

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush green forest. The water is a deep blue-grey color, and the surrounding trees are vibrant green. The riverbed is visible in some areas, showing rocks and sand.

Integrated Resource Planning for Modern Power Systems

Aaron Bloom
Chair, ESIG System Planning Working Group





Energy Systems Integration Group is a non-profit educational association that provides workshops, resources and education on the evolving electricity and energy systems.

ESIG supports engineers, researchers, technologists, policymakers and the public with the transformation of energy systems in a way that is economic, reliable, sustainable, thoughtful and collaborative.



www.ESIG.energy

Agenda

- Part 0: Prologue
- Part I: The Math
- Part II: People and the Environment
- Part III: The Interconnections Seam Study
- Part IV: What does this mean?
- Part V: What should be done?
- Appendix: Want to learn more?

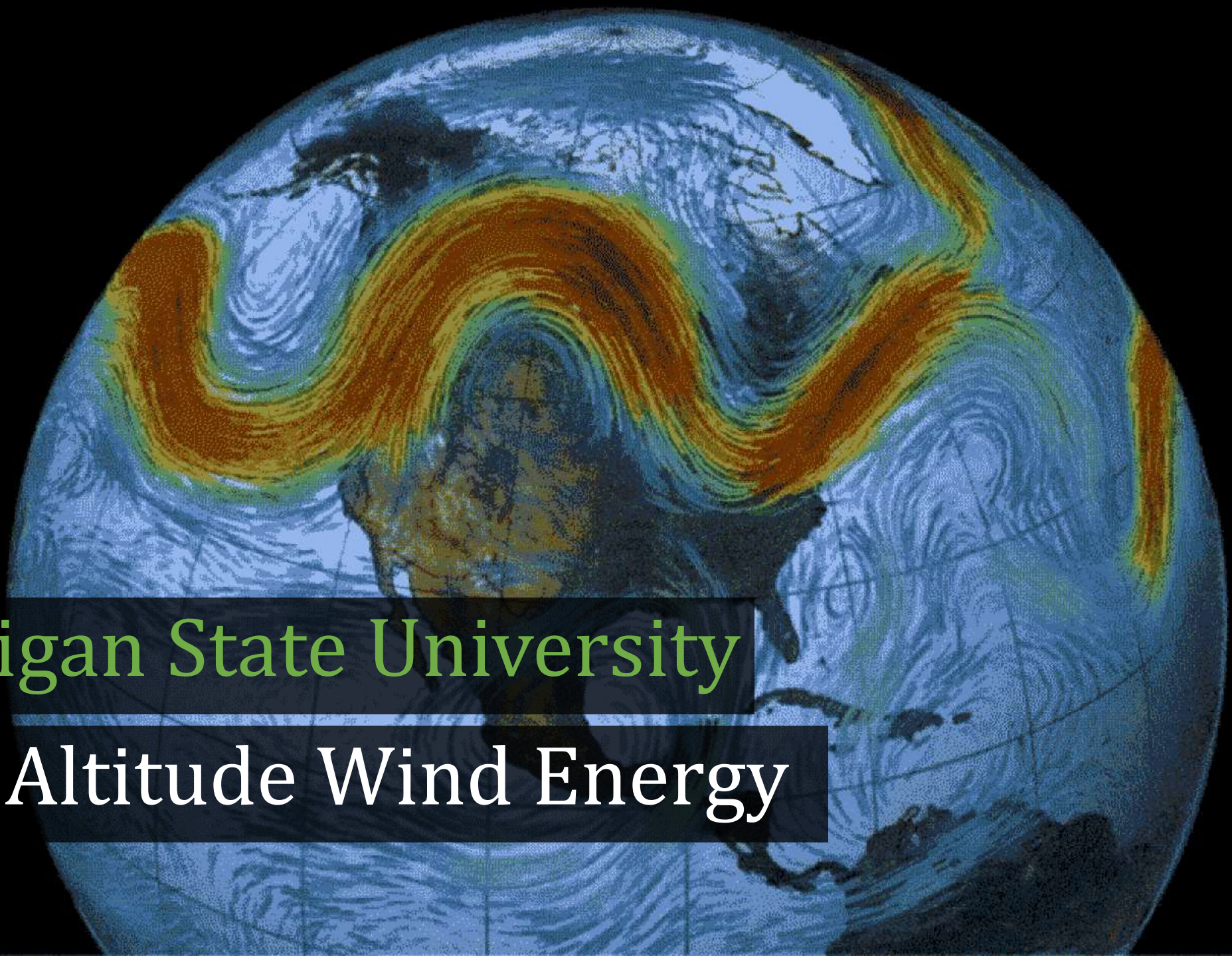


Part 0: Prologue

Aspiring Energy Nerd



1986 solar home replica



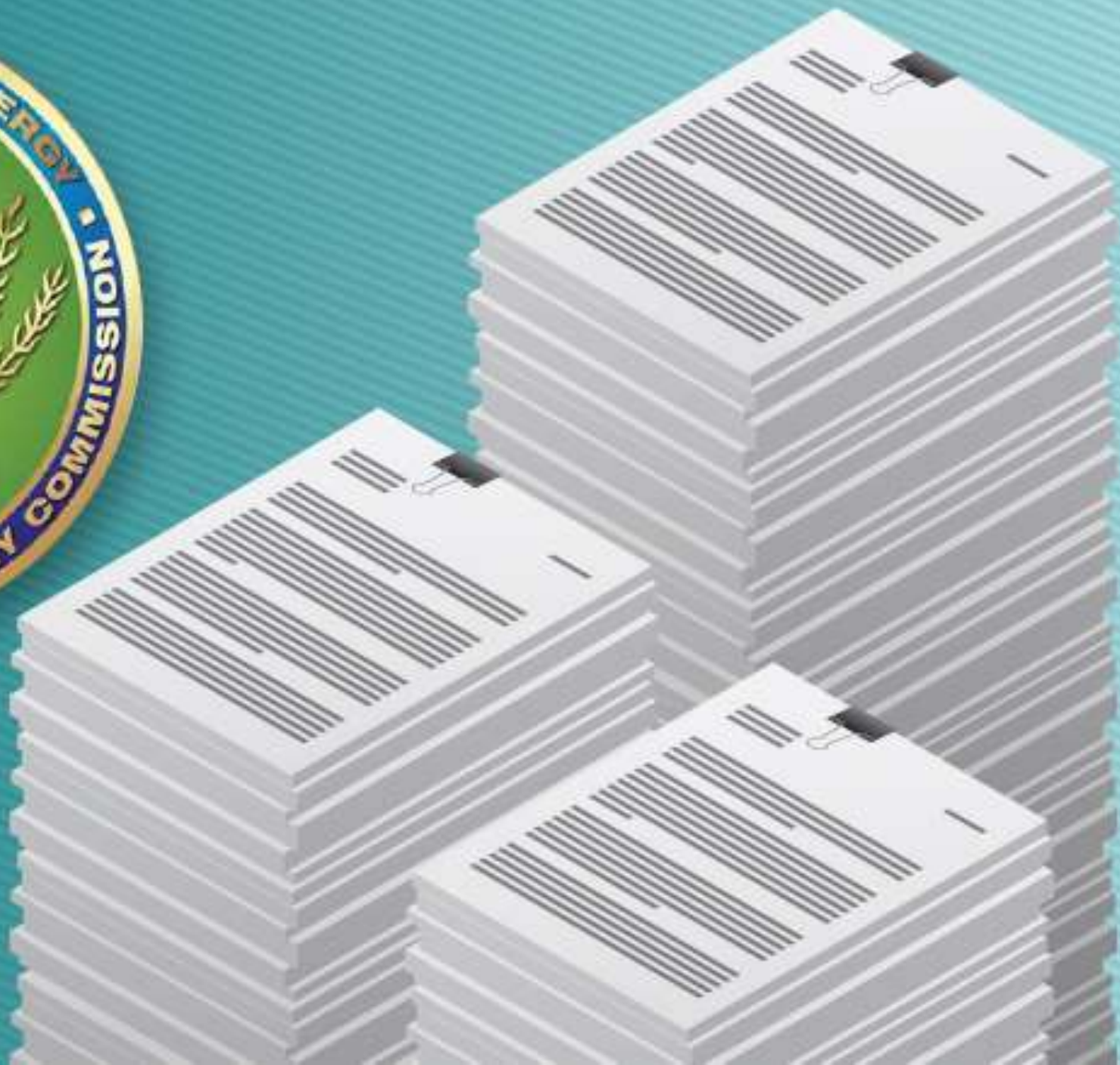
Michigan State University

High Altitude Wind Energy

A stylized illustration of a businessman in a dark suit and yellow tie running through a series of thick, red, ribbon-like shapes that resemble a maze. The background is a light blue-grey color. The businessman is carrying a briefcase in his left hand.

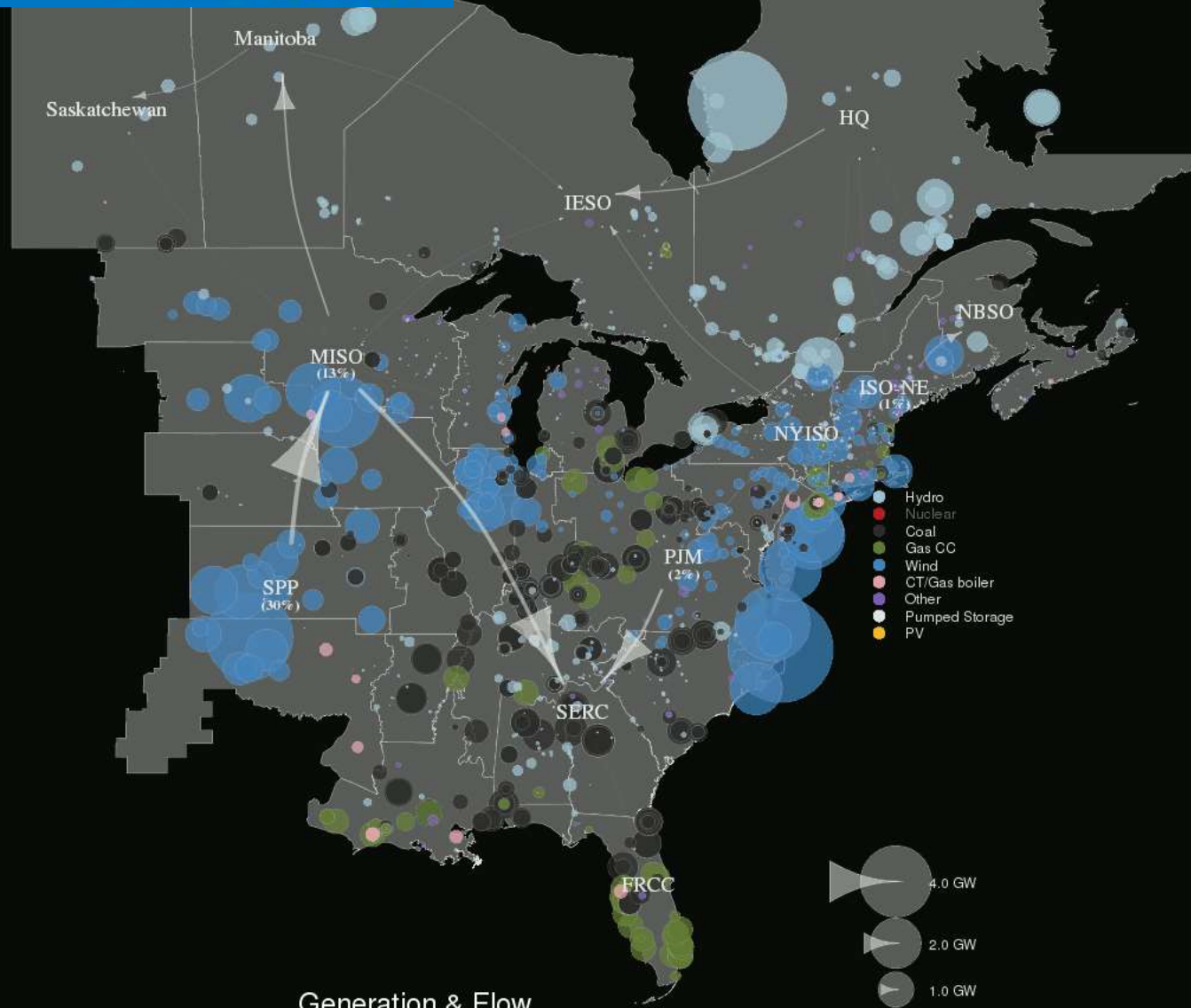
The Ohio State University

Utility Regulation

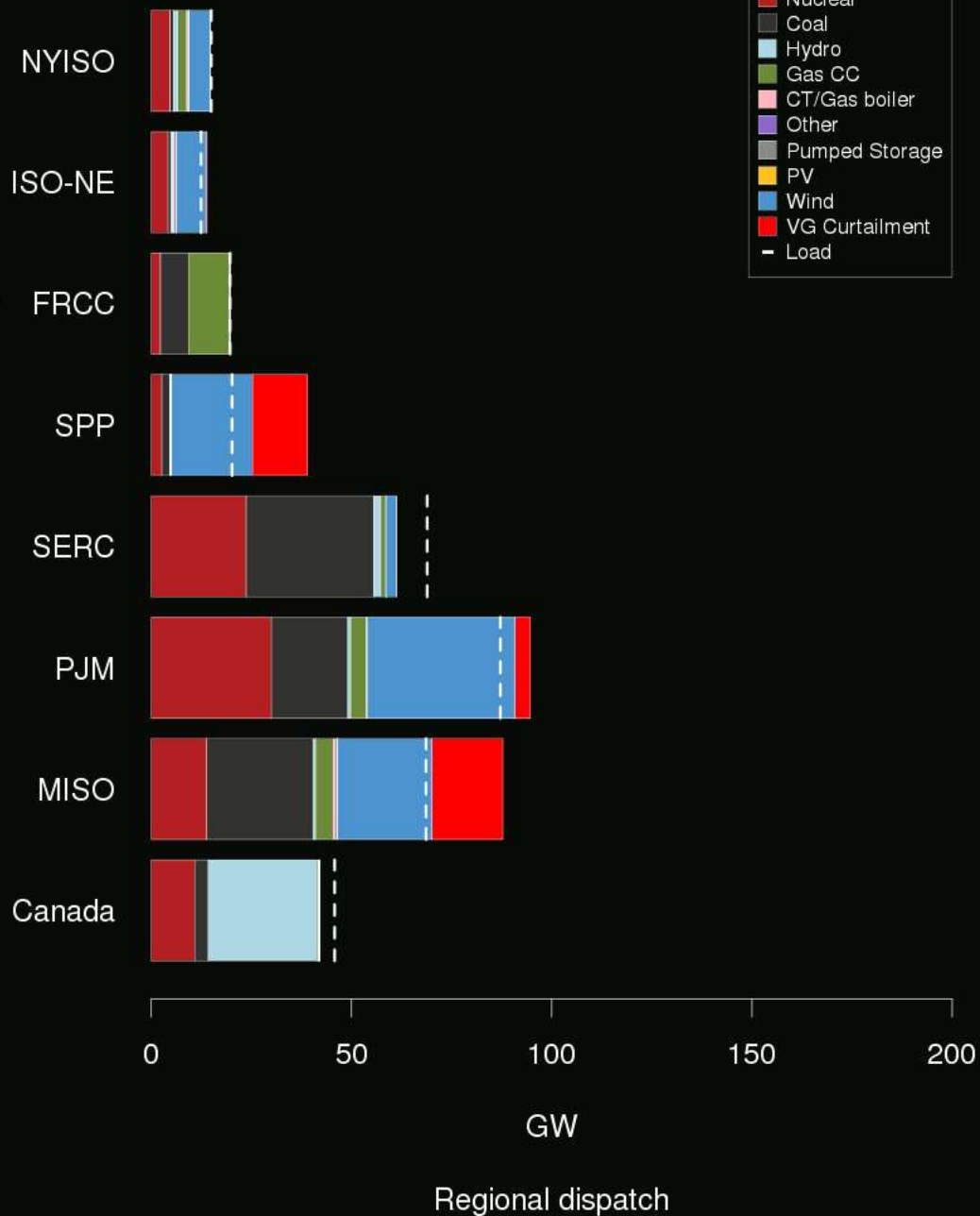


Eastern Renewable Generation Integration Study (RTx30)

11-24-2026 00:00 EST



Generation & Flow



Regional dispatch

NEXTera[®]

ENERGY







NEXTERA[®]
Analytics

NextEra Analytics helps industries reach decarbonization goals
using physics, data science, and software



Energy Systems Integration Group

Charting the Future of Energy Systems Integration and Operations



Session Goals

- Be able to define an Integrated Resource Plan
- Identify data and tools used in an Integrated Resource Plan
- Explain why Integrated Resource Plans are imperfect
- Identify a few challenges associated with planning for renewables
- Learn about some examples of Integrated Resource Plans



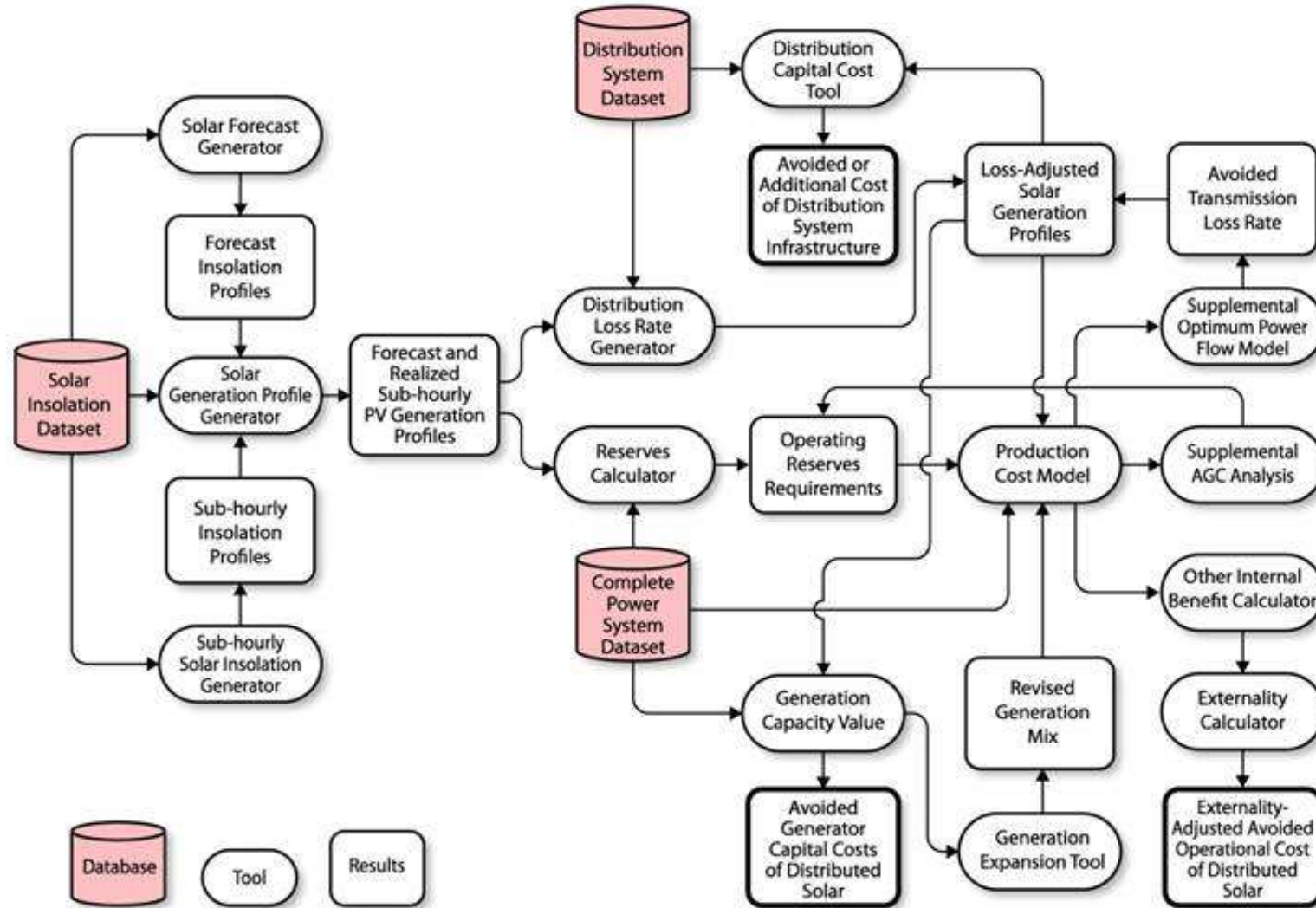
What is an

Integrated Resource Plan?

Integrated Resource Plan

- Definition: is an economic and engineering process that uses various tools and data to ensure reliable and least-cost electric service to customers.

Distributed Energy Resource Integrated Resource Plan





This sounds complicated

It is


Let's break it down

Five questions answered in an integrated resource plan

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Charting the Future of Energy Systems Integration and Operations



A photograph of two wind turbine technicians standing in a field of tall grass. They are both wearing blue shirts, red helmets, and safety harnesses. The technician on the left is looking at a smartphone, while the one on the right is holding a walkie-talkie to his mouth. In the background, several large white wind turbines are visible against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The ground is covered in dry, yellowish grass.

What do you build?

Image courtesy of NREL

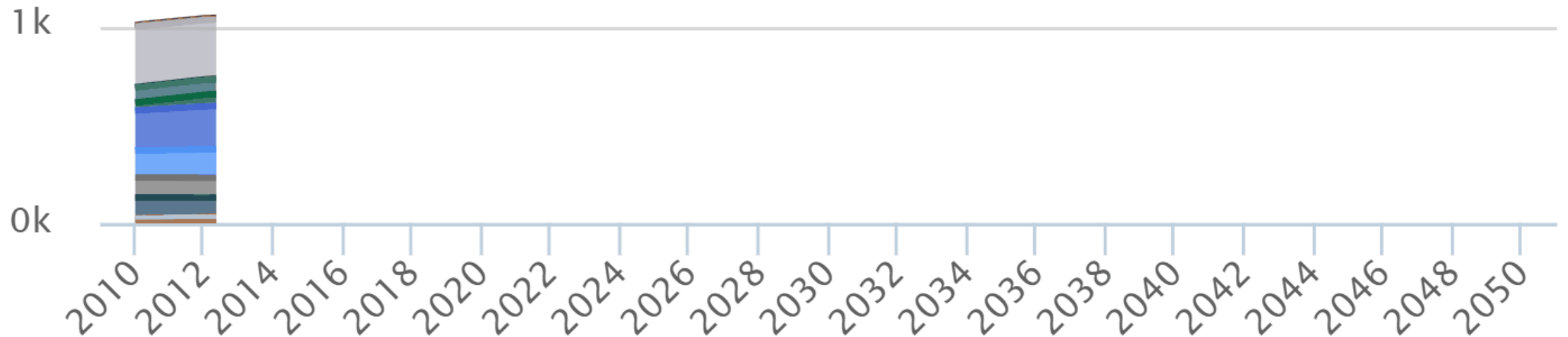


Where do you build it?

80% National RPS: Capacity



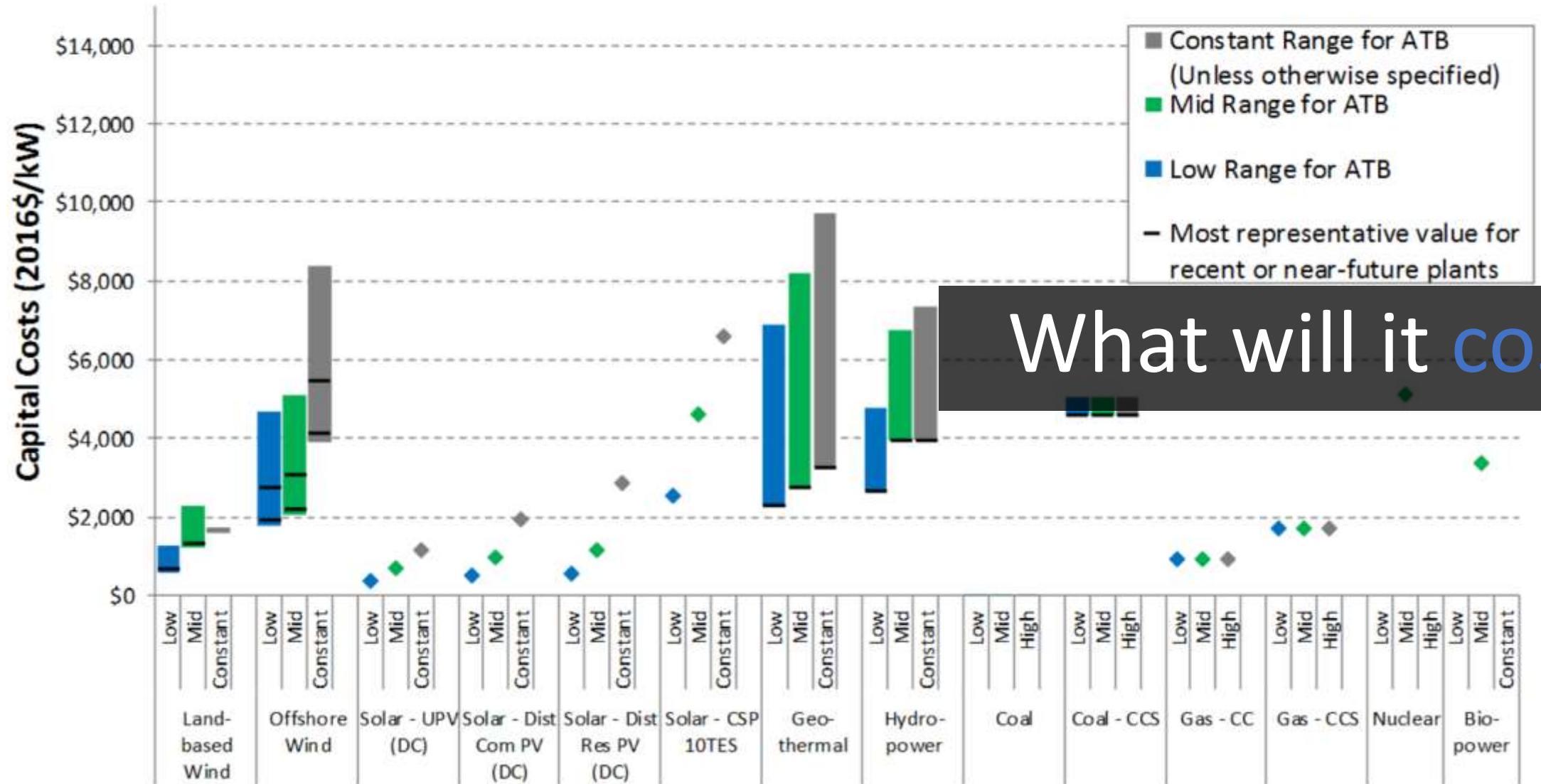
When do you build it?



<https://openei.org/apps/reeds/#>

2018 ATB CAPEX range by technology for 2030

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory Annual Technology Baseline (2018), <http://atb.nrel.gov>





Will it be reliable?



This sounds like Science!

It is...but

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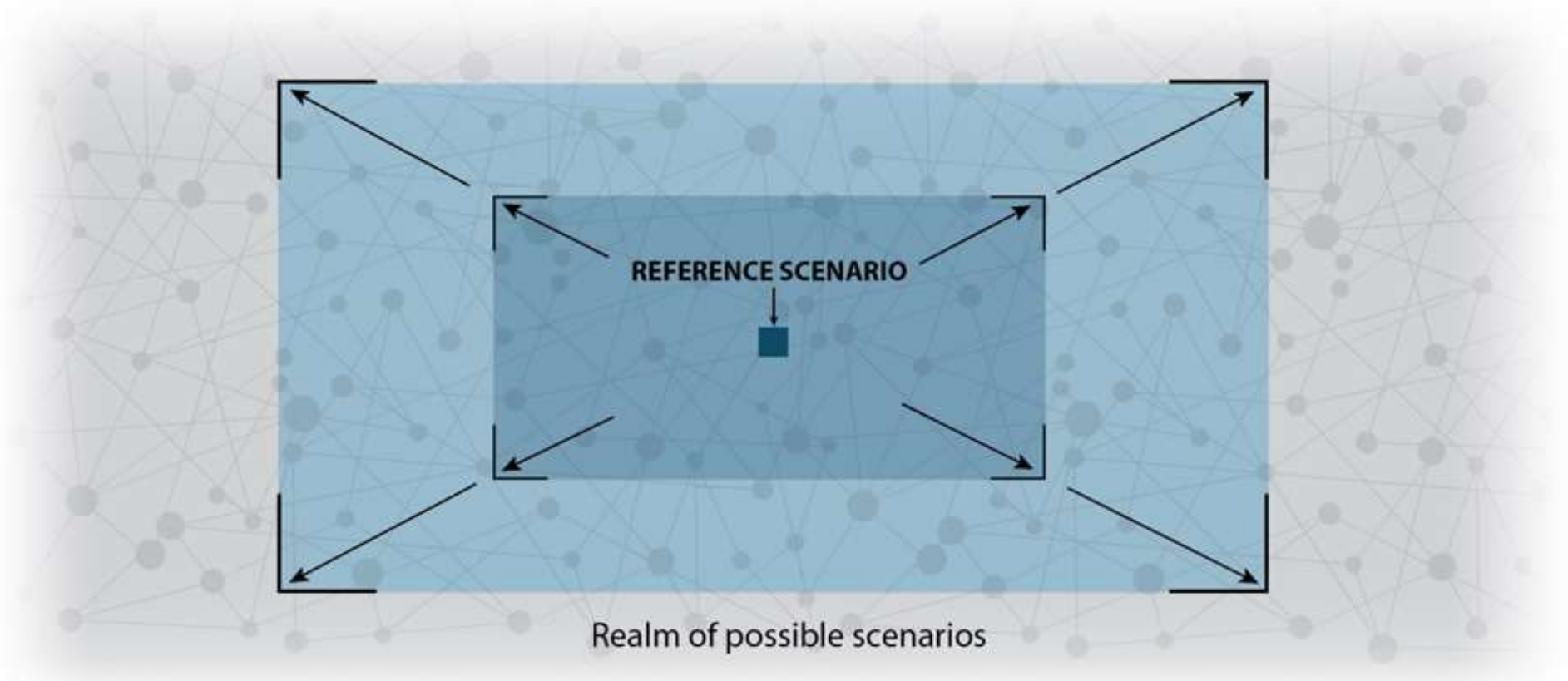
Charting the Future of Energy Systems Integration and Operations





It's also an Art

We can't study every possible future.
We must make choices.



What does this mean?

- The data we use to model the power system are imperfect.
- Our methods are incapable of considering all of the conditions that could exist.
- We as regulators, engineers, scientists, artists, and consumers have different interpretations of safe, reliable, affordable, and clean.



Part I: The Math

Why Integrated Resource Planning is an
Artful Science

Cost and Reliability are determined using math

- Least-cost

- Capital costs

$$\sum_{\substack{n \in N, \\ q \in Q}} CapacityN_{n,q} * (fcr_q * (regmult_{n,q} * capcost_q + gridconnect_q) + fomN_q)$$

- Variable costs

$$\min. \quad \sum_t \sum_k c_k^t g_k^t + c_k^{t,su} su_k^t + c_k^{t,sd} sd_k^t$$

- Reliable

- Resource Adequacy

$$LOLP = \sum_j p[C_A = C_j] \cdot P[L > C_j] = \sum_j \frac{P_j \cdot t_j}{100}$$

- System Security

$$0 = -P_i + \sum_{k=1}^N |V_i| |V_k| (G_{ik} \cos \theta_{ik} + B_{ik} \sin \theta_{ik})$$

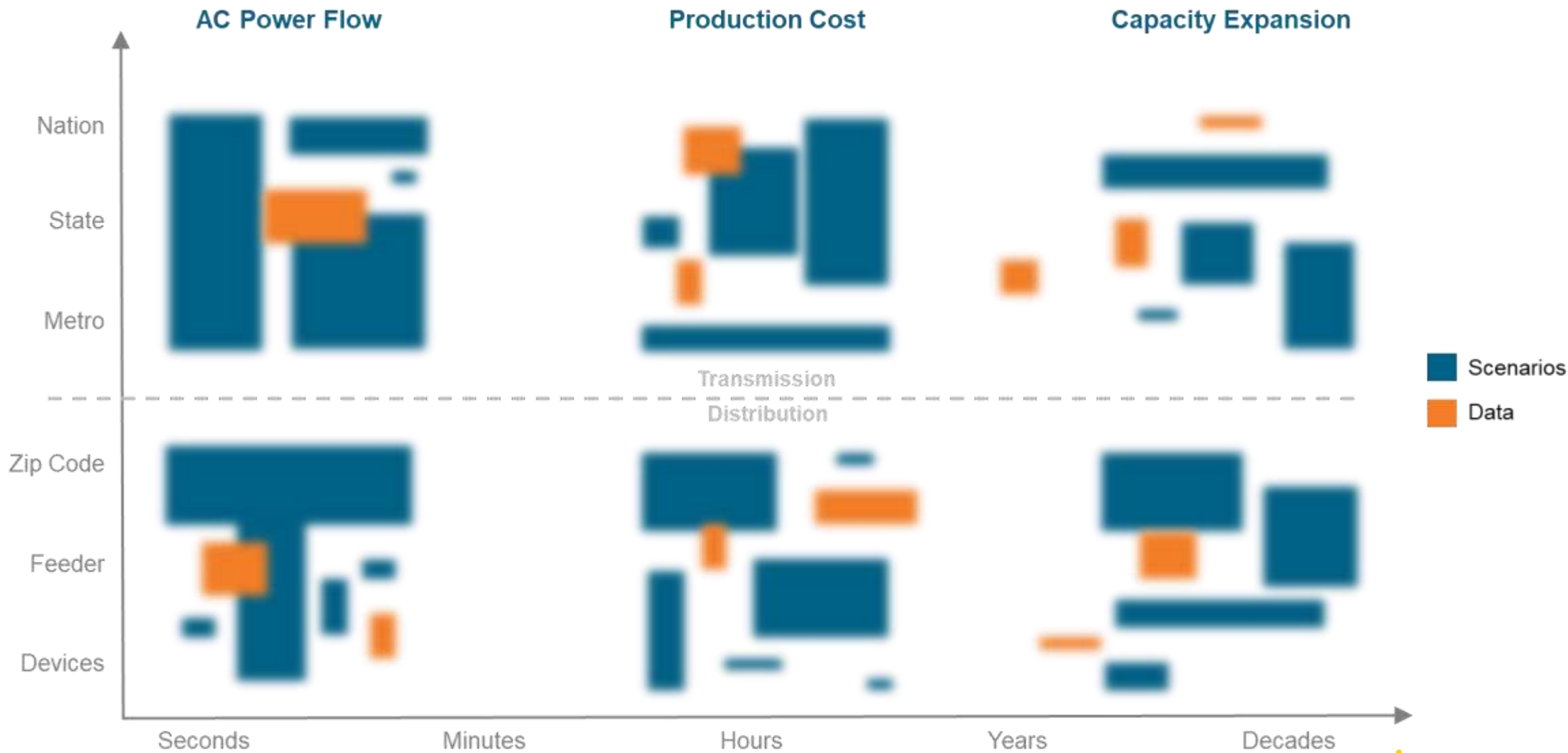


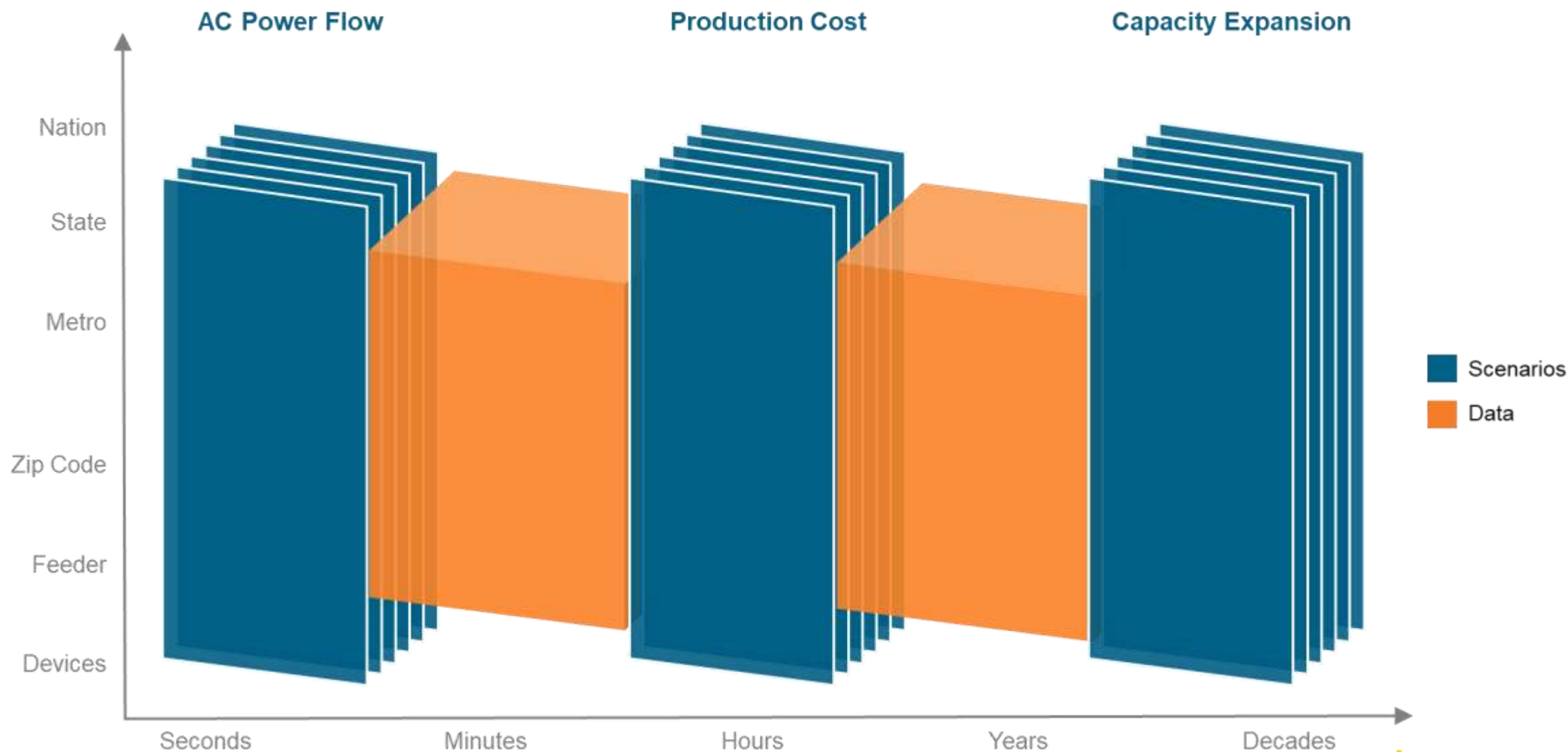
We have a **scale**
separation problem

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Charting the Future of Energy Systems Integration and Operations







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Charting the Future of Energy Systems Integration and Operations



Major Publications from these domains

- Capacity Expansion Modeling
 - Renewable Electricity Futures Study:
<https://www.nrel.gov/analysis/re-futures.html>
- Production Cost Modeling
 - Eastern Renewable Generation Integration Study:
<https://www.nrel.gov/grid/ergis.html>
- AC Power Flow
 - Definition and Classification of Power System Stability
<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/1318675>

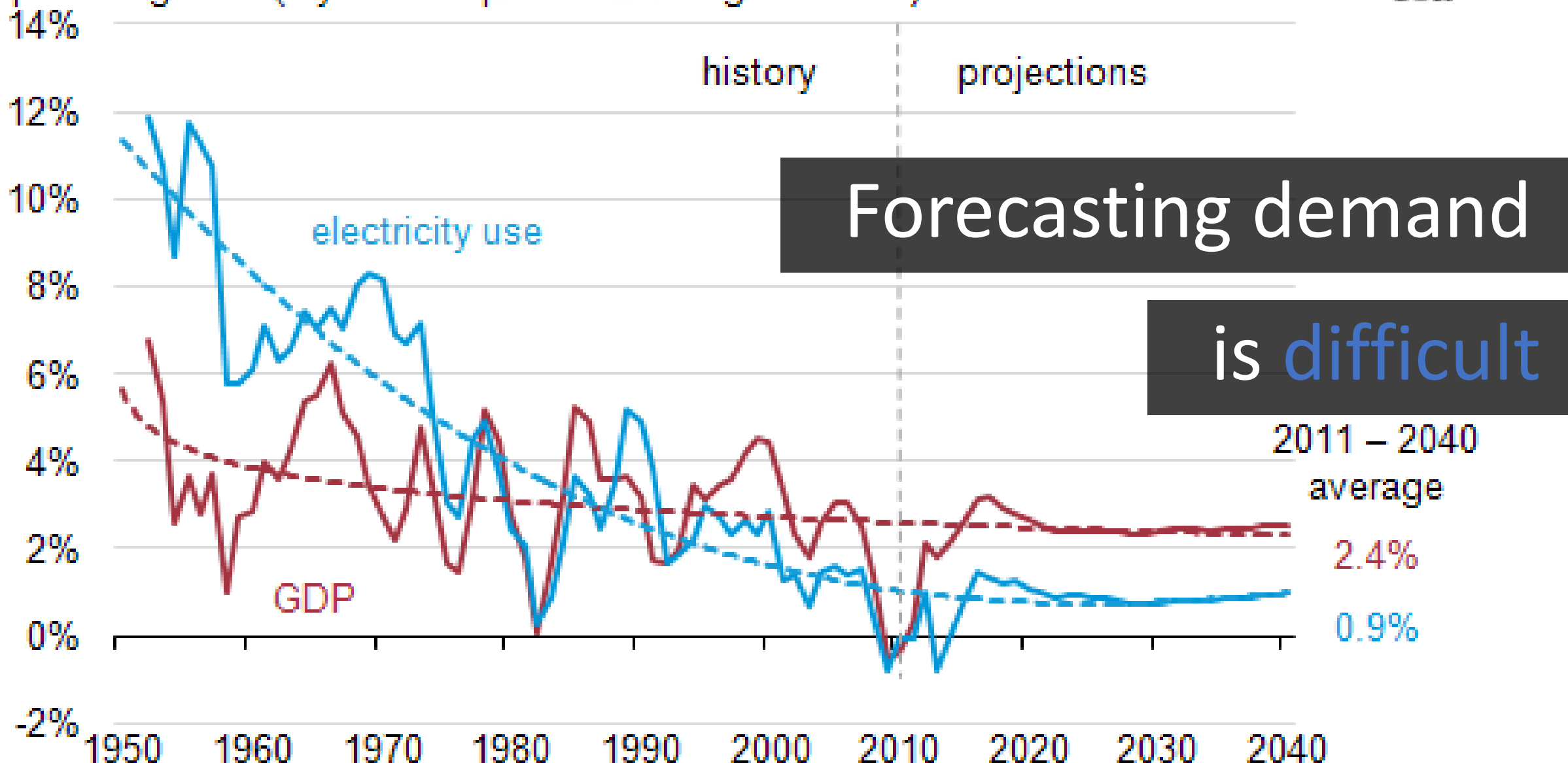


Part II: People & Environment

Why Integrated Resource Planning is an
Artful Science

U.S. electricity use and economic growth, 1950 - 2040

percent growth (3-year compound annual growth rate) and trend lines



Utilities have a problem: the public wants 100% renewable energy, and quick

The industry is groping for ways to talk the public down.

By David Roberts | @drvox | david@vox.com | Updated Oct 11, 2018, 9:19am EDT

Consumer preferences
constantly evolve



American as apple pie. | Shutterstock

Renewable energy is hot. It has incredible momentum, not only in terms of deployment and costs but in terms of public opinion and cultural cachet. To put it simply: Everyone loves renewable energy. It's cleaner, it's high-tech, it's new jobs, it's the future.



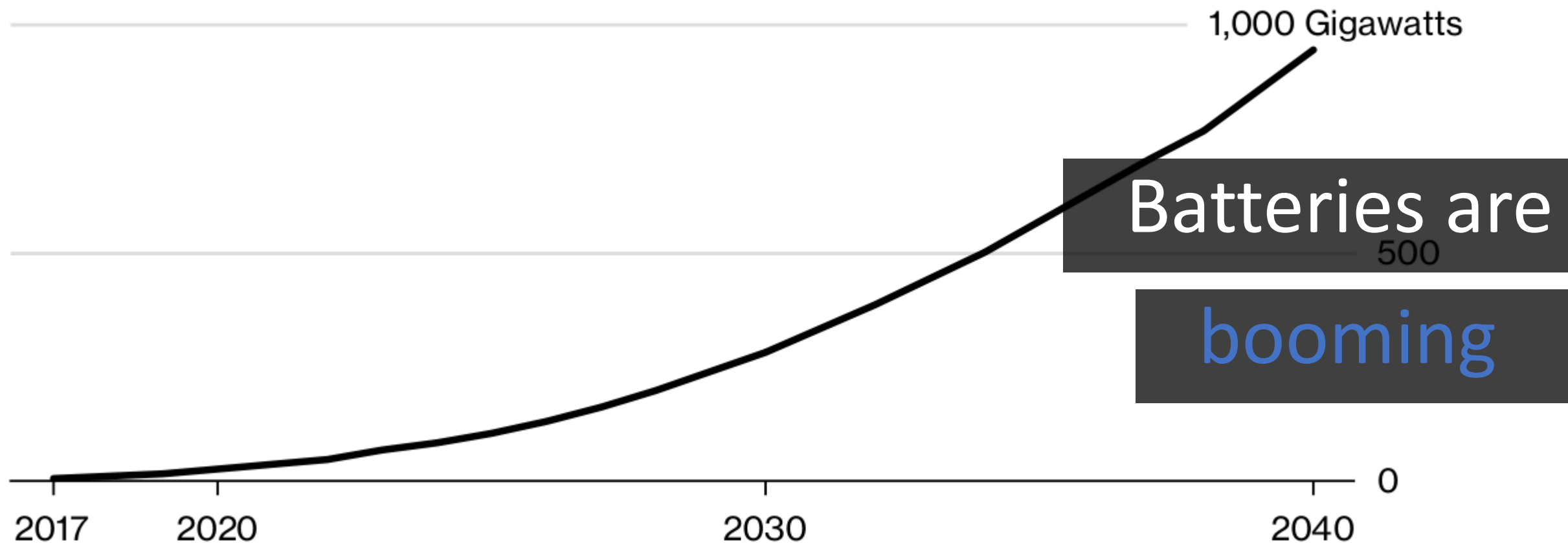
People are adopting
new technology

Homes are Smart

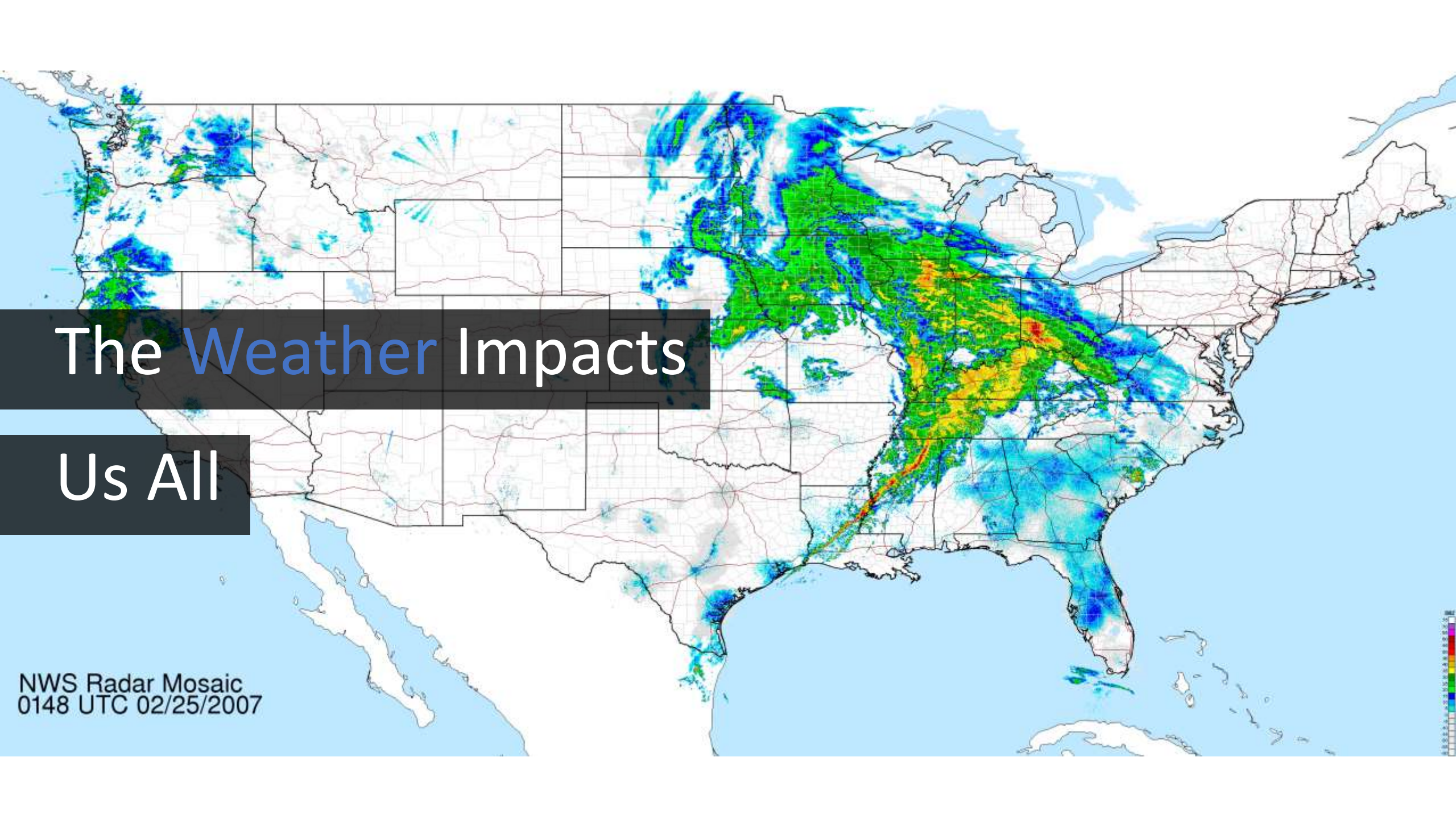


Battery Bonanza

Global energy storage rising to one terawatt in two decades



We're going to
need all of this
technology



The Weather Impacts


Us All

NWS Radar Mosaic
0148 UTC 02/25/2007

Daily patterns drive demand and supply



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVymyJ9q5a0>



Energy Needs and Supply Change with the Seasons



Technology can ensure

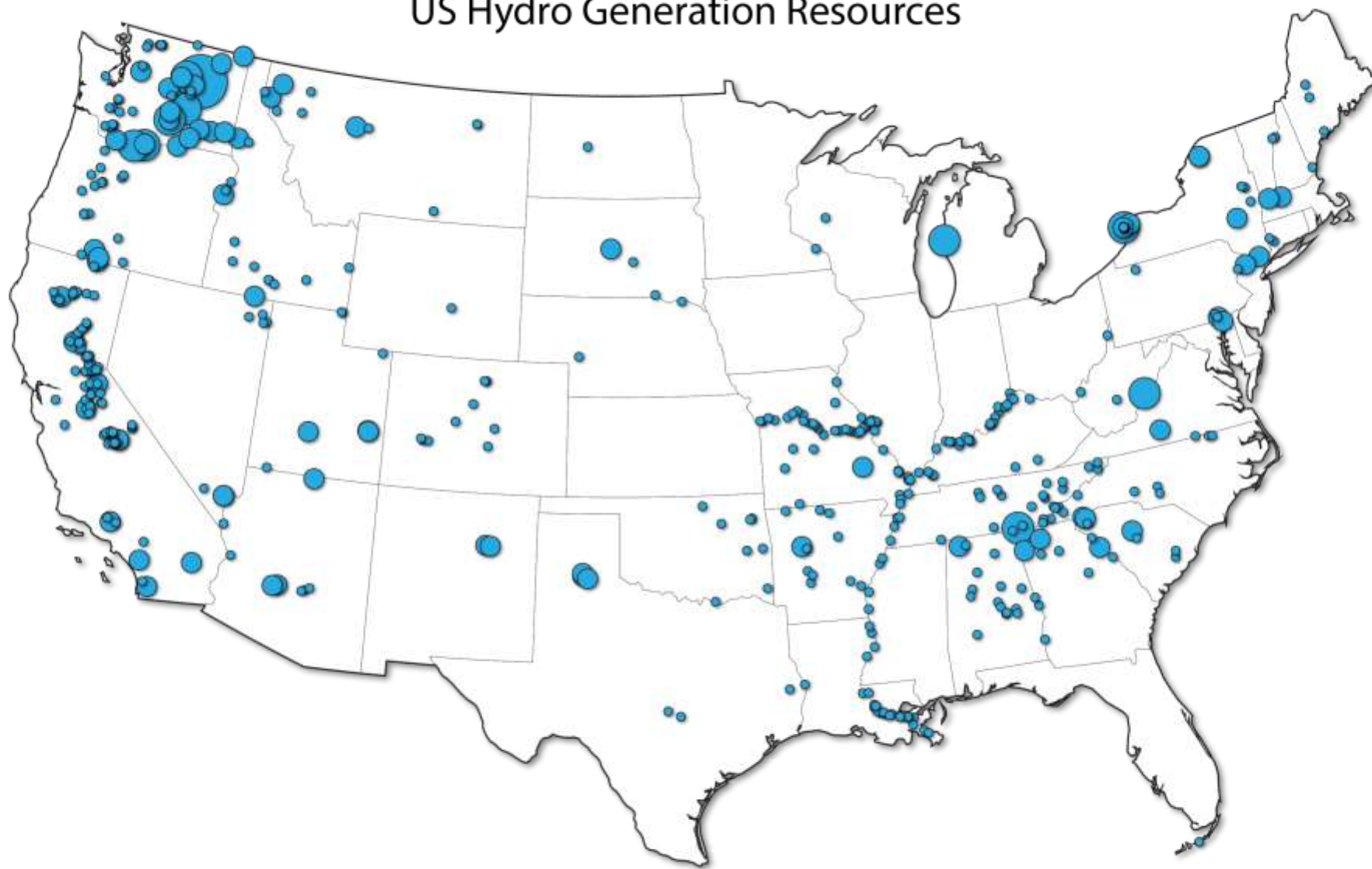
Ensure affordability



Part III: The Interconnections Seam Study

Why Integrated Resource Planning is an
Artful Science

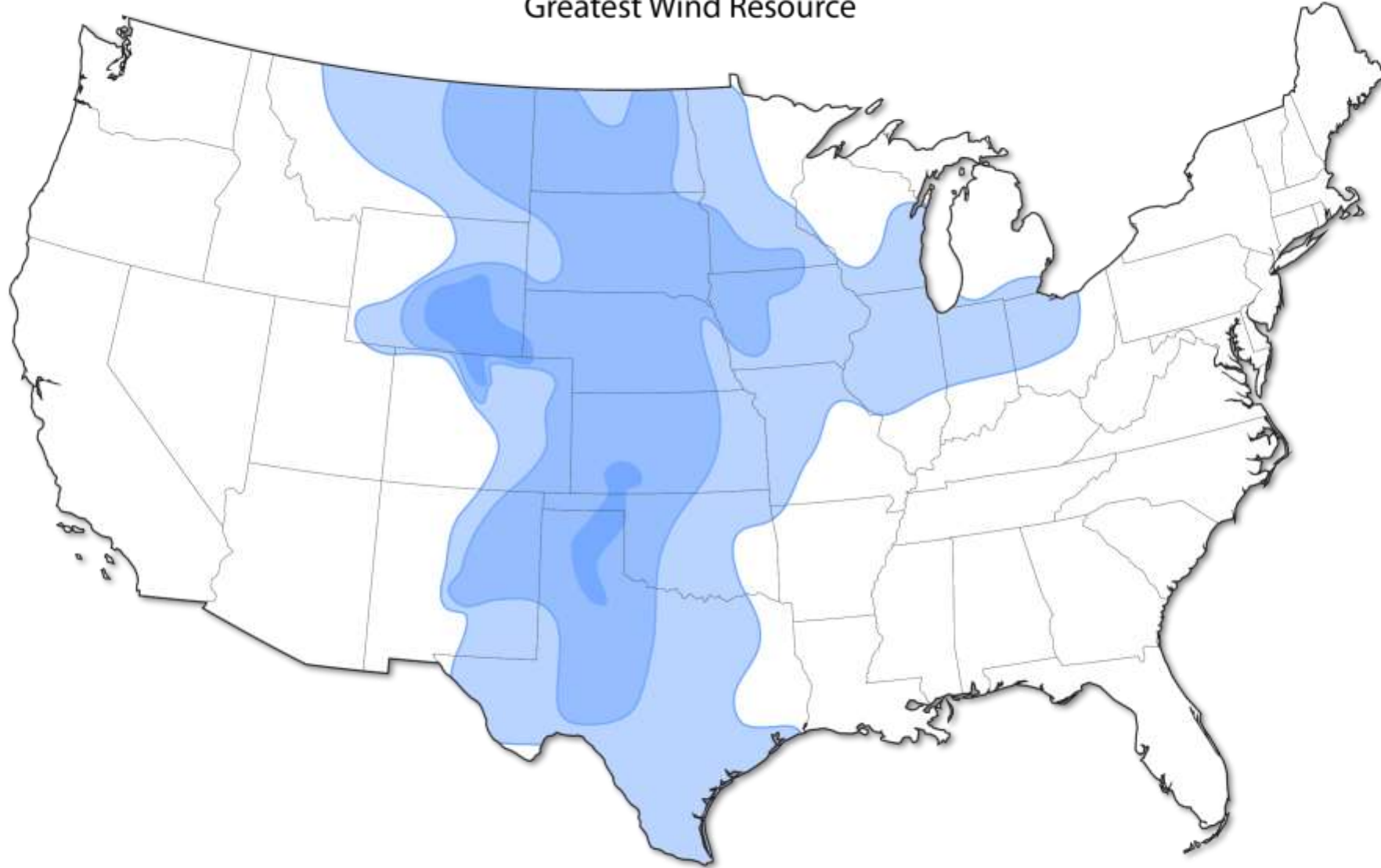
US Hydro Generation Resources



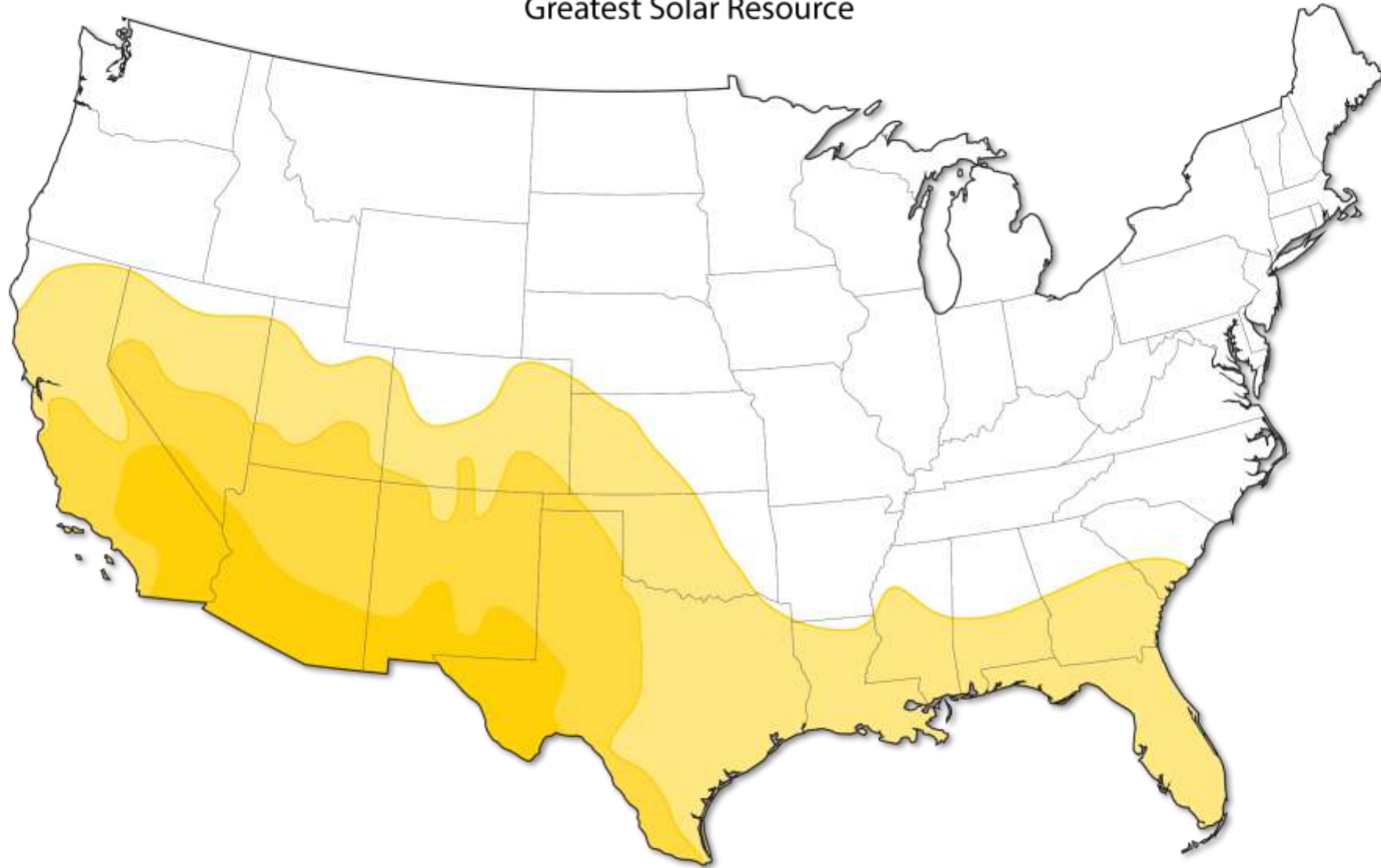
Major US Fossil Resource Plays



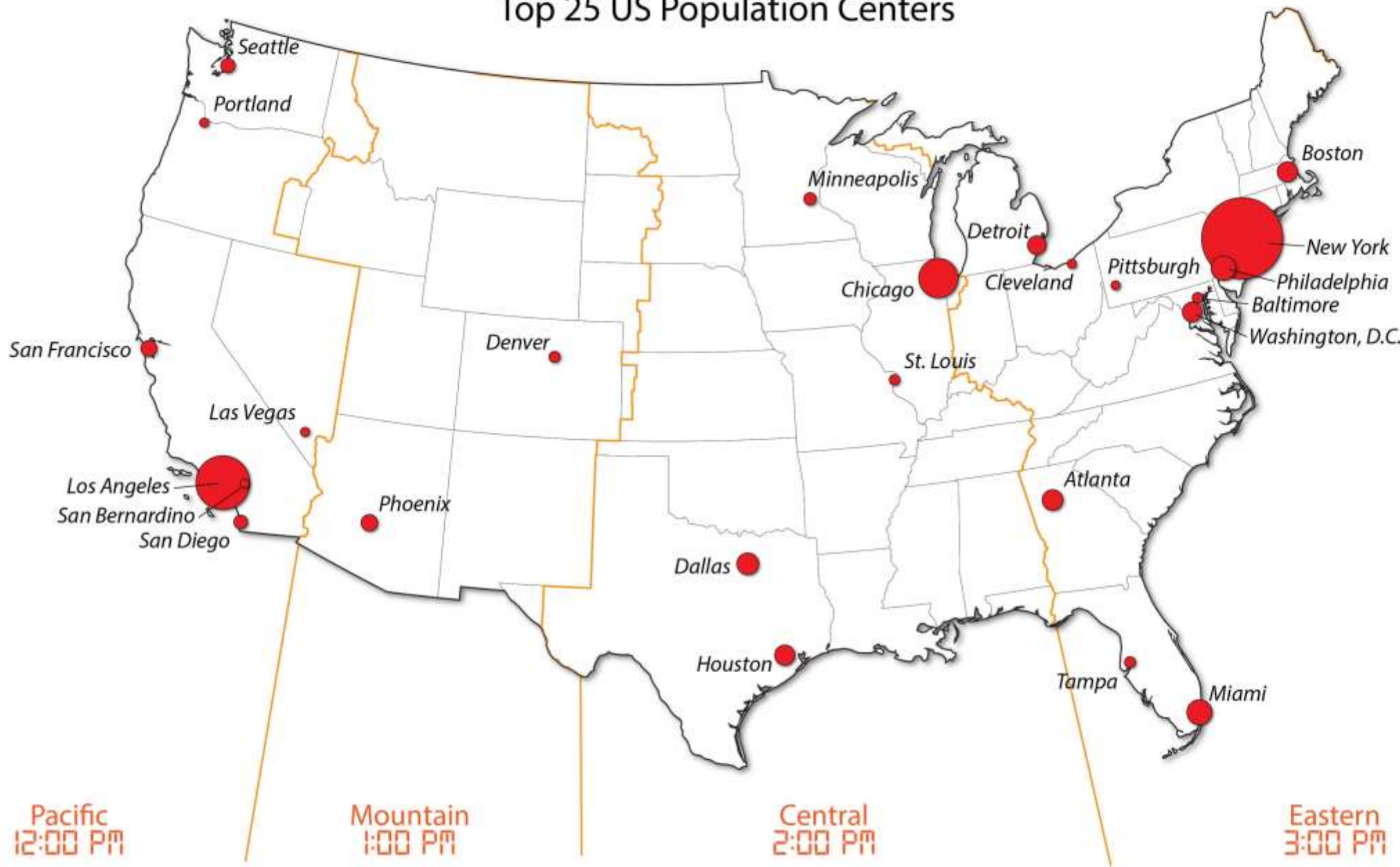
Greatest Wind Resource

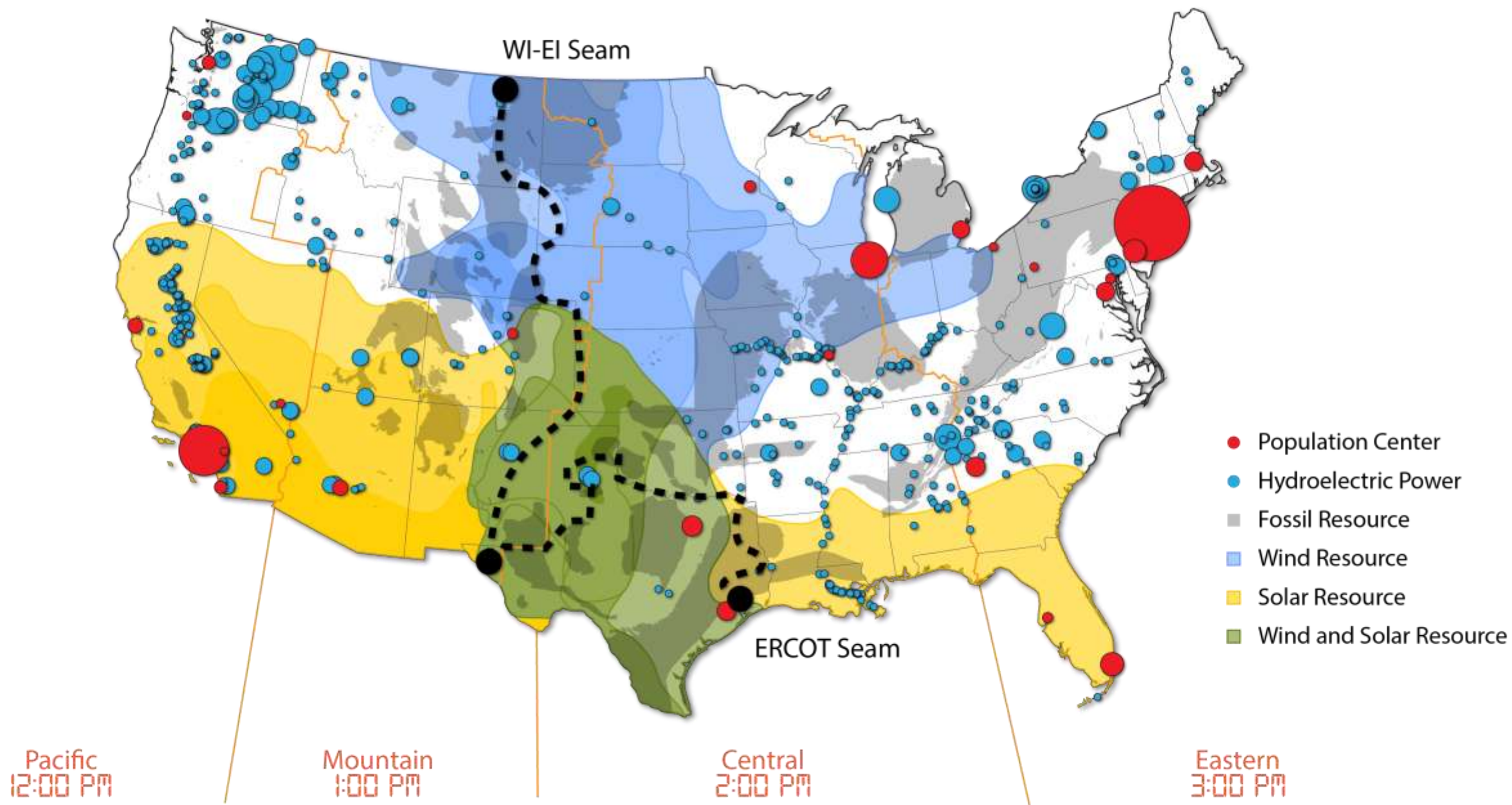


Greatest Solar Resource

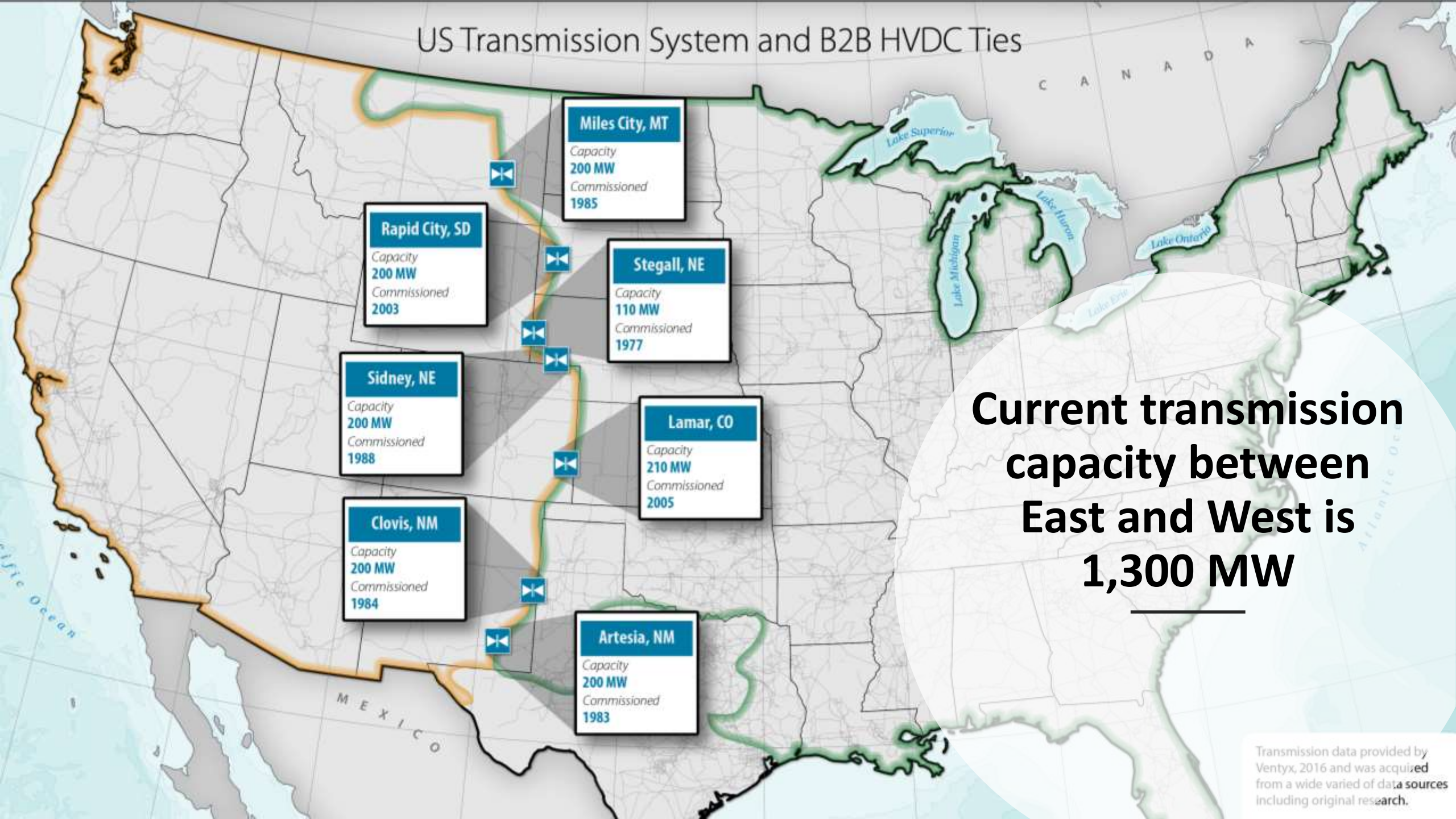


Top 25 US Population Centers





US Transmission System and B2B HVDC Ties



**Current transmission
capacity between
East and West is
1,300 MW**

Continental Power Systems



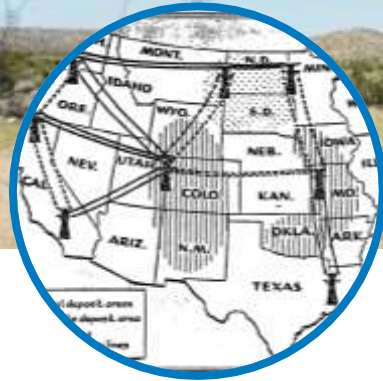
Continental Transmission Studies



Chicago Tribune

1923

Tying the Seasons
to Industry



Bureau of
Reclamation

1952

Super
Transmission
System



Bonneville Power
Administration

1979

Interconnection of
the Eastern and
Western
Interconnections



Western Area Power
Administration

1994

East/West AC Intertie
Feasibility Study



Department of
Energy

2002

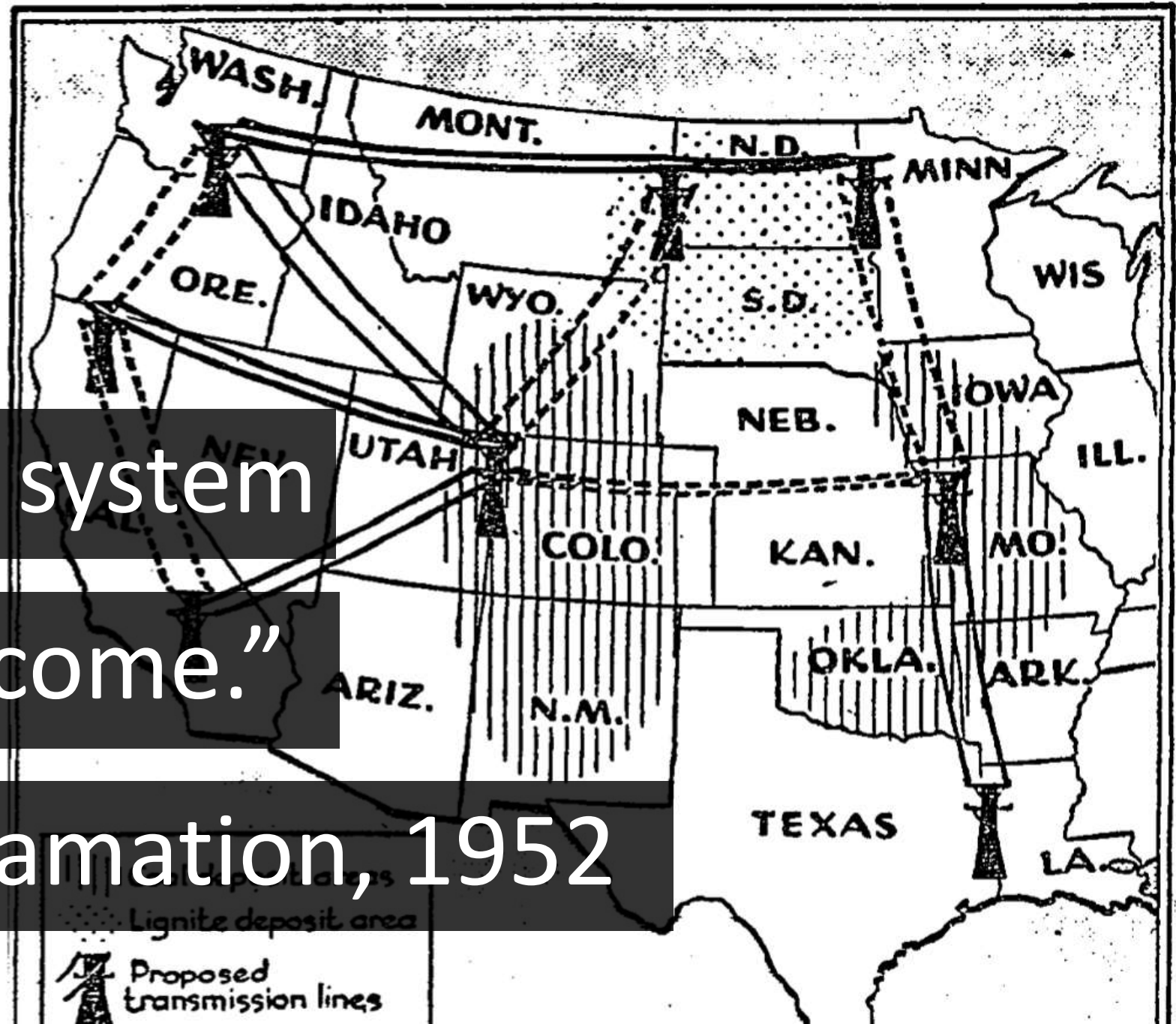
National
Transmission
Study

COAL MAY PROVIDE POWER FOR WEST

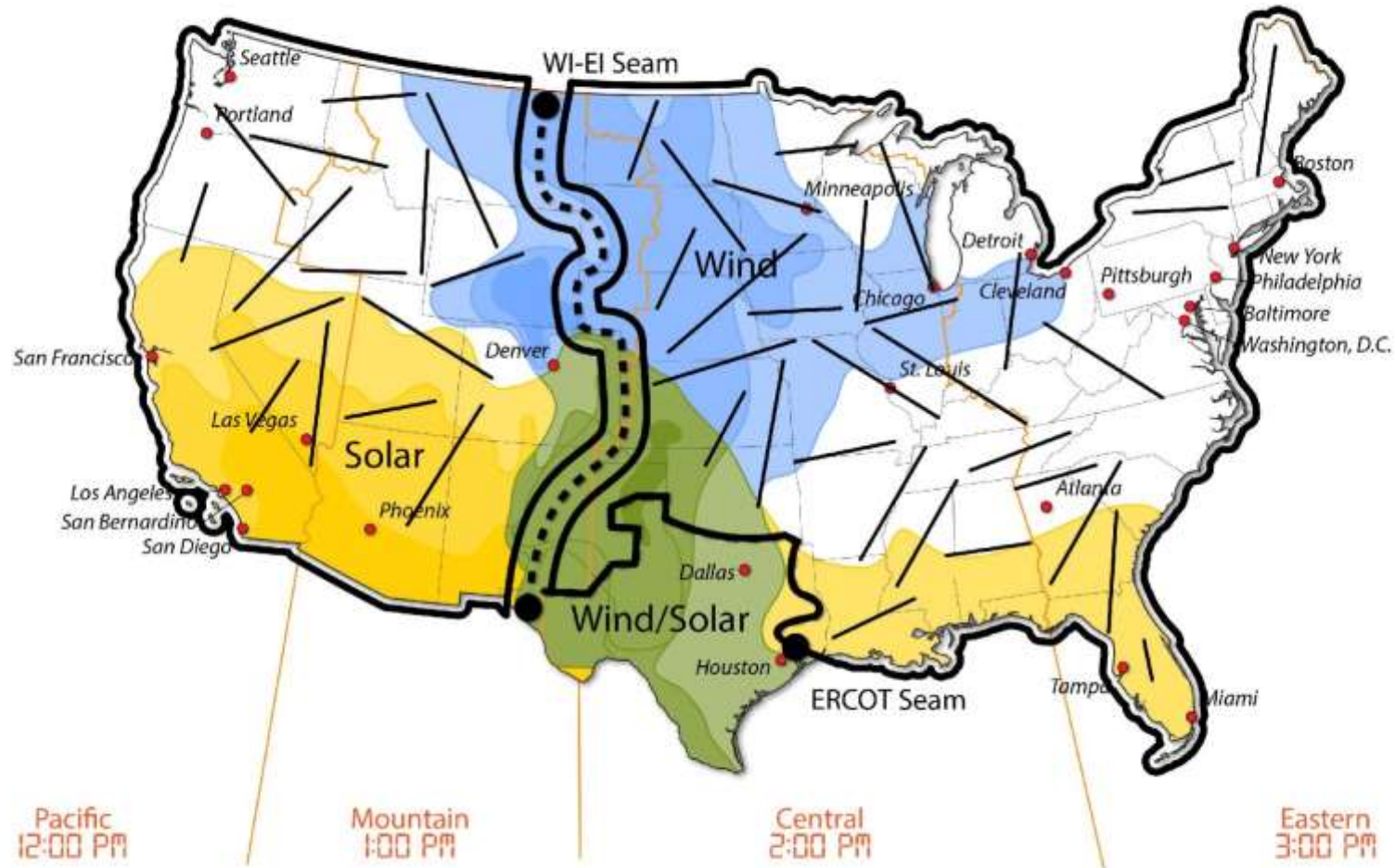
Reclamation Bureau Pictures
Super Transmission System
Operated by Steam Plants

“Such a power system
will inevitably come.”

Bureau of Reclamation, 1952

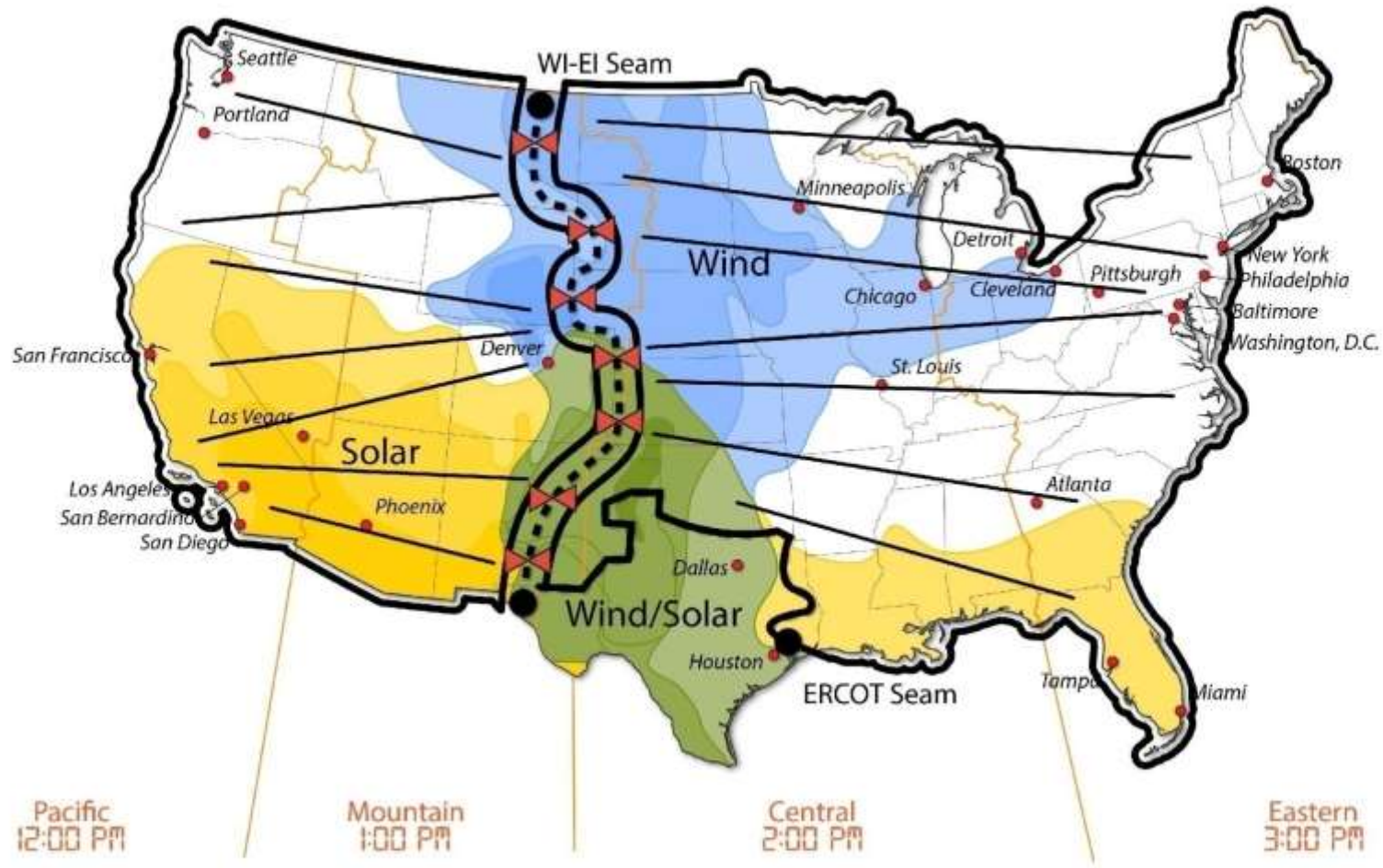


Design 1



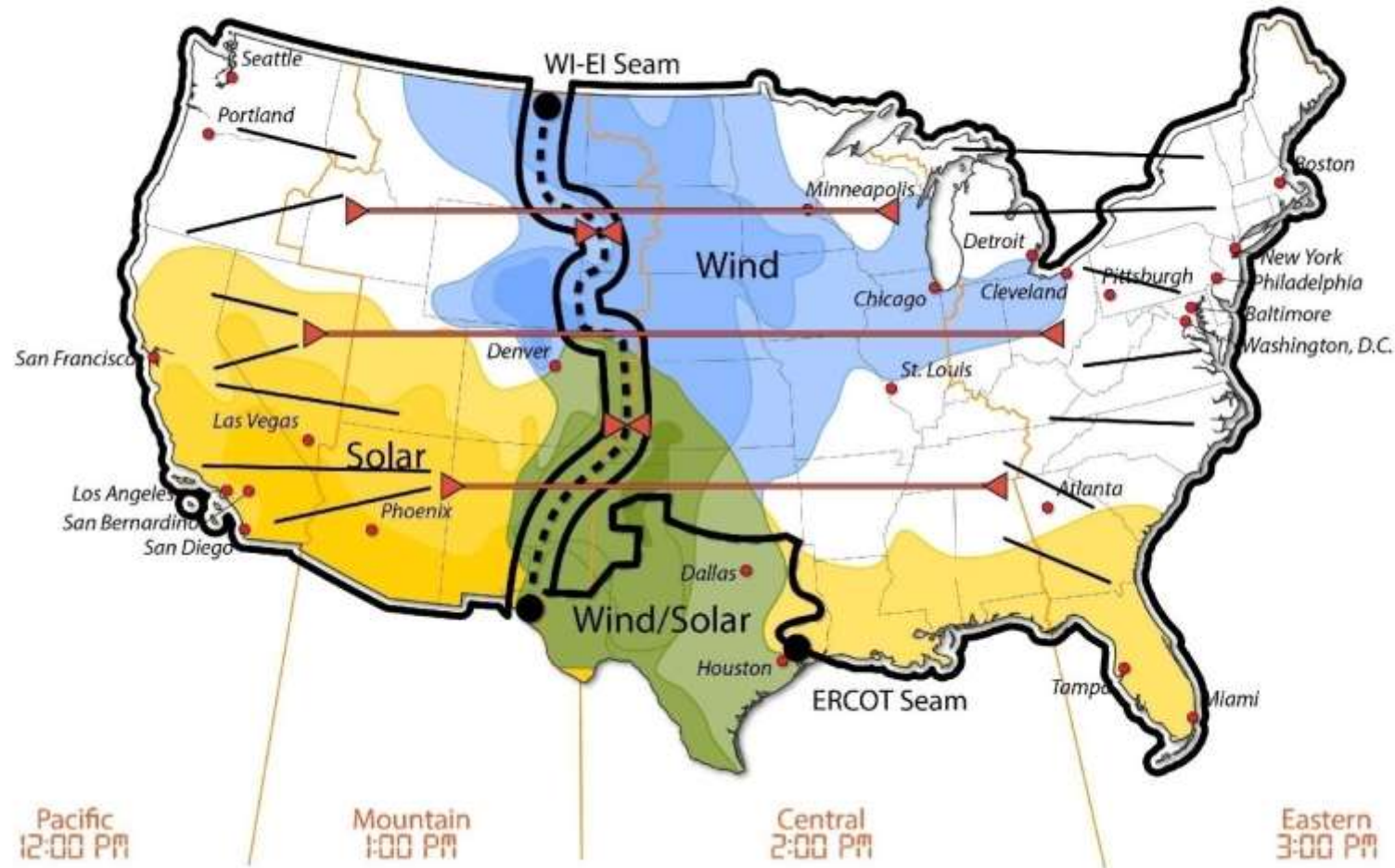
Existing B2B facilities are replaced at their current (2017) capacity level and new AC transmission and generation are co-optimized to minimize system wide costs.

Design 2a



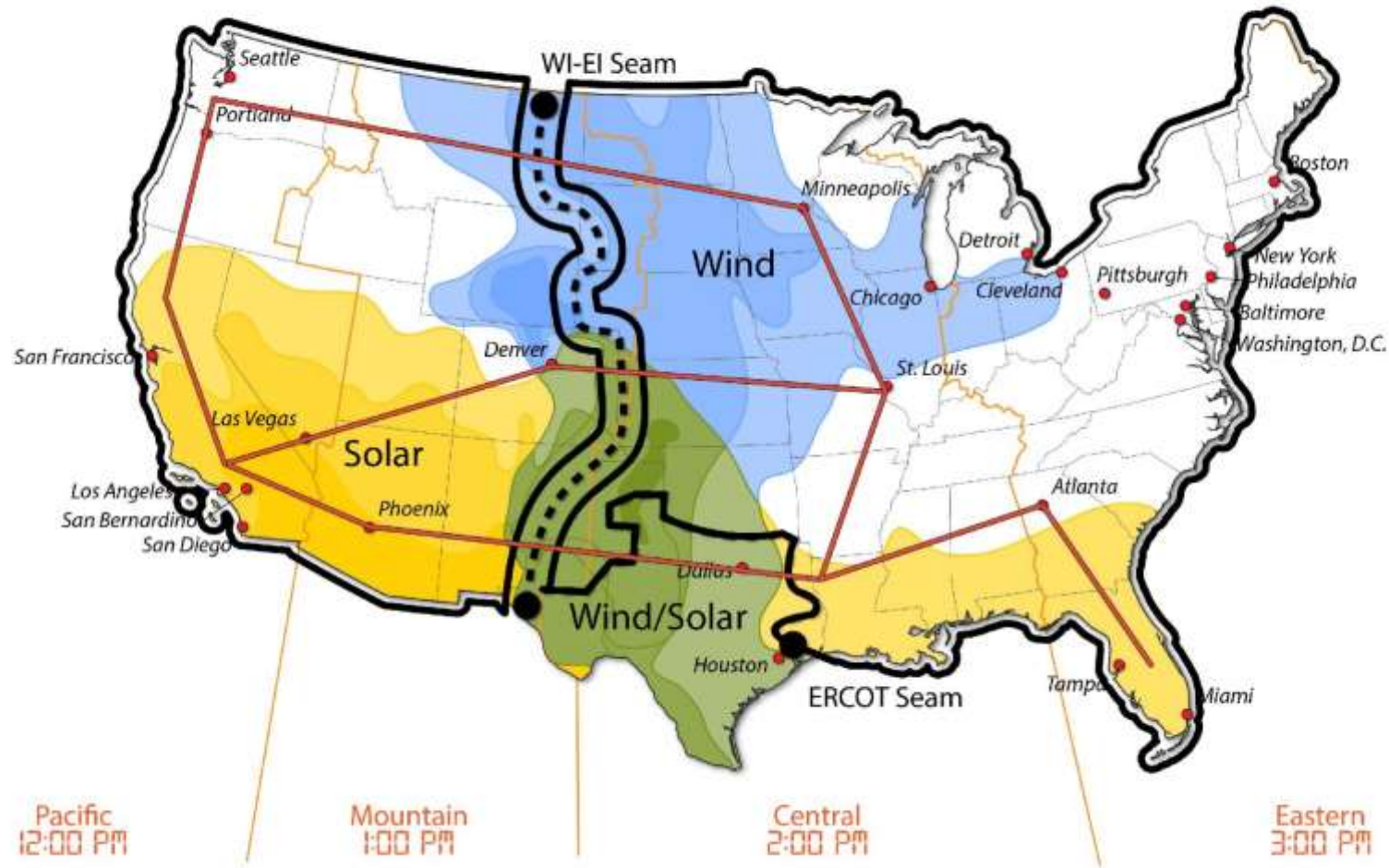
Existing B2B facilities are replaced at a capacity rating that is co-optimized along with other investments in AC transmission and generation.

Design 2b



Three HVDC transmission segments are built between the Eastern and Western Interconnections and existing B2B facilities are co-optimized with other investments in AC transmission and generation.

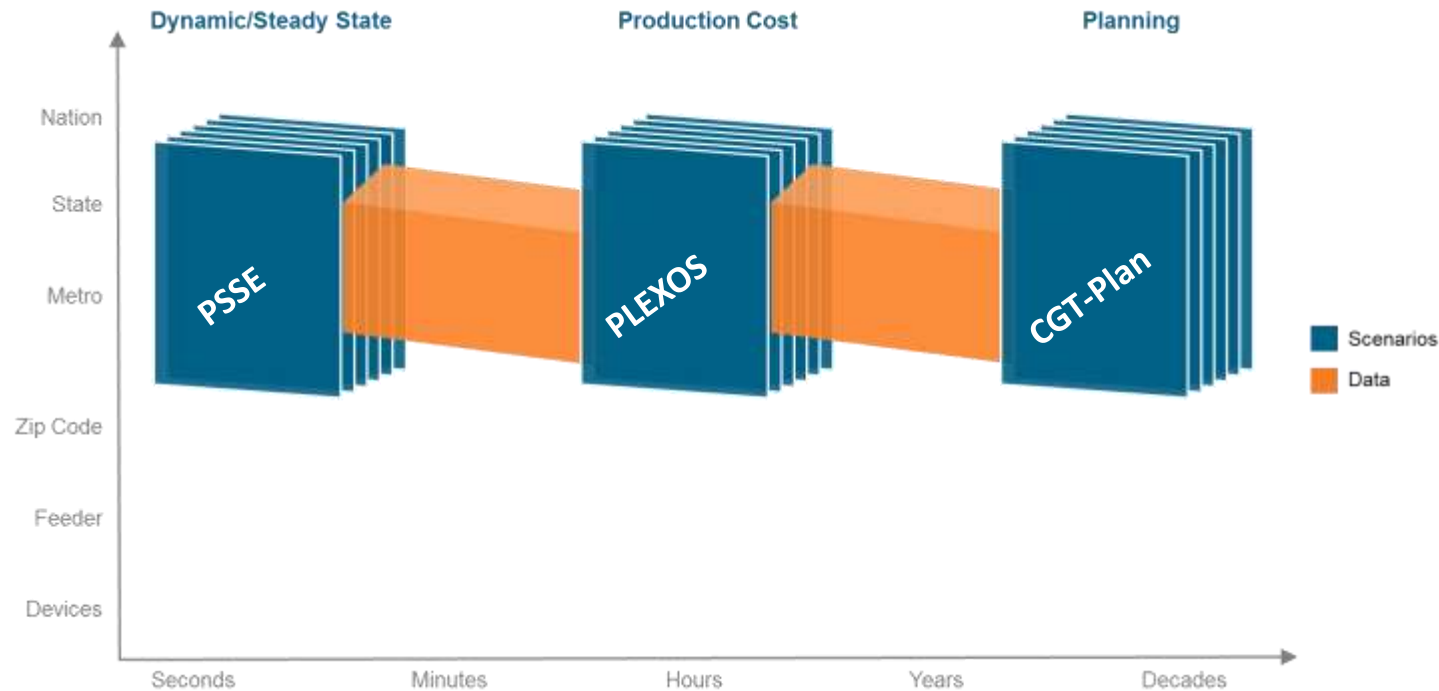
Design 3



A national scale HVDC transmission network, Macro Grid, is built and other investments in AC transmission and generation.

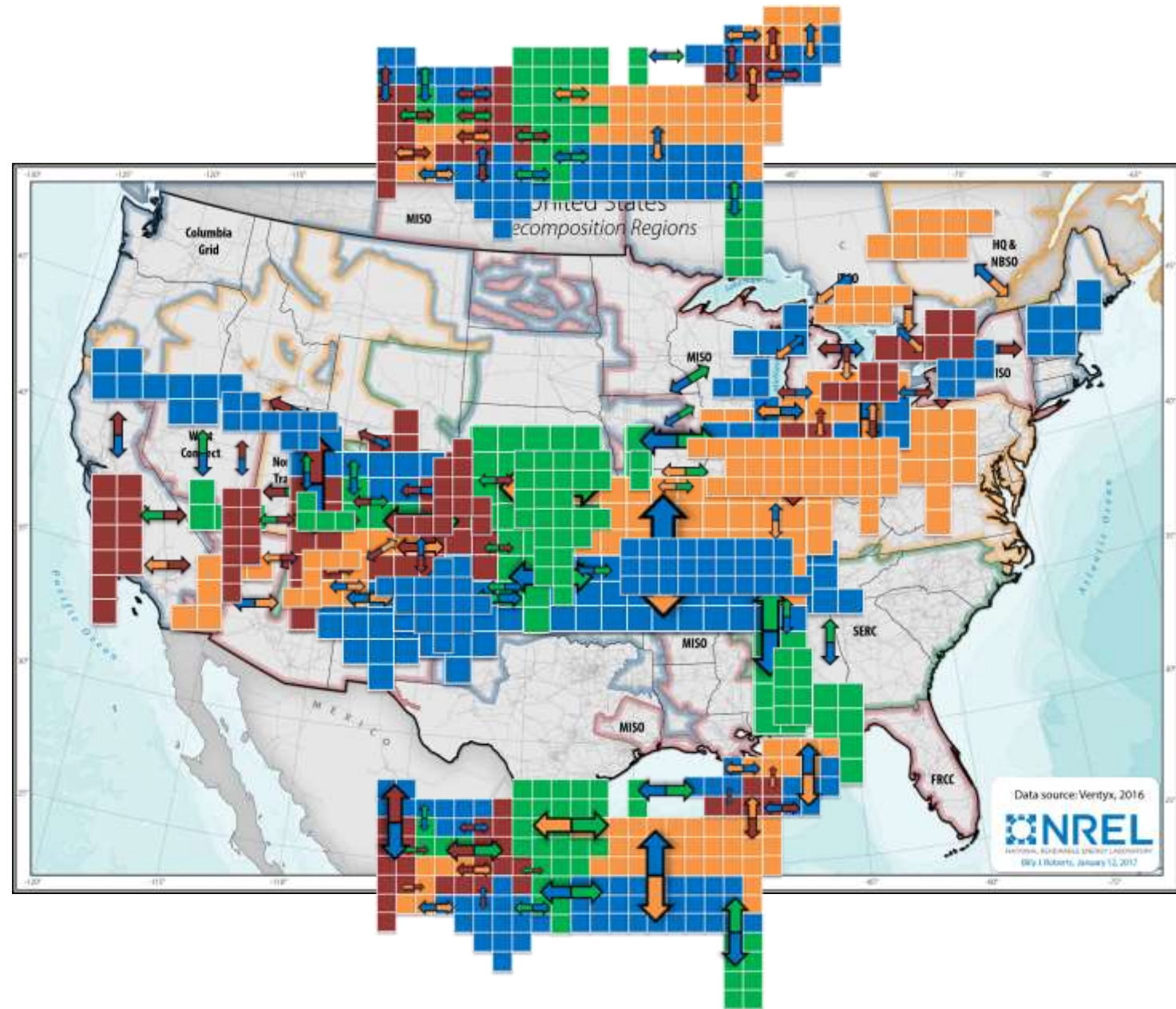
Comprehensive Economic and Reliability Analysis

- CGT-Plan
 - Iowa State University
 - Capital and operating costs 2024-2038
 - Generation and transmission system for 2038
- PLEXOS
 - NREL
 - Operating costs 2038
 - Hourly unit commitment and economic dispatch
- PSSE
 - PNNL
 - Develop a capability for future work
 - Preliminary analysis of AC power flow impacts



Geographic Decomposition

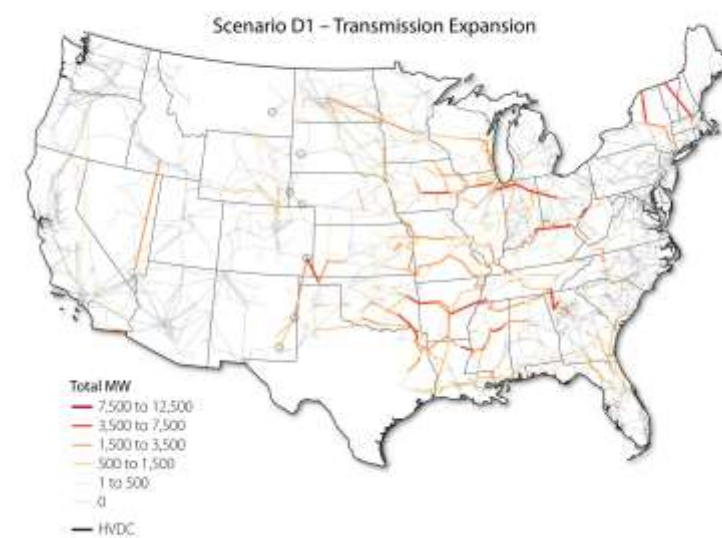
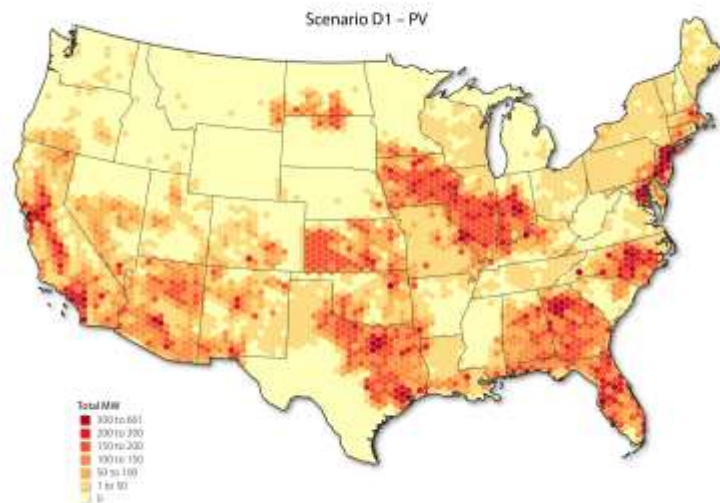
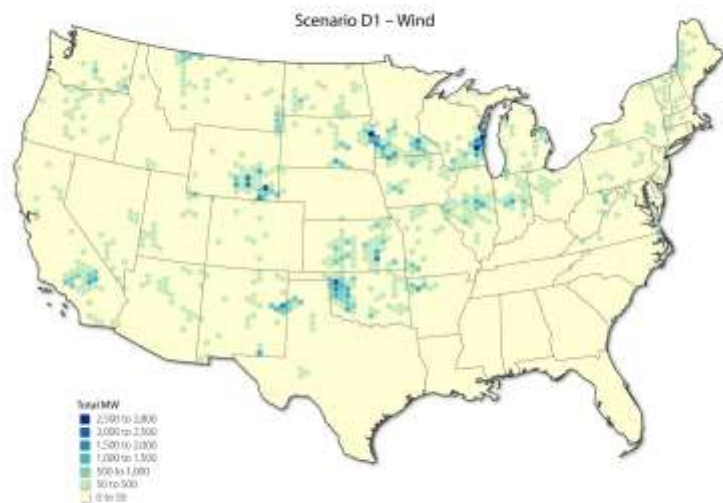
- Respects regional operating borders
- Advanced computation methods solve in days, not years
- Represents information asymmetries between operators



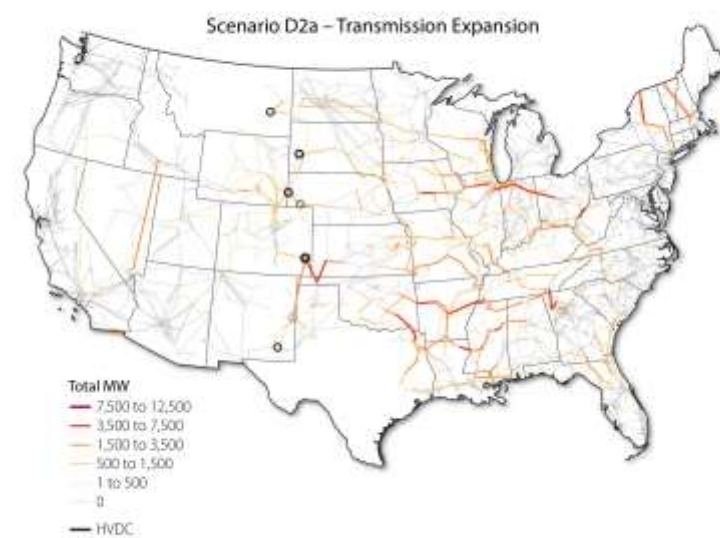
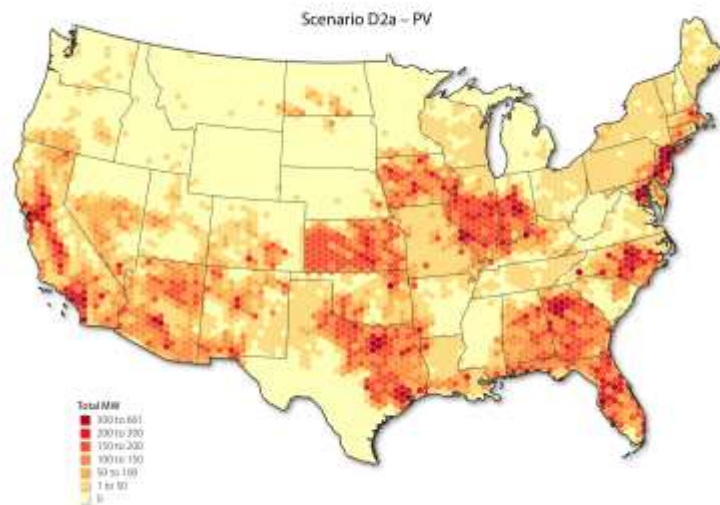
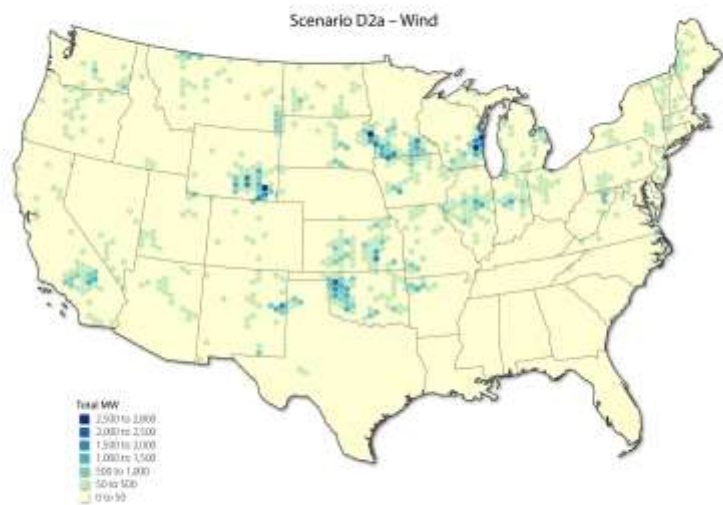


Here are

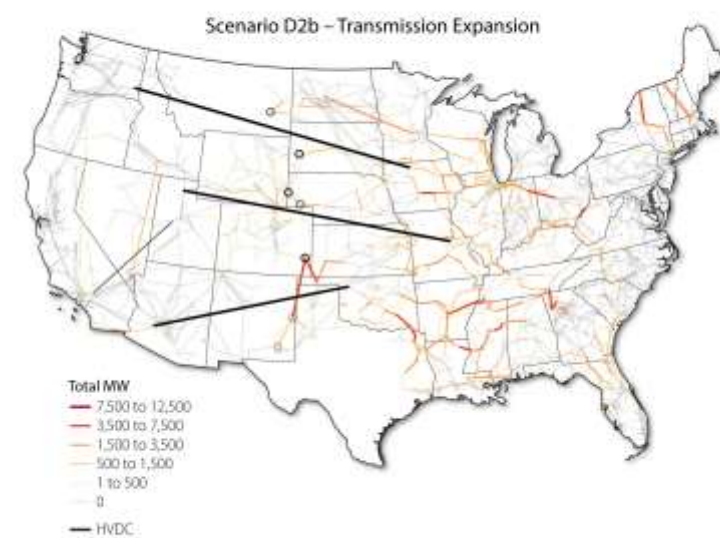
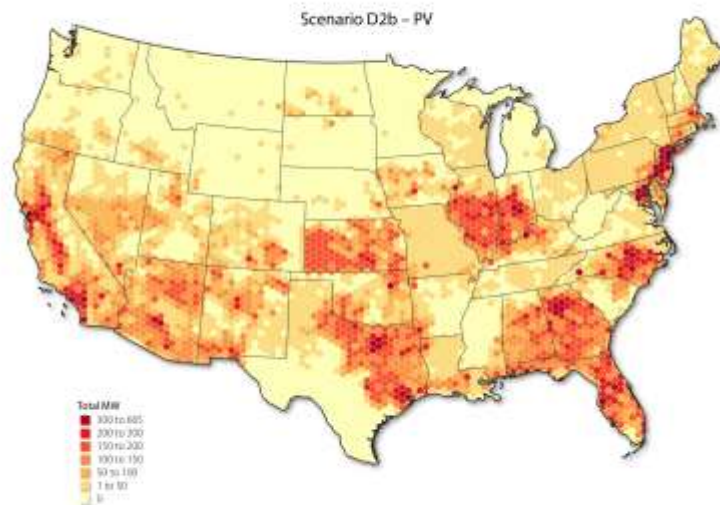
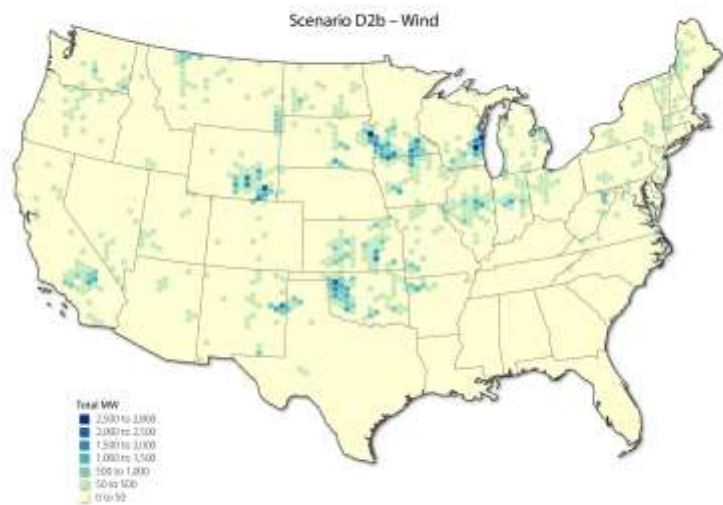
the results



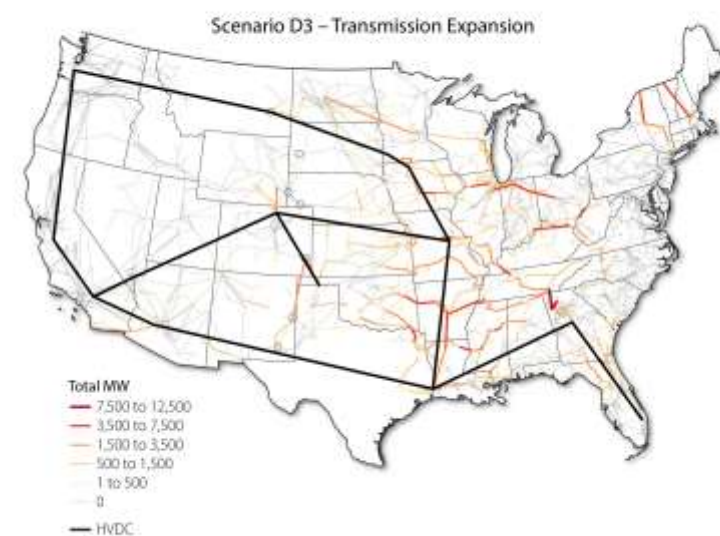
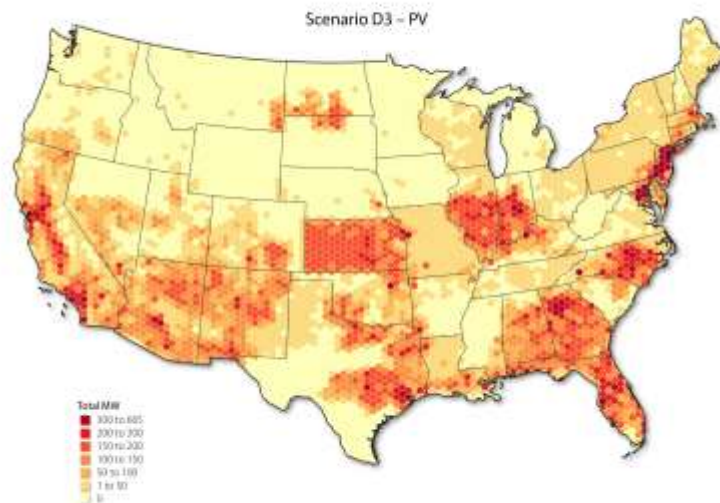
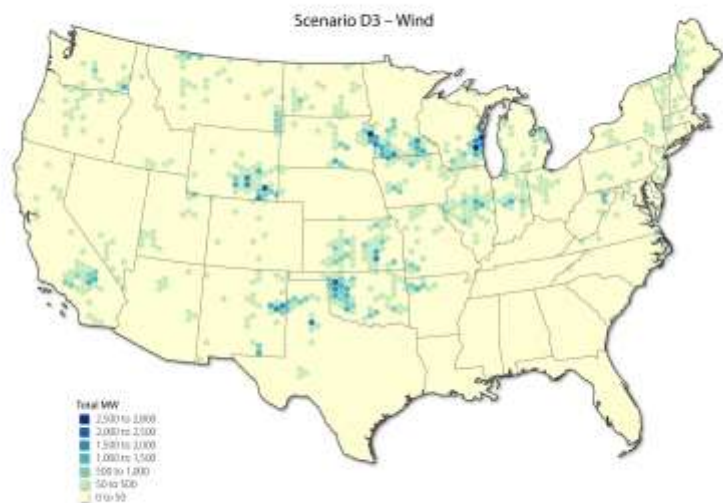
Design 1 Base Case



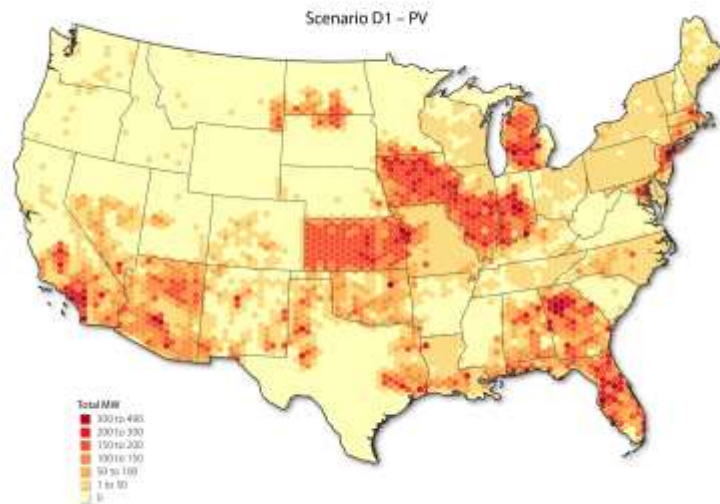
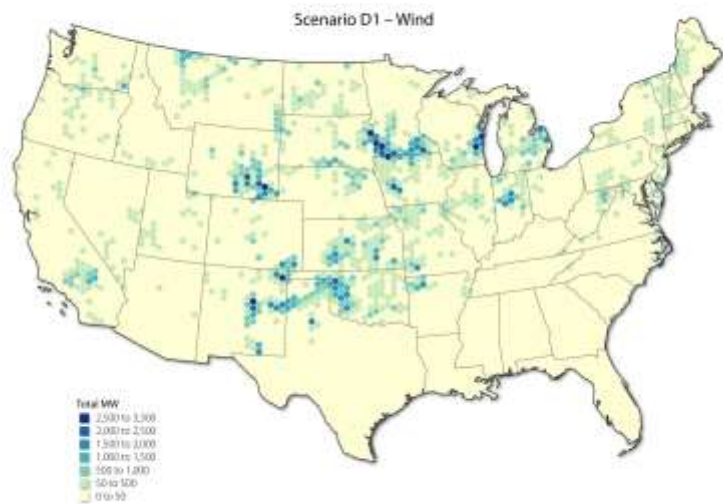
Design 2a Base Case



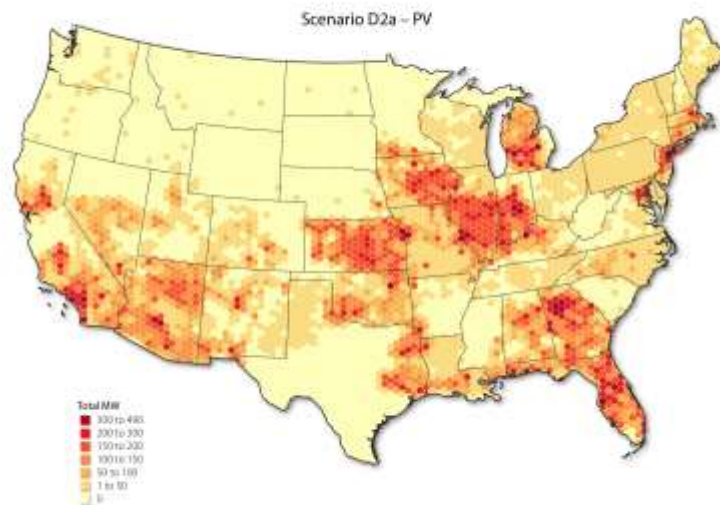
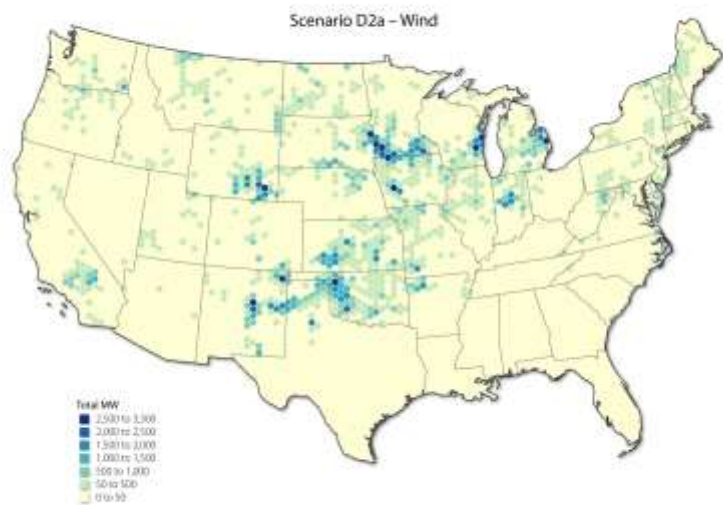
Design 2b Base Case



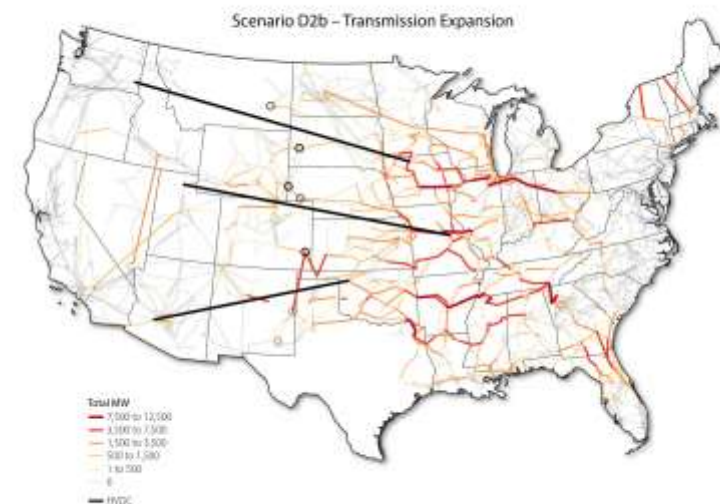
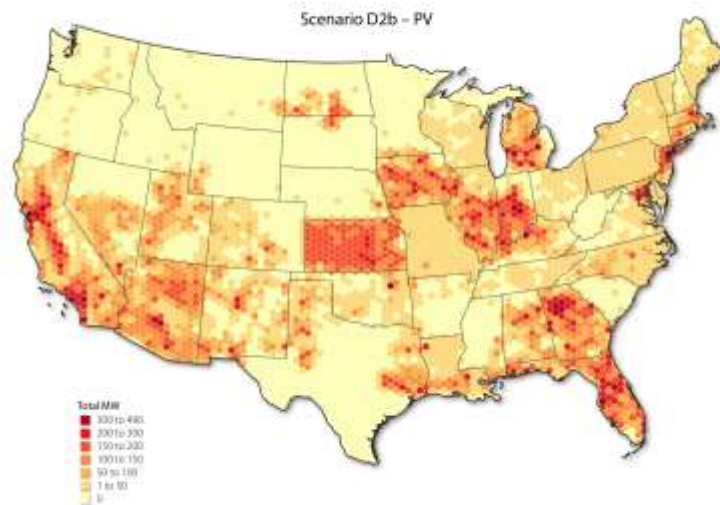
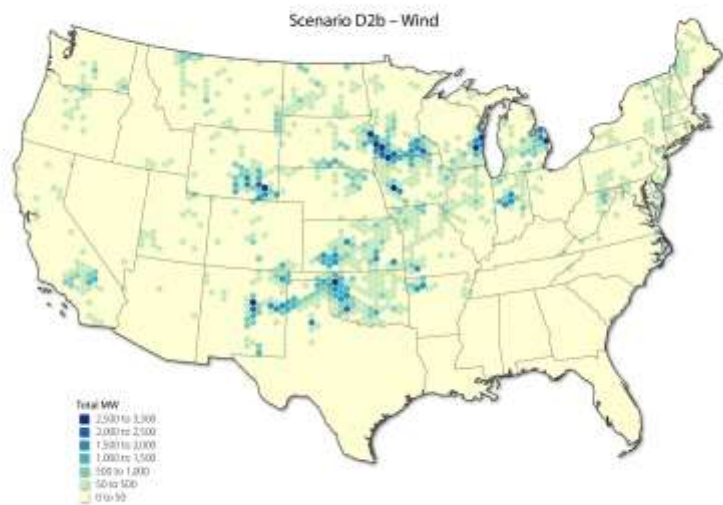
Design 3 Base Case



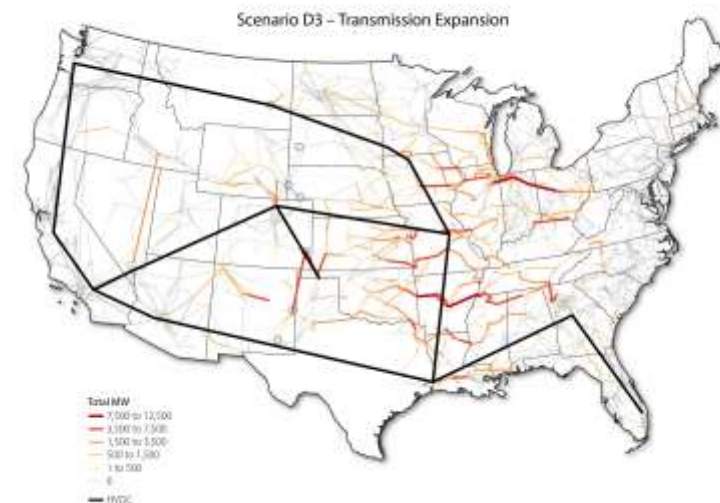
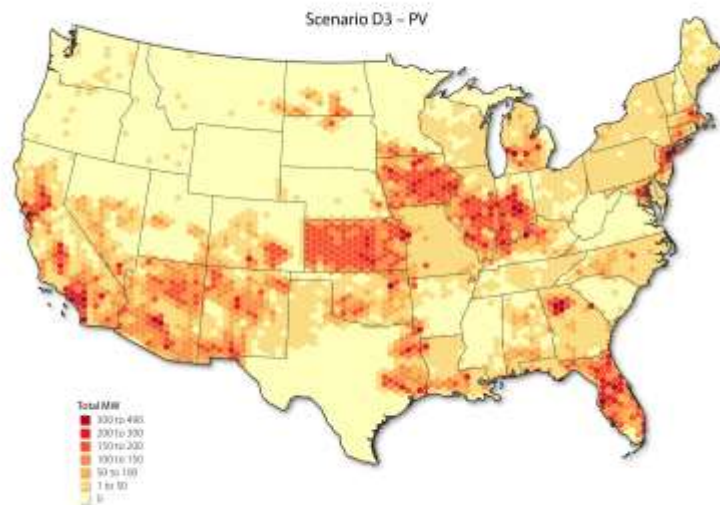
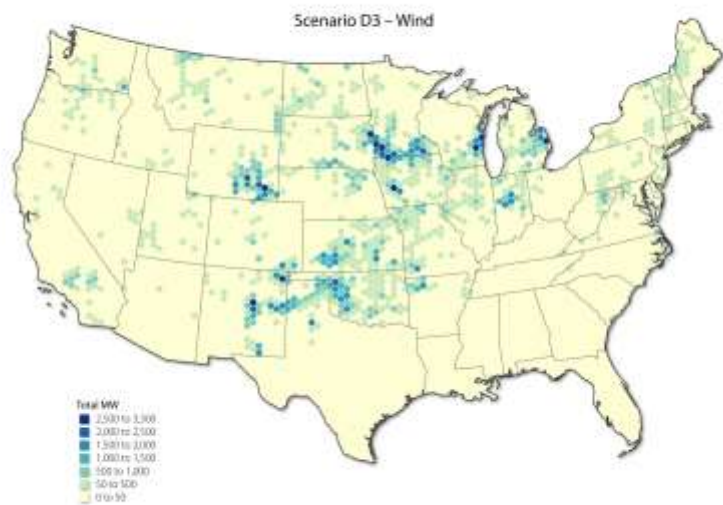
Design 1 High VG Case



Design 2a High VG Case



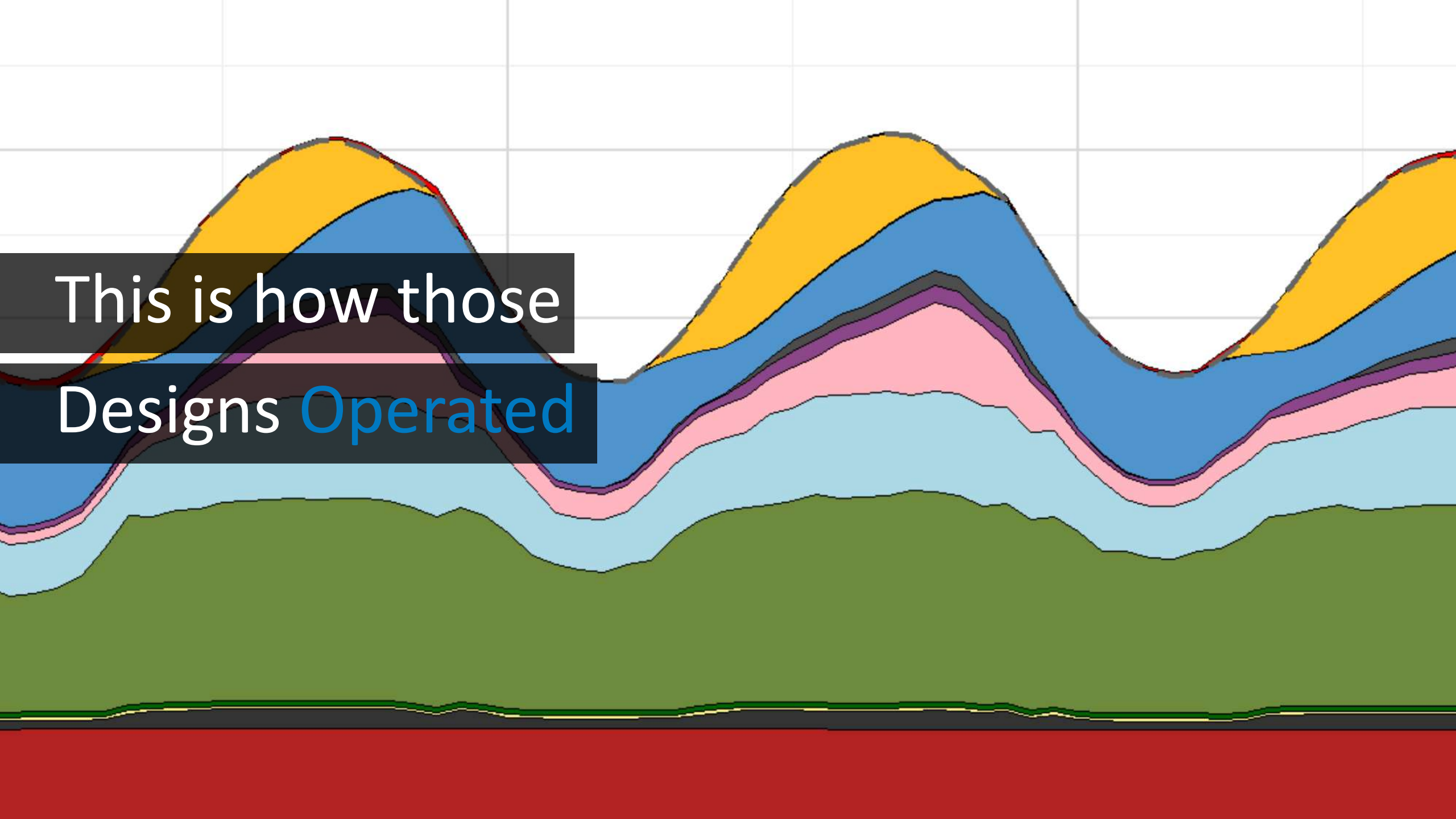
Design 2b High VG Case



Design 3 High VG Case

Installed Capacity (GW)

	2024	Base Case				High VG Case			
		D1	D2a	D2b	D3	D1	D2a	D2b	D3
Coal	266	120	113	111	115	65	37	29	32
Hydro	198	198	198	198	198	198	198	198	198
Natural Gas	443	437	431	418	421	467	453	450	448
Nuclear	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
Solar	64	281	277	271	278	246	241	241	239
Wind	94	320	324	326	324	450	487	488	487



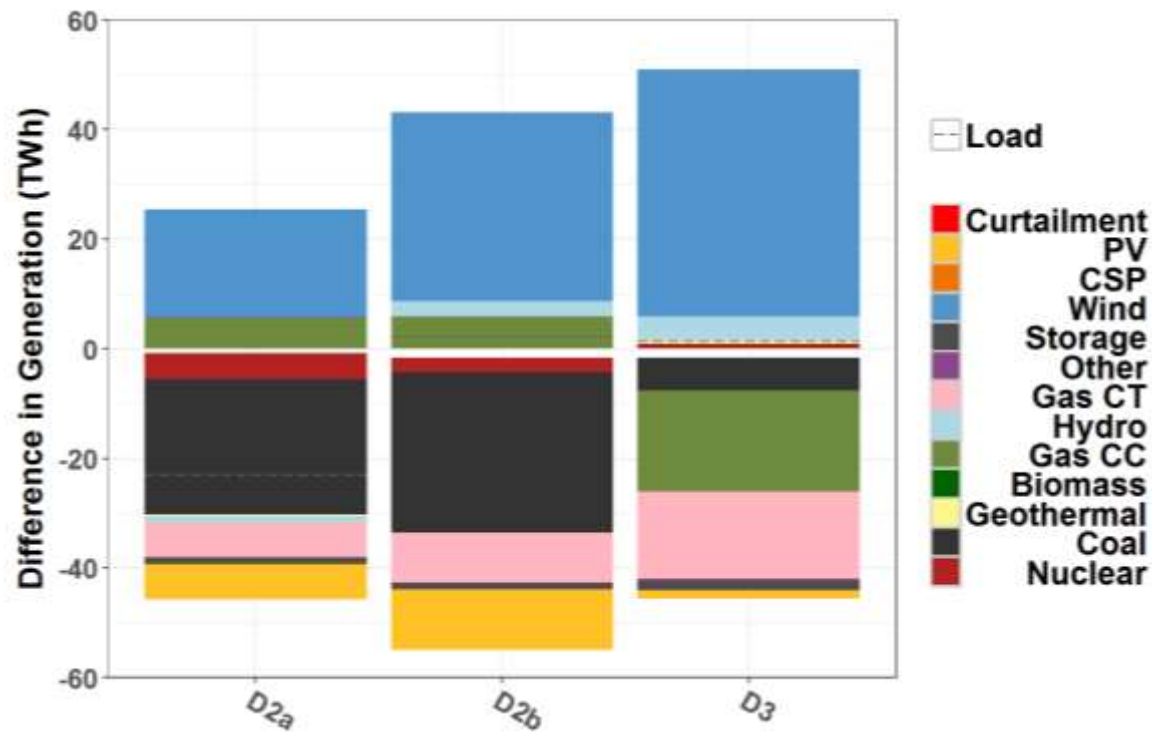
This is how those
Designs Operated

Is this decarbonization?

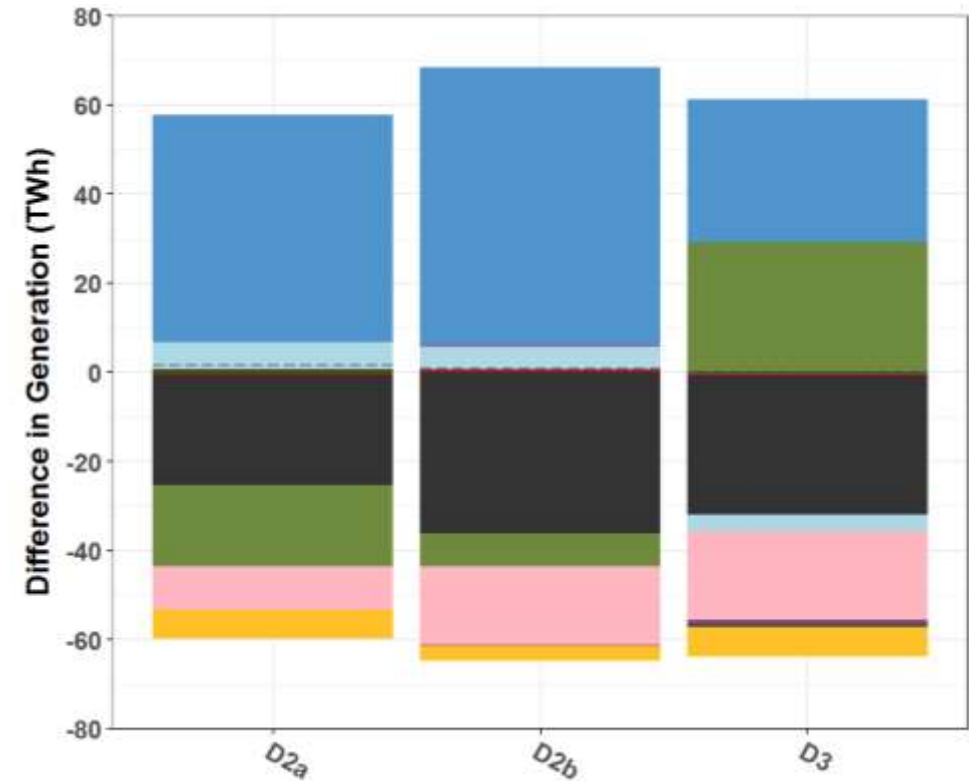
	Base Case				High VG Case			
	D1	D2a	D2b	D3	D1	D2a	D2b	D3
Fossil Fuel	36%	36%	36%	36%	26%	25%	25%	25%
Wind and Solar	28%	29%	29%	29%	38%	39%	39%	39%
CO ₂ Free	63%	63%	63%	64%	73%	74%	74%	73%

Generation Difference

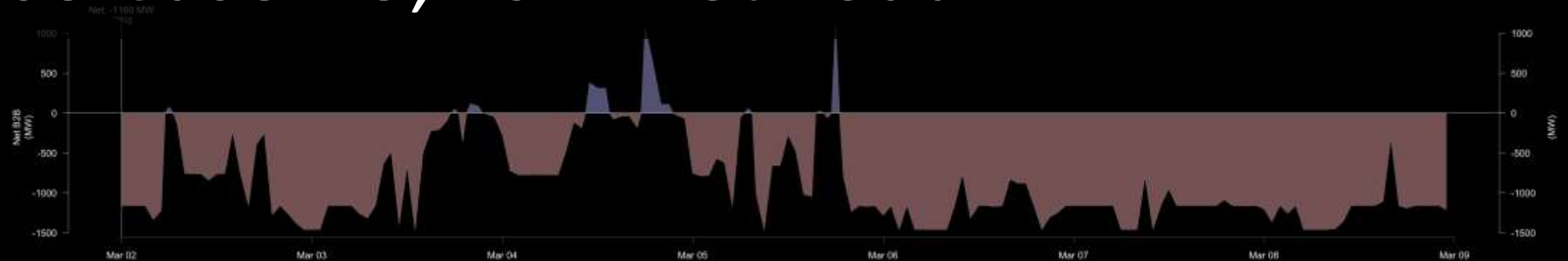
- Base Case



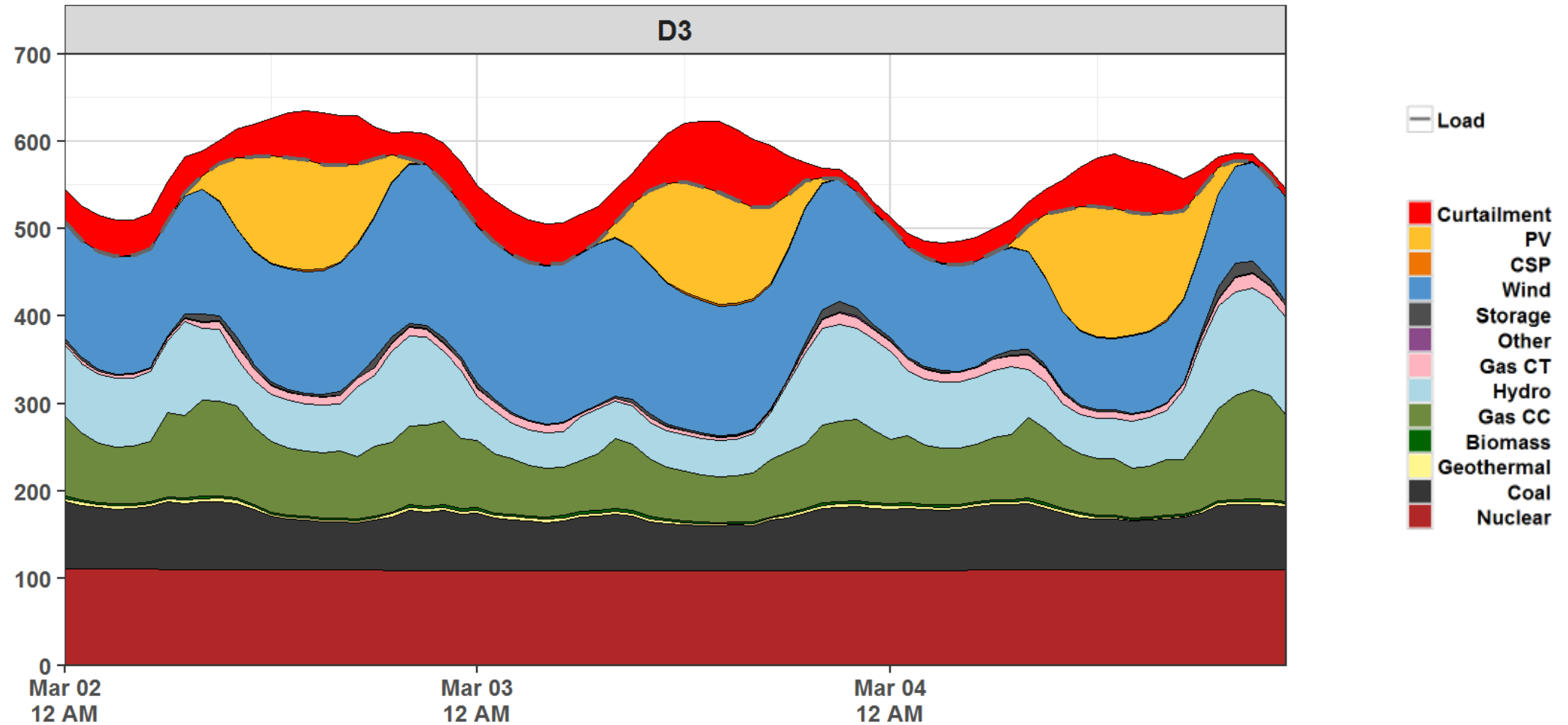
- High VG Case



- Note smaller scale of the Base Case
- Nuclear changes under Base Case are an artifact of outage schedules.

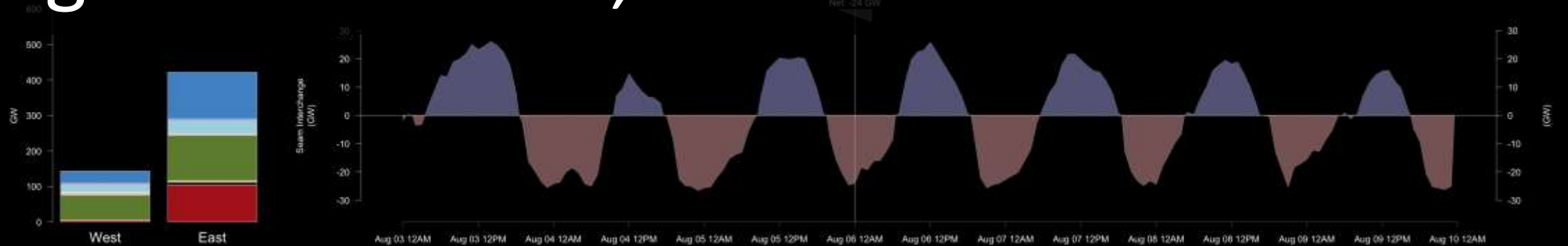


Combined EI and WI Dispatch during Low Net Load

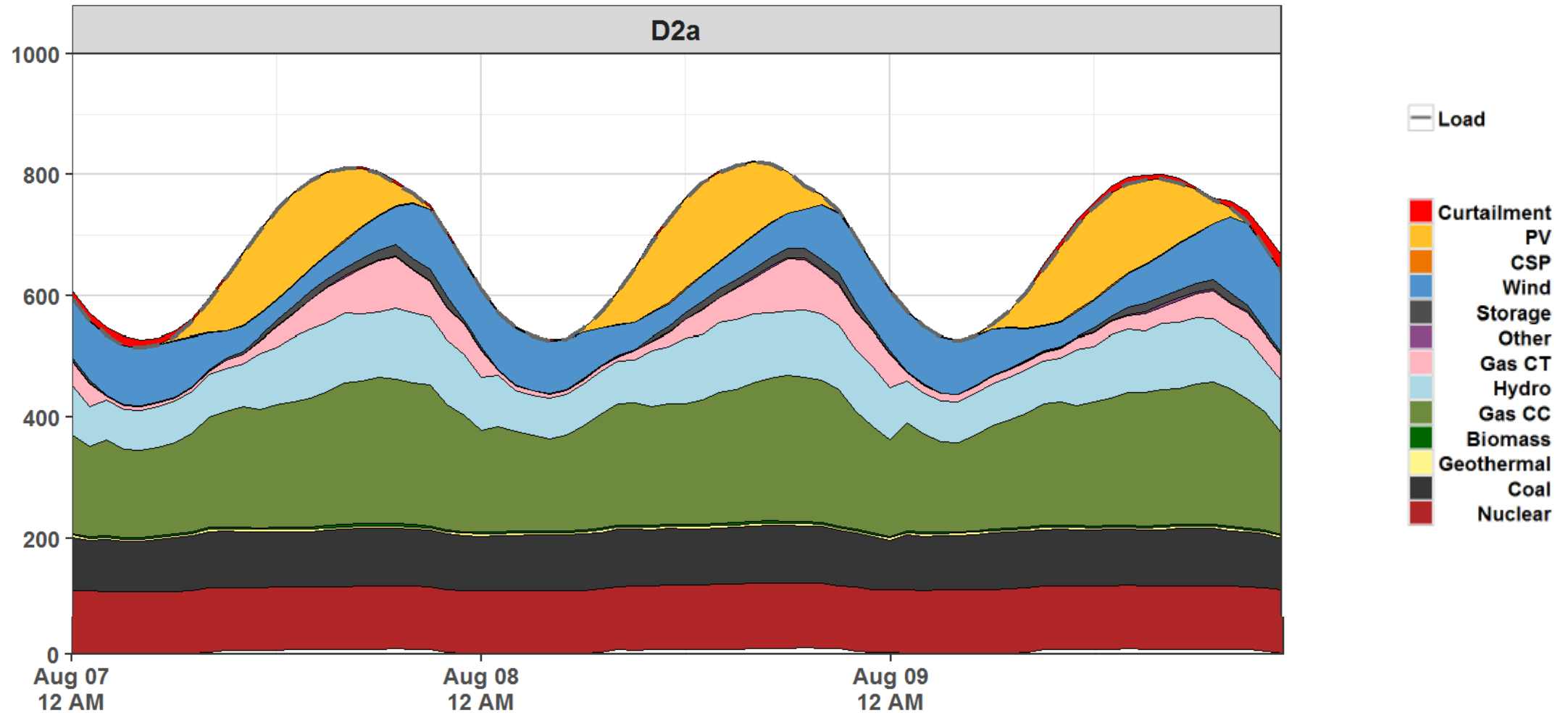




High VG Case D2a, Peak Load



Combined EI and WI Dispatch during Peak Load



Takeaways

- Each design is Reliable from a Resource Adequacy perspective for the single year we studied.
- All load is met while respecting reserve and transmission constraints that approximate N-1.
- Increase transmission results in opportunities for expanded and more efficient capacity and energy markets.
- Increased cross seam transmission enables efficient energy sharing.

What could it **cost**?

What are the **benefits**?



Total Costs 2024-2038 (NPV \$B)

$$\text{BCR} = \frac{\text{Change in Total non-Transmission Costs}}{\text{Change in Transmission Investment Costs}}$$

Example, D1 vs D2a Current Policy: 4.01/3.19= 1.26

	Base Case							High VG Case						
ECONOMICS, NPV \$B	D1	D2a	Delta	D2b	Delta	D3	Delta	D1	D2a	Delta	D2b	Delta	D3	Delta
Line Investment Cost	23.5	26.69	3.19	31.5	8	37.7	14.2	61.21	73.89	12.68	74.88	13.67	80.1	18.89
Generation Investment Cost	493.6	494.7	1.1	492.5	-1.1	494.2	0.6	704.03	703.32	-0.71	696.99	-7.04	700.51	-3.52
Fuel Cost	855.1	852.7	-2.4	851.2	-3.9	845.6	-9.5	753.8	738.98	-14.82	737.3	-16.5	736.12	-17.68
Fixed O&M Cost	416.4	415.6	-0.8	413.7	-2.7	413.8	-2.6	455.6	450.2	-5.4	448.95	-6.65	450.23	-5.37
Variable O&M Cost	81	81.1	0.1	81.2	0.2	81.2	0.2	64.5	63.9	-0.6	64.27	-0.23	64.39	-0.11
Carbon Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	171.1	164.2	-6.9	162.6	-8.5	162.5	-8.6
Regulation-Up Cost	31.6	30.97	-0.63	31.13	-0.47	30.02	-1.58	33.29	31.63	-1.66	29.96	-3.33	26.63	-6.66
Regulation-Down Cost	45.1	44.2	-0.9	44.42	-0.68	42.85	-2.26	4.76	4.52	-0.24	4.29	-0.47	3.81	-0.95
Contingency Cost	23.9	23.42	-0.48	23.54	-0.36	22.71	-1.2	24.41	23.19	-1.22	21.97	-2.44	19.52	-4.89
Total Non-transmission Cost (Orange)	1,947.00	1,943.00	-4.01	1,937.70	-9.01	1,930.00	-16.34	2,211.49	2,179.94	-31.55	2,166.33	-45.16	2,163.71	-47.78
15-yr B/C Ratio (Orange/Green)			1.26		1.13		1.15			2.48		3.3		2.52

Benefits

- All designs produce benefits that exceed costs.
- Results should be viewed directionally, not definitively.
- Comparisons are made to D1, which includes significant AC expansion, but no cross seam expansion.
- Full asset life is assumed to be 35 years, over the long run, the benefit may be significantly higher.
- Not appropriate to assume 2038 savings will stay the same until retirement, they may increase or decrease depending on the rest of the system.

	Benefit-to-Cost Ratio 2024-2038	
	Base Case	High VG Case
D1	-	-
D2a	1.26	2.48
D2b	1.13	3.3
D3	1.15	2.52

	Production Cost Savings 2038 (\$B)	
	Base Case	High VG Case
D1	-	-
D2a	-0.8	-3.5
D2b	-1.1	-3.8
D3	-2.5	-1.9

Findings

- There is substantial value to increasing the transfer capability between the interconnections, status quo on the existing B2Bs is the least desirable.
- Cross seam transmission has a substantial impact on the location, size, and type of wind and solar.
 - The “best” wind (Eastern Interconnection) and “best” solar (Western Interconnection).
- Cross-seam transmission enables substantial energy & operating reserve sharing on diurnal and seasonal basis.
- Additional benefits (and costs) may exist, i.e. frequency response and resilience to extreme events.

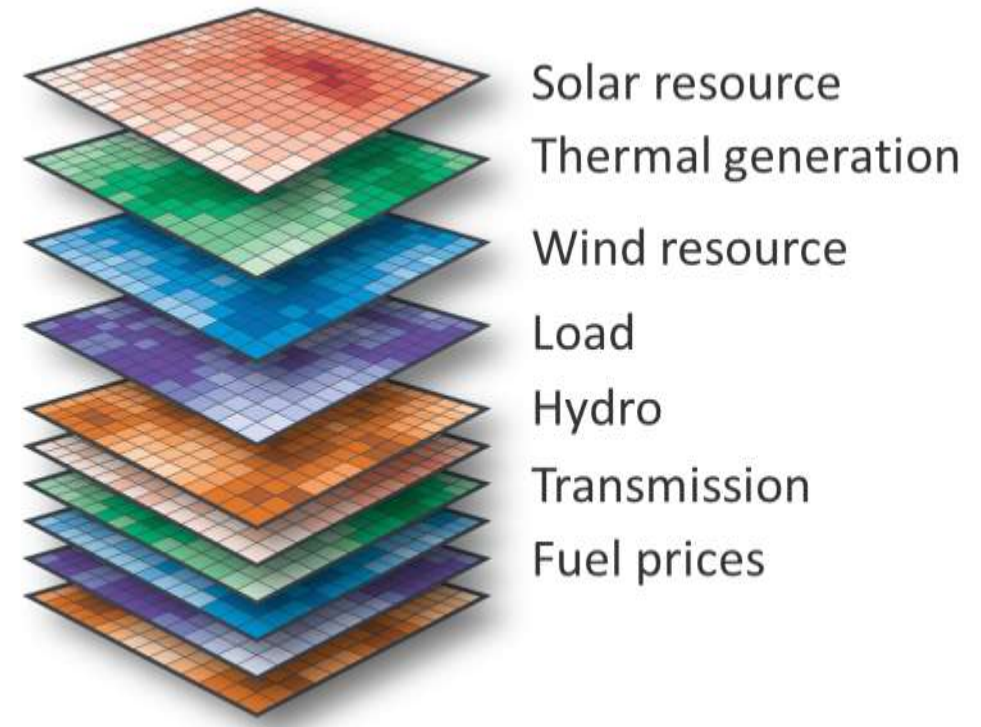


Part IV: What does this mean?

Why Integrated Resource Planning is an
Artful Science

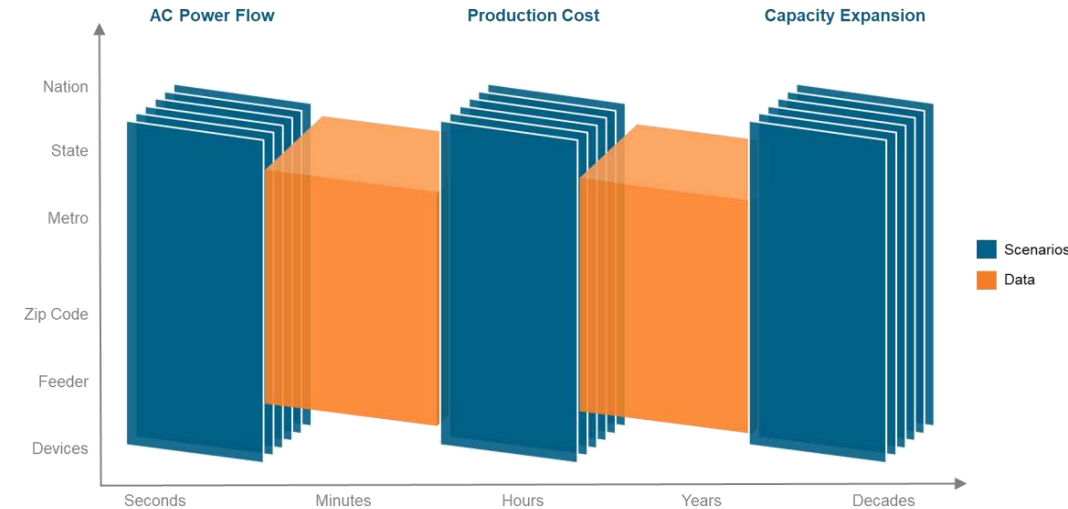
Data is critical, but it's never perfect

- Chronological data sets are needed for load and generation
- Simple averages don't work
- Data must be time synchronous
- Uncertainty space has grown
- You need to do more scenarios



There is no super model

- The various aspects of reliability and cost require different tools/approaches
- Data is the great unifier
- Model resolution matters, but don't get hung up on the nitty gritty
- All models are wrong, some are helpful



You don't *need* a Super Computer

- NREL showed us the art of the possible, and documented new algorithms to solve big problems
- At NextEra Analytics we are deploying many of these technologies on regional problems to deliver answers in minutes, not days
- Cloud computing can be used to decrease model uncertainty, control for data quality issues, and accelerate the transition to a modern grid
- Just because a tool promises Artificial Intelligence, doesn't mean it's Applied Intelligence

Five Questions to ask of an Integrated Resource Plan

1. What simplifications were made to the transmission network and generator representations?
2. Who reviewed the work?
3. What tools did they use to evaluate cost and reliability?
4. How does the analysis account for the weather?
5. What scenarios were considered?



Part V: What should be done?

Why Integrated Resource Planning is an
Artful Science

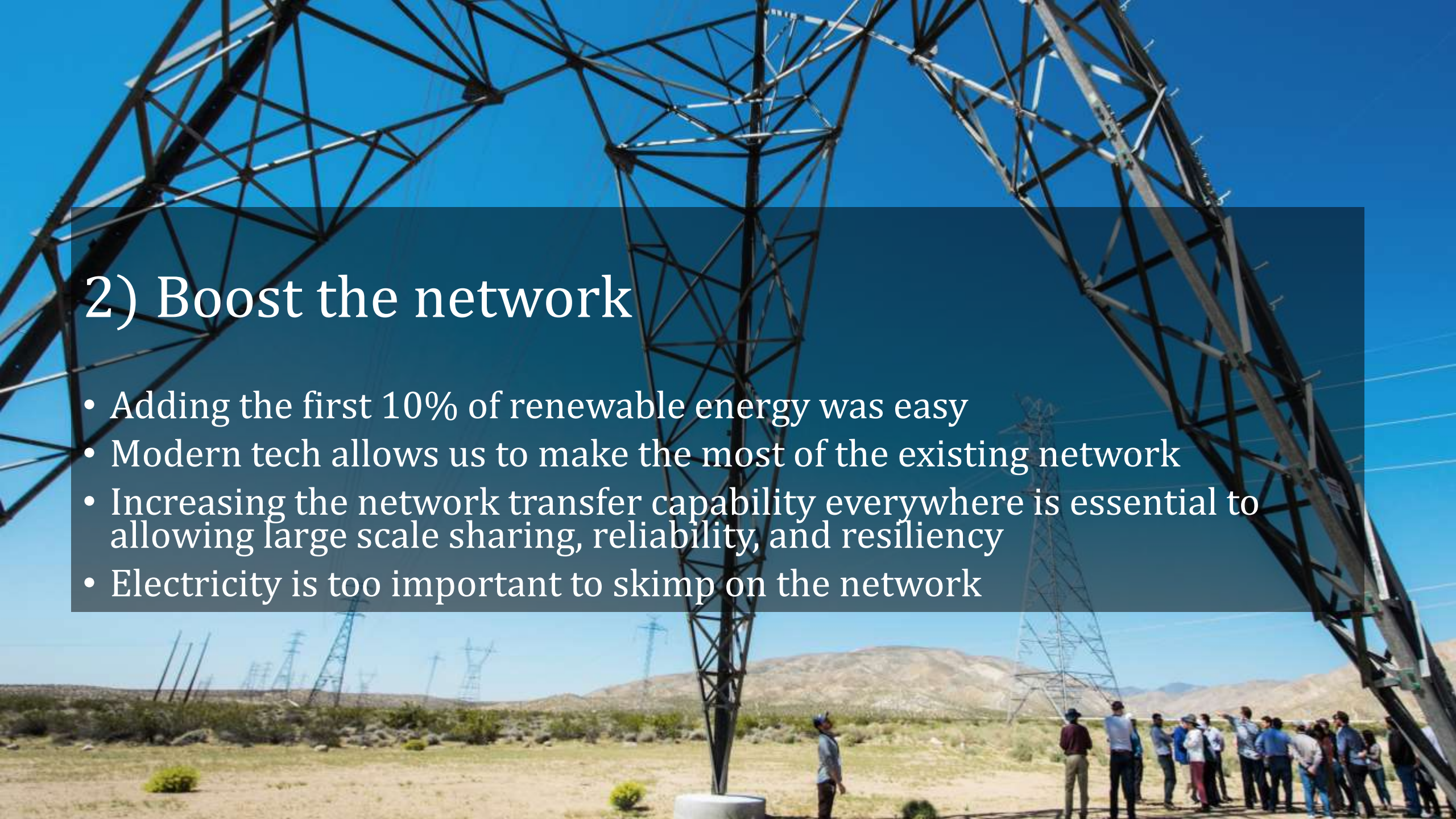
A photograph of two workers in safety gear installing a large solar panel on a rooftop. One worker is in the foreground, wearing a white hard hat and sunglasses, while the other is partially visible in the background. A third worker is seen further back on the roof. The scene is set against a clear blue sky with palm trees and buildings in the distance.

1) Build everywhere

- Diversity is critical to giving everyone a role in the future
- It helps with cost allocation
- Reduces variability at all time scales
- Our power system needs an overhaul due to age, let's build the right new stuff
- Grid scale and distributed scale resource have complementary characteristics

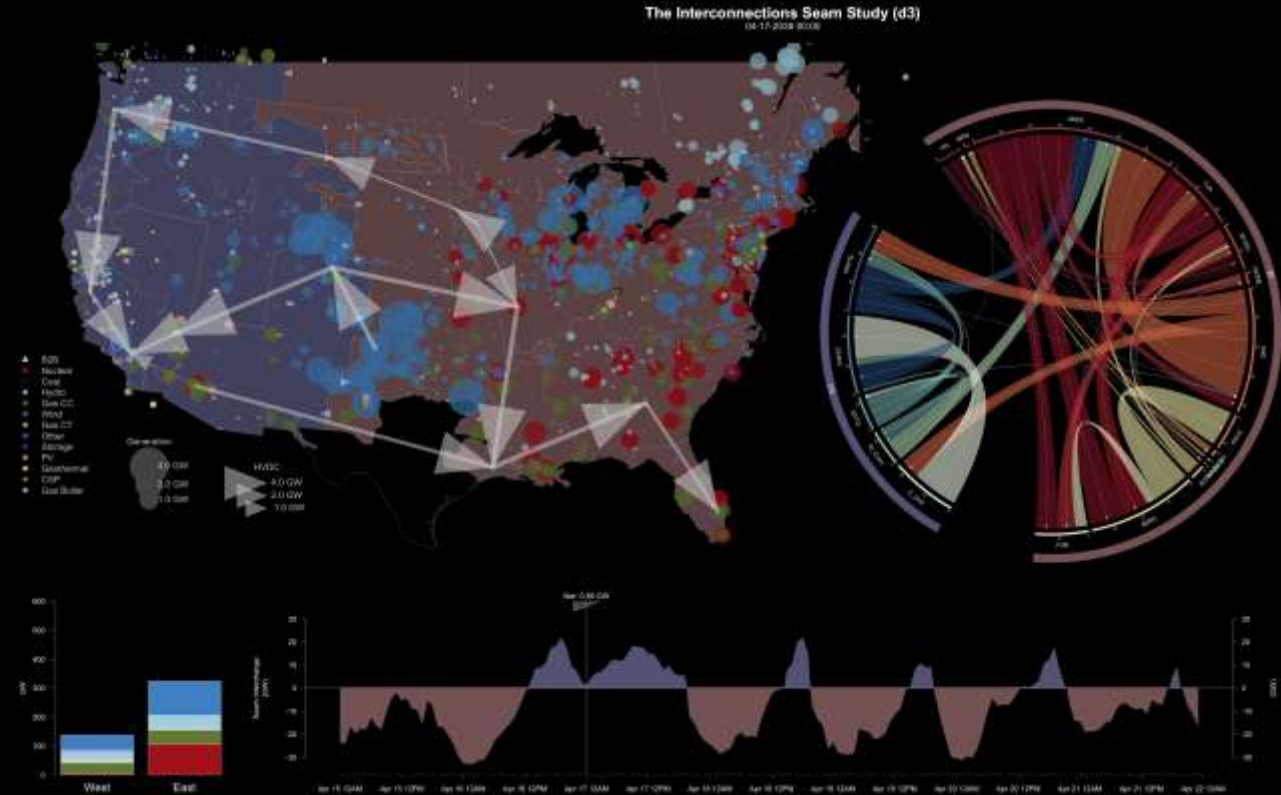
2) Boost the network

- Adding the first 10% of renewable energy was easy
- Modern tech allows us to make the most of the existing network
- Increasing the network transfer capability everywhere is essential to allowing large scale sharing, reliability, and resiliency
- Electricity is too important to skimp on the network



3) Join the interconnections

- Electricity is the only commodity without a national supply chain
- Managing the seasons and large scale distributed generation can't be done with storage alone
- Even California needs to import avocados sometimes



<https://www.terrawatts.com/seams-transgridx-2018.pdf>

An aerial photograph of a hybrid power plant. In the foreground, there are several large, white, rectangular solar panels arranged in rows. Behind them, a series of tall, slender wind turbines are visible, their blades extending into the sky. The background shows a flat, open landscape under a clear blue sky. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey rectangle containing white text.

4) Scale hybrid power plants

- Renewables are no longer simple consumers of reliability services
- With a little software and a little storage they can operate like the perfect generator
- Hybrids don't have to be co-located; we can make thermostats, EVs, and grid scale plants work intelligently in tandem or isolation

5) Share

- The economy needs to spend trillions on modernizing the electric grid, and even more if we want to decarbonize all energy
- Everyone can benefit, and we will all need to pay something
- Our differences are the key to our success; by finding complementary goals and resource profiles we can be more efficient and competitive
- Work with regulators on common sense cost allocation, i.e. Shared Use

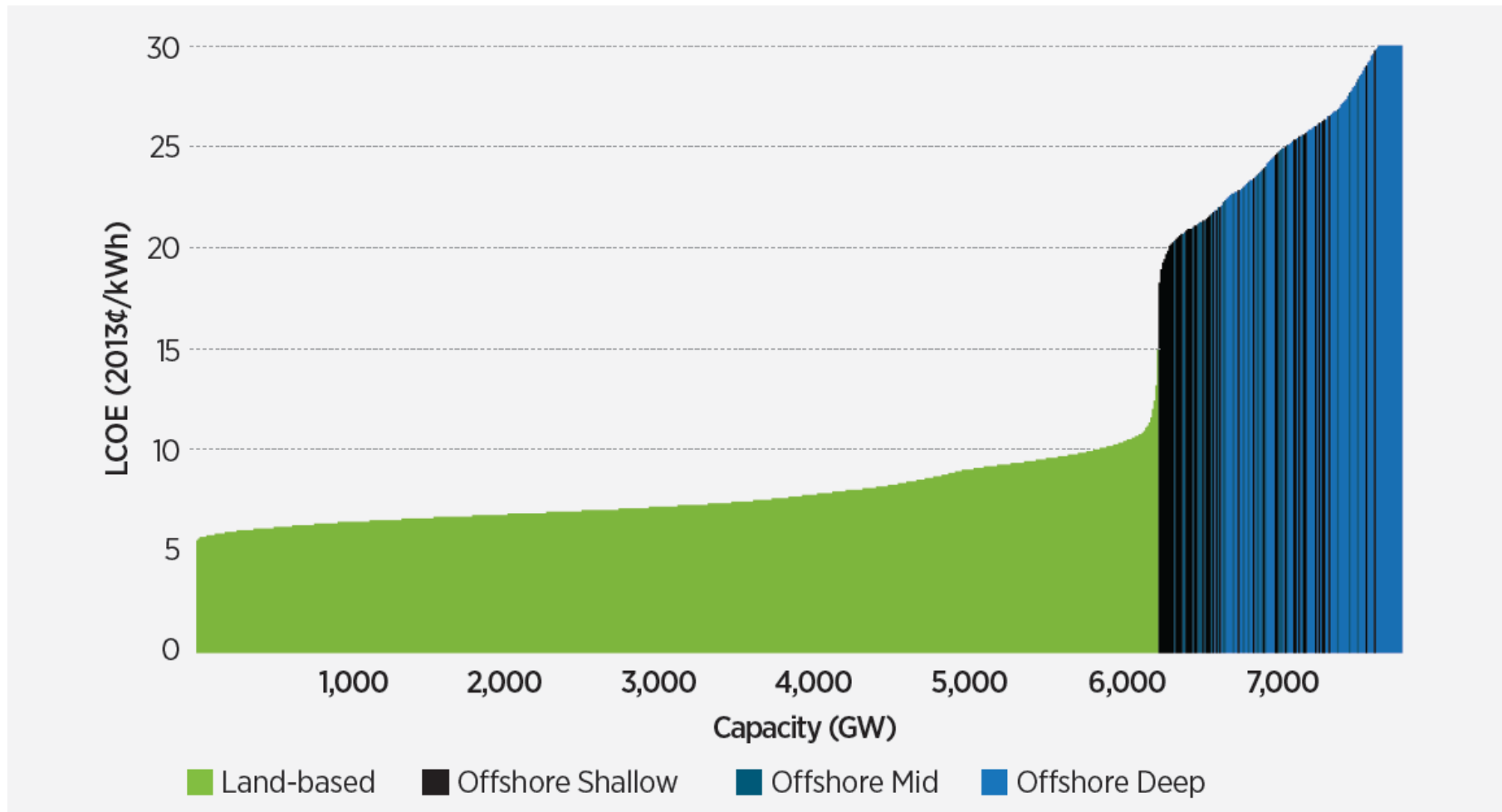




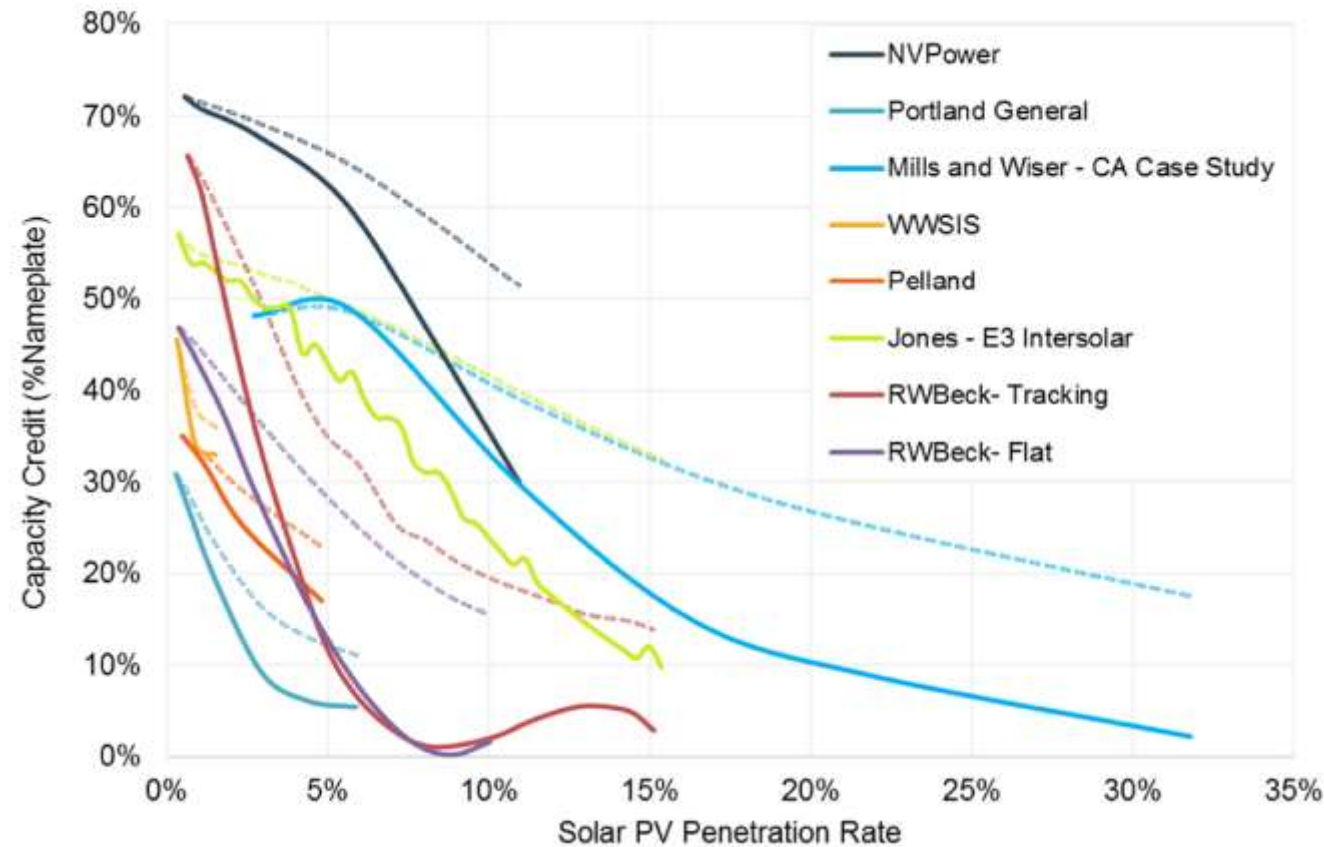
Appendix: Want to Learn More?

Renewable resources are more than sufficient in quantity

Combined land-based and offshore wind resource supply curve, based on estimated costs in 2012



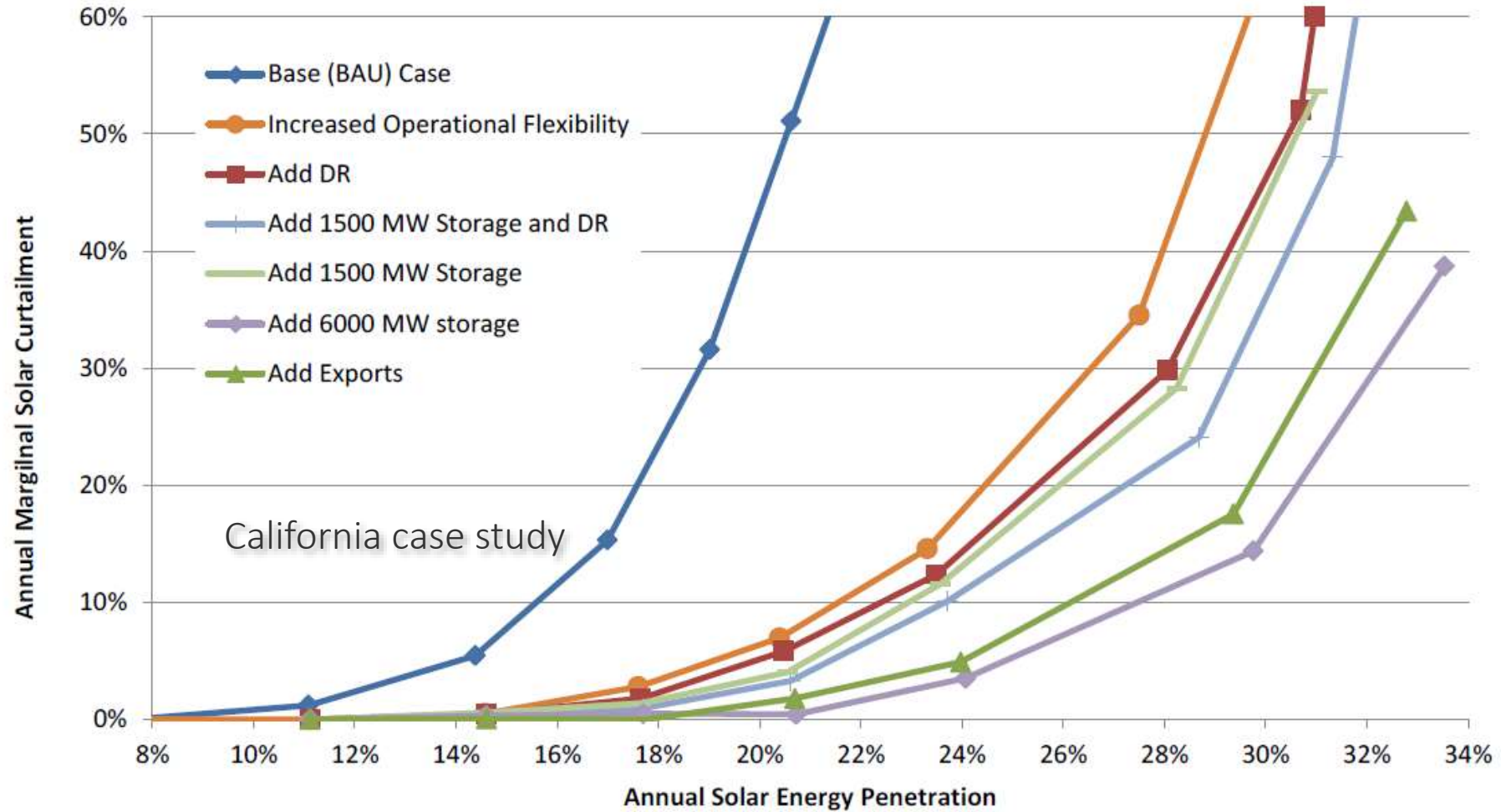
Capacity credit of VG declines rapidly with penetration



Dashed lines are average (fleet-wide) capacity credit while solid lines are marginal capacity credit.

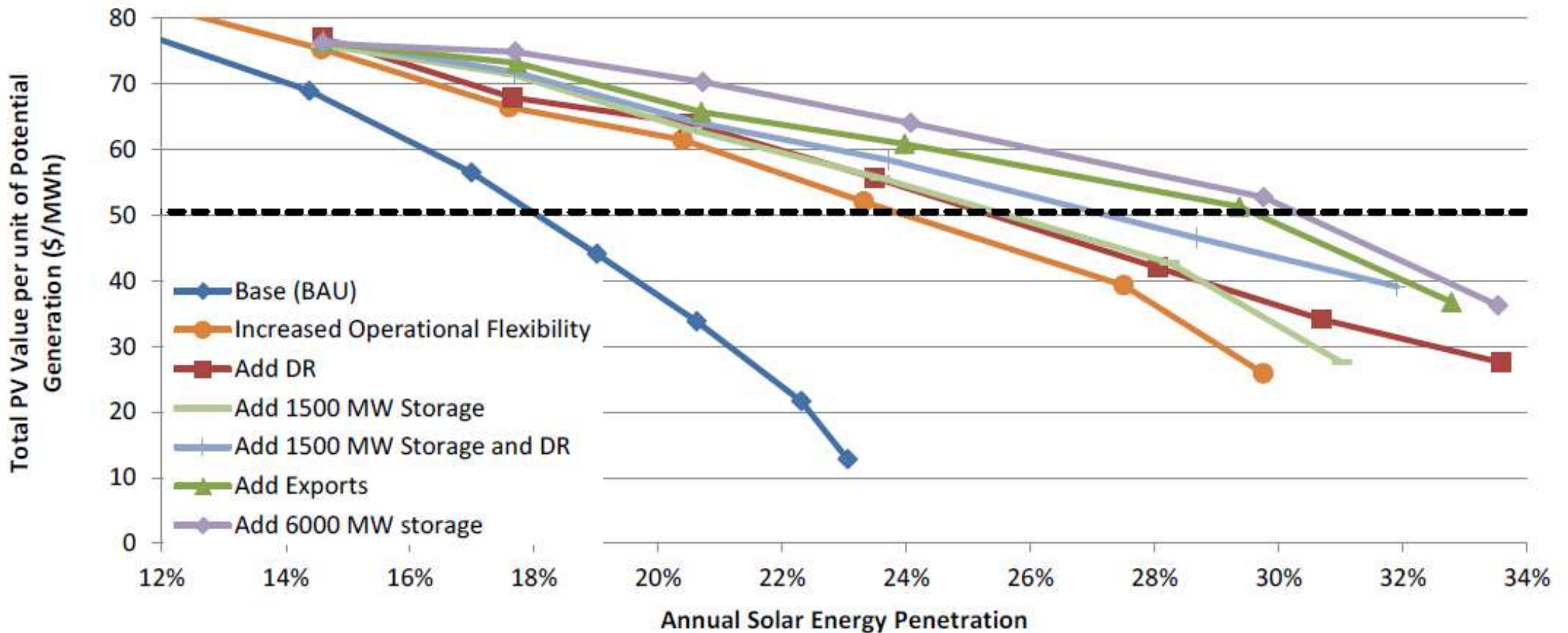
Source: Adapted from Mills and Wiser, 2012

...and curtailment increases



Source: Denholm et al., 2016

This creates an economic and technical challenges for variable generation



Source: Denholm et al., 2016

Top 10 Resource to Learn More

1. FERC Energy Market Primer: <https://www.ferc.gov/market-oversight/guide/energy-primer.pdf>
2. FERC Reliability Primer: <https://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/2016/reliability-primer.pdf>
3. Eastern Renewable Generation Integration Study: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy16osti/64472.pdf>
4. Denholm, et al. "The Role of Energy Storage with Renewable Electricity Generation" NREL/TP-6A2-47187: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy10osti/47187.pdf>
5. Ela et al. Operating Reserves and Variable Generation: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy11osti/51978.pdf>
6. Denholm et al. Over-generation from Solar in California: a field guide to the duck chart: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy16osti/65023.pdf>
7. A Wider Horizon: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?arnumber=5753335>
8. Milligan et al. Operational Analysis and Methods for Wind Integration Studies <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/articleDetails.jsp?arnumber=5934624>
9. Wholesale Electricity Market Design Initiatives in the United States: Survey and Research Needs <https://www.epri.com/#/pages/product/3002009273/?lang=en-US>
10. "Expansion Planning for Electrical Generating Systems: A Guidebook", International Atomic Energy Agency, Technical Reports, 1984 <http://www.energycommunity.org/documents/IAEATRS241.pdf>

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“ESIG Toward 100%”

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