



Hydropower

Reclamation is Powering Communities and Industry Harnessing water to generate affordable and reliable energy for millions

Hydropower Action Plan

Reclamation's Hydropower Action Plan supports Administration energy priorities by investing in targeted facility upgrades, streamlining regulatory processes, and deploying new technologies to boost efficiency, reliability, and energy production. The plan outlines capital improvements at hydropower facilities, efforts to simplify and streamline permitting for federal and non-federal projects, and the use of advanced monitoring and analytics to reduce downtime and increase output. Collectively, these actions aim to expand hydropower capacity, reduce costs, and strengthen grid resilience.

Hydropower at Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation is the nation's second largest hydropower producer, directly operating and maintaining 53 hydropower facilities, comprising over 14,500 megawatts of generating capacity and producing approximately 37 million megawatt-hours of electricity annually (the equivalent demand of more than 3.4 million U.S. homes).

Top Ten PowerPlants

Grand Coulee (WA) - 6,809 MW
Hoover (AZ/NV) - 2,079 MW
Glen Canyon (AZ) - 1,320 MW
Shasta Dam (CA) - 714 MW
Hungry Horse (MT) - 428 MW
New Melones (CA) - 380 MW
Yellowtail Dam (MT) - 287 MW
Davis Dam (AZ/CA) - 255 MW
Folsom Dam (CA) - 207 MW
Mt. Elbert (CO) - 200 MW

Administration Priorities

Reclamation is advancing the Administration's energy priorities through its Hydropower Action Plan, which guides efforts to support affordable and reliable hydropower generation and policy objectives.

The Action Plan commits Reclamation to:

1. Direct Capital Investments at Reclamation facilities.
2. Regulatory and Process Improvement.
3. Technological Innovation.

Hydropower Licensing

Reclamation is actively reviewing several Lease of Power Privilege (LOPP) proposals and coordinating on legislative efforts to expand LOPP authorities, which would streamline hydropower permitting, provide process clarity, and accelerate non-federal hydropower development on Reclamation projects.

Environmental Review

Reclamation is developing two new NEPA categorical exclusions to streamline hydropower maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement activities and LOPP authorizations, aiming to reduce environmental review time and costs while maintaining environmental protections.

Research and Development

Through its Science & Technology program and prize competitions, Reclamation supports innovations such as advanced turbine coatings, fire suppression technologies, improved forecasting tools, and solutions to operational challenges, while its Facilitated Adoption Program helps transition research into real-world hydropower operations.

Working With Reclamation

Reclamation provides contracting opportunities through SAM.gov and related federal procurement platforms, offering guidance, forecasts, and resources for businesses interested in partnering on hydropower and water-resource projects.