395,794

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 94.0%

Cost per MWh: \$13.71

Lake/Reservoir Content

As of April 30, reservoir storage for the water year was 103 percent of the 15-year average for Trinity, 98 percent for Shasta, 94 percent for Folsom, and 122 percent for New Melones. Accumulated inflow for the same date was 42 percent of the 15-year average for Trinity, 58 percent for Shasta, 52 percent for Folsom, and 65 percent for New Melones.

Weather and Other Conditions

February only had 0.02 inches of precipitation for the month, which is the driest February on the index going back to 1921. March precipitation was 6.29 inches or 90 percent of its average, after such a dry February. April precipitation was 2.81 inches or 71 percent of its average while the snowpack ended at 8 inches or 30 percent of the April 1st peak. Based upon April 1st conditions, the Sacramento River Index forecast for 50 percent exceedance at 9.2 is "critical" and the 90 percent exceedance at 8.1 is also "critical."

Note: The Sierra Nevada Region's (SNR) average generation is based upon long-term modeling done for its "Green Book." SNR does not project purchase power expenses for dry conditions, and its most probable expenses are based upon term purchases of 35 to 65 percent of projected power needs, with the difference being left to day-ahead markets after project pumping and generation have been scheduled.



Upper Great Plains Region

	Snowpack (Inches in Snow Water Equivalent)		Lake/Reservoir Inflow (Thousand Acre-Feet)		Lake/Reservoir Content (Million Acre-Feet)		Generation (MWh)				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Median	Actual	Average	Actual	Average	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
Oct 19	1.20	2.60	7,972.00	18,502.03	56.14	62.49	1,506,881	1,519,930	878,137	1,434,267	380	\$0	\$0	\$26,606
Nov 19	3.80	4.20	7,334.00	17,463.46	55.06	59.17	1,389,518	1,443,590	818,207	1,346,166	548	\$0	\$0	\$4,278
Dec 19	7.10	6.80	6,422.00	10,075.10	54.46	58.43	999,369	1,041,419	686,859	979,796	61,694	\$3,345,041	\$1,969,000	\$1,341,167
Jan 20	10.30	10.20	6,641.00	8,781.15	54.18	57.66	1,060,394	1,047,444	774,981	981,201	27,145	\$1,950,317	\$2,027,011	\$957,914
Feb 20	13.10	13.80	6,281.00	9,216.01	54.50	57.74	989,354	970,782	647,124	905,272	28,338	\$2,292,804	\$2,420,706	\$808,454
Mar 20	0.00	17.00	0.00	11,894.82	0.00	59.92	1,002,312	1,012,020	664,919	977,403	4,747	\$1,369,022	\$1,802,203	\$75,585
Apr 20	0.00	13.80	0.00	9,558.73	0.00	60.04	995,602	930,500	830,935	958,344	*	\$126,604	\$163,265	*
May 20														
Jun 20														
Jul 20														
Aug 20														
Sep 20														
Total							7,943,430	7,965,685	5,301,162	7,582,449	122,852	\$9,083,788	\$8,382,185	\$3,214,004

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 143.0%

Cost per MWh: \$26.16

Lake/Reservoir Content

As of May 20, the active conservation pools for the Canyon Ferry and Yellowtail Dams were 75.3 percent and 73.9 percent full, respectively.

Weather and Other Conditions

The April runoff was 159 percent of normal. The Missouri River Basin mountain snowpack normally peaks near April 15. Snowpack reports show 94 percent of average snow water equivalent above Fort Peck and 86 percent of average in the Fort Peck to Garrison reach. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows larger areas of the upper Basin being impacted by abnormally dry conditions, primarily in the far south-eastern regions of Montana, and largely the western-half of North Dakota for our service area. The 90- to 180- day precipitation averages outlook are normal to slightly above normal precipitation across our system.

Note: The Upper Great Plains Region reports its 50 percent share of generation from Yellowtail Dam, and RMR reports the snowpack, inflow, content, and remaining share of generation. Asterisks indicate that actual purchase power data is not available for the month, and so the projected dry and most probable purchase power expenses are not included for that month in order to allow for a meaningful comparison between the total amounts.

