

Hydroelectric Power

In 2015, Hoover Dam generated ~400 MW of electricity of which Nevada got ~100 MW.

Hydroelectric power is different to the other sources of energy as regards choices. The power generation is largely dictated by the snow pack in the Rocky mountains which we cannot accurately predict from one year to the next let alone decades.

We have accordingly selected levels according to possible snowpack scenarios from pessimistic to optimistic,

Level 1

Nevada's share of Hoover Dam power remains at current level of 25% or 100 MW. but Lake Mead empties by 2030 and Hoover Dam cannot produce any power by 2050.

Level 2

We stay at 2015 Lake Levels and power generation until 2050

Level 3

We get the average power generation over the period 1947- 2008 (4.2 TWh/yr, i.e. 460 MW) of which the Nevada share is 0.12 GW.

Level 4

Snowfall increases and we get more water than expected over the coming decades. This is quite at odds with predictions but these are uncertain. Power ramps up to 880 MW of which Nevada gets 220 MW. The 880 MW is close to the maximum generation in 1984 (1.1 GW).



Hoover Dam

