Turbine Contract Awarded

Intermountain Power Agency’s “IPP Renewed” effort took a major step forward February 14, 2020, when IPA awarded Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems a contract for two M501JAC power trains for the Intermountain Generating Station. The 840-megawatt total capacity generating units are scheduled to come online in 2025 when coal-fueled electricity generation at the site ceases.

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COVID-19 Operations Update

Emergency preparation is baked into power plant operations DNA, so when the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, Intermountain Power Project was fully prepared to continue operations. The generating station’s spring maintenance outage was canceled to prevent dozens of outside vendors from accessing the site.Outside visitors were prohibited, the plant workforce was carefully screened, and social distancing protocols were implemented on site along with enhanced cleaning. IPP’s experienced workforce is extensively cross trained and able to operate with substantially reduced manpower levels, if necessary. Emergency supplies, including food, are also stockpiled at the power plant to allow continued operations under total quarantine if that ever became necessary. IPP’s preparations featured prominently in a Los Angeles Times story about electric utility COVID-19 responses.
Development of hydrogen energy infrastructure at the Intermountain Power Project was front and center at the Utah Governor's Office of Energy Development's 3rd Annual Hydrogen Conference January 8, 2020, at the state Capitol.

Attracting approximately 150 participants including state and federal policymakers, technology experts, and project developers, the day-long session featured a keynote presentation on Utah's potential as a leader in the production of “green hydrogen” – using renewable energy to separate hydrogen from water using electrolysis. IPP Operating Agent Manager Greg Huynh also outlined the plans for development of grid-scale electricity generation using hydrogen at the IPP site.

Other sessions at the conference included presentations on hydrogen infrastructure development, market opportunities, partnerships across the western states, and a global perspective on hydrogen.

The project announcement garnered worldwide attention from news media as diverse as Bloomberg, S&P Global, Axios, and POWER Magazine.
Hydrogen Corner

With the Intermountain Power Project attracting widespread attention for its plans to deploy grid-scale hydrogen storage and electricity generation, Powerlines is introducing a new feature to educate and inform its readers regarding the technology. “Hydrogen Corner” will feature links to stories about IPP’s hydrogen plans and the rapidly developing world market for the resource.

- Los Angeles Department of Water & Power’s internal magazine published: “The Future of IPP is Green.” The IPP project was also the subject of major features in Governing magazine, Forbes, Mining Weekly, and Public Power Today.

- The Green Hydrogen Coalition formed with a mission to support “green hydrogen projects that leverage multi-sector opportunities to simultaneously scale supply and demand.” The group’s first webinar prominently featured IPP’s hydrogen project.

- Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems outlined “hydrogen’s role within a 100 percent renewables economy” and described its Advanced Clean Energy Storage (ACES) project adjacent to IPP. University of California Irvine’s Advanced Power & Energy Program profiled the ACES site in a white paper entitled “Integrating Clean Energy Technologies with Existing Infrastructure: Western Energy Hub Site Benefits for Rapid Clean Regional Grid Transition.”

- Reuters published “Green hydrogen’s time has come, say advocates eying post-pandemic world.” GreenBiz, Utility Dive, and POWER all published similar articles prominently featuring the IPP project.

- Energy research firms are also taking notice. Wood Mackenzie noted a surge in large green hydrogen projects worldwide. A BloombergNEF study focused on falling costs of hydrogen production. DNV GL examined hydrogen’s potential for seasonal energy storage. Lux Research predicted a global trade in green hydrogen.

- Globally, hydrogen development was included as a key strategy in Europe’s economic stimulus plan. A European coalition launched a “Choose Renewable Hydrogen” campaign. A consortium in Japan continued construction of a grid-scale green hydrogen project. A project proposed for Belgium would be powered completely by excess offshore wind. Recharge reported a Canadian company has begun selling green hydrogen on the open market at a price around 80 percent higher than conventional grey hydrogen. A United Arab Emirates minister predicted green hydrogen could become the cheapest form of hydrogen within five years.
IPA Chairman Ted Olson was profiled in his home town newspaper.

U.S. Energy Information Administration released its Annual Energy Outlook with projections to 2050. Among the conclusions: Overall energy consumption will grow more slowly than production, and renewables are expected to surpass natural gas in electricity generation toward the end of the forecast period.

EIA reported annual energy consumption from renewable sources (including hydroelectricity) exceeded coal consumption in 2019 for the first time since before 1885.


Public opinion polling commissioned by environmental groups concluded most Utahns favor transitioning away from coal-fueled electricity.

At least 24 Utah cities and counties opted in to a plan for net-100 percent renewable energy by 2030.

The Utah Coal Country Strike Team awarded grants to coal communities seeking new forms of economic development.

A northern California power plant announced plans to blend hydrogen for fuel.

California Public Utilities Commission said the state’s clean energy goals require major investment in long-duration energy storage.

A California Independent System Operator official identified green hydrogen energy storage as part of the state’s “optimal path” toward its clean energy goals.

A Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory study on California net-zero carbon options mentioned energy hub development at IPP.
PowerLines is a publication of Intermountain Power Agency. The Intermountain Power Project includes a two-unit coal-fueled generating station located near Delta, Utah, two transmission systems, a microwave communication system and a railcar service center, all built as a joint undertaking by 35 utilities in Utah and California.

Certain statements included in this communication constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Such statements are generally identifiable by the terminology used such as “anticipate,” “plan,” “envision,” “become,” “expect,” “future,” “potential,” “continue” or other similar words and include statements regarding future operations of IPA. The achievement of certain results or other expectations contained in such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, performance or achievements described to be materially different from results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such risks include the ability to design, permit, finance and construct natural gas facilities at IPP, the continued payment by power purchasers under the contracts pursuant to which they purchase such power, the ability of third parties unrelated to IPA to continue to develop power and industrial facilities in the immediate area and other risks, uncertainties and other factors discussed from time to time in filings made by IPA pursuant to its continuing disclosure obligations through the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board’s Electronic Municipal Market Access system (“EMMA”), currently located at http://emma.msrb.org. IPA does not undertake any obligation to correct or update any forward-looking statements whether as a result of changes in internal estimates or expectations, new information, subsequent events or circumstances or otherwise.