

Northwest Electric Market



Overview

Geography

States covered: All or most of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming and part of California.

Reliability region: Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC) [[NERC regions map External Link](#)] and Northwest Power Pool Area (NWPP) sub-region [[WECC subregions map PDF](#)]

Balancing authorities: See page 5.

RTO/ISO

None

Generation/Supply

Marginal fuel type: Hydro and natural gas

Generating capacity (winter 2005): 57,120 MW

Capacity reserve (winter 2005): 16,822 MW

Reserve margin (winter 2005): 42%

When taken together, hydro, fossil fuels, nuclear energy, and renewable resources, were adequate to provide electricity in excess of in-region needs.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission • Market Oversight @ FERC.gov**Demand**

All time peak demand (2005): 40,298 MW

Peak demand growth: 1.5% (2005–2004)

Prices

Index Annual Average of Daily Bilateral Day Ahead On-Peak Prices:

Platts California-Oregon Border (COB) Hub:

2004: \$49.02/MWh 2005: \$66.88/MWh 2006: \$55.57/MWh

Platts Mid-Columbia (Mid-C) Hub:

2004: \$44.50/MWh 2005: \$63.09/MWh 2006: \$50.23/MWh

Physical and financial electricity products are traded through brokers using the Mid-Columbia (Mid-C) and California-Oregon Border (COB) hubs as pricing points.

Interconnections/Seams

The region relies on hydroelectric production for approximately two thirds of its electricity needs. In most years, Northwest sells surplus power into California and the Southwest.

Focal Points

BPA in the Market: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is the largest wholesale power supplier in the Northwest, according to the agency. BPA meets approximately 40 percent of the region's firm energy supply from resources under its control, primarily the federal hydroelectric dams in the Northwest.

BPA has agreements to sell power from federal hydropower generation in the Northwest and from certain nonfederal power plants, such as Energy Northwest's nuclear plant, Columbia Generating Station. BPA sells most of its power at cost-based rates to regional public power and municipal utilities, electric cooperatives, and direct service industries (such as aluminum smelters). After meeting its regional commitments, BPA sells surplus power to other Western market participants at market prices.

Severe Heat Wave: In late July 2006, a severe heat wave resulted in 100+ degree temperatures over much of the West - and greater than 110 degrees in some areas. Northwest utilities urged consumers to conserve. From July 17 through July 25, various peak load records were set by utility customers (e.g., Idaho Power and NorthWestern Energy) which is notable since the Northwest overall is typically a winter-peaking area. Control areas managed by Portland General Electric, PacifiCorp, and Puget Sound Energy declared NERC Energy Emergency Alert levels 1 and 2 (for Puget Sound Energy, level 1 only), meaning all resources were in use and/or load management procedures were in effect. Although a concurrent fire in eastern Oregon threatened power lines in the Idaho-Oregon area, no curtailment of non-firm load was called. Power prices in the Northwest bilateral markets rose to over \$350/MWh on July 24, the date that CAISO declared a Stage 2 Emergency - CAISO's call for critical conservation due to very tight power supplies in its control area.

Balancing Authorities in the Northwest Electric Market

Balancing Authority

Alberta Electric System Operator
Avista Corp.
Bonneville Power Administration
British Columbia Transmission Corporation
Idaho Power Company
NorthWestern Energy
PacifiCorp-East
PacifiCorp-West
Portland General Electric Company
PUD No. 1 of Chelan County
PUD No. 1 of Douglas County
PUD No. 2 of Grant County
Puget Sound Energy
Seattle Department of Lighting
Sierra Pacific Power Company
Tacoma Power
Western Area Power Administration - Upper Great Plains West

NERC Acronym

AESO
AVA
BPAT
BCHA
IPCO
NWMT
PACE
PACW
PGE
CHPD
DOPD
GCPD
PSEI
SCL
SPPC
TPWR
WAUW

Northwest Electric Market: Supply and Demand

Supply and Demand Statistics for the Northwest

Supply Demand Statistics			
	2003	2004	2005
Winter Generating Capacity MW (1)	54,802	57,101	57,120
Winter Peak Demand MW	35,456	39,710	40,298
Winter Reserves MW	19,346	17,391	16,822
Winter Reserve Margin:	55%	44%	42%
Annual Load (GWh):	219,582	223,148	234,153
Annual Net Generation GWh	NA	NA	NA

Source: Derived from Estimated Loads and Resources, Western Electricity Coordinating Council, June 2006.

Updated January 8, 2007

Northwest Electric Market: Prices

Yearly Average of Bilateral DA Prices – On-Peak

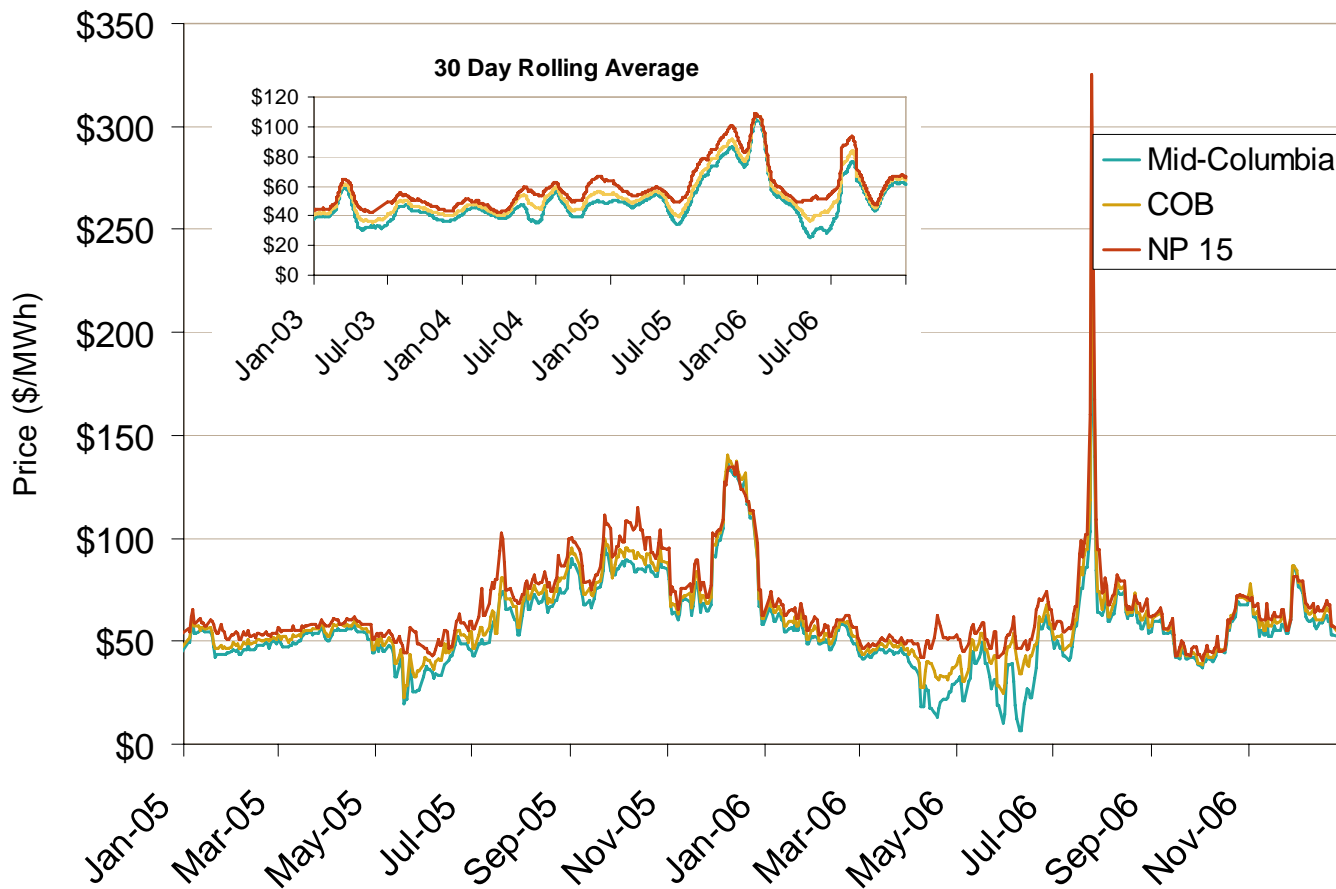
Annual Average Day Ahead Prices (\$/MWh)

	2005	2006	5 years
Mid-Columbia (Mid-C)	\$63.09	\$50.23	\$44.48
California-Oregon Border (COB)	\$66.88	\$55.57	\$48.88

Wholesale market participants utilize physical trades at COB and both physical and financial trades at Mid-C.

Northwest Electric Market: Prices

Northwestern Daily Bilateral Day-Ahead On-Peak Prices

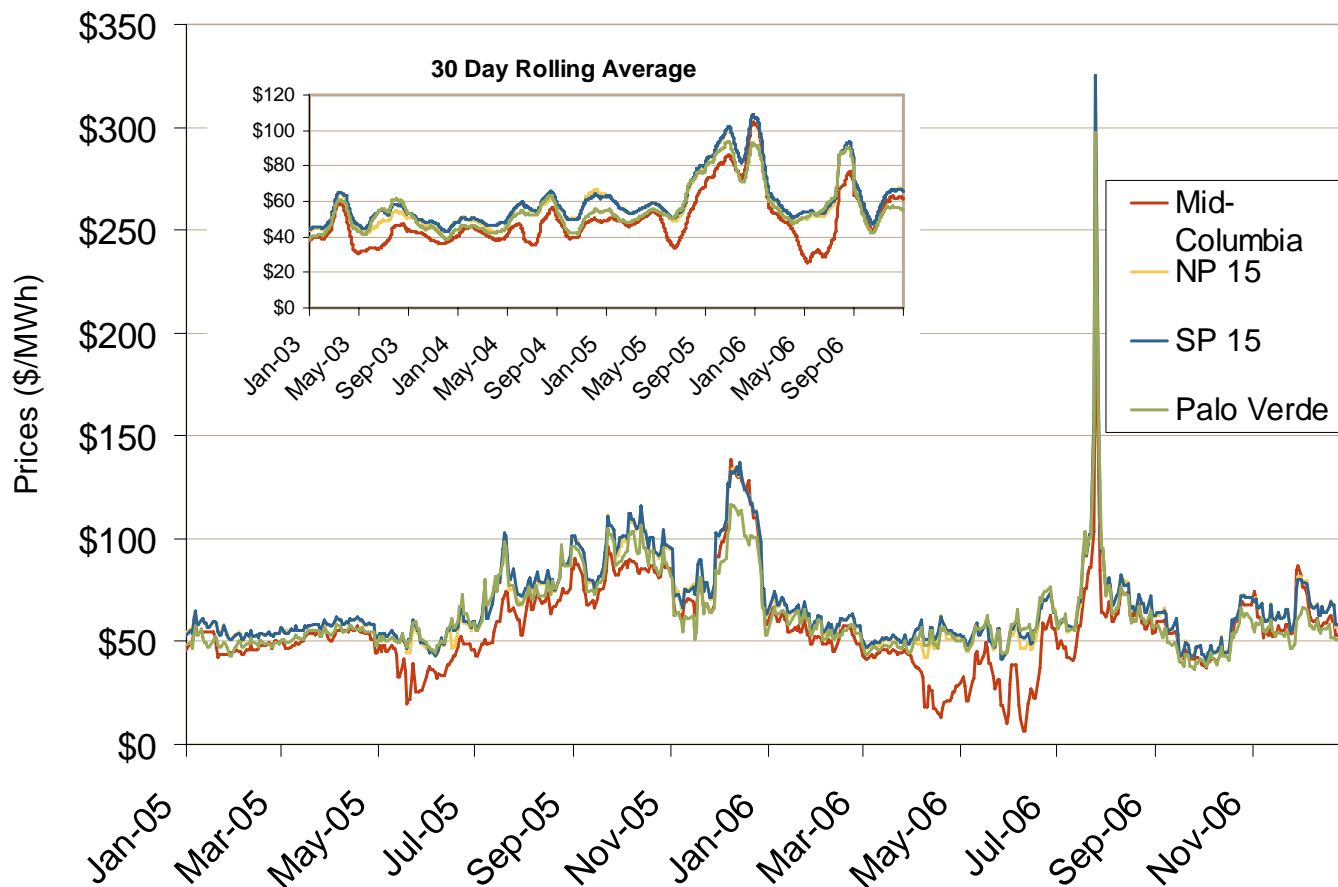


Source: Derived from *Platts* data.

Updated January 16, 2007

Northwest Electric Market: Prices

West Coast Daily Bilateral Day-Ahead On-Peak Prices

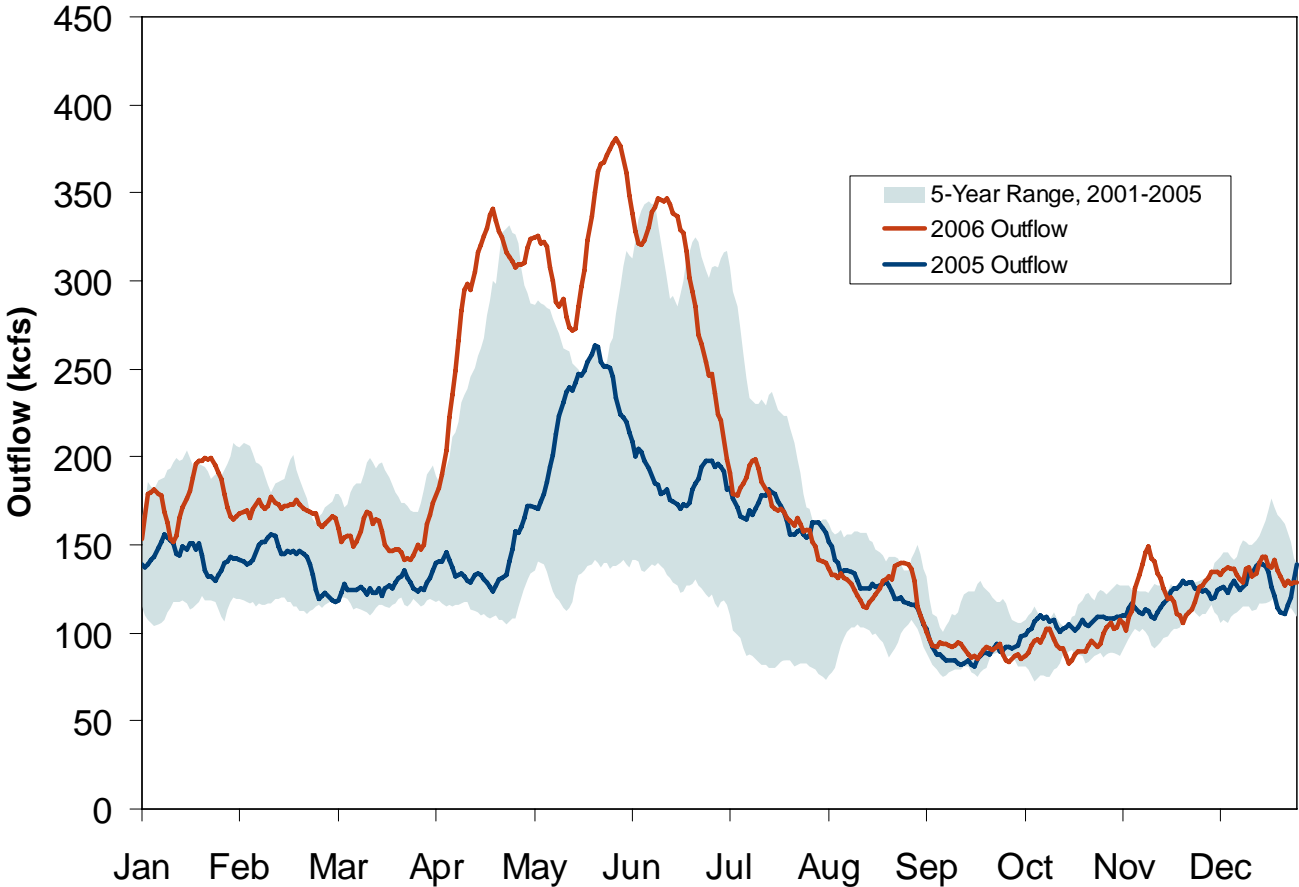


Source: Derived from *Platts* data.

Updated January 16, 2007

Northwest Electric Market: Hydro

Stream Flow at The Dalles Dam

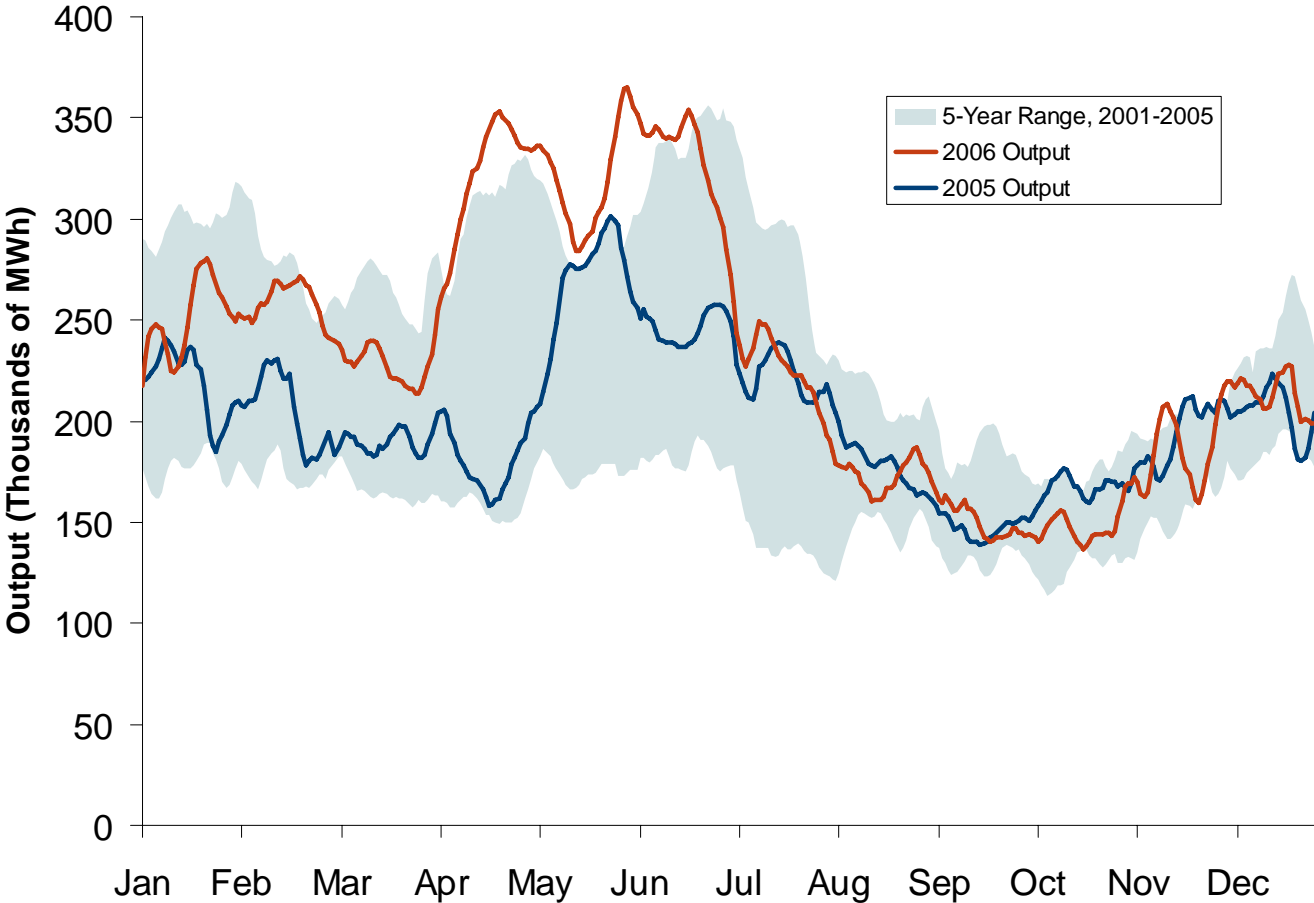


Source: Derived from USACE data.

Updated January 16, 2007

Northwest Electric Market: Hydro

Pacific Northwest Hydroelectric Production

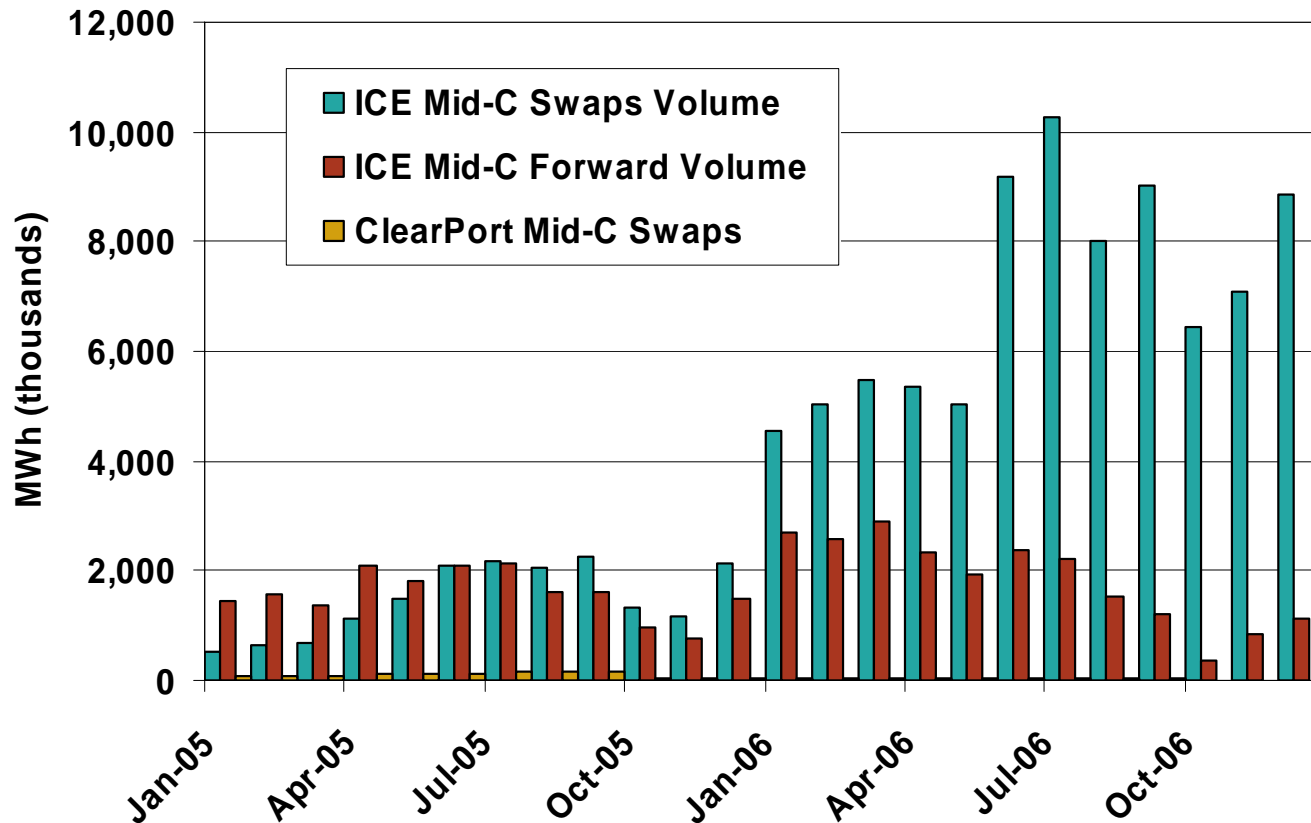


Source: Derived from USACE data.

Updated January 16, 2007

Northwest Electric Market: Financial Market Volumes

Mid-Columbia Forward and Swap Volume



Source: Derived from ICE and Nymex ClearPort data. ICE on-peak forward and swap volumes are for Mid-Columbia and include monthly, dual monthly, quarterly, and calendar year contracts traded for each month. Nymex ClearPort on-peak swaps volumes are for Mid-Columbia and are traded by month.