

MINUTES OF LINCOLN ELECTRIC SYSTEM ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Minutes of the regular meeting held at 9:30 a.m., Friday, March 21, 2025, at the Kevin Wailes Operations Center, 9445 Rokeby Road, Lincoln, Nebraska. Public notice of today's meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on March 14, 2025.

Board Members Present: Carl Eskridge, Lucas Sabalka, David Spinar, Chelsea Johnson, Andy Hunzeker, Eric Schafer, Alyssa Martin.

Board Members Absent: Kate Bolz, Karen Griffin.

LES Staff Present: Emeka Anyanwu, Shelley Sahling-Zart, Emily Koenig, Paul Crist, Lisa Hale, Jason Fortik, David Malcom, Matt Andersen, Sally Jarecke, Jim Rigg, Marc Shkolnick, Scott Benson, Keith Snyder, Denise Parrott, Kellie Cave.

Others Present: Nathan Svatora, Bud Synhorst, Scott Williams, Andrew Blum, Ken Winston, and numerous virtual participants via Microsoft Teams.

News Media Present: None

Chair Lucas Sabalka declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. A safety briefing was provided. Sabalka noted that LES conducts its meetings in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and noted that a copy of the Act is located on the wall in the back of the room and with the Assistant Secretary. Shelley Sahling-Zart, General Counsel, reviewed duties and responsibilities of LES Board members. **Call to Order, Safety Briefing, and Board Member Duties and Responsibilities**

Chair Sabalka asked for approval of the minutes of the February 21, 2025, board meeting. Carl Eskridge moved approval of the minutes. David Spinar seconded the motion. The vote for approval of the minutes was: **Approval of Minutes**

Aye: Andy Hunzeker, Lucas Sabalka, Eric Schafer, David Spinar, Chelsea Johnson, Carl Eskridge.

Nay: None

Absent: Karen Griffin, Kate Bolz, Alyssa Martin.

Ken Winston representing Nebraska Interfaith Power & Light and the Nebraska Sierra Club expressed his appreciation for storm restoration efforts. He commented on a Council **Customer Comments**

Candidate forum held Thursday evening, wherein candidates recognized the reality of climate change. Those in attendance mentioned LES incentives paid a major part in sustainability efforts. He also highlighted the hope that LES would advocate for federal incentives around renewable energy. Winston emphasized incentives for non-profits are an important aspect in decarbonization goal and the overall economy of Nebraska. He indicated Rep. Bacon signed two letters for clean energy funding to continue from IRA. Winston also commented on Nebraska's wind capacity and positive economic impact of Nebraska's renewable resources including clean energy jobs. He's hopeful that advocacy will ensure the continuation of Federal funding for programs like Medicaid and SNAP so that all community members are able to pay their utility bills.

Alyssa Martin joined the meeting.

Scott Williams, representing himself as a Lincoln resident and ratepayer of LES, thanked LES for their ability to keep the lights on during the recent storm and otherwise quickly restore power to customers. Williams expressed the potential benefit of solar panels for ratepayers and the positive impact of incentives to LES customers. He thanked LES for their work and incentives, and congratulated LES on being leaders in Nebraska regarding the efforts and success of existing programs.

Chelsea Johnson, Chair of the Operations & Power Supply Committee, reported on Committee discussions held on March 10, 2025, including: 1) Local Generation Update, 2) 2024 Q4 Generation Revenue and Cost Report, 3) Ten-Year Transmission & Substation Plan and Asset Management Efforts, 4) Generation Resource Adequacy Update. (Exhibit I)

**Operations & Power Supply
Committee Report**

Eric Schafer, Member of the Communications and Customer Services Committee, reported on Committee discussions held on March 17, 2025, including: 1) Campaigns and Education Plan, 2) Strategic Planning Community Engagement Plan Update, 3) Zoo Lights Powered by LES Wrap-Up, 4) Customer Portal Wrap-Up, 5) 2024 Energy Assistance Program. (Exhibit II)

**Communications &
Customer Services
Committee Report**

Carl Eskridge, Vice-Chairman of the District Energy Corporation (DEC) reported on the recent DEC Board meeting held January 28, 2025. Items discussed included: 1) Management report, 2) Financial report, 3) Miscellaneous business. (Exhibit III)

Quarterly District Energy Corporation (DEC) Update

Paul Crist, VP of Energy Delivery, provided a preliminary report of the winter storm that hit Nebraska on 3/19/25. He spoke highly of the efforts of the field crews working in harsh conditions. An initial summary of recovery efforts including current number of outages, safety/injury cases identified, peak wind gusts, and ice accumulation was provided. Assets affected during storm include poles, transformers, and tree trimming/removal occurrences. He reported the peak customer outages was 12,000. Crist commended the “all hands-on deck” approach of LES and provided an overview of employee involvement in assessment and restoration efforts. He indicated LES will offer to help our public power neighbors, specifically Omaha Public Power District and Norris Public Power District. For this event, no mutual aid crews have been dispatched to LES. Andy Hunzeker expressed gratitude on behalf of the board and the community for the job well done during this storm effort. Emeka Anyanwu, LES CEO, commented on the appreciation surrounding the grace and patience of the community during restoration.

3/19 LNK Ice Madness Storm Update (Preliminary)

Matt Andersen, Analyst, Rates and Forecasting, and Government Affairs stretch assignment employee, reported on activities in the Nebraska Legislature and legislative bills that impact LES. Yesterday marked the 48th day of the session, with adjournment scheduled for June 9. Priority designation for bills was due March 14. LES will continue to monitor priority-designated bills and those added to committee packages.

Legislative Update

- LB 317, which merges the Department of Natural Resources with the Department of Environment and Energy, has been prioritized by Sen. Brandt. Although no official amendment has been filed, LES will monitor this bill closely as it is expected to leave committee this session.
- LB 349, which lacks priority designation, had a hearing on March 6. The Power Review Board testified in the neutral capacity but raised concerns about inconsistencies with PRB

guidance document 14 on energy storage. OPPD and NPPD opposed the bill, and LES submitted a letter of opposition. LES prefers to wait for the Southwest Power Pool to finalize energy storage rules before state legislation is crafted. The latest amendment to LB 349 aims to align the language with PRB guidance document 14, restricts storage from selling accredited capacity to non-Nebraska public power entities and limits public power entities' eminent domain powers over energy storage facilities. LES opposed removing this power and remains opposed to LB 349, preferring to wait for SPP guidelines.

- LB 489 remains in committee without priority designation. The industry is divided on whether to ban private transmission or to regulate it through the PRB. LES is working to ensure existing customers are not adversely affected and will continue to monitor the bill. Sen. Brandt is interested in addressing the gap in PRB authority over private transmission in Nebraska.
- LB 503, another bill addressing energy storage, lacks priority designation. Although there has been no formal activity, the bill drafter intends to remove the energy storage language. If this occurs, LES will move to a neutral stance.
- LB 526, Sen. Jacobson's priority bill, targets crypto mining operations. A draft amendment proposes removing the excise tax and requires: 1) crypto mining operations above 1 megawatt to identify themselves to the electric utility; 2) the utility to post a list of such operations and their annual energy usage; and 3) crypto mining operations to allow service interruptions per utility rate schedules. This amendment includes municipalities. The original bill did not grant LES any new powers. LES is unaware of any crypto mining operations in its service territory and is not comfortable publishing specific customer usages, which contradicts current policies. LES will continue evaluating the bill's implications.
- LB 644 and LB 660, both concerning drones, have priority designation. LB 644 prohibits utilities from purchasing drones or components from foreign adversaries but includes an NERC exclusion exempting LES due to NERC compliance. LB 660 mandates purchasing drones and components from an approved list. Although not conflicting, these bills propose different approaches to the same issue.

Andersen also recapped the events hosted by the Nebraska Power Association for senators. Last month, the NPA held a Legislative Reception at Billy's Restaurant, allowing utilities to discuss legislation impacting public power. Additionally,

Lineworker Appreciation Day is scheduled for April 14, where NPA will provide coffee and donuts for senators and bring lineworkers to meet district representatives. (Exhibit IV)

Scott Benson, Manager, Resource & Transmission Planning, provided an update on LES' position with resource adequacy. Due to new SPP rules, LES' projected accredited capacity—the generation capacity that SPP will count toward meeting LES' peak load requirements—is expected to drop significantly by 2026. To help mitigate this, Benson presented several near-term resource options, including a pending hydropower purchase power agreement with Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, adding approximately 22 MW to LES' nameplate capacity. Other potential options include natural gas projects at Terry Bundy Generating Station or new power purchase agreements for wind, battery storage or solar. (Exhibit V)

Generation Resource Adequacy Update

Chair Sabalka asked for a motion to go into closed session for the purposes of discussing market-sensitive information regarding contract negotiations. David Spinar made the motion. Carl Eskridge seconded the motion. The vote for entering executive session was:

Executive Session – Contract Negotiations.

Aye: Andy Hunzeker, Alyssa Martin, Lucas Sabalka, David Spinar, Chelsea Johnson, Carl Eskridge.

Nay: None

Absent: Karen Griffin, Kate Bolz, Eric Schafer.

The Board entered Executive Session at 12:13 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 12:34

Alyssa Martin moved approval of the Authorization to Negotiate and Contract for a Hydro Power Source – LES Resolution 2025-2. (Exhibit VI) David Spinar seconded the motion. The vote for the adoption of the resolution was:

Authorization to Negotiate and Contract for a Hydro Power Resource – Resolution 2025-2

Aye: Andy Hunzeker, Alyssa Martin, Lucas Sabalka, David Spinar, Chelsea Johnson, Carl

Eskridge.

Nay: None

Absent: Karen Griffin, Kate Bolz, Eric Schafer.

David Spinar moved the Authorization to Negotiate and Contract for Accredited Generating Capacity – LES Resolution 2025-3. (Exhibit VII) Carl Eskridge seconded the motion. The vote for the adoption of the resolution was:

**Authorization to Negotiate
and Contract for
Accredited Generating
Capacity – Resolution
2025-3**

Aye: Andy Hunzeker, Alyssa Martin, Lucas Sabalka, David Spinar, Chelsea Johnson, Carl Eskridge.

Nay: None

Absent: Karen Griffin, Kate Bolz, Eric Schafer.

The next regular meeting of the LES Administrative Board will be **Next Meeting** Friday, April 18, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Without further business before the Board, Chair Sabalka declared **Adjournment** the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:35 p.m.

Carl Eskridge, Secretary

BY: Kellie Cave
Kellie Cave, Assistant Secretary

Exhibit I



Operations and Power Supply Committee Meeting Summary March 10, 2025

Attendees: K. Griffin, C. Johnson (Committee Chair), L. Sabalka, D. Spinar
L. Anderson, T. Bowman, P. Crist, J. Dagerman, J. Fortik, D. Malcom, S. Sahling-Zart,

Local Generation Update (Todd Bowman):

- Staff provided an overview of the Terry Bundy Generating Station, Rokeby Generating Station, and J Street Generating Station operating performance for 2024.
- The energy output from the Terry Bundy plant was higher than 2023 due to the conclusion of the extended combustion turbine outages, while output from the Rokeby and J Street plants was lower than 2023 due to both equipment outages and reduced market dispatch instructions from SPP.
- Several notable projects were conducted in 2024, including decommissioning of the Salt Valley wind turbines, replacing a service water tank roof, and turbine major maintenance work at all three local generating plants.

2024 4th Quarter Generation Revenue and Cost Report (Lee Anderson):

- Staff presented its analysis of the financial performance of LES's generating resources in the SPP Integrated Marketplace for 2024.
- Despite upward price pressure related to cold weather in January, natural gas prices remained well below Budget throughout the year. This put downward pressure on market electricity prices.
- LES's generating fleet posted overall positive net revenue results for the year, driven primarily by positive returns at the traditional generating plants during the January winter weather event.

Ten Year Transmission & Substation Plan and Asset Management Efforts (Joel Dagerman):

- Staff provided an overview of LES's major transmission and substation assets and the factors influencing their maintenance and upgrade decisions.
- Several large transformer replacement projects, new substation projects, and related transmission projects were either completed or were underway in 2024.
- Ongoing investments in the existing system and the installation of new infrastructure will be required over the next ten years to maintain reliability, system stability, and accommodate customer growth.

Generation Resource Adequacy Overview (Jason Fortik):

- Staff provided a brief review of resource adequacy topics that have been recently discussed with the Committee and the Board.
- Additional discussion of LES's load projections, generating capability status, and generating resource evaluation work will be covered on today's Board agenda.

Exhibit II



Communications and Customer Services Committee Meeting – March 17, 2025 (Virtual)

Attendees: Eric Schafer, (committee member) S. Sahling-Zart, L. Hale, D. Malcom, K. Porter, H. Schlautman, K. Detty

Campaigns & Education Plan:

Classroom education includes activities like snap circuits, hazard hamlet, wind turbine kits and LES' Solar Car Challenge with LPS sixth graders. LES is now involved in junior high and high school science curriculum support and Future City after-school club competition preparation.

LES engages with audiences through many community programs such as Nebraska Natural Resource Districts Natures Nights, the LES & Lincoln City Libraries STEM Reading program and tours for high school and college students.

Many LES Campaigns are underway, including the Sustainable Energy Program, LES Peak Rewards, Virtual Net Metering, careers in energy, outage reporting, energy-saving tips, safety around electricity, renewable energy credits and the upcoming customer portal. The LES value campaign will relay that we power life's special moments about \$3 per day. In its second year is a cross-promotion with the city on combo incentives for qualified customers who purchase air-source heat pumps.

LES' Sustainability Series continues with LES involvement in community activities, such as the Lincoln Earth Day event, NRD Nature Nights, Lincoln Children's Museum and the Lincoln City Libraries. LES will also host its third Ride and Drive later this year. LES' Educational Interactive Tiny House will provide a good foundation for these events. Community members can add Sustainability Series events to their calendars through [LES.com/Sustain](https://www.les.com/Sustain).

The community engagement plan for our strategic planning process is underway. The community survey launched on March 1 and closes on April 30. Community meetings will be held in April. More information can be found at [LES.com/strategic-plan](https://www.les.com/strategic-plan). The LES employee survey launched February 26.

Zoo Lights Powered by LES Wrap-Up:

This past holiday was the sixth year LES partnered with the Lincoln Children's Zoo to present **Zoo Lights Powered by LES**. The event that ran from late November through December is one of the largest holiday light shows in the Midwest, featuring over 250,000 LED lights. This signature community event created positive interactions with more than 70,000 community members. It provided another opportunity to educate the public about energy efficiency, electrical safety, careers in energy and LES programs.

During the event, LES hosted four Energy Nights. Utility volunteers discussed key messages including energy-saving tips, LES programs and energy-efficient equipment, using LES' gingerbread house display. You can see more details, including earned media and social engagement examples in the written reports of this Board meeting. Awards & Accolades: *Zoo Lights Powered by LES was designated as the "Best in*

Nebraska” holiday event by the Lincoln Journal Star AND received the 2025 Nebraska Outstanding Tourism Industry Award.

Customer Portal Wrap-Up:

The Customer Portal went live in September 2024. Highlights included migrated autopay accounts, a new payment processor and the sunset of LES’ former Account Manager (an out-of-date software system that landlords and property owners used). Benefits include: Agencies being able to access and pledge assistance in real time for customers while meeting with them, which results in quicker reconnections for customers; Residential customers enjoying 24/7 access to their account, self-service options and real-time balances; Commercial and Landlord accounts having the ability to manage their portfolios that include all of their properties with one log-in, and are able to make mass payments. As of the end of February 2025, over 55,000 customers have registered on the portal. Customers have engaged in setting up installment plans, signing up for budget billing and processing their move orders as well.

2024 Energy Assistance Program:

We reviewed the Energy Assistance Program for 2024. This partnership, formed in 2001 with Community Action, serves some of LES’ most vulnerable customers in times of crisis. Each year, Community Action’s Emergency Services Department takes phone calls and administers funding for LES. In 2024, they handled over 2,400 phone calls from customers seeking assistance with their utility bill. They were able to help over 1,100 households, the majority of which had been disconnected at the time they received the assistance.

It was noted that there are several other agencies assisting customers who struggle to pay their electric bill, with the largest source of funding being Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which accounted for 93% of other assistance received.

It was also noted that the total amount of assistance to our customers was down in 2024, as all COVID relief funding had run out.

Exhibit III



Summary of DEC Board of Directors Meeting on January 28, 2025

Management

- Staff reported on service interruptions for 4th quarter 2024. There were a couple planned outages for repairs and new equipment installation, but no unplanned outages.
- A recap of the 2024 fuels costs and quantities consumed was provided – along with an update on the natural gas supply strategy and the bid process.
- Capital projects planned for 2025 were reviewed. Two resolutions were approved that requested funding that was not originally part of the 2025 budget. One resolution was for the CADF fluid cooler installation, and the other for the State deaerator vessel replacement.
- Staff reviewed the outage metrics for all of 2024 – which show nearly 100% reliability for unplanned interruptions across all DEC plants.

Financial

- The preliminary 2024 Financial Report was presented. Sales and revenues closely followed budget in total, but there was a swing towards more cooling and less heating.
- Operating expenses were very close to budget, and non-operating expenses were about 12% below budget. Overall, the change in net position was 10.6% better than budget, due primarily to investment income.
- Staff also presented the Semi-Annual Investment Report and gave details about DEC's investment portfolio. DEC accounts outperformed the benchmarks and allocations were compliant with the investment policy.
- The board did approve a resolution that asked for some changes in the investment policy – this was consistent with the changes made for LES.

Miscellaneous

- A Greenhouse Gas Strategy was approved. This policy stipulates that, as equipment ages out and needs replaced, consideration will be made for choices that reduce emissions.
- Participation in the LES Renewable Energy Credit Rider program, by the LOC plant, and possibly the CADF plant was discussed.
- Bennie Shobe, Lincoln City Council and Carl Eskridge, LES BOD were both reappointed to another DEC term. Matt Schulte, Lancaster County Commissioner, was appointed to the seat formerly held by Rick Vest.
- After discussion of legislative issues relevant to DEC, the board approved sending a letter in support of LB 450, due to the potential for increased funding options for connections to district energy.
- The job position for a District Energy Manager was reposted - applications are being reviewed and candidate interviews are in progress.

Exhibit IV



2025 NEW LEGISLATION IMPACTING LES

LEGISLATIVE BILL	STATUS OF LEGISLATION	SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION	LES POSITION
LB 18	Transportation and Telecommunications Committee Hearing February 11, 2025	(Cavanaugh, J.) Relates to Small Wireless Facilities on poles. This bill gives more rights to local authorities to ensure that new or modified utility poles for small wireless facilities in the right-of-way must be ADA compliant.	Monitor/Confer with the City
LB 20	Natural Resources Committee Approved by Governor	(Cavanaugh, J.) Ensures that no utility shall deny electric service to non-net metering agricultural self-generation facilities with a nameplate capacity of no more than 100 kW. State statutes only require net metering up to 25 kW. This will allow pork producers, farmers, and ranchers to install renewable generation facilities up to 100 kW, but they won't be compensated through net metering.	Monitor
LB 35	Natural Resources Committee Final Reading	(Brandt) LB 35 is intended to clarify provisions from LB 1370 that was passed last year relating to private renewable developers within proximity to a military installation certifying that the facility does not have any components from foreign adversaries. This bill clarifies that privately renewable developers have to certify compliance upon reaching commercial operation, as they apparently are unable to certify this during.	Monitor
LB 43	Natural Resources Committee Emergency Clause Approved by Governor	(DeKay, Hardin) LB 43 is also a bill to clarify provisions from LB 1370 that was passed last year. It was understood based on the testimony on last year's bill that the certification provisions would apply to all future construction of facilities. During the interim, there was discussion that it should also apply to any modifications or repairs to existing facilities. The Power Review Board (PRB) attempted to apply this understanding through a guidance document, but ultimately an Attorney General's opinion counseled the PRB to seek legislative clarification. LB 43 a) adds a definition of electronic-related equipment; b) clarifies that the required certification extends to both new facilities and modifications or repairs to existing facilities if such modifications include electronic-related equipment from foreign adversaries; and c) essentially requires a one-time certification and subsequent notification if a utility or developer finds itself out of compliance. The definition of military installation does not include the Lincoln Air National Guard base. For this reason, LES intends to monitor LB 43, but LES's position would change to opposition if an amendment extended the scope of the legislation to all electric facilities. The latest amendment clarifies that the restrictions in LB 43 only apply to electronic-related equipment or components manufactured by foreign adversaries. The bill also simplifies the approval process to provide that an electric supplier, before commencing construction or acquiring an electric generation or transmission facility and after consulting with the vendor, shall submit a one-time written notice to the PRB certifying that the facilities are and will continue to be in compliance. LES continues to remain unaffected with the exemption of the National Guard base.	Monitor/Oppose if expanded beyond facilities close to military installations



2025 NEW LEGISLATION IMPACTING LES

LEGISLATIVE BILL	STATUS OF LEGISLATION	SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION	LES POSITION
LB 50	Revenue Committee Speaker Priority Bill General File	(DeKay, Dover, Hansen, McKeon) LB 50 amends the nameplate capacity tax statutes to carve out 5% for community colleges. Under current law, the nameplate capacity tax is distributed to local taxing entities that do not receive tax revenue from the renewable energy generation resources due to the personal property tax exception. LB 50 would add a 5% distribution of the amount collected to be distributed to the community colleges with the remaining 95% distributed to the remaining local taxing entities.	Monitor/Confer with the City
LB 91	Natural Resources Committee Approved by Governor	(DeKay, Brandt, Clouse) Relates to public power districts providing electric services to a city or village, where the city or village wants to take ownership of the distribution system, and the public power district has no debt on the system. This bill deletes “without cost” when transferring the assets so the public power district may negotiate the purchase and collect any additional appreciated value that would be lost. This is a decades-old provision that is likely obsolete in today’s industry, but we will monitor this bill and any amendments.	Monitor
LB 117	Revenue Committee Hearing January 31, 2025	(Holdcroft) LB 117 exempts from sales and use taxes any sales and purchases of utilities, including electricity, natural gas, propane and sewer for residential use. Residential use includes an apartment that is paid separately or as a separate line-item from rent, as well as use at a commercial property where the primary use of the property is as a residence. Sales tax is a pass-through obligation for LES so there is no financial impact to LES in eliminating the sales tax, though LES is assessing how the exemption will be applied in certain cases. As it’s written, cities, like Lincoln, will not be able to collect a local option sales tax. However, at the committee hearing Sen. Holdcroft stated that they intended to add an amendment to carve out a local option in the bill.	Monitor/Confer with the City
LB 121	Natural Resources Committee Hearing January 30, 2025	(Hardin, Lippincott) Prohibits the land disposal of the component parts of solar panels and wind turbine blades. This will require sending such materials out of state for disposal.	Monitor



2025 NEW LEGISLATION IMPACTING LES

LEGISLATIVE BILL	STATUS OF LEGISLATION	SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION	LES POSITION
LB 129	Natural Resources Committee Hearing January 29, 2025	(McKeon, Hardin, Lippincott, Lonowski) LB 129 prevents a political subdivision from implementing any ordinance, code, resolution, rule, regulation, or policy that restricts, prohibits, or has the effect of prohibiting or restricting, any energy sources supplied by a retail marketer of any energy source. An energy source is defined as fuel or power source used to power an engine, including aviation fuel, biofuel, compressed or liquified natural gas, diesel fuel, electricity used for charging electric vehicles, gasoline including ethanol-blended gasoline, gas distillates, hydrogen and liquid petroleum gas. While this bill was primarily introduced on behalf of ethanol producers, LES is concerned about the inclusion of electricity used for charging electric vehicles. This would eliminate LES's ability to assess demand charges on certain charging stations, among other things. At the hearing, McKeon stated that he intended to remove electricity-related provisions. LES will continue to monitor to watch for amendments on general file.	Oppose/Seek an amendment to remove electricity-related provisions
LB 137	Judiciary Committee Hearing February 27, 2025	(Dungan) LB 137 prohibits a homeowner's association from restricting or charging a residential customer for solar panel installation or a pollinator garden. The bill does not impact LES but will be monitored for awareness.	Monitor
LB 163	Natural Resources Committee Hearing January 30, 2025	(Spivey, Cavanaugh, J., Dungan, Fredrickson, Guereca, Juarez, McKinney, Quick) Creates the Office of Climate Action which will operate within the Department of Environment and Energy to serve as a dedicated point of contact to assist with policies and programs and support federal grant initiatives dealing with climate action. The office would also create a climate action plan on or before July 1, 2026, to manage risks of climate change impacts on the state and reduce the causes of climate change within the state.	Support
LB 193	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee General File	(Andersen, Bostar, Holdcroft, Sanders) LB 193 amends the Pacific Conflict Stress Test Act passed last session, specifically provisions relating to the Committee on Pacific Conflict. The bill merely deletes the provisions that provided that the appointments to the committee be made within 60 days after April 17, 2024. The bill seems like a placeholder for additional substantive provisions. LES will monitor the bill for any amendments.	Monitor



2025 NEW LEGISLATION IMPACTING LES

LEGISLATIVE BILL	STATUS OF LEGISLATION	SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION	LES POSITION
LB 264	Appropriations Committee Hearing February 18, 2025	(Arch, at the request of the Governor) Eliminates a number of existing Acts including the Nebraska Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act. This act was introduced in 2021 as LB 650 and established regulatory framework and support for carbon storage technology. LB 264 would eliminate this act which would impact ongoing and future carbon storage projects. The elimination of this act would create regulatory uncertainties with legal and procedural aspects of carbon storage projects and hinder funding or access to carbon storage projects. This would create a more challenging environment for electric utilities aiming to reduce their carbon emissions.	Oppose
LB 291	Urban Affairs Committee Hearing February 04, 2025	(Urban Affairs Committee) Adopts the Aid to Municipalities Act to provide grants to municipalities to pay for infrastructure projects. The bill specifically includes, among other things, transmission lines in the definition of 'infrastructure project.' It includes an annual appropriation of \$15 million for the Aid to Municipalities Fund, with a cap of \$5 million per grant.	Monitor/Confer with the City
LB 317	Natural Resources Committee Natural Resources Priority Bill Hearing February 13, 2025	(Brandt, at the request of the Governor) LB 317 is a comprehensive bill of over 400 pages that effectuates the merging of the Department of Natural Resources with the Department of Environment and Energy. It appears that most of this bill is updating all titles as they currently appear in statutes. Sen. Brandt has indicated that he is working on an amendment to address some of the concerns with the bill. Most notably, the bill as introduced removes the professional engineer qualification for the director position. Brandt indicated that his intent was to only make the position more accessible and did not realize the importance of having that qualification for apprenticeships. LES has not seen a formal amendment to this bill but will continue to monitor with the bill's priority designation.	Monitor



2025 NEW LEGISLATION IMPACTING LES

LEGISLATIVE BILL	STATUS OF LEGISLATION	SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION	LES POSITION
LB 349	Natural Resources Committee Hearing March 06, 2025	<p>(Prokop) LB 349 specifically defines electric energy storage and is intended to clarify that both public and private electric suppliers can own and operate electric energy storage facilities. In talking to the bill sponsor, it appears the intent of the bill is that if the facility is a standalone energy storage facility, it would have to be approved by the Nebraska Power Review Board (PRB) under the same criteria as any other non-renewable generation facility. If it is part of a privately developed renewable generation facility, it would be approved subject to the certification provisions in statute for such privately developed facilities. LES has concerns about introducing state statutes regarding battery storage when SPP is still defining guidelines. The latest amendment filed intends to clarify the difference between standalone battery storage and storage associated with a generation resource. However, the language is still unclear whether standalone storage would be approved under the normal PRB approval process. The amendment also changes language in existing statutes regarding eminent domain for public power districts from a public power district “shall have and exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire from any... private corporation any and all property...” to “may exercise...”. This does not affect LES as it only applies to public power districts.</p> <p>An unofficial amendment has been shared with LES by the bill drafter that intends to align the language in LB 349 closer to the PRB’s guidance document 14. It also expands on the eminent domain language to provide that no property owned, used, or operated by an energy storage resource shall be subject to eminent domain by a consumer-owned electric supplier, which would include municipalities such as LES. While there may not be the intent to exercise its power of eminent domain, LES is opposed to giving it up all together. With the language that has been shared, LES is still opposed to LB 349 and would prefer to wait until SPP has finalized guidelines around energy storage.</p>	Oppose as introduced/Seek amendments on definitions
LB 396	Natural Resources Committee Approved by the Governor	<p>(DeKay) LB 396 eliminates a requirement for public power districts to make their budgets available to the general public in a form approved by the Power Review Board. They are still required to make the budget available. The bill only eliminates the requirement for the form of the budget to be approved by the PRB. This bill does not impact LES and will just be monitored.</p>	Monitor



2025 NEW LEGISLATION IMPACTING LES

LEGISLATIVE BILL	STATUS OF LEGISLATION	SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION	LES POSITION
LB 409	Natural Resources Committee Hearing February 20, 2025	(Cavanaugh, J.) LB 409 would change the composition of the Power Review Board to include at least one licensed journeyman electrician who is affiliated with a nonprofit labor organization for electrical workers. The board would still be comprised of five members—an attorney, an engineer, a union member, and two laypersons. It is unclear what purpose would be served by having a journeyman electrician on the PRB. The PRB’s role in approving the applications for generation and transmission is more geared toward evaluating the public convenience and necessity of a project and the overall economics of the project. The PRB does not evaluate any technical specifications, nor does it evaluate any aspects of project labor. LES does not see a purpose to be served by adding this requirement on the PRB. A journeyman electrician could already be appointed as one of the three laypersons.	Monitor/Seek clarity on the intent with bill introducer
LB 413	Natural Resources Committee Hearing February 05, 2025	(Clouse) LB 413 relates to rates and charges set by public power districts. This bill adds language to provide that rates and charges may be differentiated based on load size, load factor, firm and nonfirm service, technology risks, length of service commitment, and other objective criteria. It is LES’s understanding that the bill was introduced to give utilities greater flexibility in setting appropriate rates for large, transitory loads such as cryptomining. As introduced, the bill does not include municipalities. In addition, LES already has rates and charges that are differentiated based on things like load factor and other criteria, but we still maintain cost of service rates within rate classes that are fair, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory. LES has also evaluated mechanisms to deal with large, transitory loads, but it is not clear that this would provide the desired flexibility. An unofficial amendment has been shared with LES that intends to simplify this bill drastically where it only adds two words to the existing statute to clarify that rates are “not unduly” discriminatory . While this bill only applies to public power districts LES will continue to monitor it as it moves through the process.	Monitor
LB 450	Urban Affairs Committee Hearing February 11, 2025	(Fredrickson) LB 450 amends the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act to add grid resiliency improvements as a qualified improvement in a clean energy assessment district. Grid resiliency improvement would include acquisitions, modifications, or installations benefiting public or private property, and would include backup power generators, generators powered by renewables, solar panels with battery storage, and smart grid technology. There is no direct impact to LES, though the term “grid resiliency” generally refers to the utility level rather than to the customer level.	Monitor/Confer with the City
LB 468	Revenue Committee Clements Priority Bill Hearing February 05, 2025	(Clements) LB 468 changes a number of tax provisions, including increasing the nameplate capacity tax on renewable energy generation from \$3,500 to \$6,500 per megawatt of nameplate capacity.	Monitor



2025 NEW LEGISLATION IMPACTING LES

LEGISLATIVE BILL	STATUS OF LEGISLATION	SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION	LES POSITION
LB 477	Business and Labor Committee Hearing February 24, 2025	(Fredrickson) LB 477 amends the Workplace Privacy Act and includes provisions to prohibit employers from requiring employees to use or wear electronic tracking devices to track the employee's location or travel patterns. An employer can still track employer property as long as the property and employee possessing or using the property are not associated in the data collected. It's unclear how this would affect employer property, specifically cell phones and iPads, which are assigned to employees for cyber security purposes. LES is concerned that there may be unintended impacts in this bill which would negatively impact safety procedures.	Oppose/Seek amendments on definitions
LB 489	Natural Resources Committee Hearing February 05, 2025	(Brandt) LB 489 is intended to prohibit private entities from operating, maintaining, constructing, or acquiring a transmission line or related facility carrying more than seven hundred volts. As written, the language would impact new primary-metered customers who would construct or maintain 15 kV or 35 kV lines. It would also seem to preclude transmission lines built by private developers to interconnect privately developed renewable energy facilities with public power providers. An unofficial amendment has been shared with LES which, if filed, would alleviate LES's concerns. However, there is disagreement among the industry for how private transmission facilities should be handled in the state. LES intends to continue discussions around private transmission facilities to ensure current customers are not unintentionally affected and to close the gap in the approval process.	Oppose as introduced
LB 503	Revenue Committee Hearing February 19, 2025	(Bosn, Ballard, Bostar) Allows counties to be able to adopt the American energy friendly designation which allows for privately developed renewable energy facilities to not have to abide by several county and zoning regulations. The bill provides that privately developed renewable energy generation facility has the same meaning currently in statute "and also includes any electric energy storage resource." It is unclear whether this is intended as a renewable project that includes energy storage, or whether energy storage could be a standalone facility. A county can pursue designation as an American energy friendly county by either applying to the Department of Revenue for such designation, or by submitting the question of whether to apply for the designation to a vote of registered voters in the county. If the county receives the designation, it essentially agrees to a model set of zoning and setback requirements or parameters. LES would like clarification on the definition of energy storage before determining a position on this bill. While there has not been an official amendment filed for LB 503, the bill drafter has shared that battery storage will be removed from the language in LB 503. If this language is removed, LES would move to a neutral position. LES will continue to monitor this bill for any amendments.	Oppose as introduced/seek amendments on definitions



2025 NEW LEGISLATION IMPACTING LES

LEGISLATIVE BILL	STATUS OF LEGISLATION	SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION	LES POSITION
LB 526	Revenue Committee Jacobson Priority Bill Hearing February 12, 2025	<p>(Jacobson, at the request of the Governor) Establishes an excise tax on cryptocurrency mining operations where these operations will be taxed at a rate of \$0.025 per kilowatt hour after the first 1,000 kilowatt hours in a calendar year. As introduced, the bill only applies to public power districts. LB 526 also provides that public power districts may require direct payment or a letter of credit from cryptocurrency mining operations for the cost of significant infrastructure upgrades required by such operations. Before requiring such direct payment or letter of credit, the public power district must conduct an independent grid impact study to determine the cost of required upgrades. LES has expressed concerns with this language as it is not clearly defined what this would entail. LES has also expressed concerns about identifying crypto mining customers and implementation of the tax as this may impact current, non-crypto mining customers. The excise tax does not apply to data processing centers, cloud computing, or any other industrial or commercial entities not engaged in cryptocurrency mining.</p> <p>An unofficial amendment was shared with LES which would completely remove the excise tax and include municipalities in the bill. This language is unnecessary as LES already has and is exercising the powers provided in this bill. The amendment also changes to only include crypto mining operations of 1 megawatt and above, provides a requirement that such crypto mining operations notify the utility of their existence, require the utility to post the crypto mining operations in their service territory over 1 megawatt as well as each facilities annual energy usage on the utility's website, and provide that a utility can require a crypto mining operation to be on an interruptible rate schedule. LES is still evaluating the implications of these changes.</p>	Oppose as introduced
LB 546	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing March 12, 2025	<p>(Rountree) Allows a political subdivision that supplies electricity, natural gas, water, or sewer service to request an emergency proclamation directly from the Governor that covers one or more counties for a disaster, emergency, or civil defense emergency without having to first request a proclamation from a county or local government entity. This was introduced on behalf of OPPD. It does not impact LES as the LES service area is located in a single county. LES will monitor the bill.</p>	Monitor



2025 NEW LEGISLATION IMPACTING LES

LEGISLATIVE BILL	STATUS OF LEGISLATION	SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION	LES POSITION
LB 565	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing February 12, 2025	<p>(Quick) LB 565 provides change requirements for guidance documents from agencies which introduces restrictions so guidance documents cannot be issued between July 1, 2025, through July 1, 2027, unless specifically requirement by federal rules and regulations and revokes guidance documents from July 1, 2022, through July 1, 2025. It also adds restrictions so guidance documents cannot impose greater regulation than federal requirements. LES is monitoring this bill as it may impact guidance documents implemented by the Nebraska Power Review Board.</p> <p>An amendment has been filed to clarify that this only includes guidance documents issued by the Division of Developmental Disabilities of the Department of Health and Human Services issued between July 1, 2022, and July 1, 2025. LES will continue to monitor this bill as it moves through the process.</p>	Monitor
LB 590	Natural Resources Committee General File	<p>(Moser) Allows for the Department of Transportation to establish and operate a mitigation bank or an in-lieu fee program to provide compensatory mitigation for the incidental take of threatened or endangered species and such species' habitat arising out of permitted activities. LES will monitor this bill for its potential application related to LES compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other environmental laws.</p>	Monitor
LB 644	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Bostar Priority Bill Hearing February 19, 2025	<p>(Bostar, at the request of the Governor) Adopts the Foreign Adversary and Terrorist Agent Registration Act and the Crush Transnational Repression in Nebraska Act but also amends the Foreign Adversary Contracting Prohibition Act (FACPA) passed in 2024. The bill amends the FACPA to include unmanned aircraft (drones) in the definition of 'technology-related product or service' that cannot be procured from a foreign adversary. It grandfathers unmanned aircraft procured prior to July 1, 2026, but seems to potentially prohibit procurement of unmanned aircraft on or after July 1, 2028. The statute includes an exemption for electric suppliers in compliance with federal critical infrastructure protection requirements.</p>	Monitor/Confer with the City



2025 NEW LEGISLATION IMPACTING LES

LEGISLATIVE BILL	STATUS OF LEGISLATION	SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION	LES POSITION
LB 660	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Government, Military and Veterans Priority Bill Hearing February 19, 2025	(Andersen, Bosn, Holdcroft, Sanders, Sorrentino, Storer) Adopts the Drone Purchasing Act to regulate the purchase of drones. Starting January 1, 2027, political subdivisions are prohibited from purchasing or acquiring drones not cleared by the Division of Aeronautics of the Department of Transportation. This division will create and “regularly” maintain and document known as the List of Secure Drones Authorized for Purchase which contains the names of devices and vendors of drones and unmanned aerial systems that are “(a) cleared by the United States Department of Defense through its Blue UAS program; (b) Determined to be compliant with the requirements of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, Public Law 118-31; (c) Determined by the division to be designed, maintained, modified, or operated in such a manner that they are incapable, under normal operating conditions, of transmitting data to unauthorized persons or entities; or (d) otherwise determined by the division to present no threat to the security of the State of Nebraska. Political subdivision must purchase or acquire only drones cleared by the division “to the extent practical,”.	Monitor/Seek clarification on restrictions
LR 22CA	Natural Resources Committee Hearing February 26, 2025	(Dungan) Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Nebraska to provide that people have the right to a clean and healthy natural environment and that political subdivisions shall serve as trustee of the natural resources of Nebraska.	Monitor

Exhibit V

LES Resource Adequacy Position

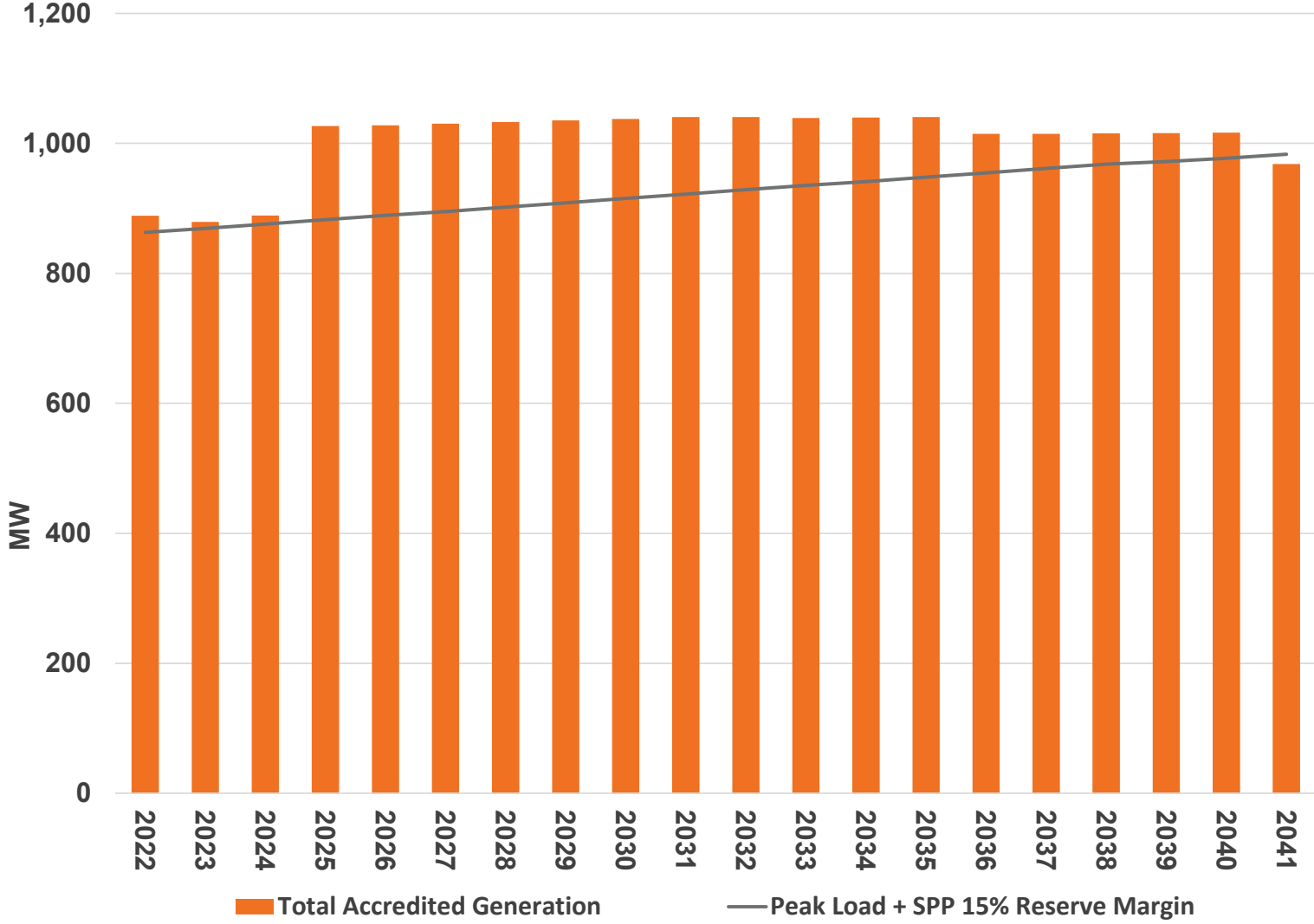
Scott Benson
Manager, Resource & Transmission Planning

March 21, 2025

Background Information

Background

2022 Load & Capability (Planning Reserve Margin = 15%)



Background

Near-Term Resource Plan

October 2022

- ❖ LES IRP identifies near-term resource plan, projected to come within 200 MW of meeting 2040 goal:
 - Eliminate or mitigate coal, looking for the most opportune time to do so.
 - Maintain existing natural gas units.
 - Retain wind portfolio.
 - Pursue new solar resource, not for resource adequacy, but to begin preparing for coal removals.

April 2024

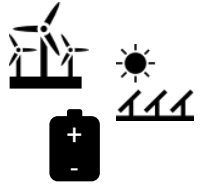
- ❖ Reviewed solar project work to date – conducted by both LES and external consultant – with Operations & Power Supply Committee, including identification of potential locations and preliminary site design.
- ❖ Cautioned committee that pending SPP resource adequacy rule changes could impact the viability of solar, so LES had recently placed this work on pause to allow the SPP process to play out.

August 2024

- ❖ New SPP resource adequacy rules are finalized and approved by SPP BOD; as expected, impacts require LES to reevaluate its near-term resource plan.

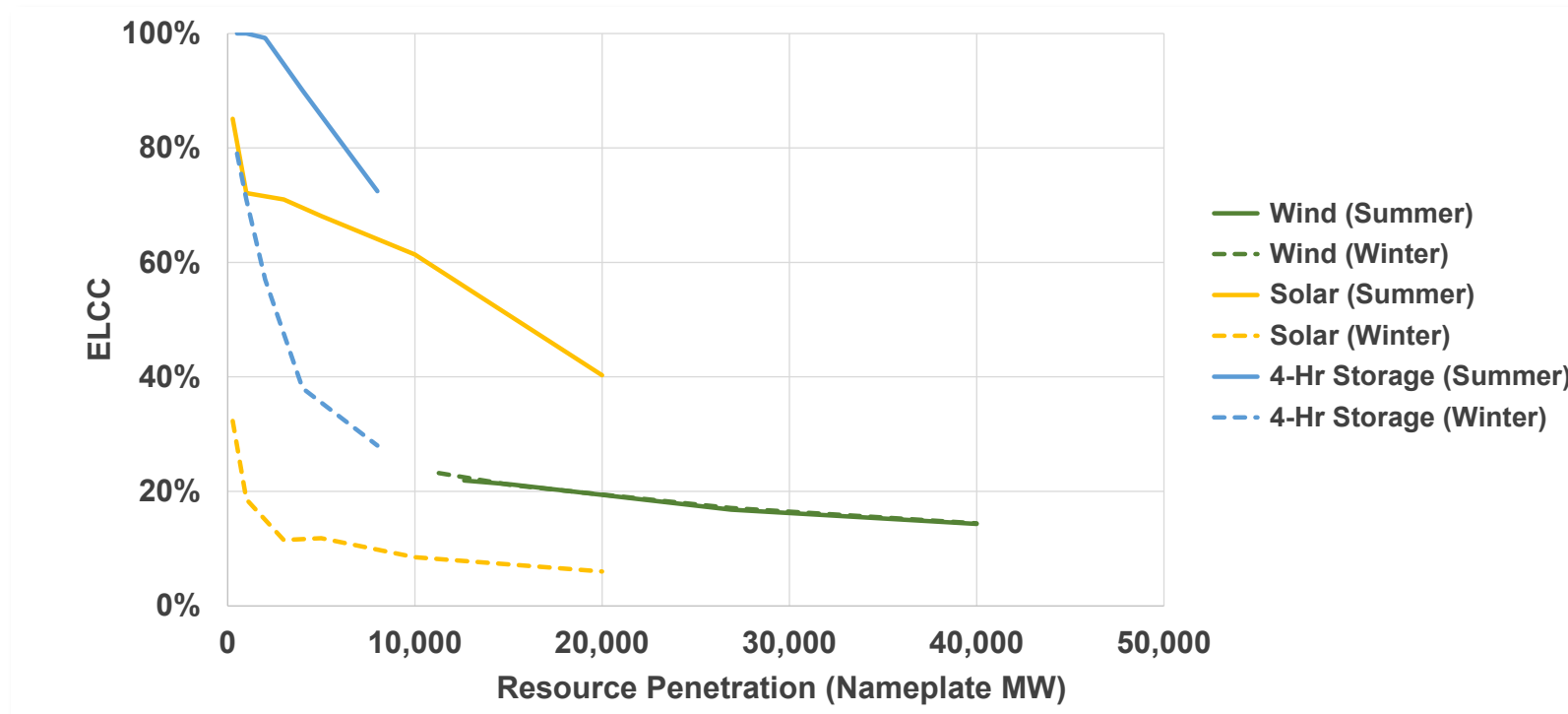
Background

New SPP Resource Adequacy Rules Proposed for 2026



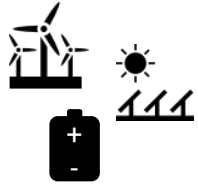
Effective Load Carrying Capability (ELCC)

Derated accreditation of non-dispatchable resources to reflect diminished load-serving benefits as penetration of like resources increases.



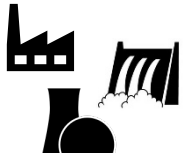
Background

New SPP Resource Adequacy Rules Proposed for 2026



Effective Load Carrying Capability (ELCC)

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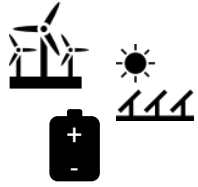


Performance Based Accreditation (PBA)

Derated accreditation of dispatchable resources to reflect historical forced outages, including winter-only fuel-related outages, over the last seven years.

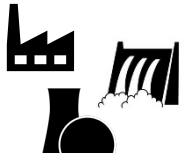
Background

New SPP Resource Adequacy Rules Proposed for 2026



Effective Load Carrying Capability (ELCC)

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Performance Based Accreditation (PBA)

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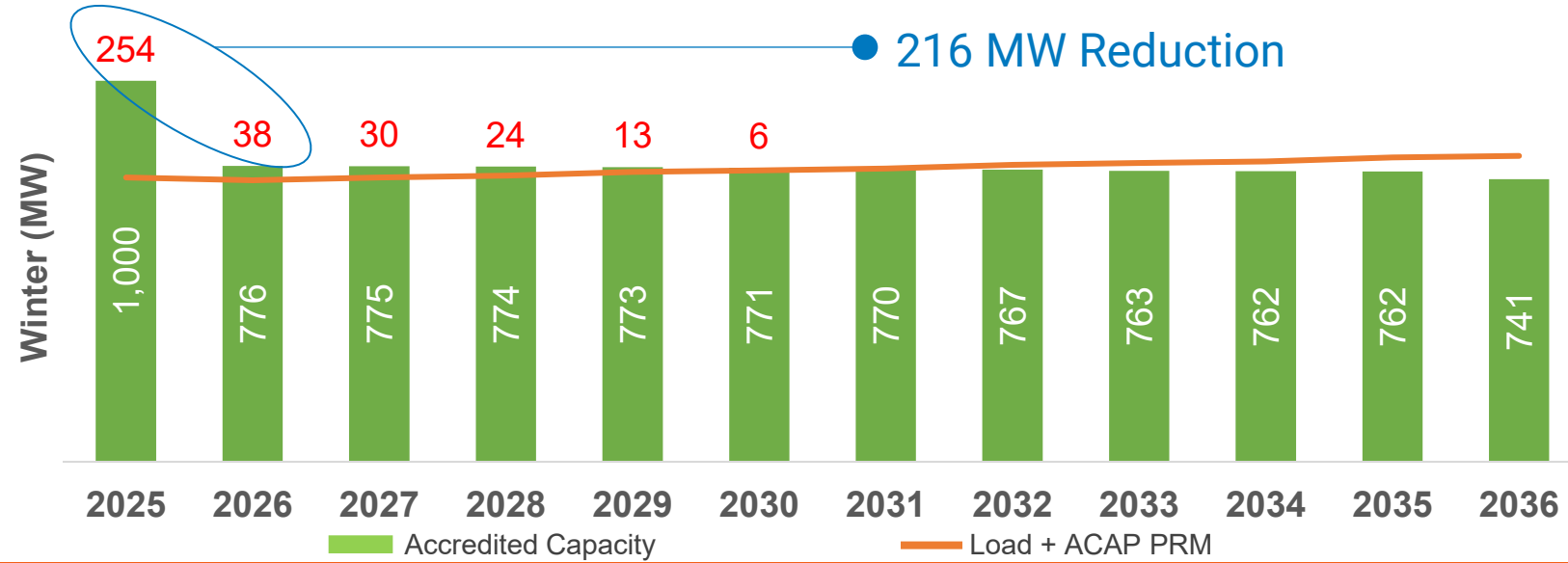
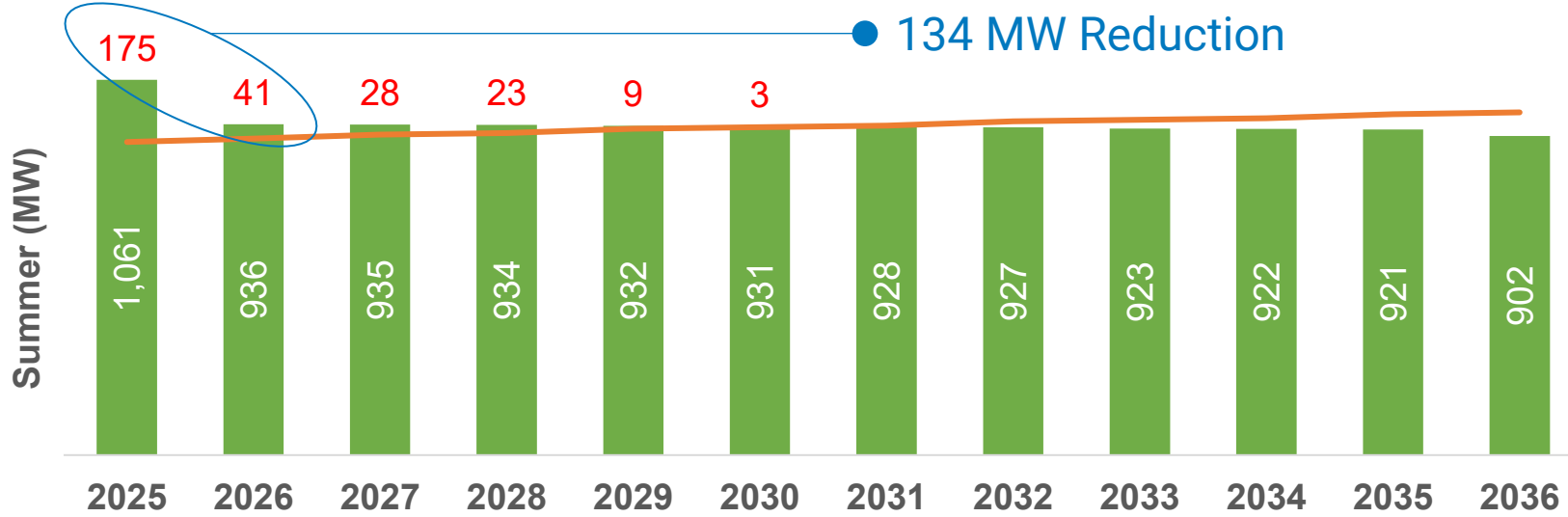
Accredited Capacity Planning Reserve Margin (ACAP PRM)

New SPP reserve margin requirement (peak load + X%) for both the summer and winter seasons.

Resource Adequacy Position

LES Load & Capability

Not Including 2025 Capacity Sales



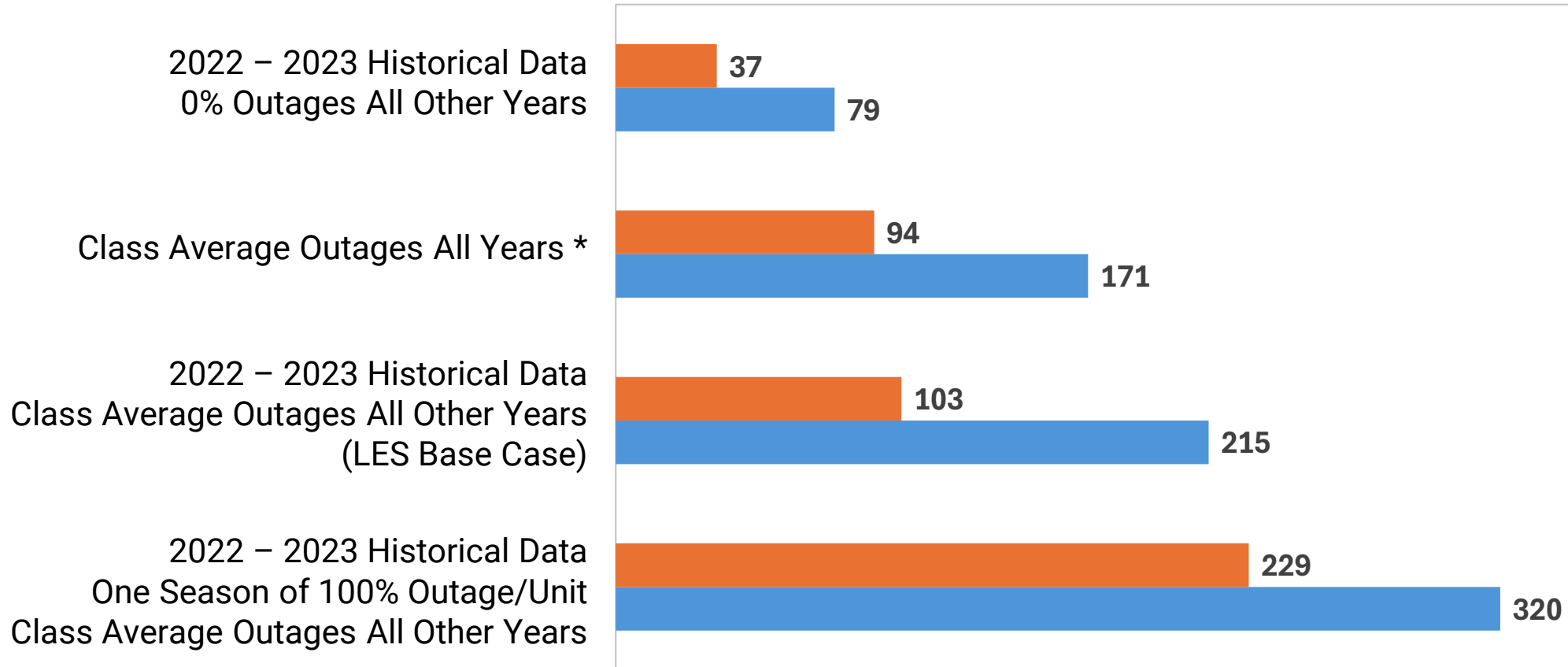
Numerous competing changes between 2025 and 2026 (LES load, SPP reserve margin, etc.), but key reductions in excess capacity are as follows:

Metric	Summer	Winter
PBA	103	215
ELCC	24	10
Total	127	225

Performance Based Accreditation Volatility

2029 Total LES Reduction in Accredited Capacity (All Applicable Resources)

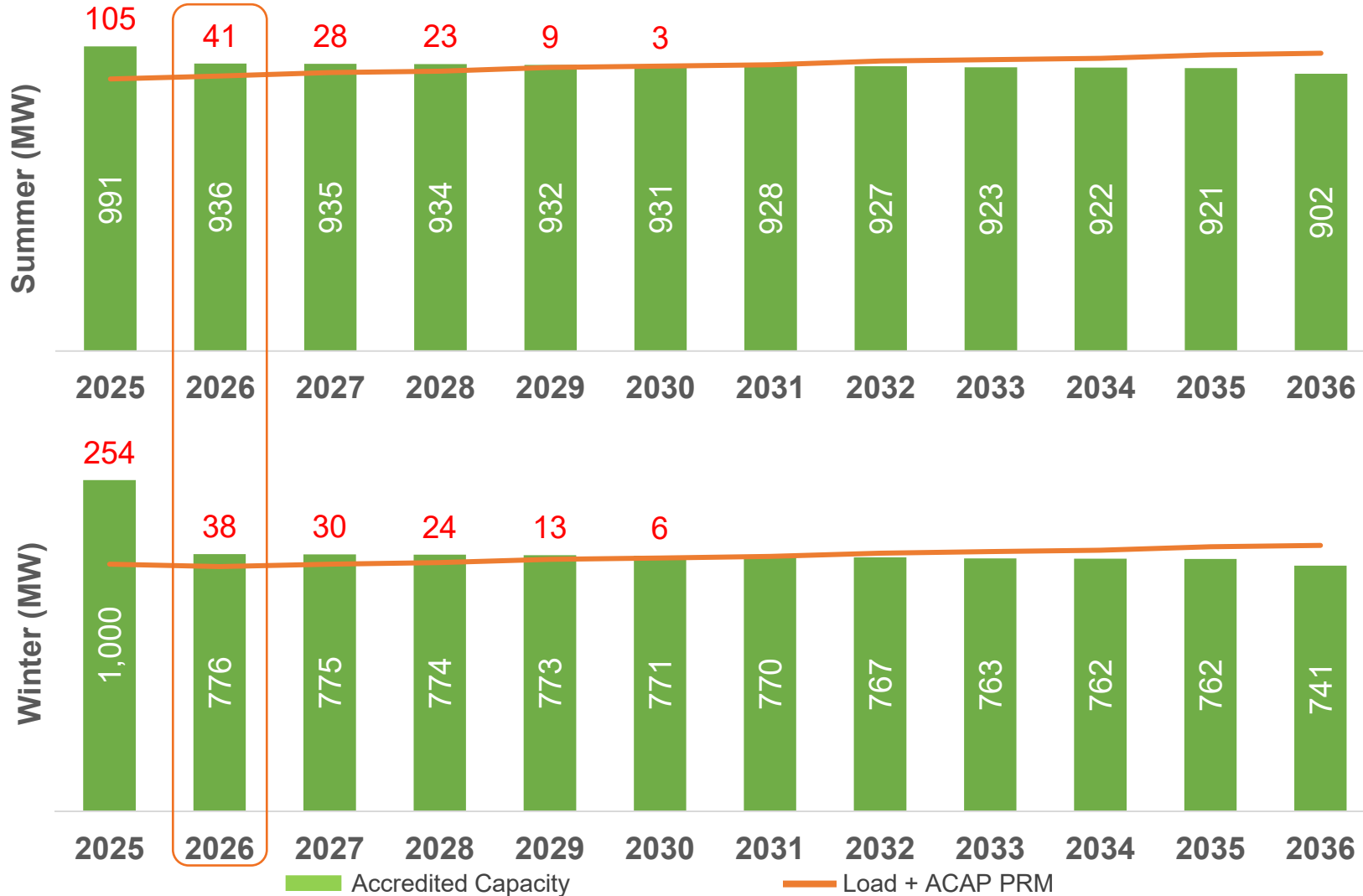
■ Summer ■ Winter



To help mitigate this volatility, PS plans to incorporate a minimum buffer of 50 MW on top of its base case, or roughly half of this difference.

* Provided only for comparison purposes; 2022 – 2023 historical data must be included in 2029 capacity calculation.

LES Load & Capability



Targeting a minimum of 50 MW of excess capacity, LES' "need year" becomes **2026** for both the summer and winter seasons.

Previous near-term resource plan was about achieving the decarbonization goal while maintaining a future path to resource adequacy.

Now our focus must be achieving resource adequacy while maintaining a future path to the decarbonization goal.

Near-Term Resource Plan

Preliminary Options Analysis

Pending Hydro Power PPA

Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District

CNPPID Solicitation

Aug 2024

Resource

Jeffrey Hydro Plant

Nameplate Capacity

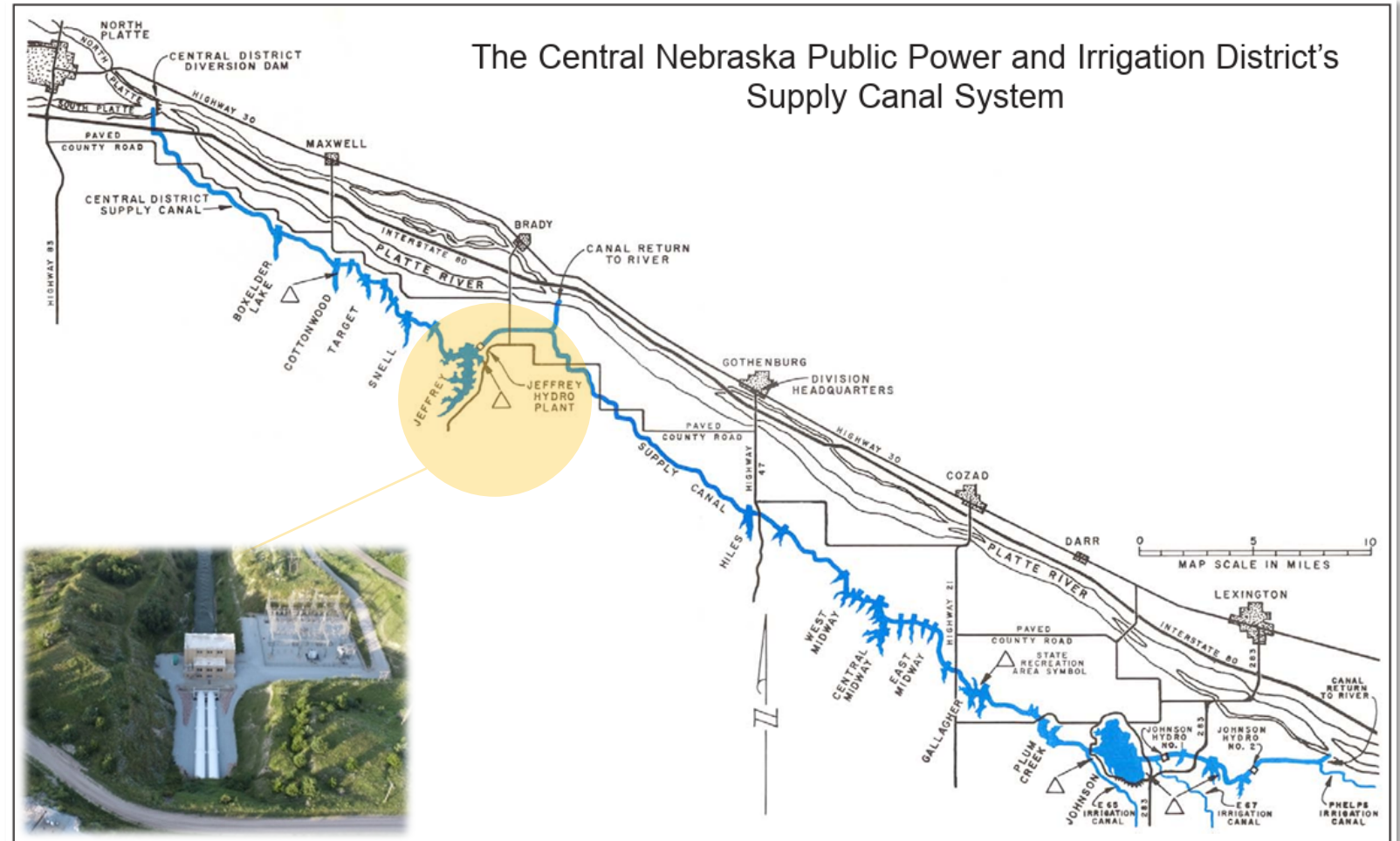
~ 22 MW

Contract Term

Apr 2025 – Dec 2037

Products

- Capacity
- Energy
- RECs



Source: <https://cnppid.com/operations/hydropower>

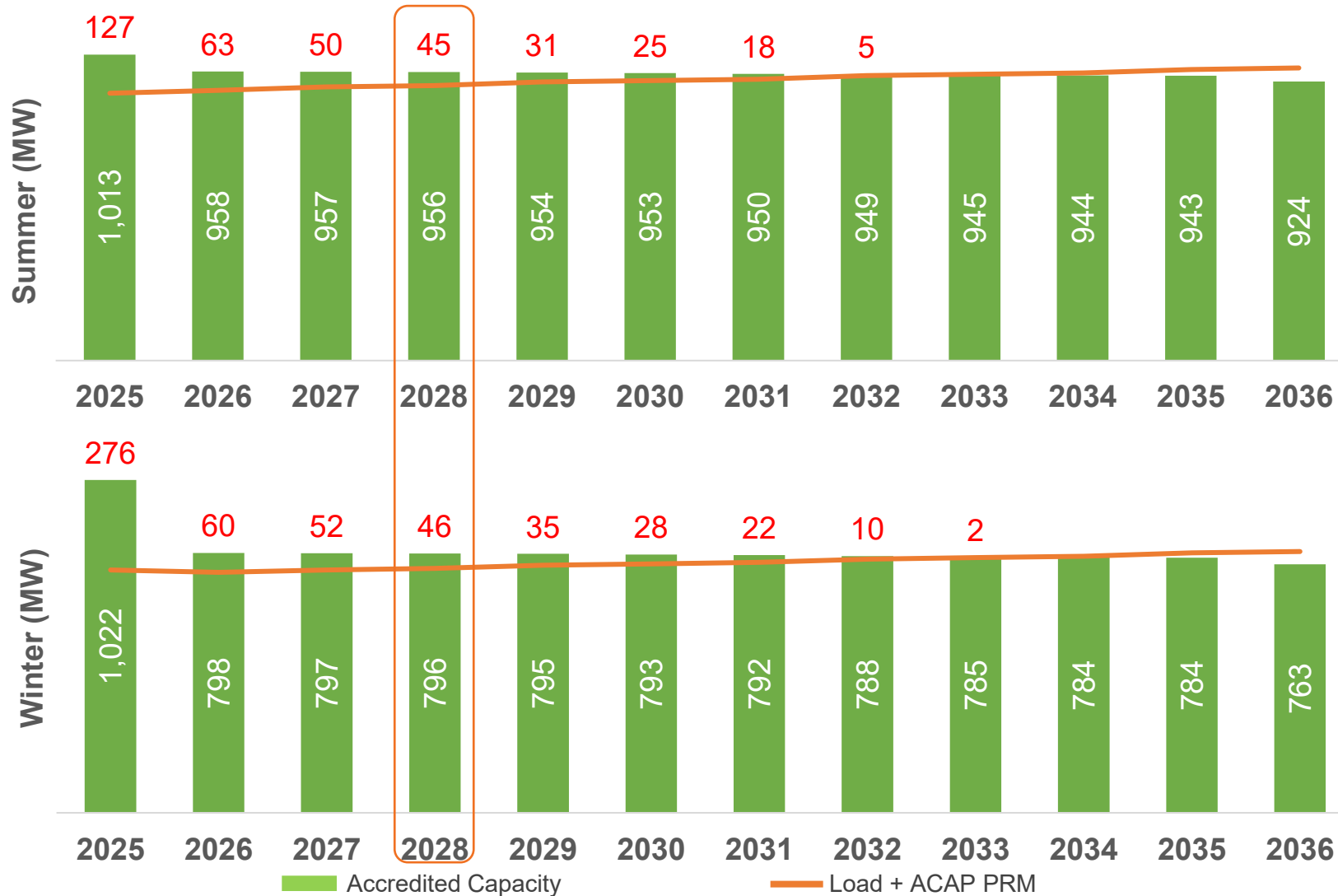


Lincoln Electric System

LES.com

LES Load & Capability

w/CNPPID Hydro (22 MW) @ 2025



Change in Need year
 Summer: 2026 → 2028
 Winter: 2026 → 2028

Due to relatively small size, hydro addition still leaves a near-term need.

Resource Analysis

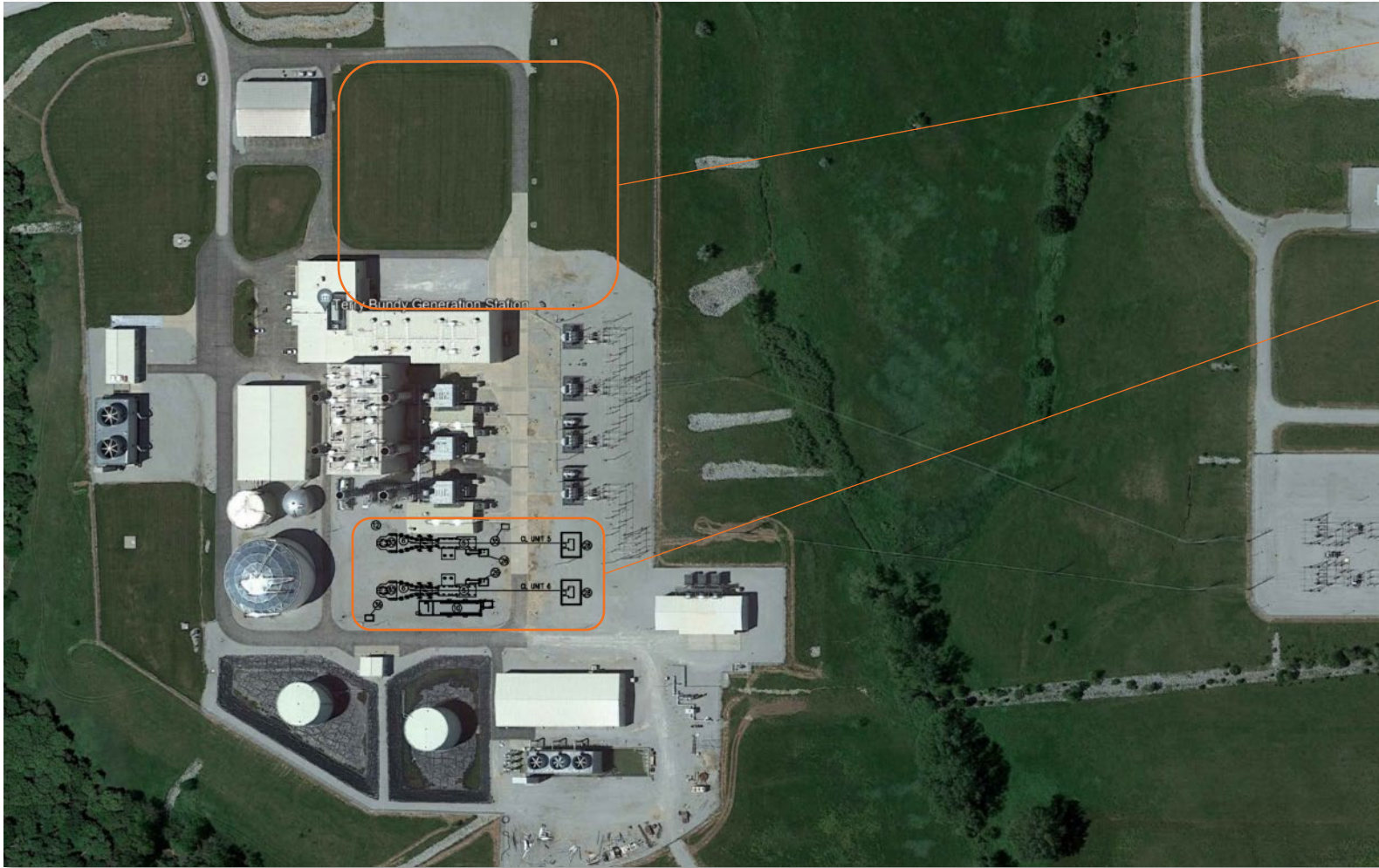
Near-Term Options for Additional Capacity

Resource	Approximate Nameplate MW	Tentative Summer COD
TBGS Aero Combustion Turbine (CT) x 2	100	2030
TBGS Frame CT	80	2030
TBGS Reciprocating Engines x 5	90	2030
Wind PPA	100	2028
4-Hr Battery PPA @ Existing Wind Sites	100	2028
Solar PPA	100	2028

*Also, actively pursuing short-term paper capacity contracts as a bridge to some of the above options.

TBGS Additions

Potential Options



Existing space for additional expansion with Frame or Recip. options.

Existing slots for two LM6000 Aero CT units.

Existing site is a huge advantage when it comes to one crucial component of this near-term resource plan...time.

Also looking at the potential for another huge time saver – a used unit.

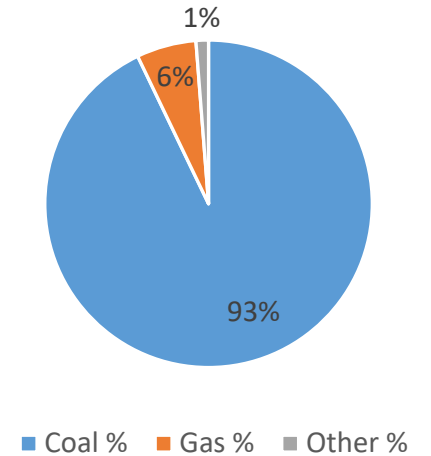
TBGS Additions

Potential Options

	Capital Cost	Number of Shafts	Portfolio CO2 ↑	Annual Net Revenue *
Recip. Engines 90 MW, 20% CF	\$162M	5	+3%	\$1.6M
Aero CTs 100 MW, 13% CF	\$152M	2	+2%	\$0.9M
Frame CT 80 MW, 5% CF	\$115M	1	+1%	\$0.3M

* Assuming 2023 market conditions.

Historical CO₂ Emissions
(2018 – 2023 Avg)



Mid-tier choice in every category, so simplify analysis by choosing Aero CT to represent the broader fleet of natural gas options.

Gas can represent a minor near-term increase in CO₂ emissions in exchange for building the capacity to sustain future coal removals.

Resource Analysis

Estimated Accredited Capacity Comparison

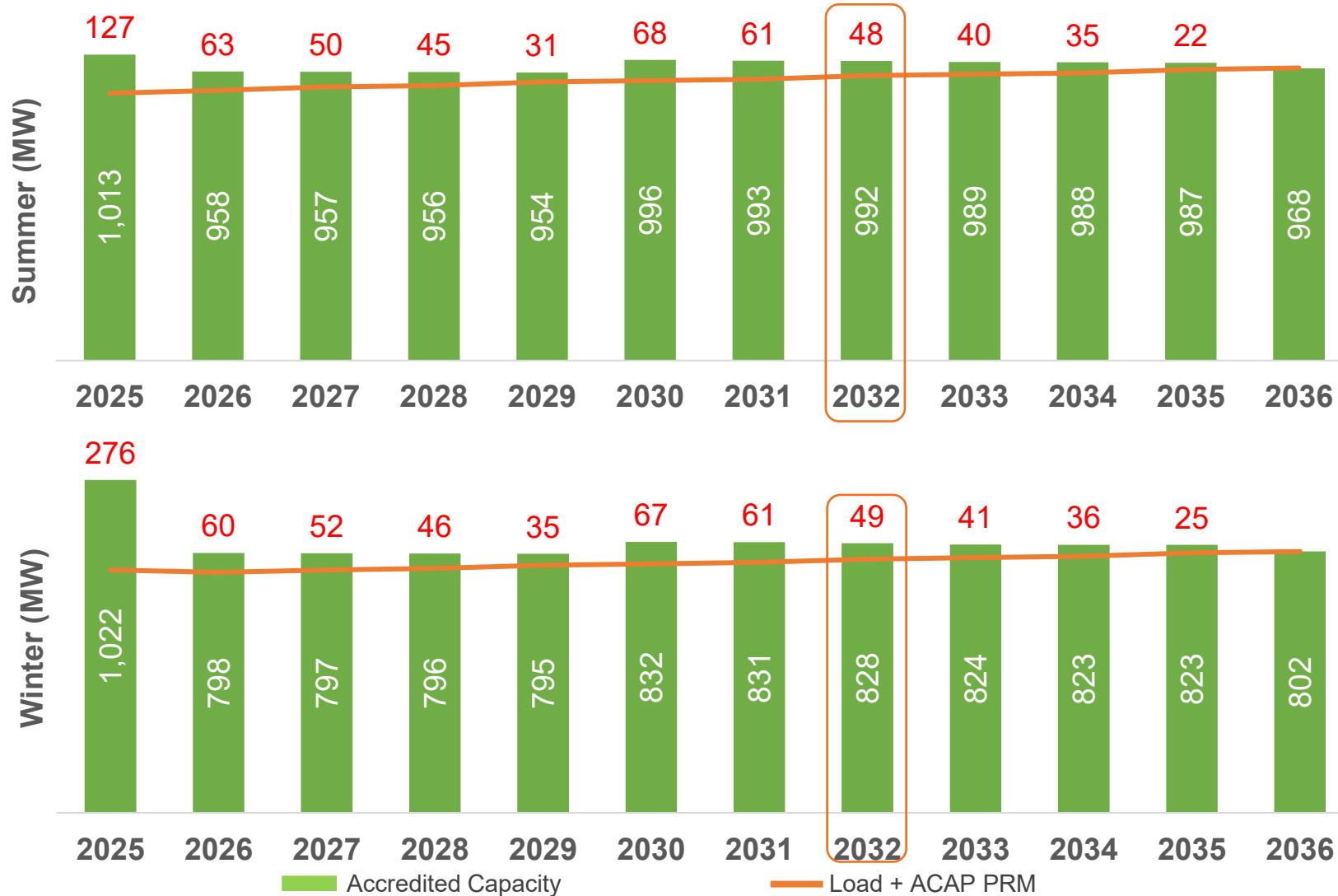


Natural gas accreditation reflects LES' assumptions for the application of PBA.

Wind, solar and battery storage reflect LES' assumptions for the application of ELCC.

LES Load & Capability

w/CNPPID Hydro (22 MW) + one Aero CT (50 MW) @2030

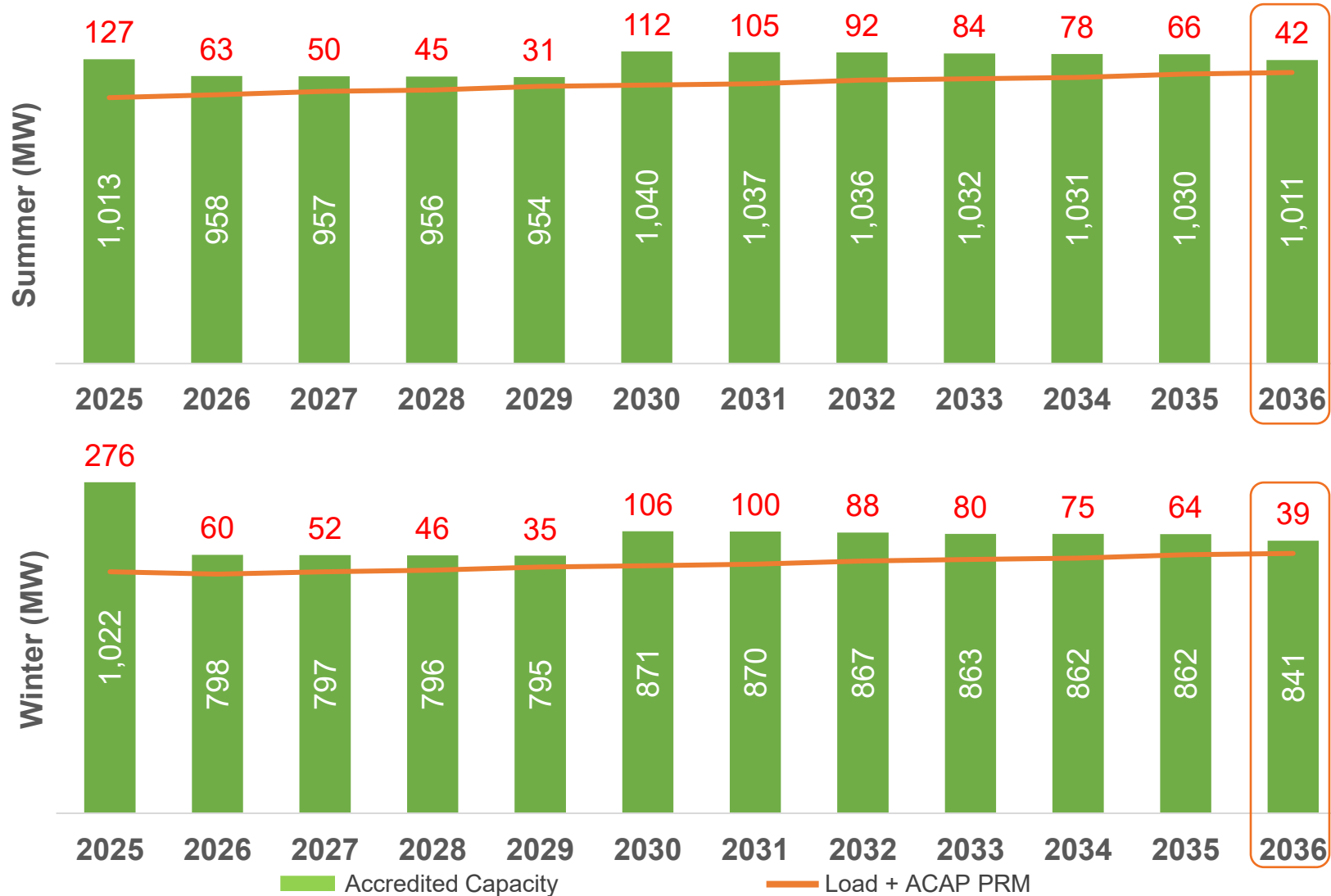


Change in Need year *
 Summer: 2028 → 2032
 Winter: 2028 → 2032
 * Still need to ride through 2029.

One 50 MW Aero CT only moves the need year to 2032, which is still essentially imminent.

LES Load & Capability

w/CNPPID Hydro (22 MW) + two Aero CTs (100 MW) @2030

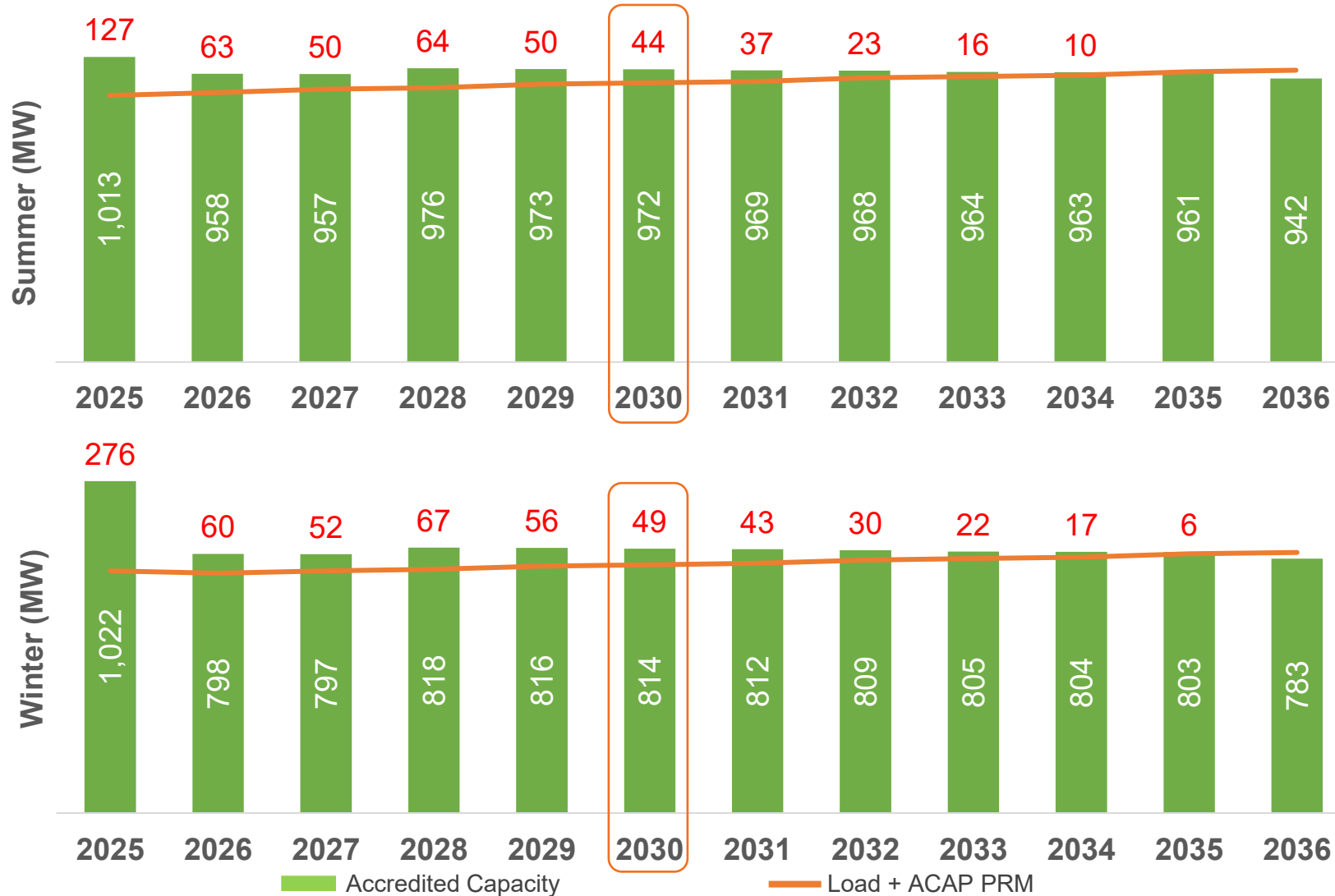


Change in Need year *
 Summer: 2028 → 2036
 Winter: 2028 → 2036
 * Still need to ride through 2029.

100 MW more securely establishes LES' near-term position.

Load & Capability

w/CNPPID Hydro (22 MW) + Wind PPA (100 MW) @ 2028



Change in Need year
Summer: 2028 → 2030
Winter: 2028 → 2030

100 MW Wind PPA only moves the need year to 2030, which is still essentially imminent.

Load & Capability

w/CNPPID Hydro (22 MW) + Wind PPA (400 MW) @ 2028



Change in Need year
 Summer: 2028 → 2036
 Winter: 2028 → 2036

400 MW more securely
 establishes LES' near-
 term position.

Load & Capability

w/CNPPID Hydro (22 MW) + Battery PPA (100 MW) @ 2028



Change in Need year
 Summer: 2028 → 2034
 Winter: 2028 → 2032

100 MW battery PPA sees reasonable summer season improvement, but winter season need is still essentially imminent.

Load & Capability

w/CNPPID Hydro (22 MW) + Battery PPA (400 MW)

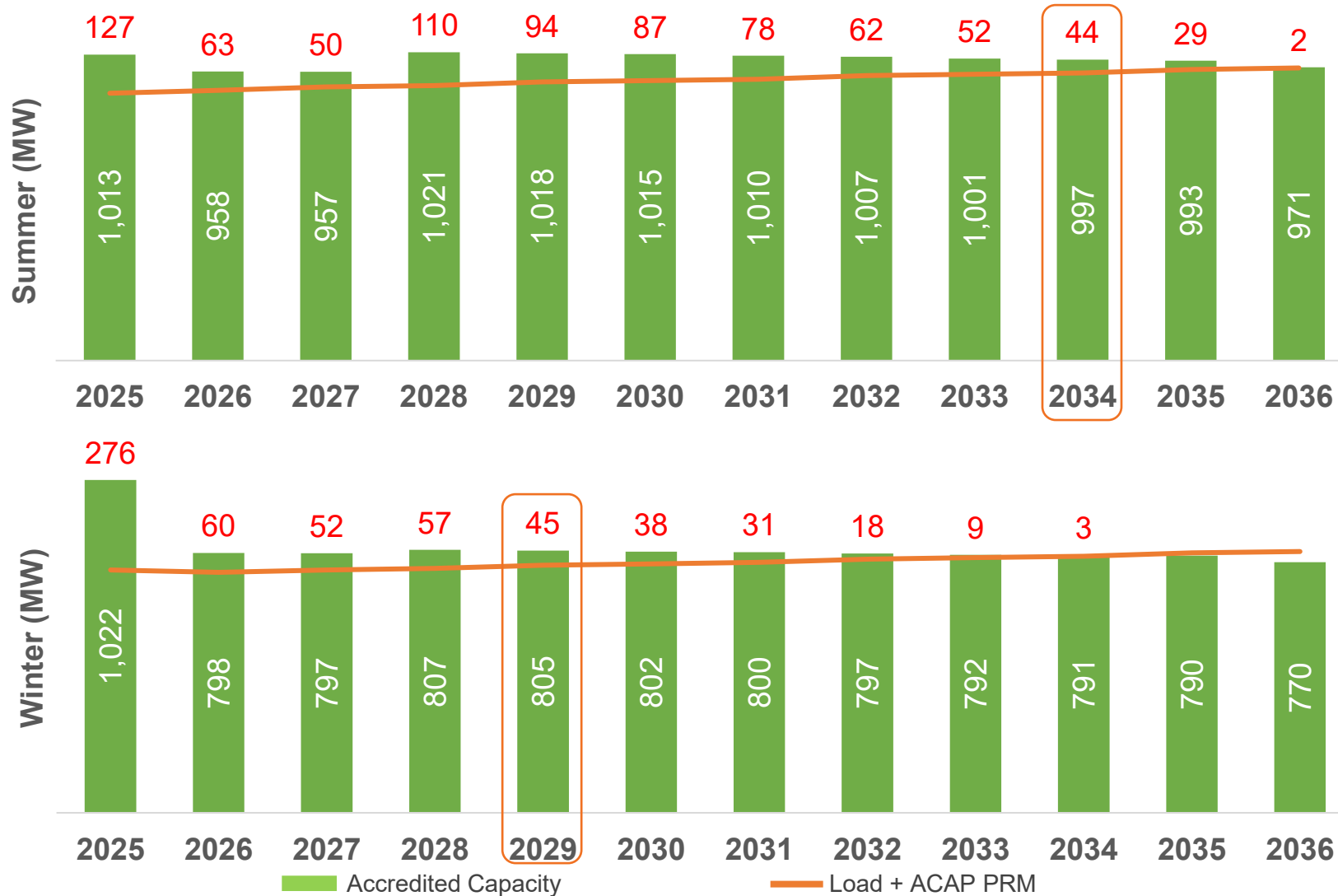


Change in Need year
 Summer: 2028 → 2036
 Winter: 2028 → 2036

400 MW more securely establishes LES' near-term position, but it also requires summer over-build in the near term.

Load & Capability

w/CNPPID Hydro (22 MW) + Solar PPA (100 MW) @ 2028

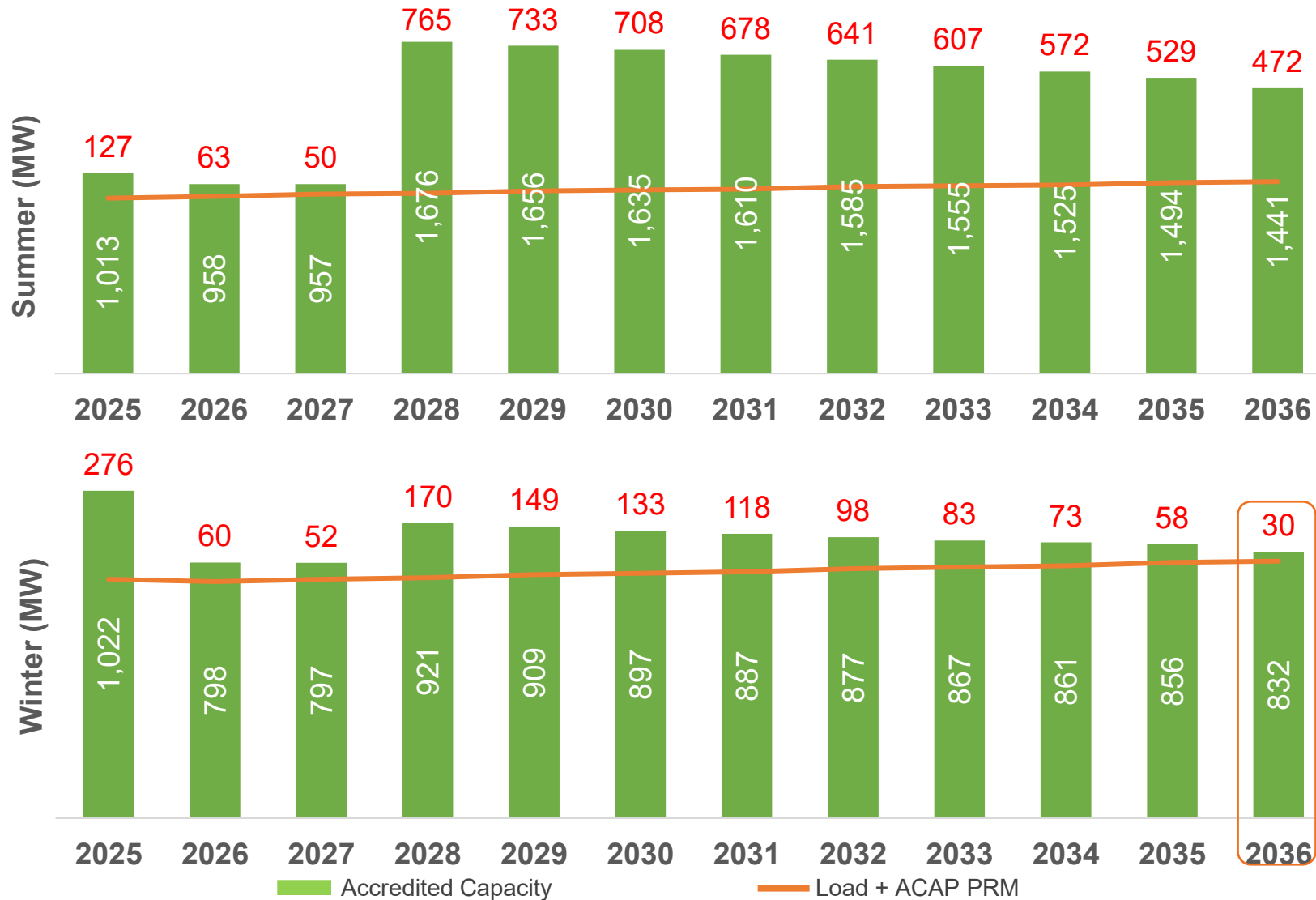


Change in Need year *
 Summer: 2028 → 2034
 Winter: 2028 → 2029

100 MW solar PPA sees reasonable summer season improvement, but winter season impact is negligible.

Load & Capability

w/CNPPID Hydro (22 MW) + Solar PPA (1,100 MW) @ 2028

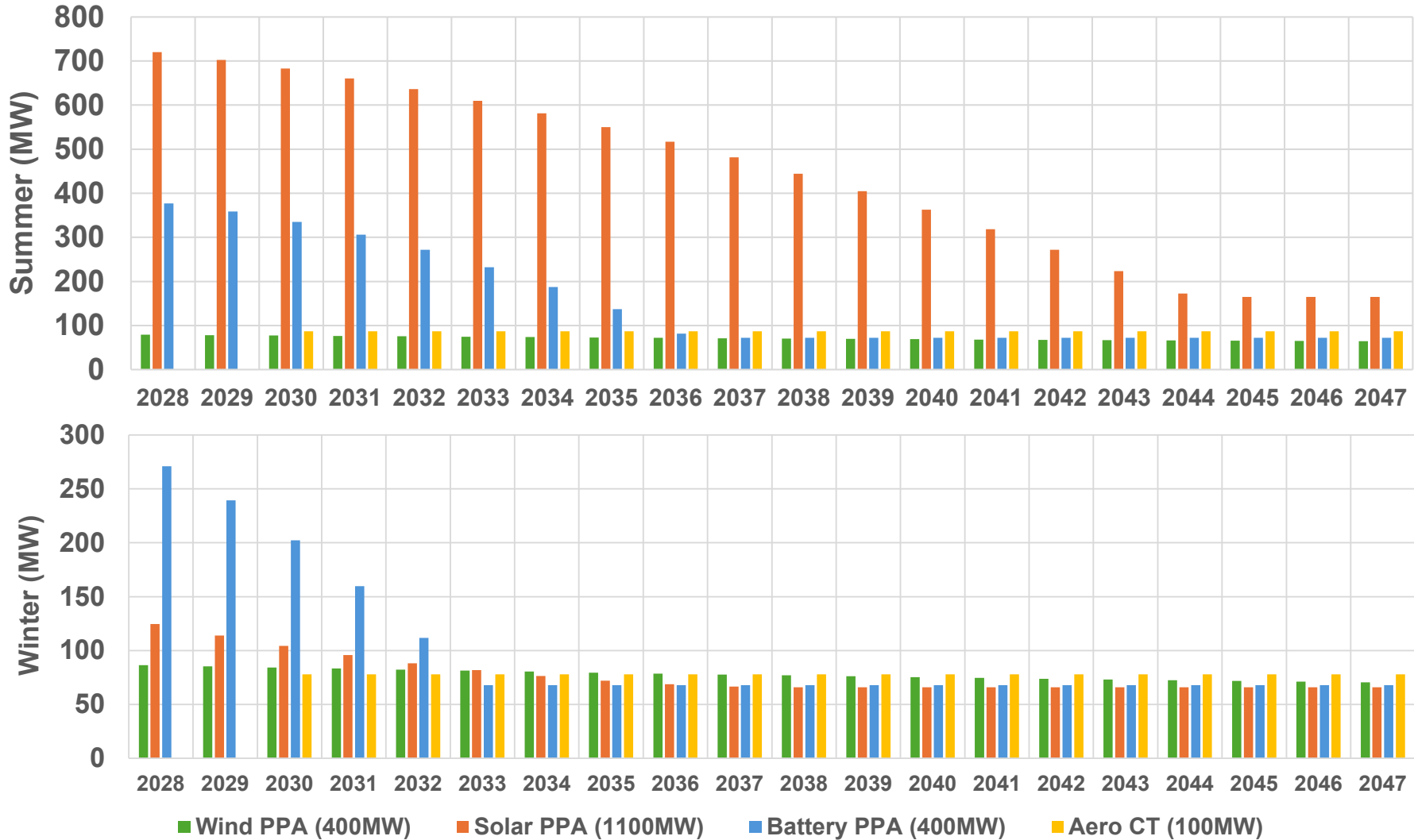


Change in Need year *
 Summer: 2028 → 2036+
 Winter: 2028 → 2036

1,100 MW more securely establishes LES' near-term position, but it also requires significant long-term summer over-build.

Resource Analysis

Estimated Accredited Capacity Comparison

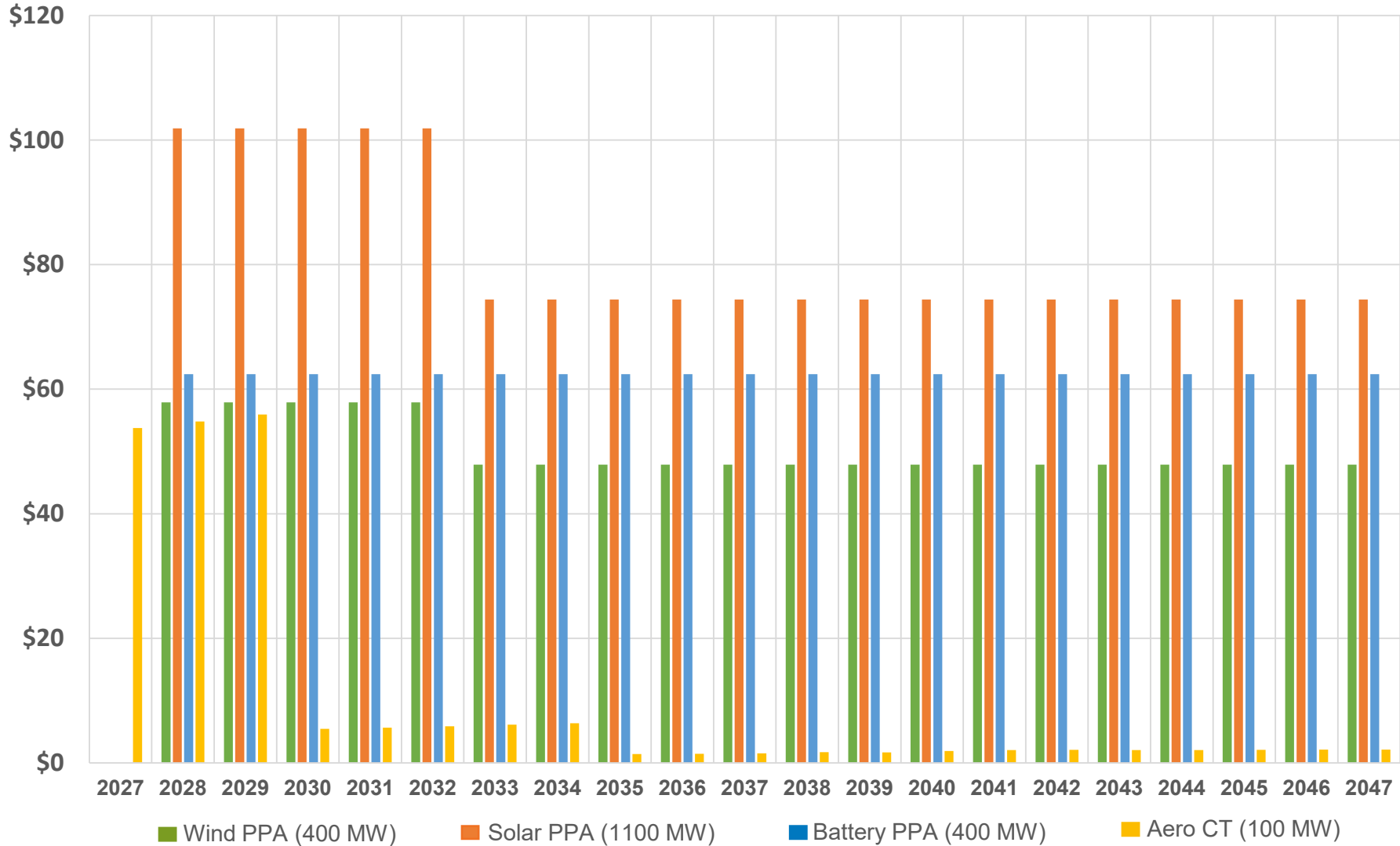


The right amount of wind can provide summer and winter resource adequacy positions comparable to natural gas.

Due to differences between their summer and winter accreditation, solar and battery storage can present a challenge when your winter and summer needs are essentially balanced.

Resource Analysis

Estimated Net Cashflow Comparison (\$M)



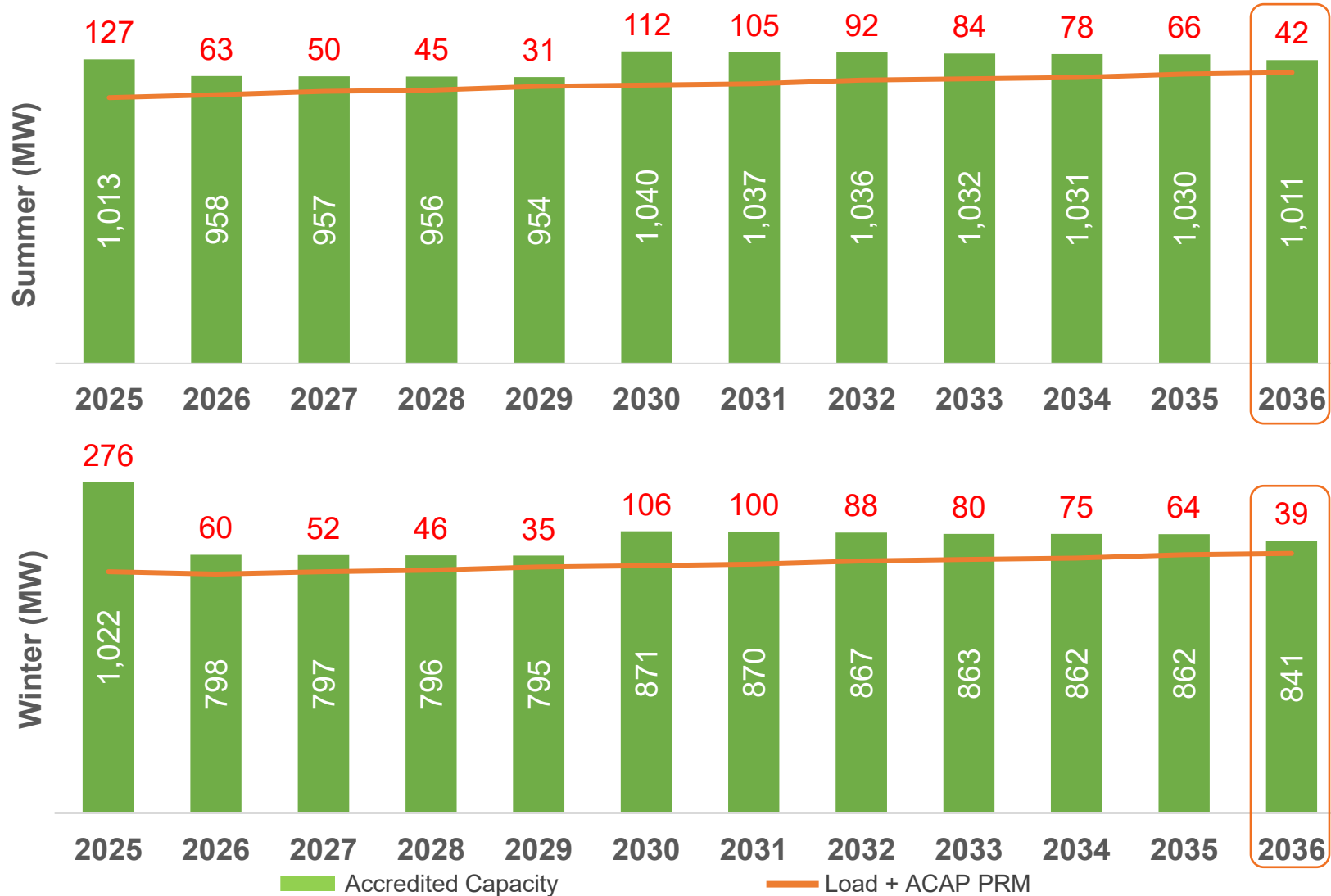
At current PPA prices, the amount of wind, battery and solar resources required to obtain the desired resource adequacy position equates to a significant cost.

* Assuming 2023 market conditions every year.



Load & Capability

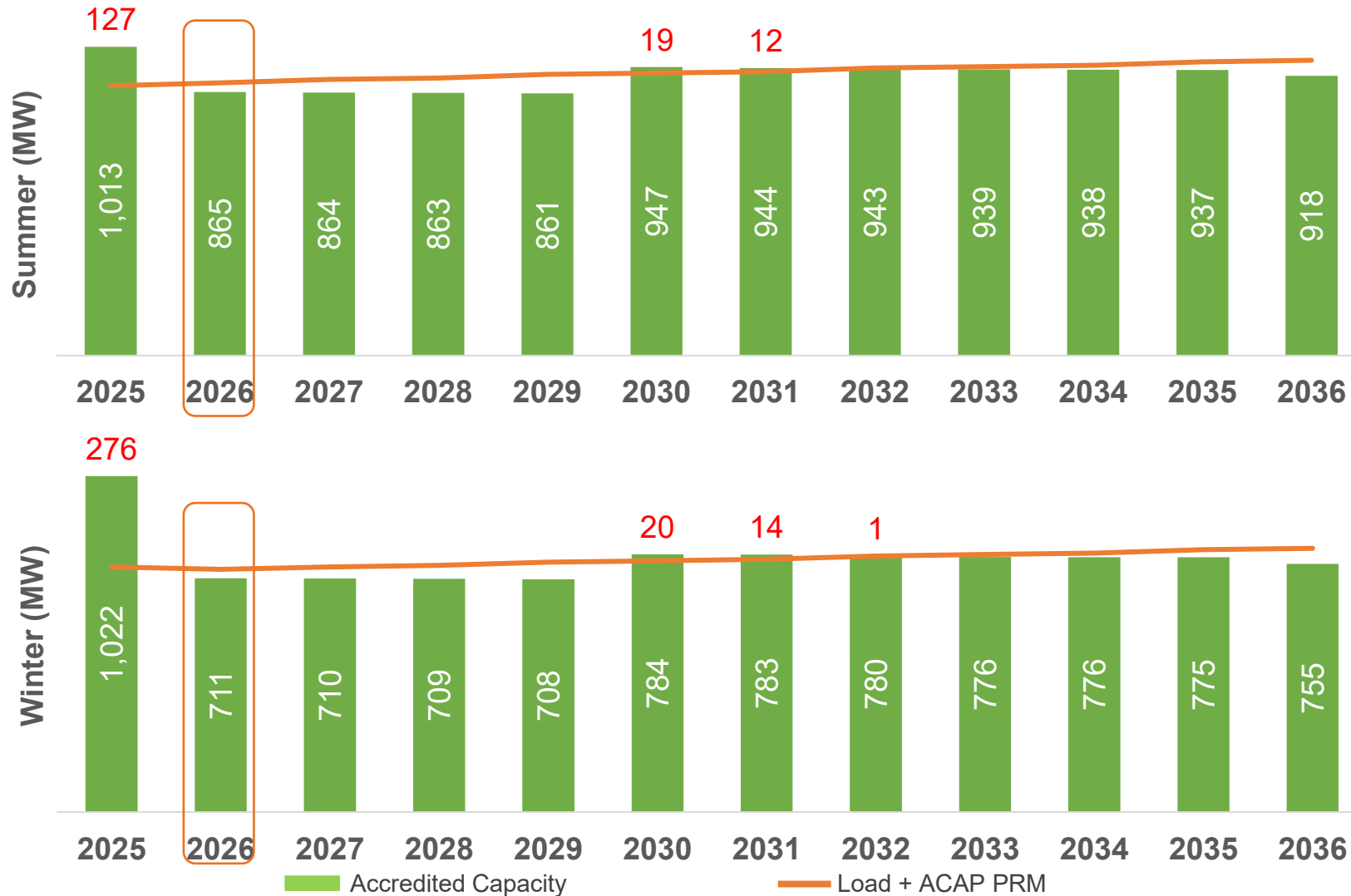
w/CNPPID Hydro (22 MW) + two LM6000 Aero CTs (100 MW) @2030



Based on this preliminary analysis, this would currently appear to be the best option for meeting LES' near-term resource adequacy needs...but does it go far enough?

Load & Capability

w/CNPPID Hydro (22 MW) + two LM6000 Aero CTs (100 MW) – WSEC (103 MW) @ 2026



Change in Need year
 Summer: 2036 → 2026
 Winter: 2036 → 2026

Although these additions would place LES in a good position today, we can't sustain even the loss of our smallest coal resource.

More is required to stretch beyond simple resource adequacy and again start preparing for future coal removals, just as we did with the 2022 IRP.

Proposed Near-Term Resource Plan

- 1) Finalize and execute CNPPID hydro contract.
- 2) Continue to pursue potential near-term paper capacity contract (~ 2026 – 2030).
Could cure near-term exposure and buy time in case of delays associated with any subsequent resource additions.
- 3) Continue to investigate other near-term resource options.
April LES Administrative Board meeting to include a discussion of how these near-term options fit into a long-term resource plan.

Questions?

Exhibit VI



Lincoln Electric System

LES RESOLUTION 2025-2

WHEREAS, Lincoln Electric System (LES) desires to increase the amount of renewable energy in its power resource portfolio consistent with the LES Administrative Board's goal to achieve net zero carbon dioxide production from its generation portfolio by 2040;

WHEREAS, the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID) issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) on August 16, 2024, seeking responses for a long-term power purchase contract for electric energy, associated capacity and environmental attributes from the approximately 20-MW Jeffrey Hydroelectric Generating Plant;

WHEREAS, LES staff submitted a proposal for all electric energy, associated capacity and environmental attributes derived from the Jeffrey Hydroelectric Generating Plant;

WHEREAS, CNPPID identified LES's response as its top-rated proposal and subsequently requested to commence contract negotiations with LES; and

WHEREAS, LES staff reviewed the project with the Board Operations & Power Supply Committee on February 10, 2025, and in a closed Executive Session at the regular meeting of the LES Administrative Board on February 21, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LES Administrative Board approves LES's acquisition of all electric energy, associated capacity and environmental attributes from the approximately 20-MW Jeffrey Hydroelectric Generating Plant and authorizes the LES Chief Executive Officer to execute a Hydro Power Purchase Agreement with CNPPID that is consistent with the details that were reviewed with the Board.


Chair

Adopted: 21 March 2025

Exhibit VII



Lincoln Electric System

LES RESOLUTION 2025-3

WHEREAS, LES produces an annual, long-range forecast projecting future system load levels;

WHEREAS, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) has proposed new planning reserve requirements;

WHEREAS, based on the annual, long-range forecast and SPP planning reserve requirements, LES may have a need for additional generating capacity to meet future projected load levels;

WHEREAS, SPP allows for the purchase of accredited capacity from a specific generation resource to meet SPP planning reserve requirements, without the requirement to purchase energy from said resource;

WHEREAS, LES desires the ability to purchase accredited capacity as necessary to support compliance with LES's obligations as a Load Responsible Entity (LRE) within SPP;

WHEREAS, LES has solicited, and may continue to solicit, proposals for accredited capacity, or respond to entities that have issued proposals to sell accredited capacity;

WHEREAS, LES staff will review and evaluate solicitations in accordance with prudent business practices, risk mitigation considerations, and LES's objective to minimize power supply costs to LES's customers;

WHEREAS, LES and any potential partner will negotiate a contract specifying the terms and conditions of LES's purchase; and

WHEREAS, LES staff will review any potential accredited capacity purchases with the Board Operations & Power Supply Committee prior to execution of a contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LES Administrative Board authorizes contracts to purchase accredited capacity required to support compliance with SPP planning reserve requirements and LES's obligations as a Load Responsible Entity on terms and conditions consistent with the following parameters:

- a) Prudent business practices;
- b) Risk mitigation considerations;
- c) LES's objective to minimize power supply costs to LES's customers;
- d) Individual capacity contract terms will be limited to a maximum of five years; and
- e) Individual capacity contracts will be limited to a maximum of 100 MW.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LES Administrative Board authorizes the LES Chief Executive Officer and staff to execute contracts for the purchase of accredited capacity with any ultimately selected partners consistent with the parameters outlined herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this authorization shall be valid for all contracts entered into before midnight on March 21, 2026.


Chair

Adopted: 21 March 2025

Exhibit VIII

Zoo Lights Powered By LES Board Meeting Update

March 21, 2025

Zoo Lights Powered by LES

- Sixth year partnering with the Lincoln Children's Zoo to bring our community this popular event.
- Nov. 29-Dec. 30, 2024, 5:30-9 p.m.
- One of the largest light shows in the Midwest, displaying 250,000+ LED lights.
- Event showcases a 34 ft. Christmas tree, over 30 lit animal silhouettes, holiday train rides, a tree canopy light walk, a 140-foot cathedral light tunnel, a s'mores station and more.
- Proceeds directly support the zoo and care for the animals.



LES is highly involved in all aspects of the event.



LES involvement includes the Tree Lighting Ceremony, displays, set up, promotions, video, photography, media/PR, social media, Energy Nights, etc.

Crews help with setup.



LINCOLN CHILDREN'S
ZOO
LIGHTS
POWERED BY **LES**



Energy Nights!

LES hosted Energy Nights on Dec. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Attendees were able to:

- Take a peek inside our handmade energy-efficient Gingerbread House for energy-saving tips.
- Snap some photos with Volts & Watts, our lineworker nutcrackers.
- See transmission lines made from orange lights.
- Grab a complimentary light-up safety snap bracelet.
- Ask our LES volunteers energy questions.



LINCOLN CHILDREN'S
**ZOO
LIGHTS**
POWERED BY *LES*



>> [Click here to view event promo video](#)

Event stats

70,001 attended

27,100 train rides

28,050 cups of hot cocoa.& hot cider

6,931 S'mores

4,548 cookies eaten

New light show added!



Earned Media



Zoo Lights at the Lincoln Children's Zoo started a little bit differently this year.

The flashing lights were minimal, the music was at a low volume and the crowds were thin. Yet there was still laughter and sounds of glee from kids as families wandered around the zoo.

On Monday, the Lincoln Children's Zoo held its first Sensory Zoo Lights event for those who would not otherwise be able to enjoy the dazzling display. The special event provided a cozy retreat for families of those with autism, post-traumatic stress disorder, brain injuries, Down syndrome and other disabilities.

Taylor Woods shouted in joy as the hanging vines above her shifted to purple — her favorite color.

"I like all the beautiful lights," Woods said.

Woods came with her cousin Jalyn Wurm and Taylor Willnow, who will be living with Woods as her personal caregiver.

"This is amazing," Wurm said. "It couldn't have come at a better time for her."

In September, Woods' parents — Loree and Roger Woods — **died in an accident on the Colorado River**. After their deaths, Wurm and Willnow began taking care of Woods, who has Down syndrome characteristics, Wurm said. Watching Woods squeal over the color purple was indescribable for Wurm.

"You know what your own favorite color is, but you don't react the same way. So it's nice to see simple things just bring so much joy and then you know for that person that it's going to bring that much joy," Wurm said.

While the music was quieter, Woods still made sure to listen in hopes of hearing her favorite song, "Little Drummer Boy."

Zoo Lights Powered by LES starts Nov. 29

Updated: Nov. 20, 2024 at 4:58 PM CST



Zoo Lights at Lincoln Children's Zoo

Monday
December 30, 2019
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

MacaroniKID
BY CertifiKID

Description

Zoo Lights Powered by LES is coming this holiday season. The Zoo will be transformed into one of the largest light shows in the Midwest, displaying over 250,000 LED lights! This new experience will include a 34 ft. Christmas tree, lit animal silhouettes, holiday train rides, a tree canopy light walk and a 60 foot light tunnel. Stop by a s'mores or hot cocoa station for tasty holiday treats.

Lincoln Children's Zoo

1222 S 27th St
Lincoln NE 68502

[Google Map](#)

Thank you [Lincoln Electric System \(LES\)](#) for partnering with us for this great event!

Proceeds from Zoo Lights Powered by LES directly supports the Zoo and care for the animals.



Tickets on Sale for 'Zoo Lights Powered by LES' at Lincoln Children's Zoo

By Chase Porter
© Nov 20, 2024 | 6:00 AM

Content Continues Below Advertisement

The Lincoln Children's Zoo will once again light up the skyline for one of the city's favorite holiday season events.

"Zoo Lights Powered by LES" transforms the city's zoo into one of the largest lights displays in the Midwest, equipped with multiple light shows choreographed to holiday music, hanging vine lights, light tunnels, over 30 lit animal silhouettes, holiday train rides, and more.

Each night from November 29 through December 30 (excluding Christmas Eve & Day) will be able to enjoy all this, plus holiday treats like s'mores or hot cocoa. Guests ages 21+ will be able to enjoy spiked "adult" hot cocoas and hot ciders, as well as beer and wine offerings, on Thursday-Saturday evenings.

A brand-new light show experience will debut this year, adding over 36,000 square feet to the event.

Zoo Lights is a timed-ticket event. Ticket dates and times will sell out. Tickets will not be available at the gates during the event if tickets have sold out. Advanced ticket purchase is recommended. Purchase tickets at [lincolnzoo.org](#).

Ticket insurance is available this year, offering the ability to reschedule your tickets. You must purchase ticket insurance for each ticket you want to protect. Rescheduled dates/times are subject to availability.

Social engagement

LES promotions and energy-saving tips

Lincoln Electric System (LES)
December 11, 2024 · 🌐

Lights, please! 💡💡💡💡

Edison's favorite thing to do during the holidays is to sit by the lights! Do you have your holiday lights up yet? If you do, Edison would LOVE to see them. 📸 He's willing to give away packs of Zoo Lights Powered by LES tickets for Thursday, Dec. 19 to three random winners who share photos of their holiday lights!

GIVEAWAY DETAILS:

👁️ ... See more



Lincoln Electric System (LES)
December 2, 2024 · 🌐

Congrats to the first round of Zoo Lights Powered by LES ticket giveaway winners! 🎉📸 Be on the lookout for future giveaways! 📸



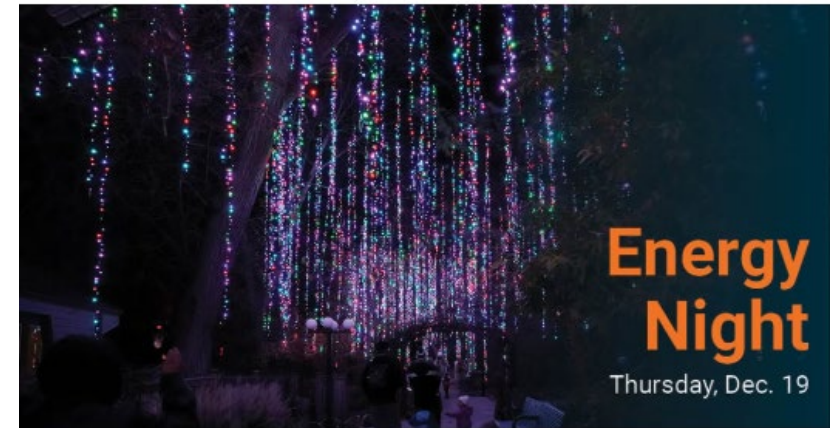
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

Sara H.
Stephanie B.
Sara W.

Lincoln Electric System (LES)
Published by Ashley Cifuentes-Juarez

December 19, 2024 · 🌐

It's another Energy Night tonight! 📸 If you haven't gone to Zoo Lights Powered by LES yet, you should. 📸 If you're planning to be there tonight, stop by the the gingerbread house to learn about energy efficiency tips, talk to our amazing volunteers and get some freebies. Who doesn't like freebies? 📸



Social engagement

What others are posting

Lincoln Community Foundation · Follow
December 10, 2024 · 🌐

Last week, our staff attended Sponsor Night at Zoo Lights Powered by LES with their friends and families. We are excited to light up the season once again as the proud sponsor of the Cathedral Lights installation.

Last year's event saw more than 72,400 visitors, provided 33,870 train rides and handed out 21,671 cups of hot chocolate and cider (that's nearly 2,000 gallons to those of you who are counting). Now that's something to cheer about!



Ryan Swanigan is at Lincoln Children's Zoo · Follow
December 14, 2024 · Lincoln, NE · 🌐

An annual tradition! Jacilyn and I have always been able to go to Zoo Lights - Powered by LES every year we've been together. Another holiday tradition complete!



Sara Hochstein Baker is with Tyler Baker.
November 21, 2023 · 🌐

Lincoln Zoo lights powered by LES 🌲🌲🌲



Awards & Accolades



Nebraska Outstanding Tourism Event

Visit Lincoln · Follow
January 14 · 🌐

Big news, Lincoln! 🎉 The [Lincoln Journal Star](#) shared that the [Lincoln Children's Zoo](#) annual Zoo Lights, powered by [Lincoln Electric System \(LES\)](#), has been crowned the best in Nebraska! 🏆🌟 But wait, there's more—it's also shining bright as one of the most popular holiday light displays in the entire U.S.! 🤩 This festive honor comes courtesy of Mixbook, a photobook company that surveyed 3,000 families.



👍❤️ You, Sally Jarecke, Brandy Johnson and 627 others 19 comments 35 shares

Best in Nebraska – [Lincoln Journal Star](#)



LINCOLN CHILDREN'S
ZOO
LIGHTS
POWERED BY **LES**

Thank you!



Exhibit IX

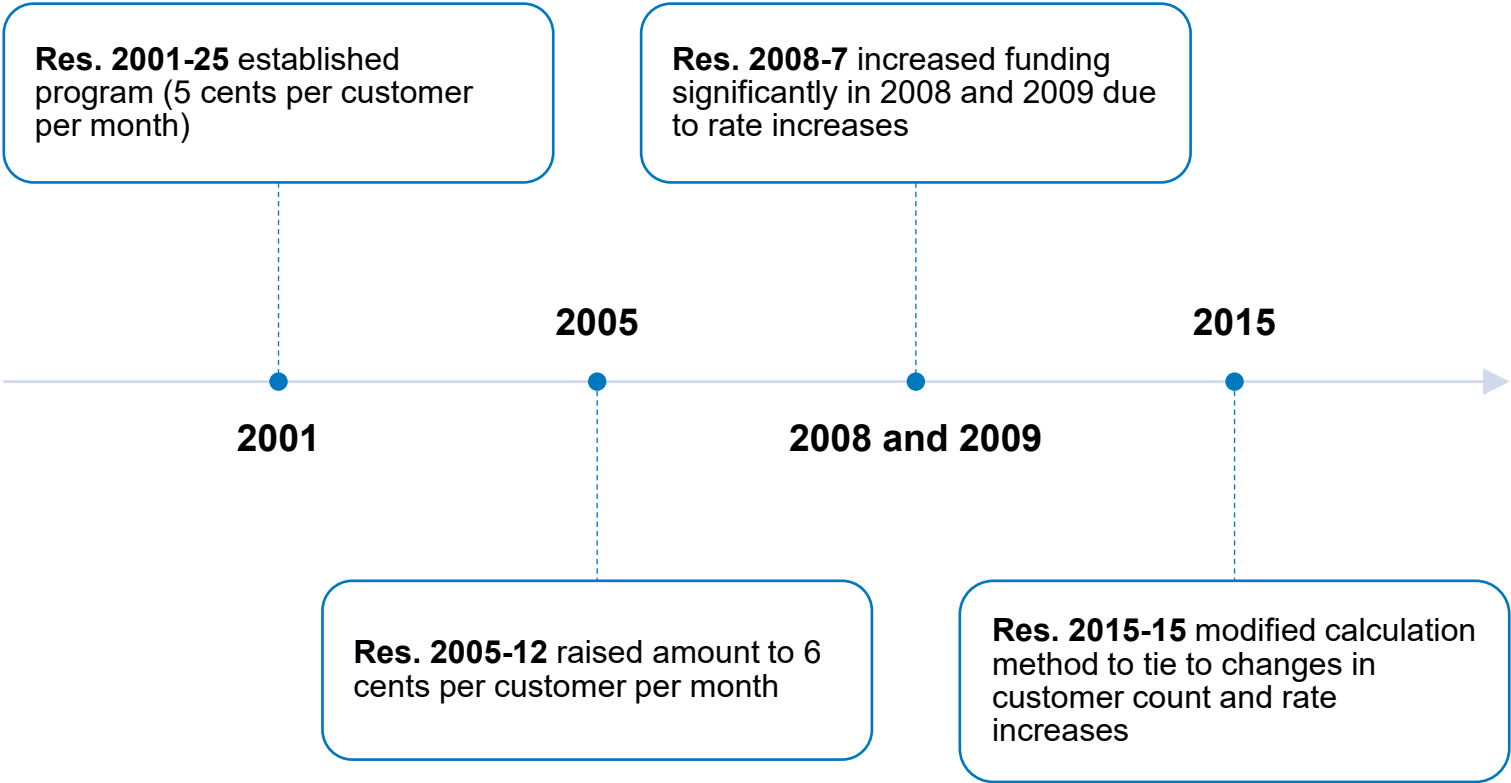
2024 Energy Assistance Program Review

Kelli Detty

Billing and Meter Solutions

March 17, 2025

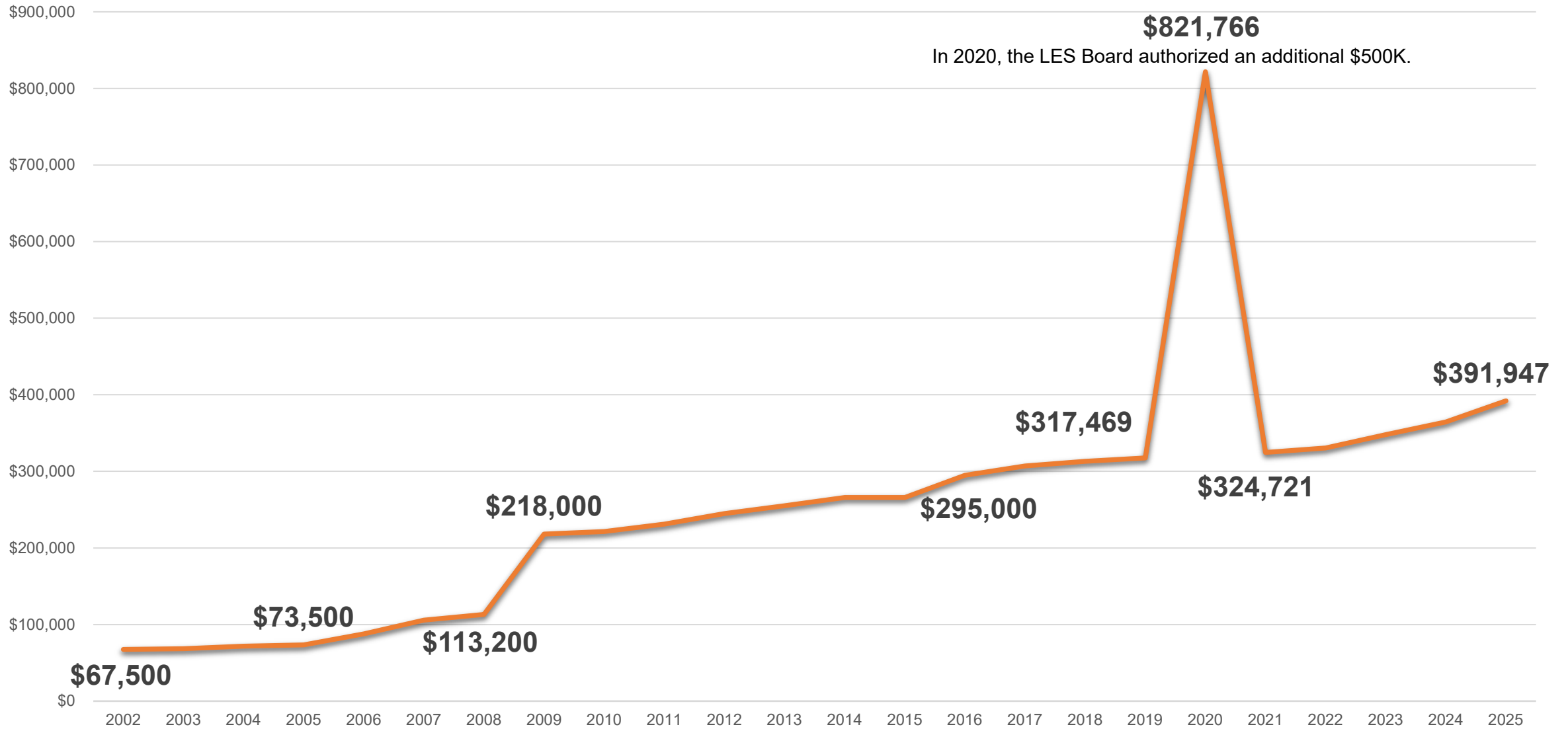
LES Energy Assistance Program (EAP) History



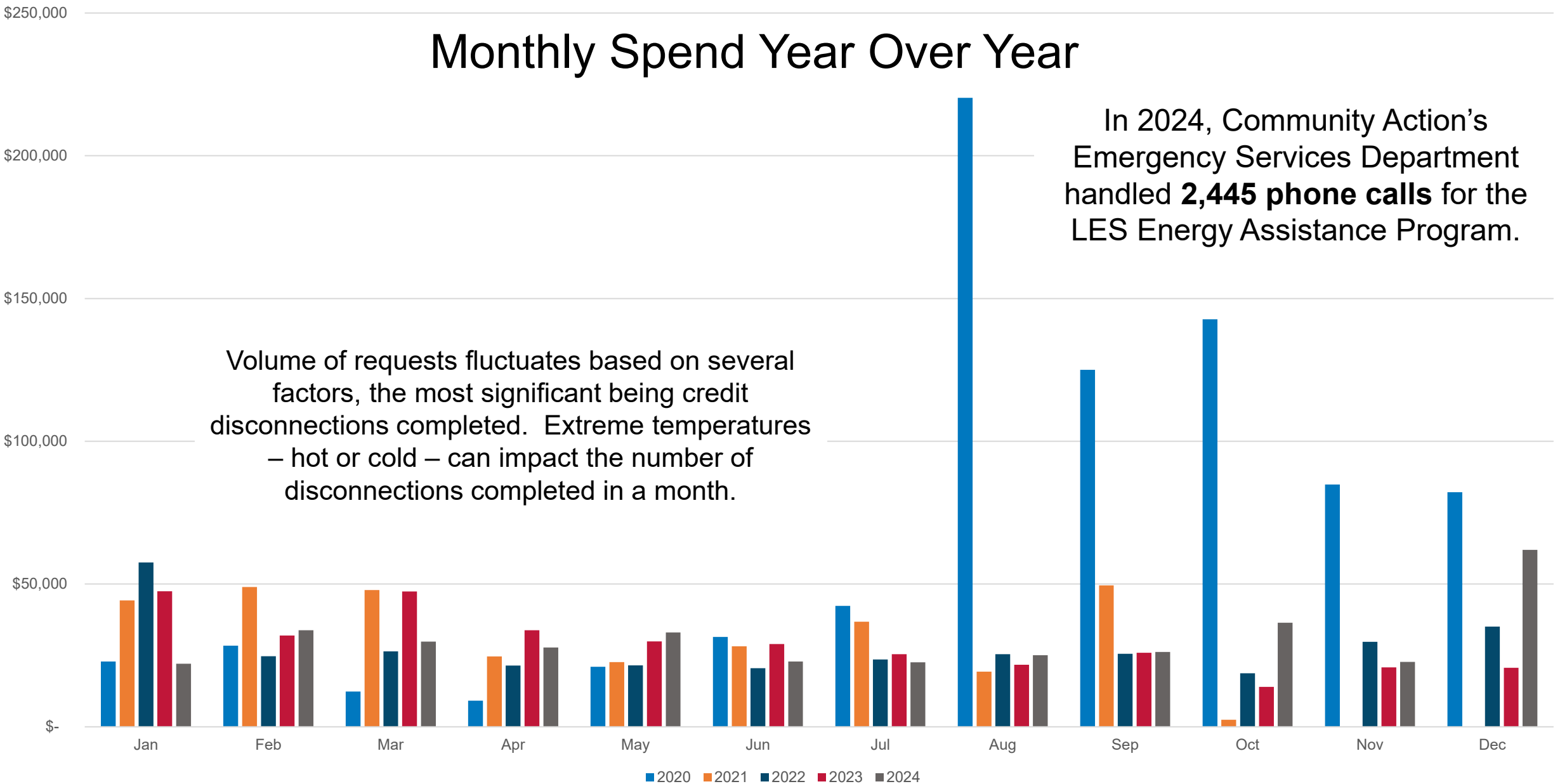
The **program budget** is determined by taking the current year's budgeted amount and increasing it by the following factors:

- **Rate increase** (or if none is proposed, this isn't factored into the change to the budget amount)
- **Estimated increase in the number of customers**

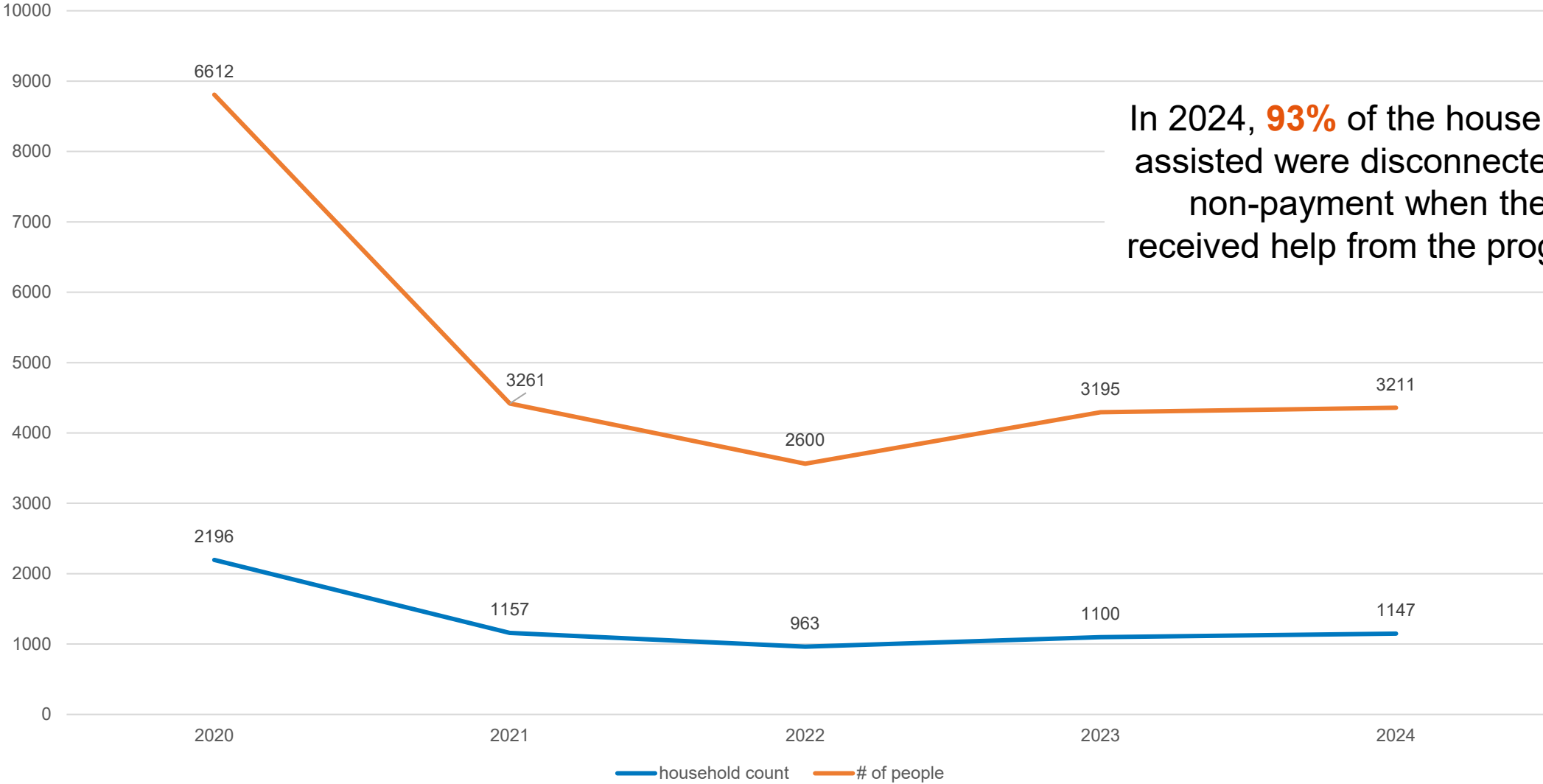
Energy Assistance Year Over Year



Monthly Spend Year Over Year

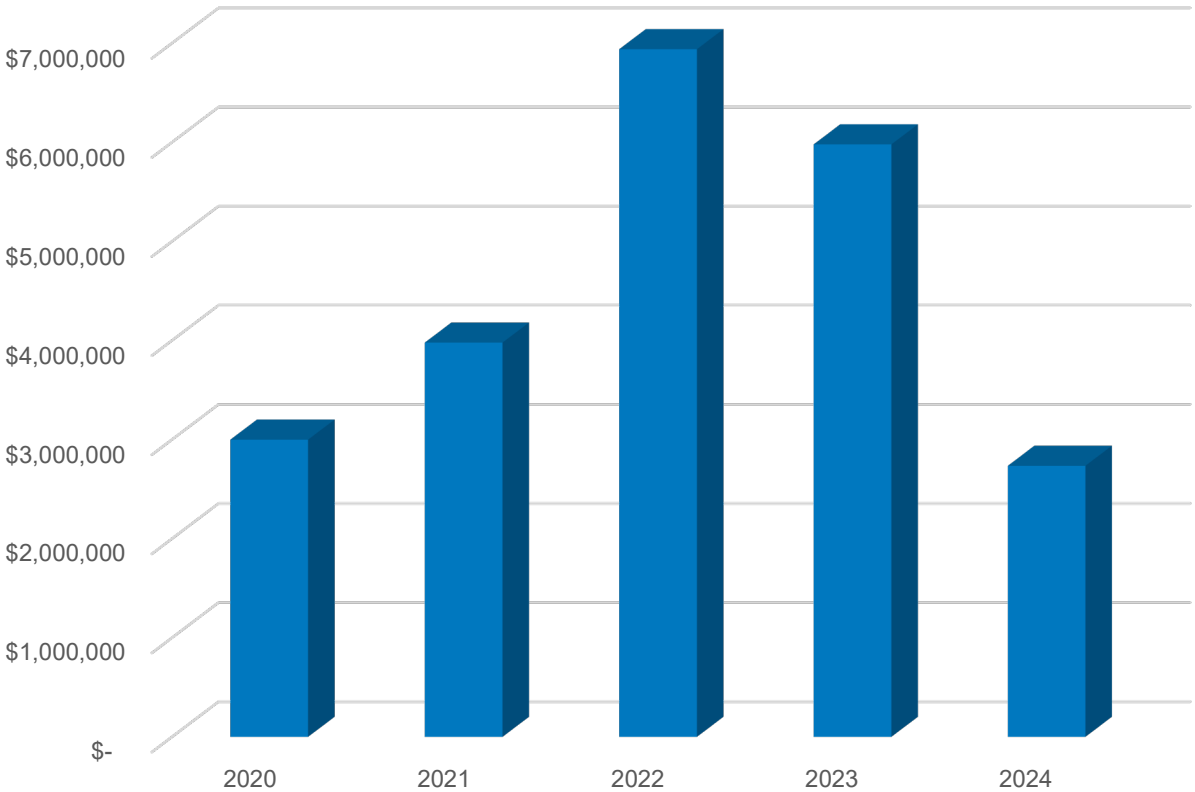


Customers Assisted



In 2024, **93%** of the households assisted were disconnected for non-payment when they received help from the program.

Other Utility Assistance



Other providers of utility assistance for LES customers include DHHS, St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Social Services, United Way, the Salvation Army, and various other local organizations and churches.

LIHEAP funding accounted for 93% of our customers' energy assistance in 2024.

COVID funding ended in 2024 and supplemental payments from DHHS were less than in previous years.

Thank you to the LES Administrative Board
for their continued support of the
Energy Assistance Program.