MEMORANDUM

TO: **IEDA Board**
RE: **Power Report**
DATE: **September 10th, 2026**

Western Markets

There has been some recent news on the Western Front regarding markets. The CAISO Energy Day Ahead Market is being questioned by several commentors, including the California Public Utilities Commission for some recent decisions. EDAM gross benefits were calculated at $11.4M over the first two months, with $6M going to the BAA. However, the CAISO BAA transferred $2.7M in congestion revenues to PacifiCorp. There were also some questions regarding load adjustments over times where the system appeared "fully resourced."

Another concern is the increasing South-to-North energy flow patterns. Seems coordination is paramount as the West deals with two markets and seams issues. Hopefully, the new North Plains Connector Project, a proposed 422-mile, 525-kv high-voltage direct current (HVDC) overhead transmission line, between Montana and North Dakota will help. This transmission line will connect the Western and Eastern Interconnections, providing 3,000 MW of bidirectional transfer capability to move electricity.

With the appointment of the new administrator, Bonneville is now eyeing possibly switching to CAISO's EDAM from Southwest Power Pool's Market. BPA's Travis Kavulla outlined governance-related criteria that need to be met for the federal power marketer to join the Extended Day-Ahead Market run by California's grid operator. BPA is looking at the federal power marketer's

decision to join Markets+ with "fresh eyes," and the evaluation will be based on three principles: the ability to trust the durability of market rules; the depth and liquidity of the market; and how seams between markets affect reliability and economic efficiency. BPA plans to make a draft decision by the end of the year.

Nuclear Update

Oklo is beginning construction on a Small Modular Nuclear Reactor (SMR) at Idaho National Laboratory's desert campus. This is a crucial step toward Oklo's first major commercial project: sending electricity to the grid to support data centers operated by Facebook parent Meta Platforms. Eventually, Oklo plans to build more than a dozen reactors at an Ohio campus that could generate up to 1.2 gigawatts of electricity, enough to power 1,200 Walmarts.

But they aren't the only one. The Oklo reactor is one of 22 active reactor projects in the U.S. The World Nuclear Association tracks more than 130 SMR designs in development globally. In addition to its deal with Oklo, Meta plans to buy electricity from TerraPower, a reactor developer founded by Bill Gates almost 20 years ago. Google has paired with Kairos Power. Amazon.com invested in, and is a customer of, X-energy.

The smallest reactors may or may not be grid connected. They could be used by the military, for remote communities or following natural disasters. In fact, the Army seeks to spend $2B to install SMRs at 5 bases.

TerraPower received a construction license in March for a project in Wyoming after a shortened review period of about 18 months—but it took 1,000 engineers to make that happen.

Microsoft, for now, is betting big on a conventional reactor. It agreed in 2024 to a 20-year power deal to support Constellation Energy's restart of the undamaged reactor at Pennsylvania's former Three Mile Island, the site of the most infamous U.S. nuclear accident.

Down the road from Oklo's construction trailers at the Idaho National Lab, a campus of mostly Cold War-era buildings is abuzz with activity. Aalo Atomics, Antares Nuclear, Radiant Nuclear and Deployable Energy are also developing or

testing small reactors at the lab, hoping to channel the success of its storied past. Established in 1949, it was the test site for the world's first reactors used in nuclear submarines and for civilian power.

Excerpts Taken from Article by Jennifer Hiller, Wall Street Journal

Good Things to Know

- **DOI Looking to Expedite NHPA Reviews to Prevent Energy Project Delays**
- **Wave Testing Hydro Facility PacWave South Opens Off Oregon Coast**
    - **Wave Energy Estimated to Be Able to Provide 57% of US Demand**
- **DOE Awards Utility $271M to Help Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant Extension**
- **US Roadmap Targets Fusion Deployment by Mid-2030s**
- **U.S. Electricity Demand Could Increase by as Much as 32% by 2030**
- **Phillips 66, Kinder Morgan Green Light the $5B Western Gateway Pipeline**
- **Senators Looking at September Work Period for Permitting Reform Deal**
- **E&C to Vote on Package of Bills that Would Streamline Nuclear Licensing**
- **California Sues Over Trump Offshore Wind Cancellation**
- **Blue Energy Partners Plans to Deploy 50+ Drilling Rigs to Venezuela**
- **With 20% Reduction in LNG, Countries Utilize Native Resource (Coat, etc.)**
- **California Bill to Regulate Data Centers Goes to Newsome's Desk**