

+QF Solar Resources
Powerex (3 yr) Contingency Reserves (60 MW) - expires 12/31/2024
Powerex (5 yr) (100 MW) - expires 12/31/2027
Heartland (10 yr) - (150 MW) - expires 12/31/2032

38. NorthWestern currently has over 200 percent more wind generation than Colstrip generation. In terms of generation asset nameplate capacity, its two largest, by far, are hydroelectric assets and the fleet of wind farms, both of which are carbon free. NorthWestern's portfolio of solar generating facilities has also been increasing in recent years. At the same time, it is critical to note the difference between "nameplate" and "accredited" capacity. Nameplate capacity refers to the maximum electrical generating output (in MW) that a generator can sustain over a specified period of time when not restricted by seasonal or other "deratings" (events that reduce effective output), as measured in accordance with the United States Department of Energy standards. In contrast, accredited capacity means the electrical rating given to generating equipment that meets the Utility's criteria for uniform rating of equipment. These criteria include but are not limited to reliability, availability, type of equipment and the degree of coordination between the Distributed Generation and the Utility. Wind and solar accredited capacities are much lower than their nameplate capacities, because of the seasonal and weather variability of those generation sources. Hydroelectric generation also has a gap between nameplate and accredited capacity, reflecting periods when generation is restricted by stream flows. All this is reflected in the table below:

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