Successful ATM projects: Xcel Energy view

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Richard Belt, P.E., P.H. Xcel Energy

Xcel Energy in Colorado



Public Service Co. of Colorado

- 1.4 million electric customers
- 1.3 million natural gas customers
- 3,800 CO employees
- Generation types:
 - coal
 - gas
 - hydro-electric
 - wind
 - solar
- Water is (mostly) self-supplied
- Dow Jones Sustainability Index 100% in water-related risk management
- ATMs = reliable/cost-effective risk management



Current ATMs

Ft. Morgan Water Co. (Ft. Morgan Reservoir & Irrigation Co.)

- Apr-Oct supply 2,500 acre-feet
- Recharge credits backed by storage
- Payment ~ 5X the "going rate" (inflation adjusted)
- Nov-Mar supply PSCo supply in Jackson Res (separate payment)
- Water for 500 MW base-load plant since 1990s operates annually

Point of Rocks, LLC (North Sterling Irrigation District)

- Interruptible water supply agreement
- Up to 3,000 acre-feet annually (delivered Nov-Mar)
- Annual base payment + delivered water payment (inflation adj.)
- Significant drought supply (or other "upset")
 - Leverages PSCo's highly flexible South Platte water supply
- In-place since ~ 2005, has not been operated to-date

Shoshone "relaxation" agreement

Agreement between Denver Water and PSCo

- Drought triggers (hydrologic conditions and Denver Water storage)
- PSCo agrees to "relax" its 1,250 cfs senior call (+/- 600 cfs)
- Denver Water (and others) store water in upstream reservoirs
- PSCo benefit:
 - 15% of net storage delivered to Front Range facilities
 - Power interference payment
- West Slope benefit:
 - 10% of net storage delivered to West Slope entities
- Concept in-place since 2003...has operated in 2003 & 2013

Why do these agreements work so well?

- Willing participants
 - Something for everyone?
 - Compatible entities & expectations?
- Good agreements and communication
 - ATM purpose understood?
- Straight-forward operations & administrative burden
- Flexibility enabled by STORAGE on both sides
 - Improves timing compatibility
- Compatible location
 - Infrastructure minimized
 - Water benefit remains in same general area
- Compatible "scale"
 - "Big supply" with "small demand" "normal" operations
 - "High(er) value" use with "low(er) value" use

Future:

- Will consider ATMs for drought mitigation
- Further opportunities enabled by renewable energy?

Thanks!