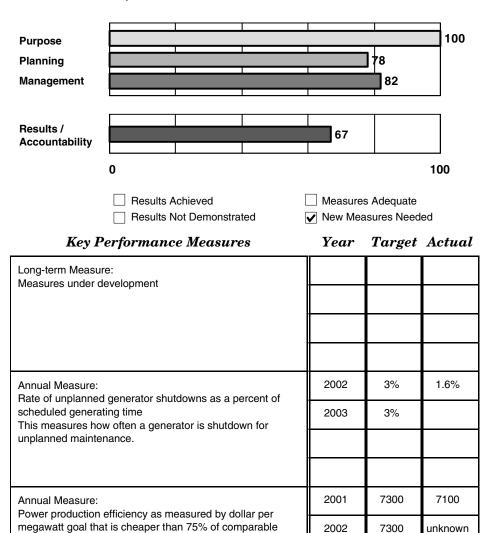
Program: Reclamation Hydropower

Agency: Department of the Interior **Bureau:** Bureau of Reclamation

hydropower facilities

are determined for this measure.

The agency is still improving technical details on how costs



2003

7300

Rating: Moderately Effective

Program Type: Capital Assets

Program Summary:

The Bureau of Reclamation's hydropower program provides electricity and ancillary services for the 17 Western States. It operates 58 power generating dams, which generate about 10 percent of electrical capacity in the western U.S. The dams and resulting resevoirs also provide water for irrigation, drinking water supply and recreation. Financing of Reclamation's hydropower program is complex, including a combination of appropriations and direct funding, most of which is reimbursable through power sale revenues or direct reimbursement from power customers.

The assessment indicates that the program is strong overall but needs to improve its long-term planning. Specific findings include:

- 1. Reclamation competently manages its hydropower program. It effectively maintains its facilities, closely tracks costs, and reliably provides low-cost power to its customers.
- 2. The dams and other facilities are aging, yet Reclamation has not adequately developed a long-term strategic plan to address this.
- 3. The main goal for the hydropower program is to maintain reliable power generation while keeping power production costs low. Reclamation has successfully met its annual performance goals for these measures. However, its long-term goal is to meet its annual goals in perpetuity. Meeting its annual goals in perpetuity is inadequate as a long-term goal because it lacks a vision for Reclamation's future in hydropower.
- 4. The Administration is developing long-term goals that will better reflect areas where Reclamation could improve its tracking and provision of ancillary power delivery services.

In response to these findings, the Administration recommends that:

- 1. The Department of the Interior give funding priority to dam safety and maintenance of aging facilities, above non-core activities.
- 2. Interior develop long-term strategic plans including long-term performance measures.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate
164	166	171