## **Coal Unit Overview**







Randy Henderson
Principal Joint Projects Coordinator
April 8, 2021 IRPAC

#### **Presentation Overview**

- Current coal unit operations
- Coal exit story
- 2021 IRP coal unit cost inputs, considerations and assumptions

These inputs are critical to support a robust directional comparison of portfolio costs.

#### **Current Operations—Jim Bridger**

- Jim Bridger Units 1–4
  - Jointly owned with PacifiCorp (IPC 1/3<sup>rd</sup>, 706 MW)
  - Joint ownership is not unit specific.
  - Plant output (dispatch) is scheduled independently.
  - Each party is proportionally responsible for ownership share plant minimum output level (when the units are online). Joint decision to take a unit offline.
  - Operating and capital costs are shared proportional to ownership.
  - Coal is supplied from Bridger Coal Company (co-owned with PacifiCorp) and the Black Butte mine.



#### **Current Operations – North Valmy**

- North Valmy Unit 2
  - Jointly owned with NV Energy (IPC 50%, 138 MW)
  - Plant output (dispatch) is scheduled independently.
  - Primarily seasonal (summer operations)
  - Unit operating and capital costs are shared proportional to ownership.
  - Sharing of common plant costs is governed by a 2019 Framework Agreement.
  - Each party is responsible for unit minimum output level proportional to ownership (when both partners are in the unit).
  - Coal supplied via rail from Utah, Colorado, southern Wyoming and southern PRB.



# **Drivers of Coal Unit Exits for Utilities**

- Economics and Market Forces
  - Aging infrastructure, increases in operating costs
  - Drop in marginal operating costs of other dispatchable resources (natural gas)
  - Declining cost of and increased adoption of renewable energy technologies
- Greenhouse gas legislation
- Other environmental legislation and requirements related to acid rain, regional haze, and the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) rule.
- Compliance with portfolio standards
- Carbon-reduction commitments

## IRP Coal Exit Story/Chronology

- Boardman
  - Settlement with State of Oregon for Regional Haze Compliance
  - Last day of operations was October 15, 2020

- Valmy Unit 1 Exit
  - December 31, 2019

2019 Preferred Portfolio and exit timing

#### **Status of Bridger Discussions**

- Currently working with PacifiCorp to develop term sheet
  - Outline specific terms regarding responsibilities for unit exits for each partner with different exit dates

#### **Bridger Fuel Forecast**

#### **Bridger Coal Company (BCC)**

- Joint venture with PacifiCorp
- Two different mining operations
  - Surface mine—end-of-life year for planning purposes—2028
  - Underground mine—scheduled to cease production end of 2021
  - > Approximately 69% of the need 2021–2028

#### Black Butte Coal Company (BB)

- Owned by Lighthouse Resources, LLC
- Delivered via Union Pacific Railroad—approx. 20 miles
- Approximately 31% of the need 2021–2028; 100% in 2029–2030

### **Valmy Fuel Forecast**

- Uinta Basin coal 2020 average spot prices published by the U.S.
   Energy Information Administration (EIA).
- 2020 published spot prices generally escalated 2.30% annually through 2025.
- Rail transportation cost is based on existing contract prices.

#### **Bridger Unit Exits—Cost Considerations**

- Costs <u>likely avoided</u> with an early exit
  - Variable costs: cost for coal, and non-fuel operating costs tied to a unit of production
  - Incremental unit-specific capital investments
- Costs not likely avoided with an early exit
  - Remaining net plant balances
  - Ongoing ownership share of fixed operating costs if co-owner chooses to continue operating
  - Decommissioning and demolition costs
  - Ongoing investments in common plant infrastructure
- Valmy Unit 1 Exit (Framework) Agreement is used as a guide to inform Bridger costsharing assumptions in the IRP analysis.

## **Additional Bridger Considerations**

- If a coal unit exits earlier than 2034, these costs will be added to the AURORA portfolio results:
  - Remaining rate base balance of the unit
  - Any remaining decommissioning and demolition costs to cover that unit's responsibility
- Cost inputs are coordinated with PAC (budgets), but coal unit exit timing is analyzed and modeled independently from PAC.

# **Questions?**

