

Colorado River Commission of Nevada

Subcommittee on Public Lands

Agency Presentation

May 23, 2022





CRCNV Organization

Created - In 1935 by Nevada State Legislation in response to the completion of Hoover Dam.

Purpose - Protect, receive, and hold in trust the water and hydropower resources for the benefit of the State of Nevada.

Commission Members - Seven members:

- Four members appointed by the Governor
- Three by the Southern Nevada Water Authority



Current Members of the Commission

- Puoy Premsrirut, Chairwoman
- Kara J. Kelly, Vice Chairwoman
- Justin Jones, Commissioner
- Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Commissioner
- Allen Puliz, Commissioner
- Cody T. Winterton, Commissioner
- Dan H. Stewart, Commissioner



CRCNV Four Main Functions

- Manage Nevada's hydropower allocation and interact with the federal agencies regarding; costs, markets, investments, and rates.
- Represent the State's interest in Colorado River water and environmental matters with Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA).
- Operate and maintain high voltage delivery systems for certain customers.
- CRCNV provides personnel together with SNWA for staffing Silver State Energy Association (SSEA) for:
 - City of Boulder City
 - SNWA and its member agencies (for their water and wastewater pumping needs)
 - CRCNV (for use by BMI industrial customers)
 - Lincoln County Power District No. 1
 - Overton Power District No. 1

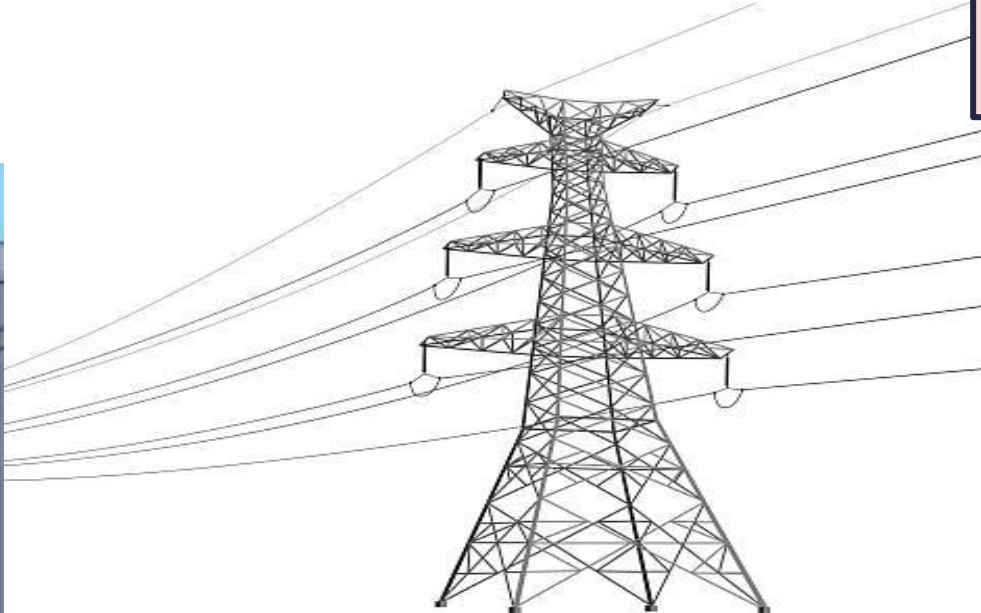
Federal Hydropower Contract Flow

Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
owns and operates federal
hydropower resources

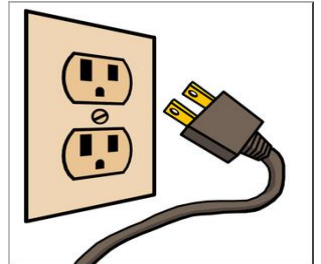


Hoover, Parker, Davis, and
Glen Canyon Dams

Dept. of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
transmits and markets federal
hydropower resources



Colorado River Commission
of Nevada contracts with
federal agencies and
represents Nevada's
interests in all hydropower
matters



Colorado River
Commission of
Nevada sells
hydropower to
23 So. NV
contractors

CRCNV's Hydropower Customers

CRCNV Direct Retail End Use Customers	Wholesale Utility Customers	Water and Wastewater Customers	NV Energy (bundled customers of NVE with Hoover D allocation from CRCNV)
Basic Water Company	Nevada Power Co. dba. NV Energy	Southern Nevada Water Authority	College of Southern Nevada
Lhoist	Lincoln County Power District No. 1	City of Henderson	Clark County School District
Olin Chlor Alkali Products	Boulder City	City of Las Vegas	Nevada Department of Administration
TIMET	Overton Power District/City of Mesquite No. 5	City of North Las Vegas	Nevada Department of Corrections
Borman Specialty Materials	Valley Electric Association	Clark County Water Reclamation	Nevada Department of Transportation
		Las Vegas Valley Water District	University of Nevada - Las Vegas

CRCNV's Activities With Bureau of Reclamation



Attend regular meetings with Reclamation to review, monitor, and provide input on power plant expenditures and investment at Hoover, Parker, Davis, and Glen Canyon Dams.



CRCNV's Activities with Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)

- Participate in WAPA's processes to establish charges and set rates for hydropower resources.
- Participate in resource reallocation proceedings to protect Nevada's right to continue receiving hydropower after contracts expire.
- Review and monitor transmission expenditures to ensure that transmission investments are prudent, and rates remain affordable.
- Monitor WAPA's strategic initiatives such as participation in energy imbalance markets, to protect the value of our hydropower resources.



Why is Hydropower a valuable resource?

- Hydropower is cost-based
 - CRCNV has input on hydropower expenditures
- Hydropower is considered a renewable resource per SB 358 (2019)
- Hydropower is a flexible resource
 - It can be used to serve load when other intermittent resources, like solar and wind, are unavailable
- Hydropower provides “black start” capability
 - It can help restore power to the grid during blackouts



Recent Activities with WAPA and Reclamation

- RECS/PECs - renewable energy credits - utilizing Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) to track and transfer certificates.
 - Implemented following SB 358 (2019) that recognizes hydropower as renewable
- Regional Market Organizations
 - WAPA Upper Basin - evaluating Southwest Power Pool
 - WAPA Desert Southwest joining CAISO Energy Imbalance Market
 - Participating in Governor's Regional Transmission Task Force
- Drought Operation Discussions:
 - Upper Basin - participating in CREDA drought operations committee to stay informed of operational and rate issues presented by the drought in the upper basin. Initial discussions with contractors about considering alternative resources and a meeting is scheduled with WAPA and Reclamation in June to discuss.
 - Lower Basin - Hoover Engineering and Operations Committee formed a subcommittee to explore with WAPA and Reclamation drought operations and possible alternative resources.



Natural Resource Divisions

The NRD's primary focus is on water and environmental resources that include:

- Protecting Nevada's Colorado River allocation
- Addressing Drought Response Actions and Water Conservation
- Bi-National Relations with Mexico
- Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
- Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program
- Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP)



Water Deliveries and Drought Management

- Since 2000, the River has suffered under a persistent drought that has depleted water supplies throughout the 7 basin states; 2021 was one of the driest years on record.
- The CRCNV, in concert with SNWA and the other Basin States, has coordinated efforts in the last few decades to address the ensuing drought and protect critical lake elevations including the:
 - The 2007 Interim Guidelines, which provide incentives for water savings and conservation as well as shortage criteria;
 - The 2019 Drought Contingency Plan which provides additional incentives for conservation opportunities, further shortage reductions as well as voluntary contributions; and
 - The 2022 “500 + Plan” to store an additional 1MAF of water in Lake Mead during 2022 and 2023, and to participate with the other Lower Basin States and Upper Basin States in helping to protect critical lake elevations in Lake Powell.



Binational Relations with Mexico Minute 323

The CRCNV participated in the negotiation of Minute 323 in 2017.

- Expires at the end of 2026.
- Extends many of the Minute 319 provisions:
 - shared shortages,
 - Mexico's ability to store water in Lake Mead, and
 - US investment in Mexico's water infrastructure in exchange for water
- Includes a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in concert with the US DCP.
- Commits parties to water, environmental, and habitat restoration.
- Provides efforts to improve salinity and flow variability.

The CRCNV Currently participates in the binational implementing workgroups.



Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

- The CRCNV represents the State of Nevada on the Salinity Control Forum and Advisory Committee.
- The program focuses on reducing salinity concentrations in the Colorado River through on-farm and off-farm irrigation improvements in the Upper Basin.
- Salinity concentrations have been reduced by 100 mg/L in the Lower Colorado through program implementation.

Environmental Programs

The CRCNV represents the State in 2 primary environmental programs:

- The Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) to protect endangered and threatened species and their habitats from Lake Mead to Mexico.
- The Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group, a federal advisory committee, working to protect downstream resources including species and habitats in the Grand Canyon.





Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

- 50-year lower basin conservation/mitigation program beginning in 2005.
- Balances the use of Colorado River water with conservation of native species and habitat to meet with Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance.
- Creates a total of 8,132 acres of new habitat, of which 6049 acres have been created to date on over 13 mitigation sites.
- Augments Population of Native Fish.



Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group

- Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program was developed to provide an organization and process for:
 - Cooperative integration of dam operations,
 - Downstream resource protection and
 - Management, monitoring, and research information.
- Allows for:
 - Stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process in the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and downstream resources.



Energy Services Group

CRCNV provides personnel together with SNWA for staffing Silver State Energy Association (SSEA) for:

- City of Boulder City
- CRCNV - BMI industrial customers
- Lincoln County Power District No. 1
- Overton Power District No. 5
- Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and its member agencies:
 - Las Vegas Valley Water District
 - City of Henderson
 - City of Las Vegas
 - City of North Las Vegas
 - Clark County Water Reclamation District

Power Delivery Project

System used to deliver electricity to Southern Nevada Water Authority, and major cities in Southern Nevada for water pumping and wastewater treatment.

Also serves CRCNV's retail customers at BMI complex. System Includes:

- 17 high voltage substations,
- 32 miles of overhead 230-kV transmission lines,
- 4 miles of overhead 69-kV transmission lines,
- 11 miles of underground 69-kV transmission lines.



Eastside Transmission Substation

CRCNV operates and maintains seven substations owned by SNWA and three owned by Clark County Water Reclamation District.

Questions

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