



# City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

## Seattle City Light

Jorge Carrasco, Superintendent

### IRP Glossary

#### **Biomass**

Plant material, vegetation, or agricultural waste used as a fuel or energy source.

#### **Block**

A power product offered by the BPA for a fixed amount of power, delivered at a constant rate through the month.

#### **BPA**

**Bonneville Power Administration.** A power marketing and electric transmission agency of the United States government headquartered in Portland, Oregon.

#### **Call Option**

A contractual agreement with a power generator to reserve capacity to generate power only when requested, at a pre-arranged cost per megawatt-hour.

#### **Capacity**

The maximum amount of electrical load which a device can carry at one time. Capacity is also used synonymously with capability.

#### **CCCT**

**Combined Cycle Combustion Turbine.** A simple cycle combustion turbine with a heat recovery unit added. The heat recovery system recovers waste heat from the combustion turbine and uses it to create steam for additional electricity generation. A combined cycle turbine operates most efficiently when it is run for long periods of time without being ramped up and down.

#### **SCCT**

**Simple Cycle Combustion Turbine.** A natural gas-fired turbine (similar to a jet engine) used to drive an electric generator. Combustion turbines, because of their generally rapid firing time, are designed for meeting short-term peak demands placed on power distribution systems. They are frequently ramped up and down as needed.

#### **EIS**

**Environmental Impact Statement.** A written analysis of the environmental impacts to be anticipated from a proposed activity (construction of a mine, power plant, or electric transmission). An EIS is required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1972 before construction can begin.

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700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3300, PO Box 34023, Seattle, WA 98124-4023

Tel: (206) 684-3000, TDD: (206) 684-3225, FAX: (206) 684-3709; <http://seattle.gov/light>

An equal employment opportunity, affirmative action employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.

*Seattle City Light is a publicly owned utility dedicated to exceeding our customers' expectations in producing and delivering environmentally responsible, safe, low cost and reliable power.*

*We are committed to delivering the best customer service experience of any utility in the nation.*

**Electric System**

The generation, transmission, distribution and other facilities operated as an electric utility or a portion thereof.

**Energy**

Electric energy is a measure of the amount of usage over time and is measured in Kilowatt-hours or megawatt-hours.

**Exchange**

An agreement between two electricity suppliers to send each other electricity, each at a different time. These agreements work best between two suppliers whose peak demands occur in different seasons.

**Geothermal**

Power generated from heat energy derived from hot rock, hot water or steam below the earth's surface.

**IRP**

**Integrated Resource Plan.** This planning approach provides a process for a utility to evaluate a wide range of power resource alternatives.

**Renewables**

A resource such as solar energy or wind that is inexhaustible without fear of it running out, like oil.

**Scenario**

A possible course of future events. In the IRP, scenarios are used to evaluate portfolios of energy resources under a range of circumstances other than the baseline forecast.

**Shaping**

Configuring a resource portfolio so that power generation capability and delivery of purchased power closely matches changes in demand over time. Shaping can help to avoid unnecessary costs and the need to sell surplus power.

**Slice**

A power product offered by the BPA for an amount of power that varies year to year according to the amount of water flowing through the BPA hydroelectric system. In a good water year (above average precipitation), more power is delivered to the same customer than in a poor water year (below average precipitation).

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