



# MEMORANDUM

**TO: IEDA Board**  
**RE: Power Committee Report**  
**DATE: October 17, 2024**

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## Nuclear Resurgence

With the recent increase in demand for carbon-free, baseload capacity, nuclear power plants are having a resurgence.

There has been progress towards the development of small, modular nuclear reactors, but this has fizzled due to cost concerns.

Existing mothballed plants are being brought back to life, like Palisades in Michigan. PG&E is working on a 5-year life extension for Diablo Canyon, funded in part to the \$6B in the IRA. Three Mile Island Unit 1 will be restarted as well.

With Data Centers being told to bring their own energy (Secretary Granholm recently said this at a conference), deep pocketed corporations like Amazon, Microsoft, Google and Meta are having no problem bringing the money to the table to get these projects started or restarted. Google has signed an agreement to deploy advanced nuclear (5 GW) by 2035. Energy Northwest and Amazon plan to develop advanced nuclear technology as well.

With the security setbacks of existing nuclear plants, it seems likely that additional capacity could be built on the existing sites. Sixty additional gigawatts are estimated to be possible at existing sites. You may recall that Palo Verde was designed to house 5 reactors, where only 3 were built.

The NRC recently released an alternative licensing process for advanced reactors. DOE also opened applications For \$900M For small nuclear reactor funding.

## **Glen Canyon Dam**

The never-ending experiment may be coming to an end, thanks to a cold front coming soon. It is possible that the “cool-mix” experiment may end in October, but it is appearing likely that a HFE may be triggered this fall.

Slough comments to remove the -12 Mile Slough has been submitted. This is a hot spot for smallmouth bass and green sunfish, given the fact that it is fed by a warm water spring and isolated from the river except in higher flow scenarios.

## **WAPA**

There has been a lot of activity at WAPA recently, with the reorganization of regional managers reporting to the Chief Operating Officer. Jack Murray announced his retirement. Progress has been made on the pseudo-tie allocator. WAPA hired Amanda Velasquez as Tribal Affairs Liaison. It also upgraded the Infrastructure position.