



2026 MT Integrated Resource Plan Work Plan

Objective:

The object of the Work Plan is to develop an Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) framework that supports the long-term, sustainable management of energy resources while meeting both current and future demand. This plan will incorporate various energy sources, technologies, policies, and practices to ensure the provision of reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable energy services.

Introduction:

Integrated Resource Planning is a comprehensive process used to evaluate and plan the optimal mix of energy resources that will be needed to meet the energy demand over a 20-year period. IRP involves considering factors such as environmental impacts, reliability, costs, and regulatory framework.

Key Components of Integrated Resource Planning:

- Load Forecasting
- Existing Portfolio
- Candidate Resources
- Resource Adequacy
- Price Forecasting
- Market Interactions
- Transmission
- Regulatory Framework

Detailed Workplan:

Phase 1: Preparation and Scoping

Objective:

Define the Scope of the Integrated Resource Plan, identify stakeholders and gather necessary data.

Tasks:

1. Data Collection and Analysis
2. Establish Planning Assumptions
3. Stakeholder Identification and Engagement

Phase 2: Demand Forecasting and Resource Assessment

Objective:

Assess future energy demand, evaluate existing portfolio, and potential candidate resources.



Tasks:

1. Load Forecasting including DSM Programs
2. Perform generation resource assessments
3. Evaluate demand response potential.

Phase 3: Candidate Resource Development and PowerSimm Modeling

Objective:

Develop and complete capacity expansion and production cost modeling using PowerSimm.

Tasks:

1. Define candidate resources and acquire costs
2. Develop scenarios and sensitivities
 - a. Incorporate transmission considerations
 - b. Quantify environmental externalities
3. Update PowerSimm model
4. Perform scenario modeling

Phase 4: Stakeholder Consultation and Feedback

Objective:

Engage stakeholders to review and refine the IRP deliverables.

Tasks:

1. Engage internal and external stakeholders for feedback
2. Document comments and responses
3. Review feedback and make adjustments as necessary

Phase 5: Reporting and Final Recommendations

Objective:

Finalize the IRP and present recommendations.

Tasks:

1. Prepare final report, clearly detailing compliance with regulatory and statutory requirements
2. Submit for review and approval
3. File with MPSC

Key Milestones:

Key milestones are critical points or achievements in a project or process that mark significant progress or completion of important tasks. However, despite thorough planning and best efforts, milestones are subject to



change due to unforeseen circumstances like shifts in priorities, resource limitations, external factors, or new challenges. A detailed list of key milestones for the 2026 MT Integrated Resource Plan are below.

- Scenario Development: April 2025
- Establish Candidate Resources: April 2025
- Load Forecast and Resource Assessment: April 2025
- Establish Electric Technical Advisory Committee and Stakeholder Working Group: May 2025
- Preliminary Modeling Complete: September 2025
- Draft Plan Complete: September 2025
- Internal and External Stakeholder Reviews: October 2025
- Engage Public for Feedback: October 2025
- Final Modeling Complete: December 2025
- Final Plan Complete: December 2025
- Internal and External Stakeholder Reviews: December 2025
- Open period for Public Comment: January 2026
- File MT 2026 Integrated Resource Plan with Montana Public Service Commission: March 2026

Conclusion:

The Integrated Resource Planning process will guide the development of generation resources to meet future demand. This work plan outlines a structured approach to assess current and future needs, evaluate resource options, engage stakeholders, and make data-driven recommendations for the next 20 years. With clear milestones and responsibilities, the IRP process will ensure reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable energy decisions.