

## Western Renewable Energy Zones

# Generation & Transmission Model Methodology & Assumptions

Version 2.0

June 2009

# Introduction

The WREZ Generation & Transmission Model (GTM) is designed as a screening tool to assist load serving entities, regulators and renewable planners (“users”) to identify and quantify the cost of delivering renewable resources to a variety of load zones throughout western North America.

The GTM includes resources defined by the WREZ Zone Identification and Technology Assessment (ZITA) Work Group, accessed by a conceptual transmission network developed by the Generation & Transmission Modeling Work Group (GTMWG).

The GTM is designed to be used as a screening tool. The model is Excel based, and has been designed to be flexible so that users may customize it to meet their specific requirements. That said, the model includes methodologies and data that has been developed and vetted by industry experts.

This document summarizes the methodology and assumptions used in the model. A companion document, the GTM Model User Guide, is designed to provide users with the information required to operate the model.

# Generation & Transmission Model Methodology

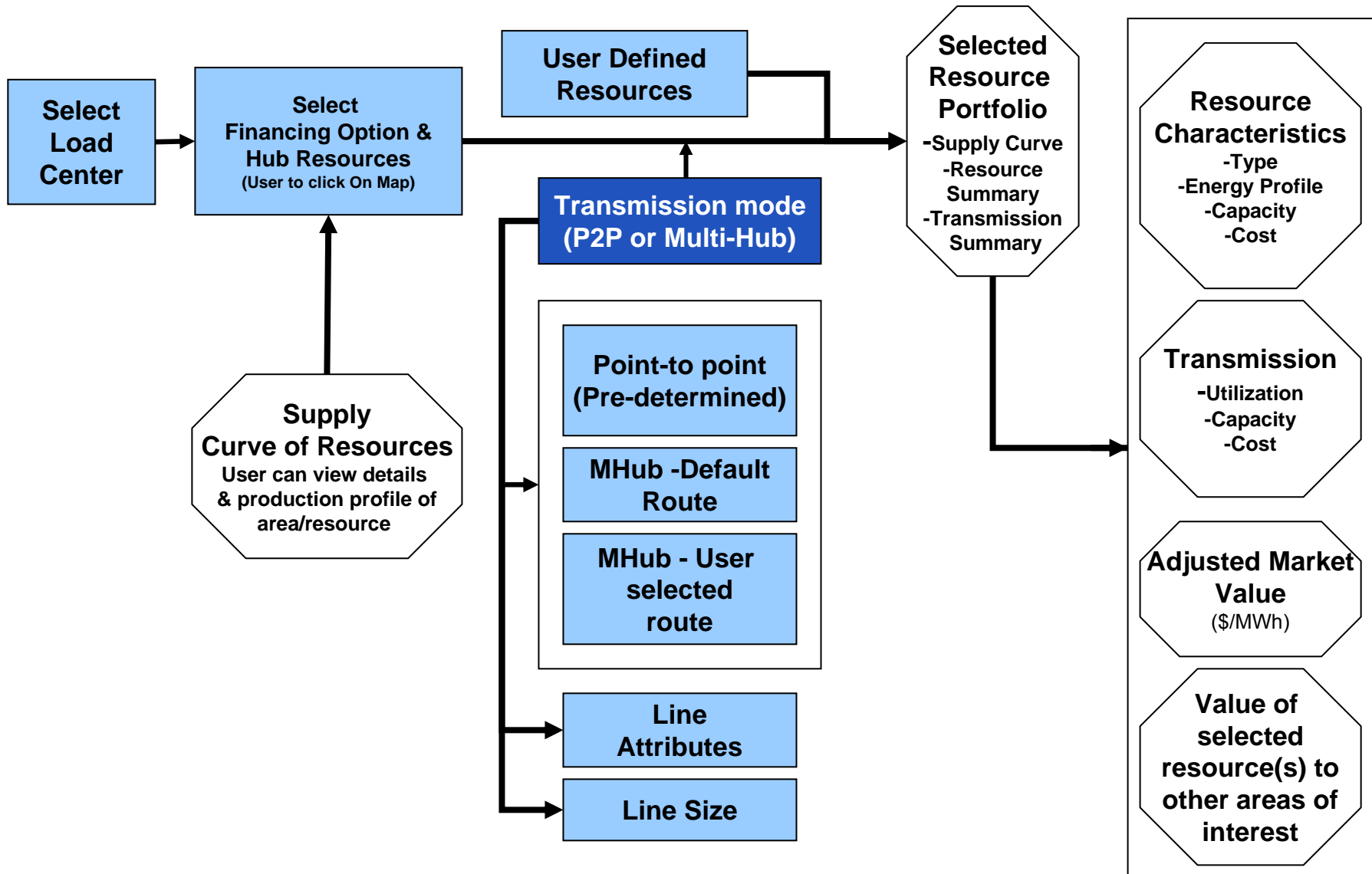
## Model Overview

- Designed to allow users to develop portfolios of resources and deliver the energy to load zones
  - Users specify ZITA-defined resources or create own resources
  - Users may specify transmission lines and routes to deliver energy to load zones or can use model defined transmission path(s)
  - Model calculates a variety of cost information for resources and portfolios
- Model offers flexibility for all of these costs and assumptions

## Model Overview (cont'd)

- Model based on Year 2015 information
  - Loads
  - Costs
  - Resource technologies
- All cost inputs and outputs in \$ 2009

# Model Overview



## Renewable Resources and Hubs

WREZ resource data is developed by the WREZ Zone Identification and Technology Assessment (ZITA) Workgroup. A discussion of the resources and zone identification process may be found at:

<http://www.westgov.org/wga/initiatives/wrez/zita/index.htm>

# Resources

Hubs, resources, and resource assumptions in model were developed by the WREZ ZITA working group

- Size and operational characteristics
- Cost of energy provided at bus-bar (levelized cost of energy – LCOE)
  - LCOE is total life-cycle cost of generating at a facility normalized by total generation from the facility (\$/MWh)
  - Calculated using a pro forma model (input assumptions used to determine expected revenues, costs, and year-by-year after-tax cash flow over the project life)



# BC Shaped Resource

- Resource information provided by British Columbia for the Shaped Resource
- Used for model inputs

## WREZ BC Integrated Supply Curve

### OBJECTIVES:

Derive integrated supply curves at the Canadian/US border for use in WREZ (a very high level pre-screening study).

Not intended to be an offer – just an indicative pricing for a specific product

Intended to illustrate the benefits of a BC shaped and firmed, low carbon energy product to encourage further discussion.

### Monthly Energy and Capacity of Specific Product: \$:

	MW	# of days	GWh
Jan	600	31	446
Feb	600	28	403
Mar	600	31	446
Apr	3000	30	2,160
May	3000	31	2,232
Jun	3000	30	2,160
Jul	3000	31	2,232
Aug	3000	31	2,232
Sep	3000	30	2,160
Oct	600	31	446
Nov	600	30	432
Dec	600	31	446

Max Capacity	3000 MW
Average Annual Energy	16000 GWh
\$/MWh* (\$2009 CDN Real)	111

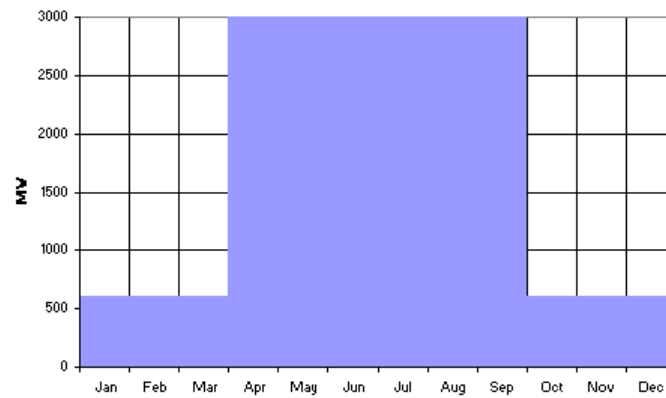
\* All in cost to integrate and to have average annual energy brought to BC/US border and firmed up (high level pre-screening estimate for the sole purpose of the WREZ exercise)

\*\* Note \$ in CDN, the other WREZ exercise is using an exchange rate of 1 CDN to 0.8 USD

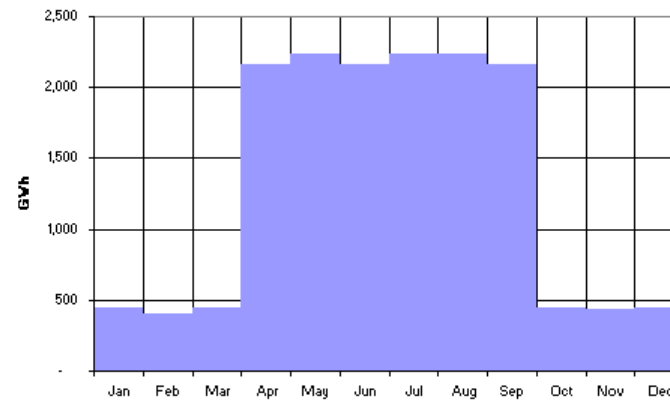
15797 SUM (GWh)

60%

60% T utilization

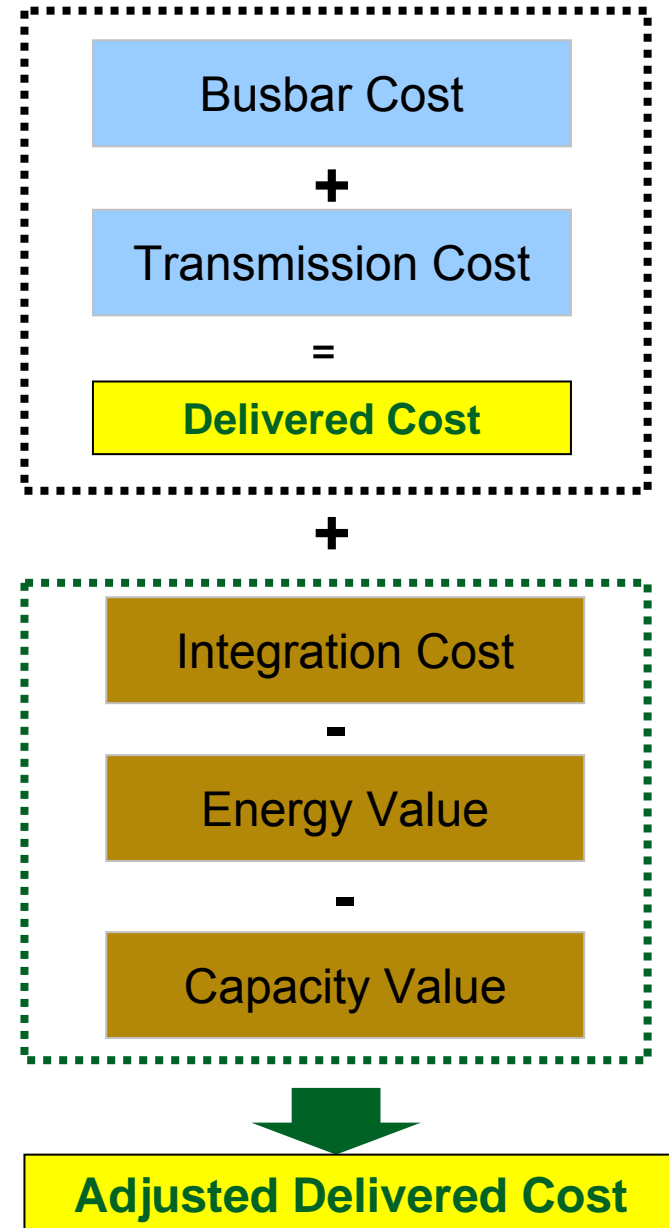


60% T utilization



# Resource Cost Determination

- Resource cost information provided by model:
  - Busbar cost: “raw” cost of generation
  - Delivered cost: cost to deliver energy to load zone
  - Adjusted delivered cost: the *value* of a resource to a load zone, taking into consideration the energy and capacity benefit delivered by the resource



# Generation Busbar Cost

Costs presented as levelized cost of energy (LCOE)

- LCOE is total life-cycle cost of generating at a facility normalized by total generation from the facility (\$/MWh)
- Calculated using a pro forma model (input assumptions used to determine expected revenues, costs, and year-by-year after-tax cash flow over the project life)
- Includes expected gen-tie cost to allow facility to access bulk transmission system

## Generation Costs (cont'd)

Technology – Specific Assumptions	
Capital Cost	Incentives
Fixed O&M	Net Plant Output
Variable O&M	Capacity Factor
Fuel Costs	Economic Life
Heat Rate	
General	Discount Rate Inflation

# Transmission System Modeling

GTMWG Transmission Segments Working Group identified transmission paths, interconnection and delivery points

- Model mimics major transmission paths in WECC, with several segment additions
- Assumes all transmission incremental – model assumes substantially more than currently available transmission capacity is required to deliver WREZ power over the long term
- Default interstate transmission is single-circuit 500 kV, but user may specify alternative voltages for individual lines segments
- Distance – GIS and AutoCAD software used to calculate the distance over existing transmission paths, assuming that new transmission would augment existing paths



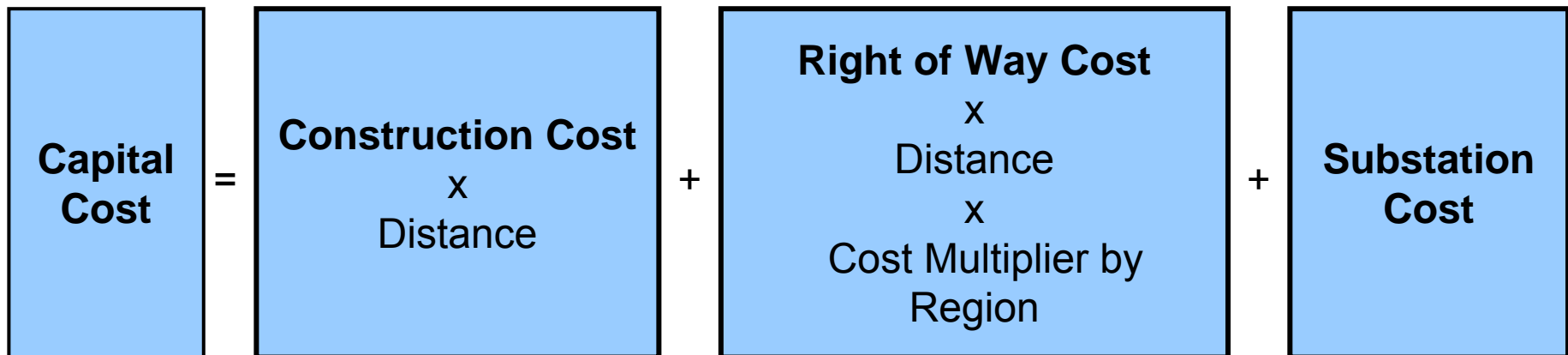
# Transmission Line Assumptions

GTMWG Transmission Characteristics Working Group detailed operating characteristics and costs for lines

- Construction cost – The costs are assumed to be the same across regions in terms of \$/mile
- Right of way cost – The RoW cost depends on the region. The transmission segments distances are categorized by region and are multiplied by appropriate regional rate to reflect land value differences in terms of \$/acre
- Substation cost – The cost for one substation per segment is added to the capital cost, with cost varying by the substation voltage

# Transmission Cost

- Levelized Cost of Transmission (LCOT) - \$/MWh
  - Costs include new substation and network costs required to interconnect resources to the grid
  - “Lumpy” investment – Line user(s) will pay full cost of the transmission line development



The diagram illustrates the components of Capital Cost in a transmission project. It is presented as a horizontal equation where four light blue rectangular boxes are connected by mathematical symbols. The first box is labeled 'Capital Cost'. This is followed by an equals sign. The second box contains 'Construction Cost' followed by a multiplication sign and 'Distance'. This is followed by a plus sign. The third box contains 'Right of Way Cost' followed by a multiplication sign, 'Distance', another multiplication sign, and 'Cost Multiplier by Region'. This is followed by a plus sign. The final box is labeled 'Substation Cost'.

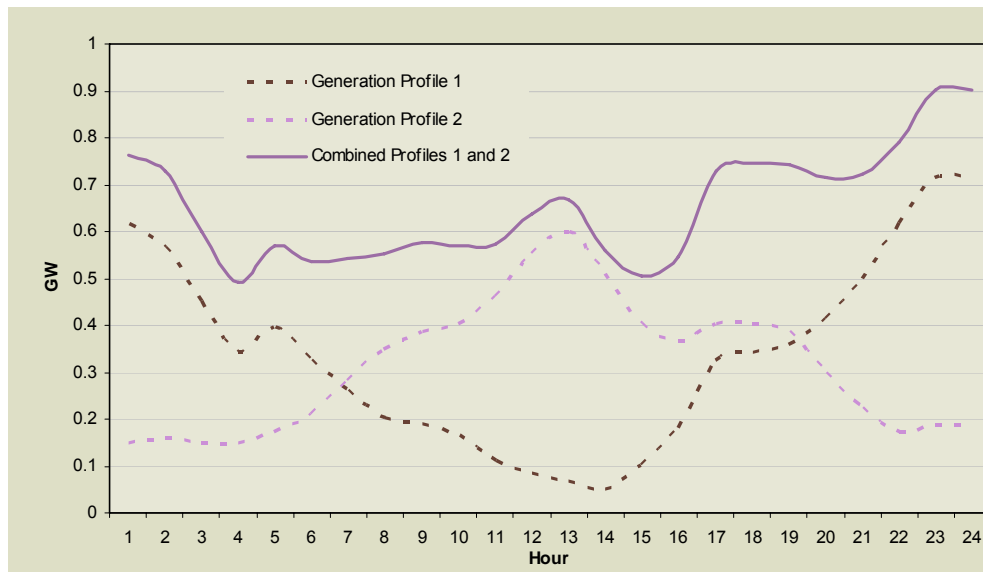
$$\text{Capital Cost} = \text{Construction Cost} \times \text{Distance} + \text{Right of Way Cost} \times \text{Distance} \times \text{Cost Multiplier by Region} + \text{Substation Cost}$$



# Transmission Cost (cont'd)

- Line utilization for lines with multiple projects are based on blended generation profiles using typical daily profile for each month of the year

Example Blended Resource Profile



- If multiple resources are on a single transmission line, the profiles are combined to produce a blended profile
- Transmission line utilization is based on the blended profile

## Transmission Cost (cont'd)

- Pro Forma Financial Model used for transmission costs (\$/MWh)
  - Simplistic tool to capture differences in cost of transmission between projects for the purpose of comparison and ranking
- Specific Pro Forma Inputs include:
  - Capital cost, including construction, substations & right of way
  - Transmission line capacity
  - Transmission line utilization factor
  - Fixed operation and maintenance cost

# Transmission Losses

- Losses are based on distance from busbar to load zones and line voltage
- Losses applied to the delivered cost of the resource

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Delivered} \\ \text{Cost after} \\ \text{Losses} \\ \hline \end{array} = \frac{\text{Cost at Busbar (\$/MWh)} + \text{Transmission Cost (\$/MWh)}}{(1 - \% \text{ Transmission Loss})}$$

# Integration Cost

- Integration cost of a project is the indirect operation cost to the transmission system to accommodate the generation from the project into the grid. Starting point assumptions are provided in the model, but a user can change the integration cost for each technology
  - Wind - \$5/MWh
  - Solar Thermal - \$2.50/MWh
  - Solar thermal with Storage - \$0.00/MWh
  - Photovoltaic - \$2.50/MWh
  - Biomass - \$0.00/MWh
  - Geothermal - \$0.00/MWh

# Energy Value

- Energy value of a resource represents the value of its hourly output to the load zone – i.e. the load zone's marginal cost
- Energy values based on 2015 market forecast (\$2009) developed using ProMod production cost model
- Average hourly energy prices by month are included in the price forecast for each load zone

Energy  
Value  
(\$/MWh)

=  $\sum$

$$\frac{(\text{Energy Value in Time Period}) \times (\text{Energy Output in Time Period})}{\text{Total Energy Output}}$$

## Energy Value (cont'd)

- 2015 Energy Price Forecast
  - Developed by B&V using ProMod production cost software
  - CO<sub>2</sub> at \$35/ton
  - Fuel cost approximately \$10/MMBtu
  - Zonal Transmission Model – Each market zone is connected to series of others with transmission links or interfaces that have been assigned bi-directional energy and capacity limits, wheeling charges (when applicable) and losses

## Example of Energy Value Calculation

**35%**  
Average  
Capacity  
Factor

**\$17/MWh**  
Average  
Weighted  
Energy  
Value

## Energy Value (cont'd)

Average Weighted Energy Value	\$17/MWh
Average Capacity Factor	35%

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Energy Value} \\ (\$/\text{MWh}) \end{array} = \frac{\text{Average Weighted Energy Value}}{\text{Average Capacity Factor}}$$

$$\mathbf{\$48/MWh} = \$17 / 35\%$$



[illegible]

Average Capacity Factor  
during top 10% of load hours  
is the Capacity Credit

## 13% Capacity Credit

## Capacity Value (cont'd)

Capacity Credit	13%
Resource Reserve Margin Cost: CT	\$114/kW-yr
Project Capacity Factor	35%

$$\text{Capacity Value (\$/MWh)} = \frac{\text{Capacity Credit} \times \text{Resource Reserve Margin Cost (\$/kW-yr)}}{[\text{Project Capacity Factor} \times (8760 \text{ hours in a year} / 1000)]}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{\$5/MWh} = \\
 &\quad (13\%) \times (\text{\$114/kW-yr}) \\
 &\quad / [(35\%) \times (8760 \text{ hours in a year} / 1000)]
 \end{aligned}$$

# Adjusted Delivered Cost

Represents the *value* of a resource to a load zone, taking into consideration the energy and capacity benefit delivered by the resource

Generation Cost	\$100	10% Loss	<b>\$122</b>  = \$110 / (1 -10%)
Transmission Cost	\$10		

Integration Cost	+	\$5
Energy Value	-	\$55
Capacity Value	-	\$15

Adjusted Delivered Cost	\$57
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# Generation & Transmission Model Assumptions

## Data Assumptions used in the Model

- **Load Zones**
- **Renewable Resource Information and Data**
- **Transmission Segments**
- **Transmission & Substation Characteristics and Cost**
- **Transmission Financing Assumptions**
- **Capacity Value**

# Load Zones

Metro Area	Substation
VANCOUVER	Ingledow
SEATTLE	Monroe
SPOKANE	Bell
PORTLAND	Bethel
SAN FRANCISCO	Vaca-Dixon
SACRAMENTO	Bellota
LOS ANGELES	Serrano
SAN DIEGO	Los Coches
LAS VEGAS	Mead
RENO	Tracy
PHOENIX	Westwing
TUCSON	Tortolita
DENVER	Denver
ALBUQUERQUE	Rio Puerco
SALT LAKE CITY	Terminal
BOISE	Midpoint
BILLINGS	Broadview
CASPER	Casper North
El Paso	Caliente
CALGARY	Janet

Source: GTMWG Transmission Segments Working Group

# Renewable Resource Information and Data

WREZ resource data is developed by the WREZ Zone Identification and Technology Assessment (ZITA) Workgroup. A discussion of the resources and zone identification process may be found at:

<http://www.westgov.org/wga/initiatives/wrez/zita/index.htm>

Source: WREZ ZITA Working Group

# Renewable Resource Cost

- Project-specific inputs from ZITA include:
  - Nameplate capacity
  - Capacity factor
  - Energy generation profile
  - Capital costs including generation interconnection costs (“gen-tie”)
  - Fixed and variable O&M (including insurance & ad valorem)
  - Heat rate & fuel costs (for biomass)

Source: WREZ ZITA Workgroup



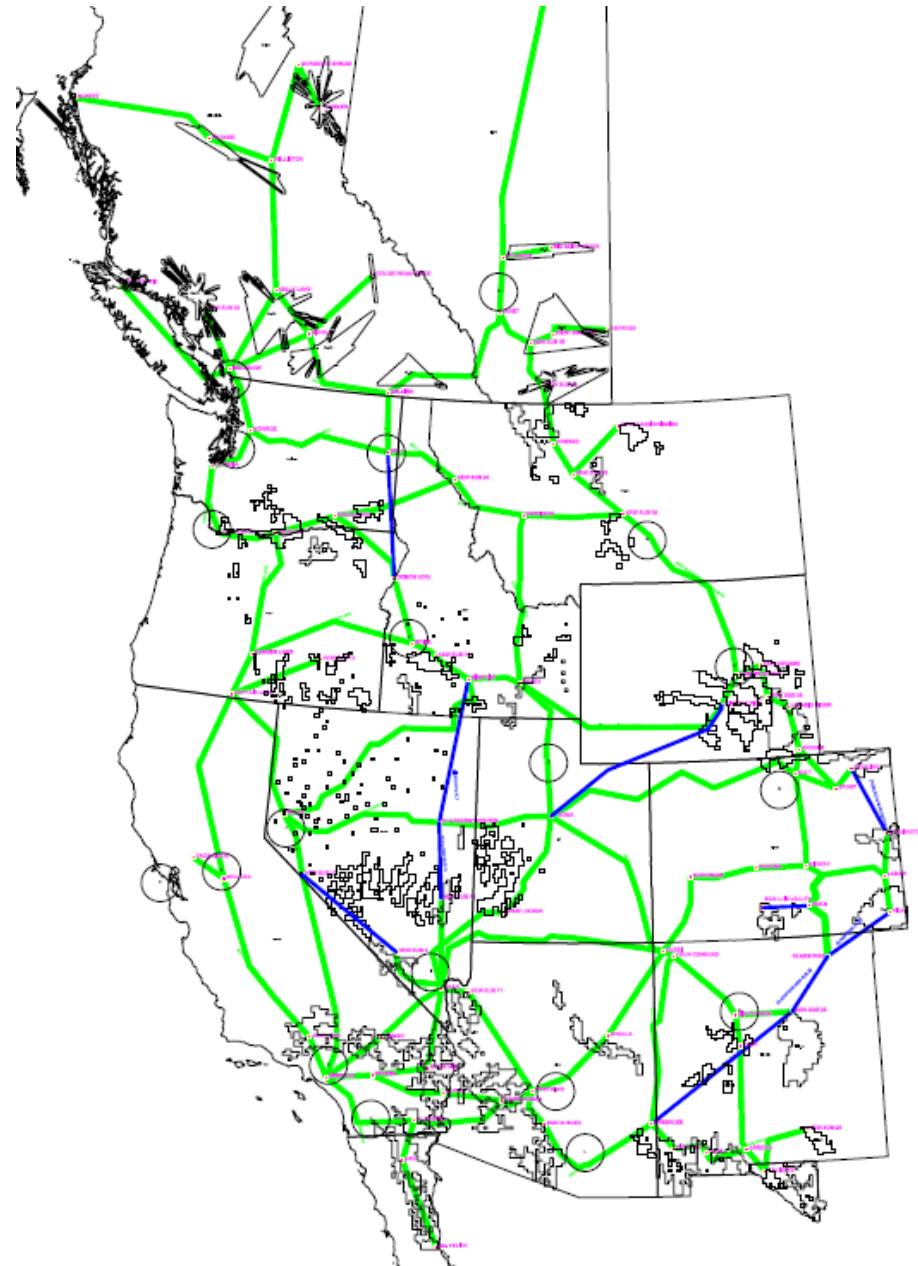
# Renewable Resource Cost

- Technology-specific inputs from ZITA include
  - Economic life
  - Debt/Equity ratio
  - Debt term
  - Interest rate
  - Equity cost
  - Tax life
  - Discount rate

Source: WREZ ZITA Workgroup

# Transmission Segments

- A comprehensive list of transmission segments and termination points is provided in the model



# Transmission Characteristics

Transmission characteristics developed by Transmission Segments Work Group

	Capacity (MW)	Cap Cost \$000/mile	ROW Width feet	Phase/Pole Current (amps)	Typical Conductors	No. of Conductor per phase	Resistance Per Cond (ohms/mile)	FLL* (MW/mile)	FLL* Per 100 miles	Losses at 60% Utilization % per 100 miles
765 kV AC Single	3000	2250	200	2383	957 ACSR	6	0.1086	0.30843	0.01028	0.00454
500 kV AC Single	1500	1800	175	1823	1590 ACSR	3	0.0666	0.22139	0.01476	0.00708
500 kV AC Double	3000	2880	175	1823	1590 ACSR	3	0.0666	0.44277	0.01476	0.00708
345 kV AC Single	750	1260	160	1321	795 ACSR	2	0.128	0.33513	0.04468	0.02145
345 kV AC Double	1500	2016	160	1321	795 ACSR	2	0.128	0.67027	0.04468	0.02145
230 kV AC Single	400	900	150	1057	1272 ACSR	1	0.0828	0.27749	0.06937	0.03330
230 kV AC Double	800	1440	150	1057	1272 ACSR	1	0.0828	0.55498	0.06937	0.03330
500 kV DC Bi-Pole	3000	1440	200	3000	1780 ACSR	3	0.0609	0.36540	0.01218	0.00585
800 kV DC Bi-Pole	TBD	TBD	TBD	2813	1780 ACSR	3	0.0609	0.32115	0.00714	0.00343

Source: GTMWG Transmission Characteristics Working Group

# Transmission Cost

- Total Annual Non-Capital Costs are 3.0% of capital cost
  - O&M cost estimated to be 1.2% of capital cost
  - Property Tax and Insurance estimated to be 1.8% of capital cost

Source: GTMWG Transmission Segments Working Group

Note – Estimate is an average of values provided by PacifiCorp, PG&E and Trans-Elect

# Resource Financing Assumptions

		Heat Rate BTU/kWh	ITC %	PTC MWh	PTC Term yrs	MACRS				Econ Life yrs	Debt			Cost Equity %	Tax Rate %	Disc Rate %
						5 yr	7 yr	15 yr	20 yr		Debt %	Rate %	Term yrs			
<b>I P P</b>	Biomass	15000	30	0	0	0%	60%	0%	40%	20	60	8.0	15	15.0	40.0	11.0
	Geothermal	0	30	0	0	100%	0%	0%	0%	20	60	8.0	15	15.0	40.0	11.0
	Hydro	0	30	0	0	0%	0%	0%	100%	20	60	8.0	15	15.0	40.0	11.0
	Solar	0	30	0	0	100%	0%	0%	0%	30	60	8.0	25	15.0	40.0	11.0
	Wind	0	30	0	0	100%	0%	0%	0%	20	60	8.0	15	15.0	40.0	11.0
<b>I O U</b>	Biomass	15000	30	0	0	0%	60%	0%	40	25	50	6.5	20	12.0	40.0	9.3
	Geothermal	0	30	0	0	100%	0%	0%	0%	25	50	6.5	20	12.0	40.0	9.3
	Hydro	0	30	0	0	0%	0%	0%	100%	25	50	6.5	20	12.0	40.0	9.3
	Solar	0	30	0	0	100%	0%	0%	0%	30	50	6.5	25	12.0	40.0	9.3
	Wind	0	30	0	0	100%	0%	0%	0%	20	50	6.5	20	12.0	40.0	9.3
<b>M u n i</b>	Biomass	15000	0	21	10	0%	0%	0%	0%	25	100	5.0	20	0.0	0.0	5.0
	Geothermal	0	0	21	10	0%	0%	0%	0%	25	100	5.0	20	0.0	0.0	5.0
	Hydro	0	0	21	10	0%	0%	0%	0%	25	100	5.0	20	0.0	0.0	5.0
	Solar	0	0	21	10	0%	0%	0%	0%	30	100	5.0	25	0.0	0.0	5.0
	Wind	0	0	21	10	0%	0%	0%	0%	25	100	5.0	20	0.0	0.0	5.0

Note: For Muni the PTC inputs represent REPI.

# Right-of-way Cost

Region	Cost
California	\$27,500 per acre
Baja, Mexico (CFE)	\$1,870 per acre
Inland Rural (MT, NM, WY)	\$5,335 per acre
All Other	\$9,478 per acre

## Substation Costs

Line Size	Substation Capital Cost (\$000s)
765 kV AC Single	62,500
500 kV AC Single	50,000
500 kV AC Double	80,000
345 kV AC Single	40,000
345 kV AC Double	64,000
230 kV AC Single	35,000
230 kV AC Double	56,000
500 kV DC Bi-Pole	250,000
800 kV DC Bi-Pole	TBD

One substation per transmission segment.

Source: GTMWG Transmission Characteristics Working Group

## Capacity Value Cost

- Based on the cost of combustion turbine (CT)
- Assumed avoided unit - GE LMS 100
  - Installed cost = \$1,090/kW

Source: Black & Veatch estimate of installed cost