

# HydroWIREs

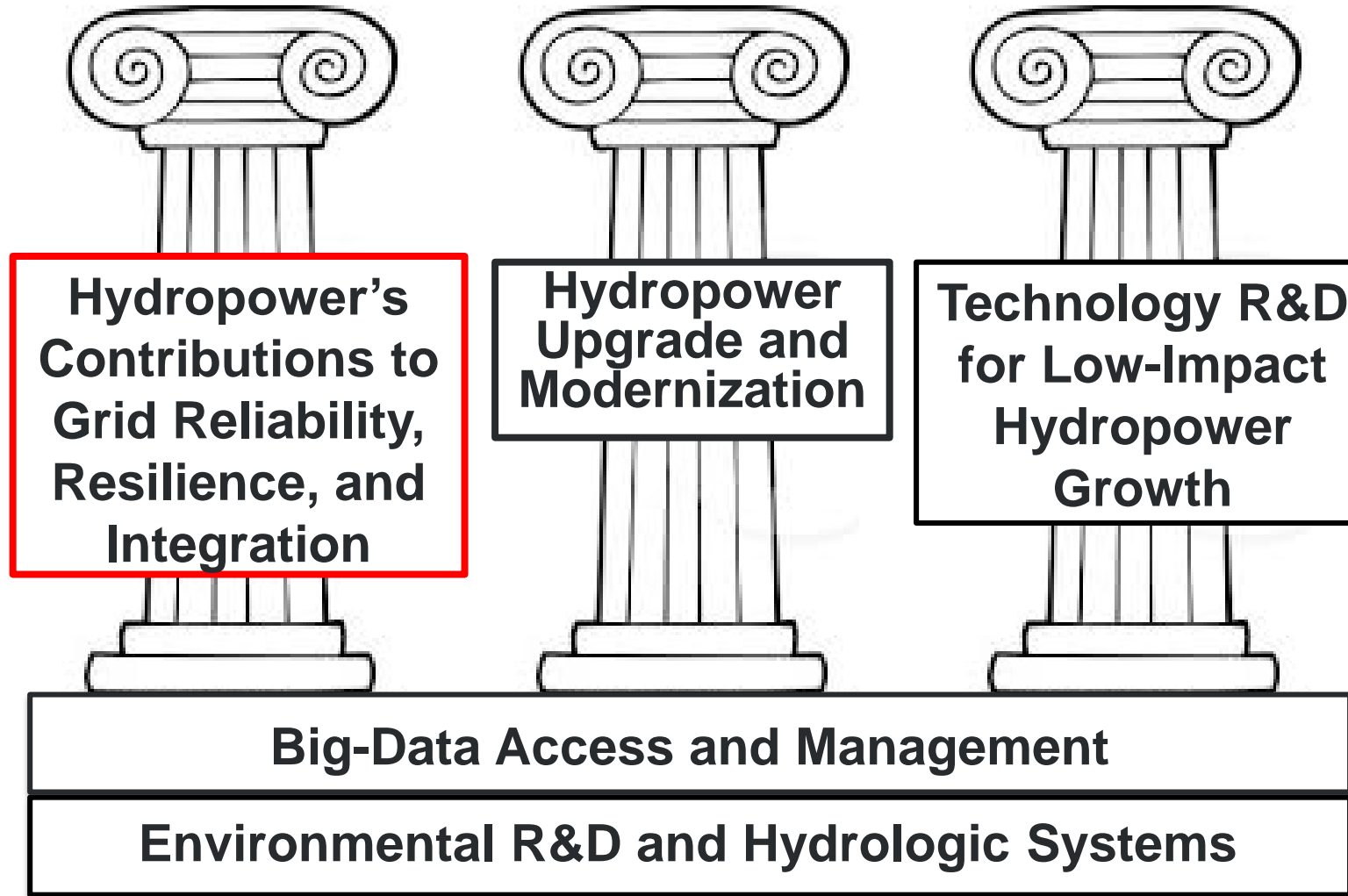
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**Pumped Storage Technology  
R&D**

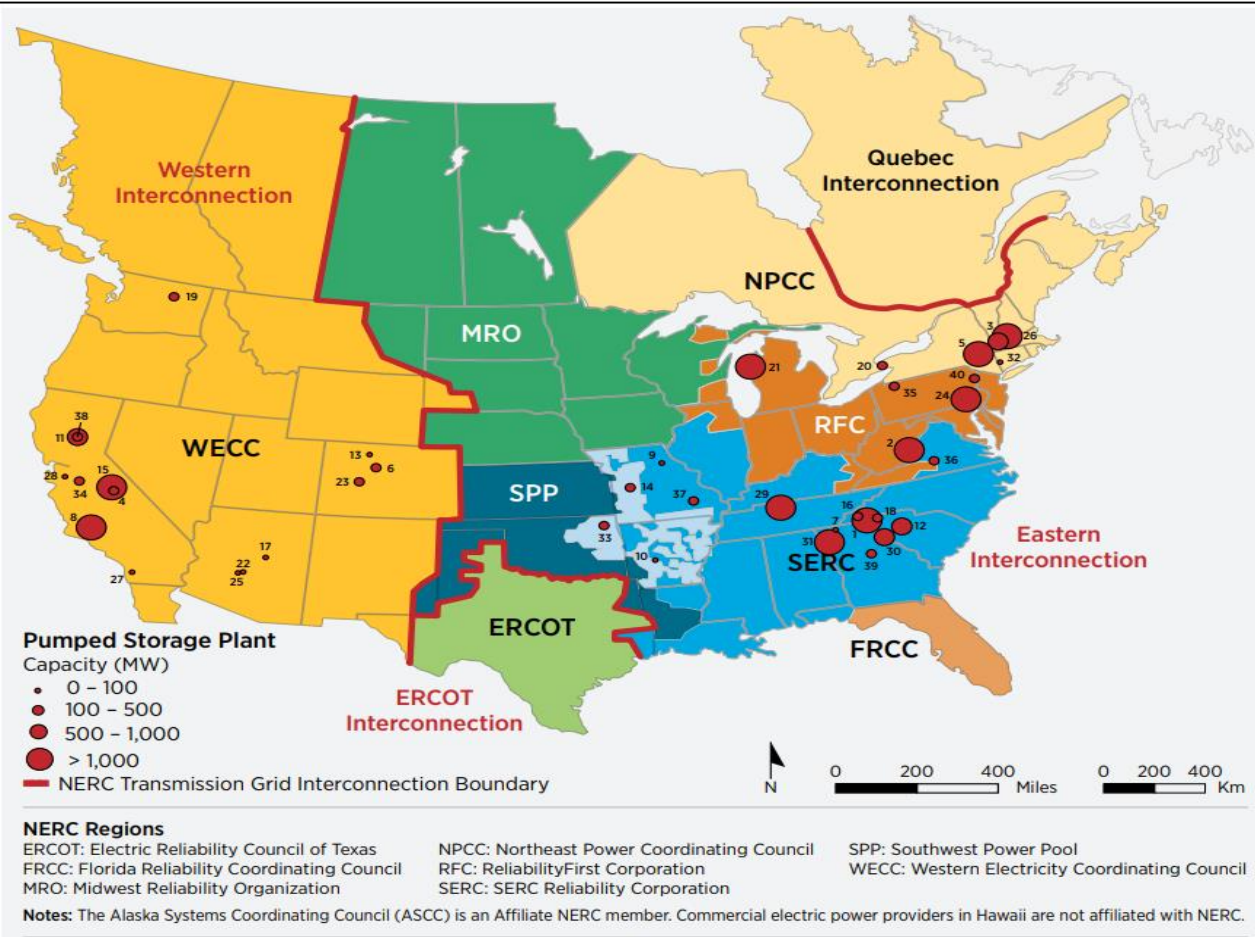
**Dr. Mark Christian**  
Argonne National Laboratory  
Management & Operations Contractor

Water Power Technologies Office

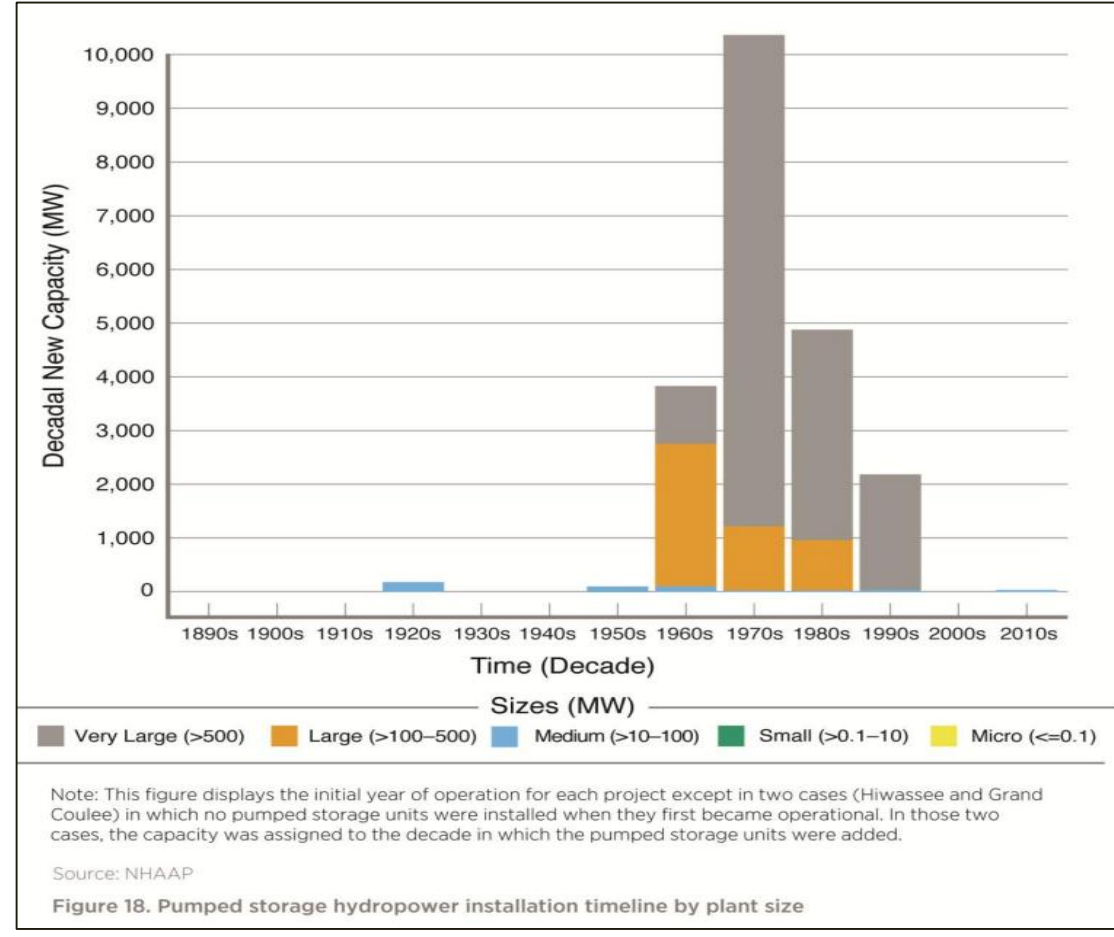
## Hydropower Program Strategic Priorities



# Pumped storage hydropower

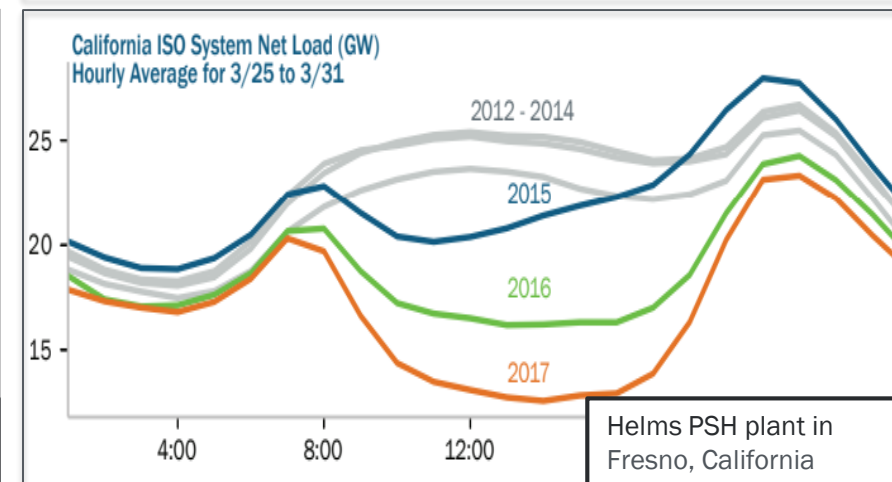
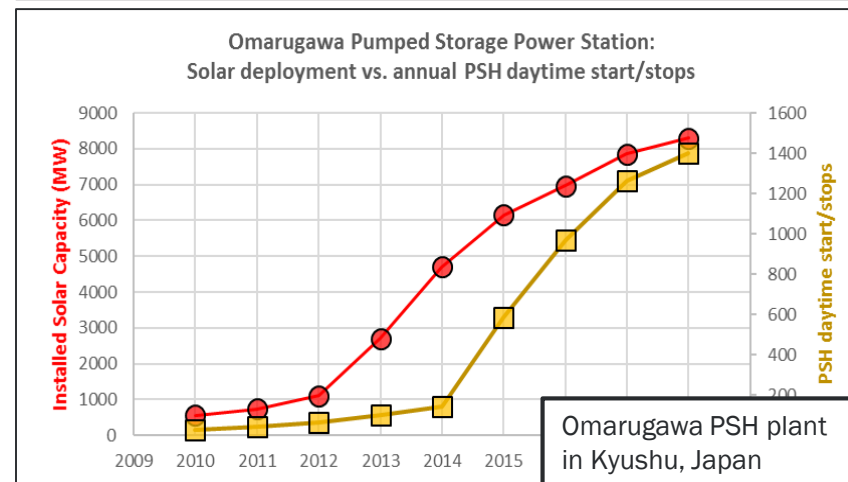
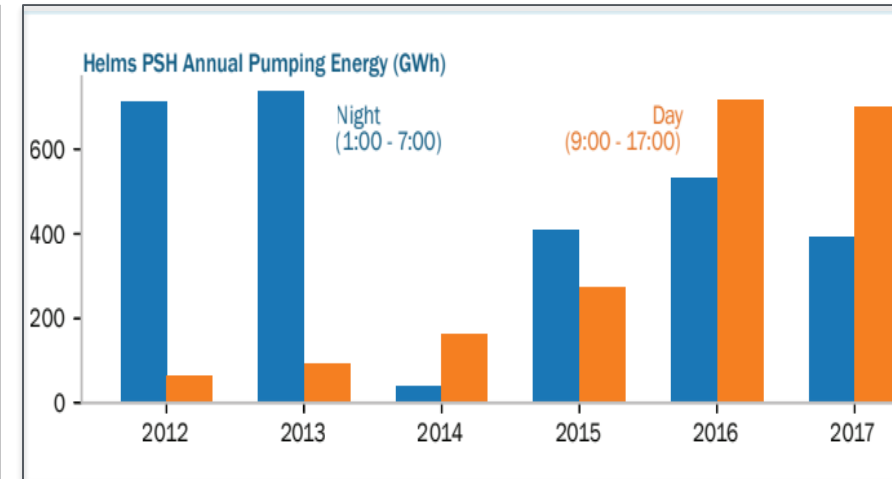
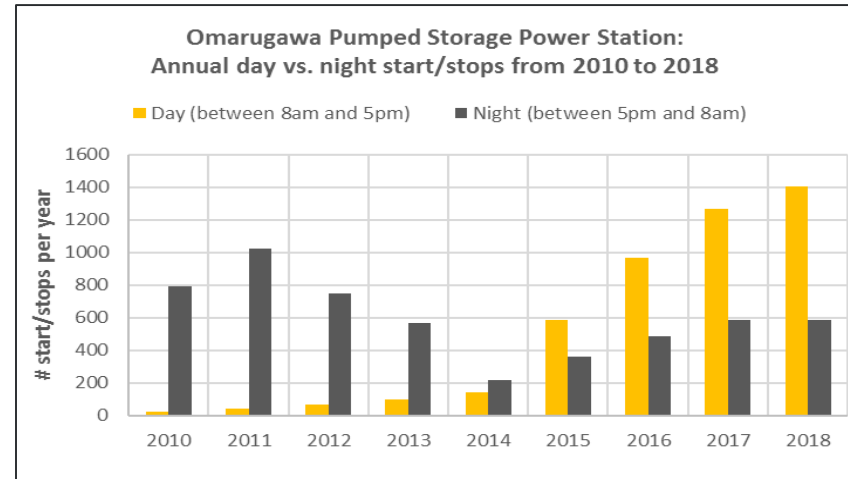


Source: Argonne National Laboratory  
**Figure 2-41.** Existing pumped storage hydropower plants in the United States

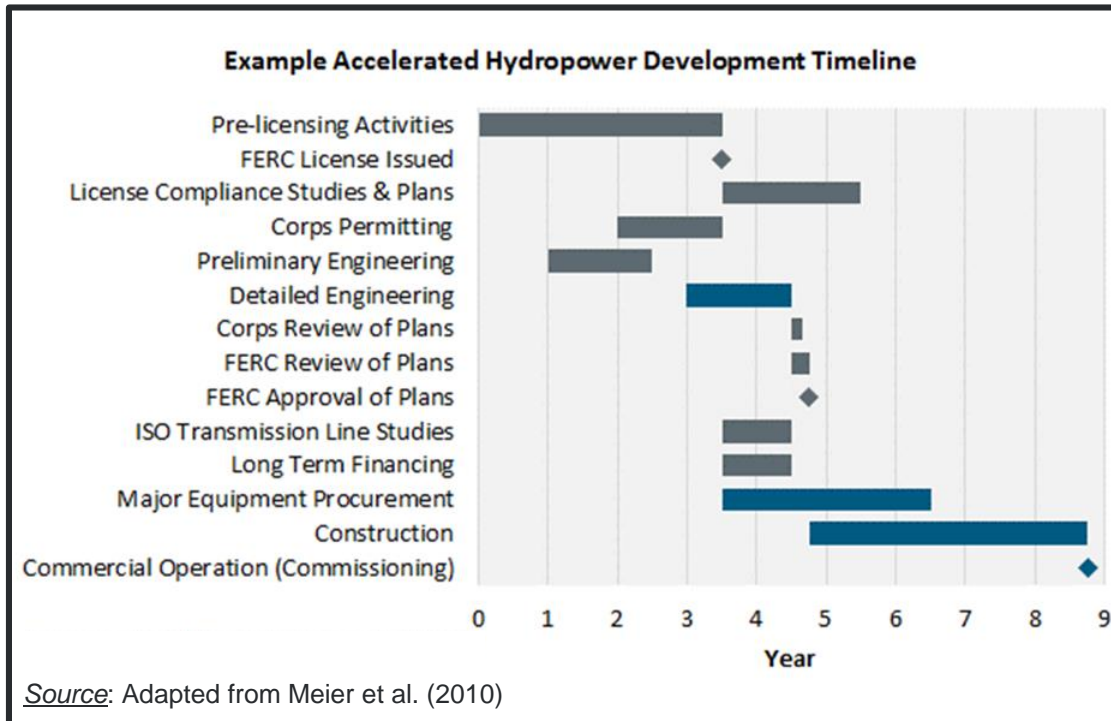


- About 22 GW of PSH capacity deployed in the US, but no new large projects in the last 20 years

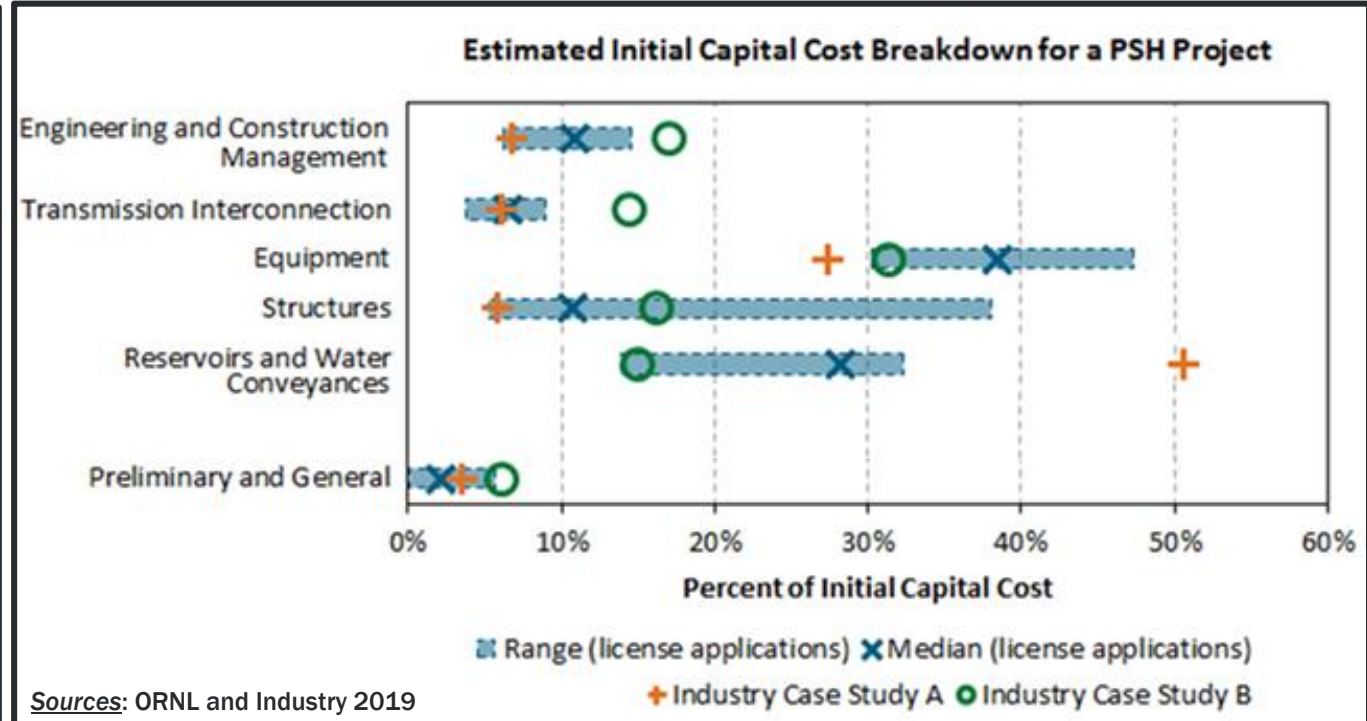
- Existing Pumped Storage Plants are being dispatched in increasingly variable ways to support Variable Energy Resources.
- As VER penetration continues to expand, energy storage will become increasingly important.
- This phenomenon appears to be international, pointing to the potential for international collaboration

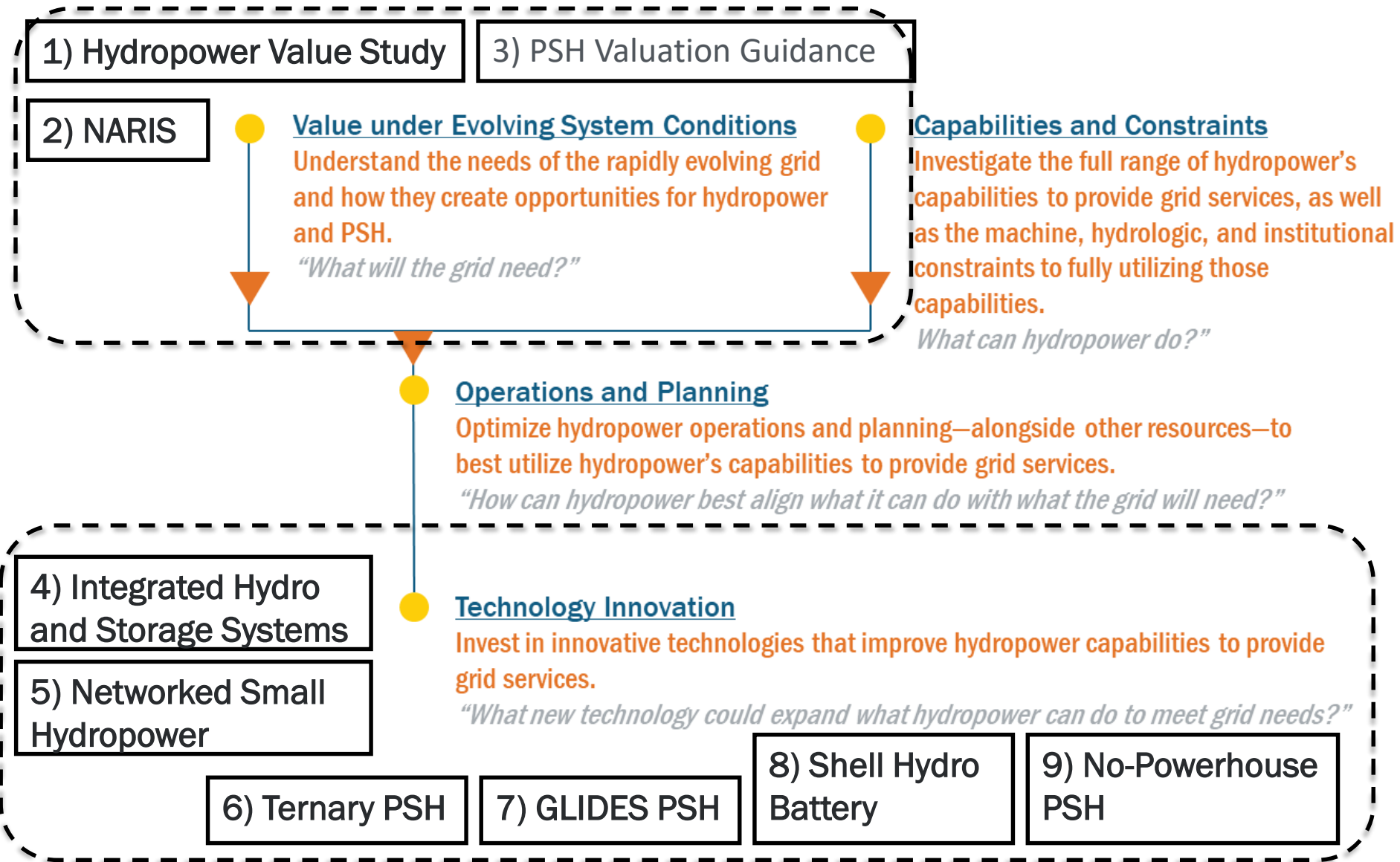


## Timeline


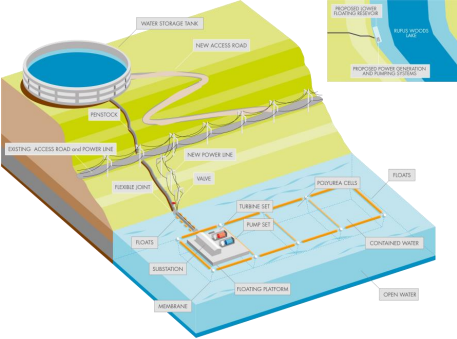
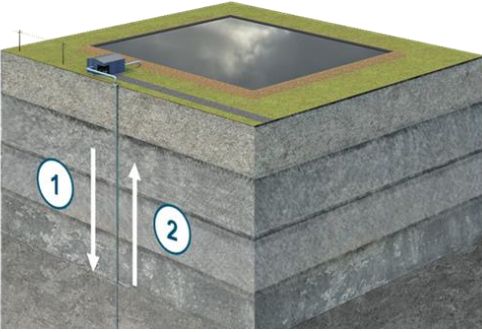

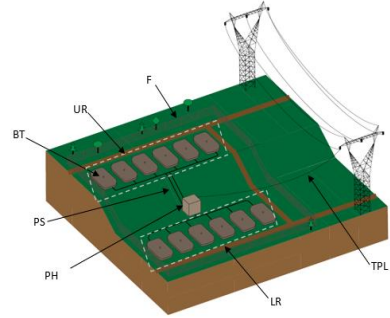
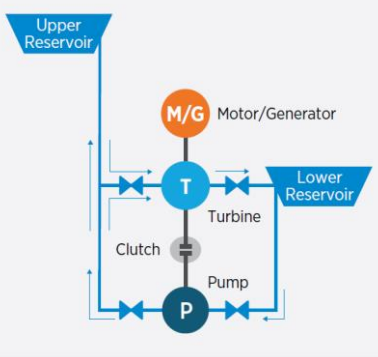
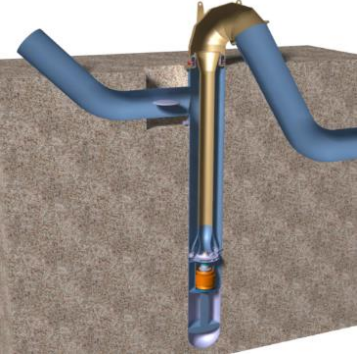


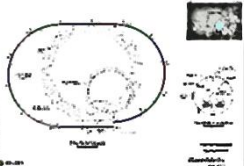


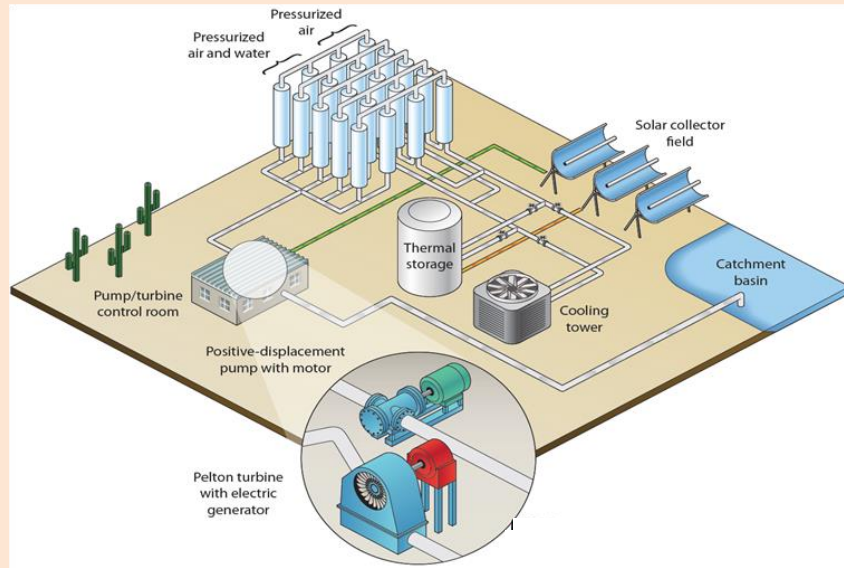
## Cost





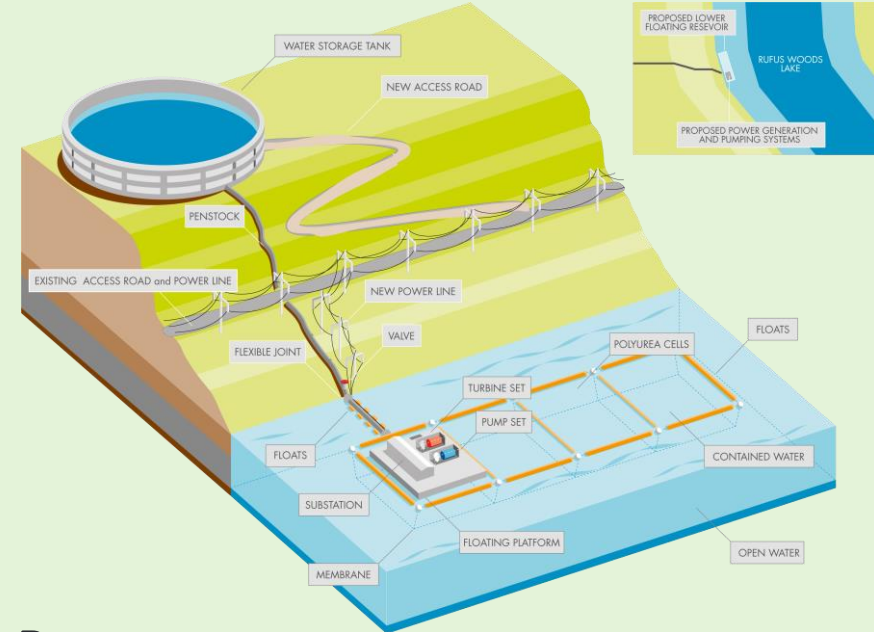
# Pumped storage technology innovations on the horizon

<p>Modular Compressed-Air PSH (ORNL)</p>	<p>Small Modular Hydro Battery (Shell)</p>	<p>Geomechanical PSH (Quidnet)</p>	<p>Steel Dams (FAST Prize Winner)</p>	<p>Modular Closed-Loop Scalable Pump Storage (FAST Prize Winner)</p>
				
<p>Ternary PSH System (NREL)</p>	<p>No-Powerhouse PSH (Obermeyer)</p>		<p>Mobile Track Machines plus Autonomous Truck Haulage in a Continuous Tunneling Process (FAST Prize Winner)</p>	<p>Modern TBMs for Underground Pumped Storage (FAST Prize Winner)</p>
				 



## GLIDES Grid-Scale Modular PSH System

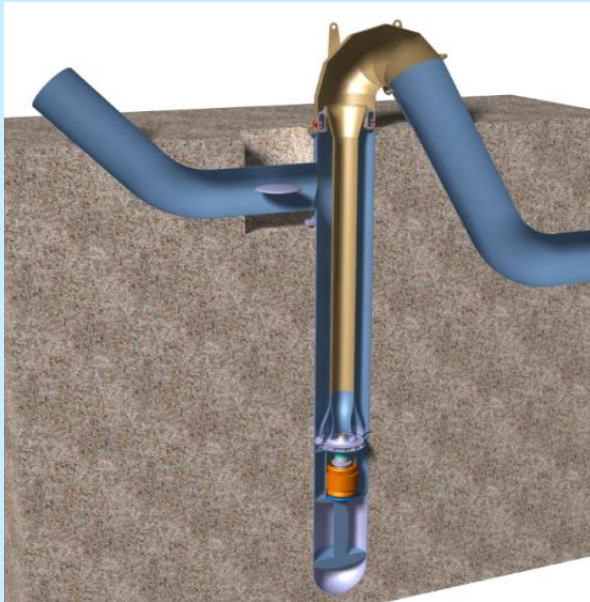
- Evaluate the feasibility of the novel Ground-Level Integrated Diverse Energy Storage (GLIDES) as a modular PSH across multiple US regions.
- Pressure vessels are the main cost driver substantial effort is dedicated toward vessel manufacturing and potential alternative materials/processes to reduce cost.



## Hydro Battery

- Investigate the feasibility of building a modular 5MW closed-loop PSH facility, the Hydro Battery.
- The Hydro Battery consists of a corrugated steel tank as the upper reservoir, a floating membrane as the lower reservoir, and a floating powerhouse.



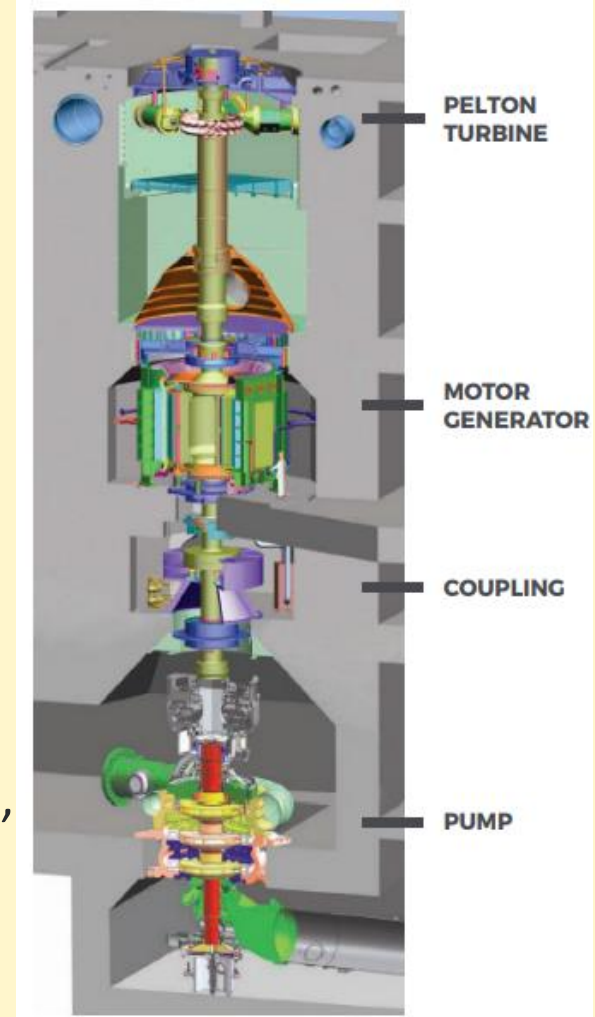


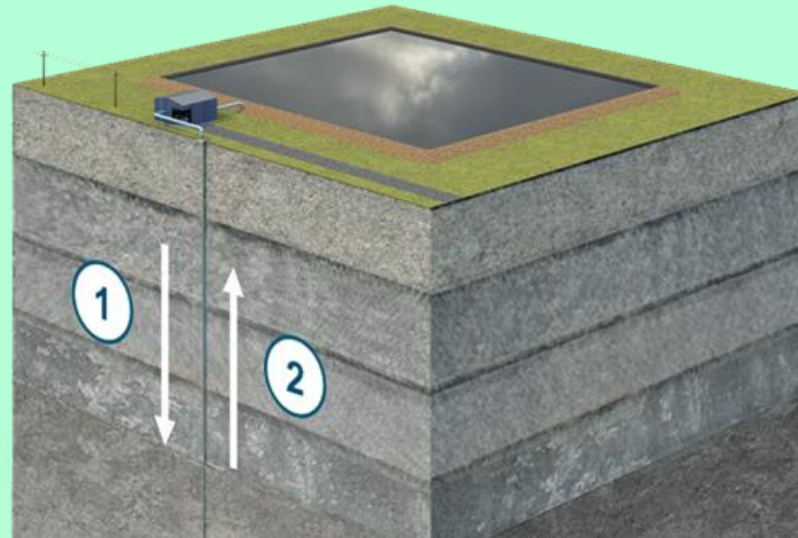
## Cost Effective Small-Scale Pumped Storage

- Design, modeling, and analysis of a reversible pump turbine with submersible permanent magnet motor generators are installed in vertical shafts.
- This design reduces environmental footprint and eliminates the need for an underground powerhouse, reducing initial construction cost.

## Application of Ternary-Type Pumped Storage

- Feasibility studies of ternary pumped storage coupled with an innovative dynamic transmission system using transmission monitoring and control equipment.
- Turbine, generator, and pump are stacked on a shaft. It pumps and generates at the same time, moving from pumping to generating at an estimated 20-40 MW/sec.

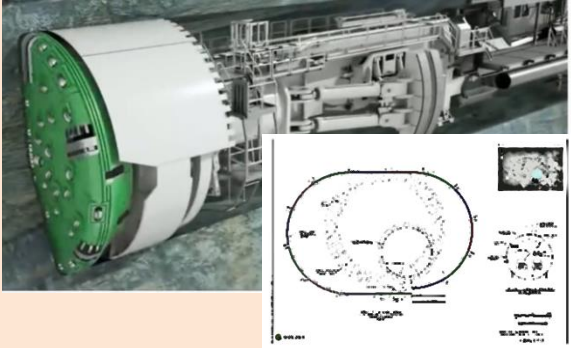




## Geomechanical Pumped Storage

- Charging the system – water is pumped down to compress the rock body. Discharging the system – the rock body pushes water through the turbine
- The system has many potential advantages including: no need for elevation differential, modular deployment and 10+ hours of duration.

# Furthering Advancements to Shorten Time (FAST) Commissioning for Pumped-Storage Hydropower Prize



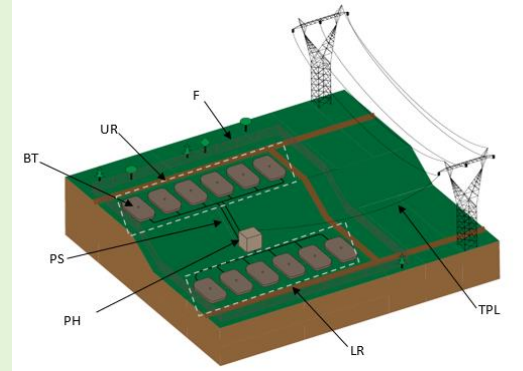
## TBM for Underground Pumped Storage

- Use of tunnel boring machines for underground excavation, which can decrease excavation time by 50% and reduce costs



## Reduced Excavation Duration, Cost and Risk

- Excavation equipment modifications and process optimizations to achieve up to 50% reduction in excavation timelines.



## Modular Closed Loop, Scalable PSH

- Modular closed-loop, scalable PSH system with a range of 1–10 megawatt, adaptable to sites without natural bodies of water.



## Steel Dams for PSH Construction

- Modular steel concept for dams that cuts costs by one-third and cuts construction schedules in half.

Competitors were assessed based on: Cost Reduction, Accelerate Timelines, Reduce Risk. Winners divided \$550,000 of combined cash prizes and voucher support from National Labs

## Near-Final Drafts:

- A review of storage in transmission planning (white paper)
- A review of pumped storage market participation and FERC Order 841 (white paper)
- Hydropower-battery hybrids (technical report)
- NREL ternary pumped storage (technical report)
- Fast commissioning challenge baseline report (technical report)
- Hydropower representation in production cost modeling (workshop report)

## Work in Progress:

- Hydropower Value Study (HVS) series of reports:
  - Hydropower Value Study Executive Summary
  - Historical Analysis of Hydropower Operations in MISO
  - Historical Analysis of Hydropower Operations in WECC
  - Historical Analysis of Hydropower Operations in ISONE
  - Case Study – Chelan Public Utility District
  - Case Study – Tennessee Valley Authority
  - Value of Non-monetized Services by Hydropower
  - Review of Market Rules for Hydropower
  - The Value of Water
  - Value Drivers for Hydropower Operations
  - Power Systems vs. Hydropower Operational Timeframes
  - Hydropower Capabilities & Technology Gap + Cost Analysis
- North American Renewable Integration Study (technical report)
- Ground-Level Integrated Diverse Energy Storage (technical report)





*Thank you for your attention.  
Questions?*

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WPTO invests in early-stage research to accelerate development of innovative water power technologies while ensuring that long-term sustainability and environmental issues are addressed.



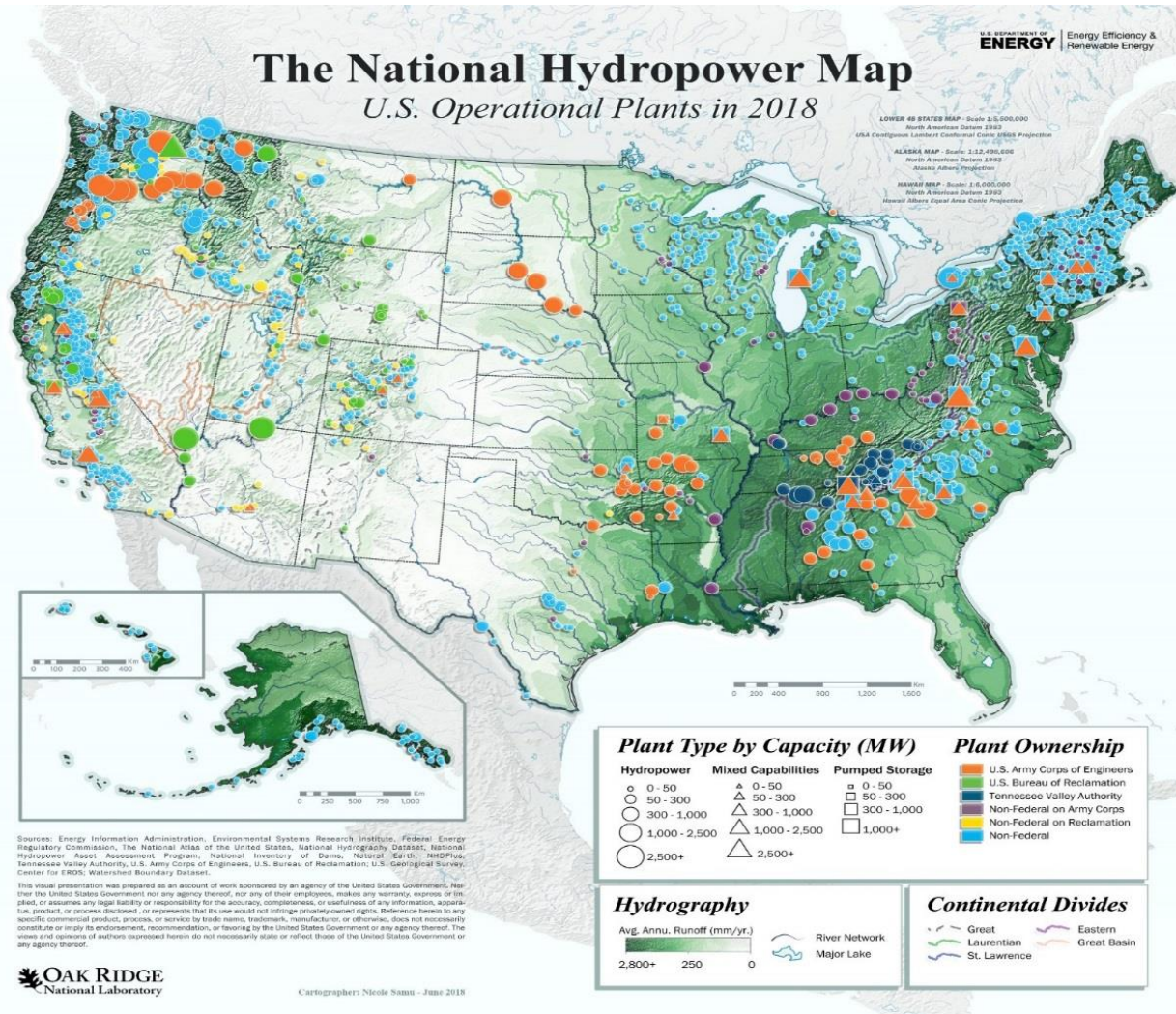
WPTO supports efforts to validate performance and grid-reliability for new technologies, develop and increase accessibility to necessary testing infrastructure, and evaluate systems-level opportunities and risks.



WPTO aggregates, analyzes and disseminates relevant, objective, technical information on water power technologies and related issues to stakeholders and decision-makers.

**Emerging priorities:** In 2018, WPTO announced two new research portfolios within our hydropower and marine energy programs:

- **HydroWIRES:** A hydropower-grid research portfolio focused on current conditions as well as potential future value drivers
- **Powering the Blue Economy:** Analysis of marine energy technologies' potential to power the blue economy (ocean industries & missions)

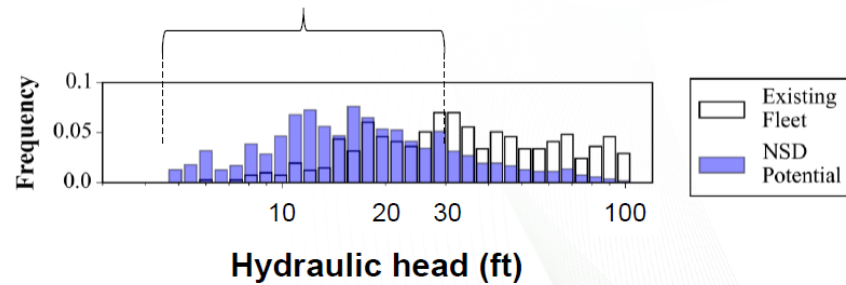


## HYDROPOWER HIGHLIGHTS

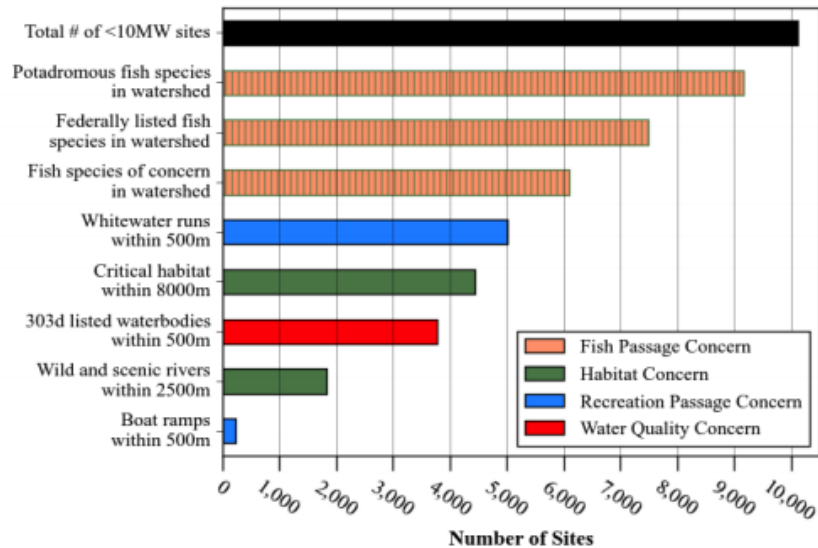
- **80 GW** of hydropower capacity – 7% of U.S. capacity
- **22 GW** of pumped storage capacity – greater than 95% of U.S. energy storage capacity
- Existing plants provide low-cost and reliable generation, **87,542 jobs** across 48 states
- **49%** of hydro capacity owned by the U.S. Government
- **Nearly 1.5 GW of capacity** added in the last decade but new opportunities often limited by regulations, high costs, and environmental concerns
- **\$8.9 billion** in refurbishments and upgrades was invested across 158 hydropower dams in the U.S. between 2007-2017
- **Large existing resource, including the vast majority of grid-scale storage**
- **Significant complexity and variety in the fleet**

## New Stream Reach Development

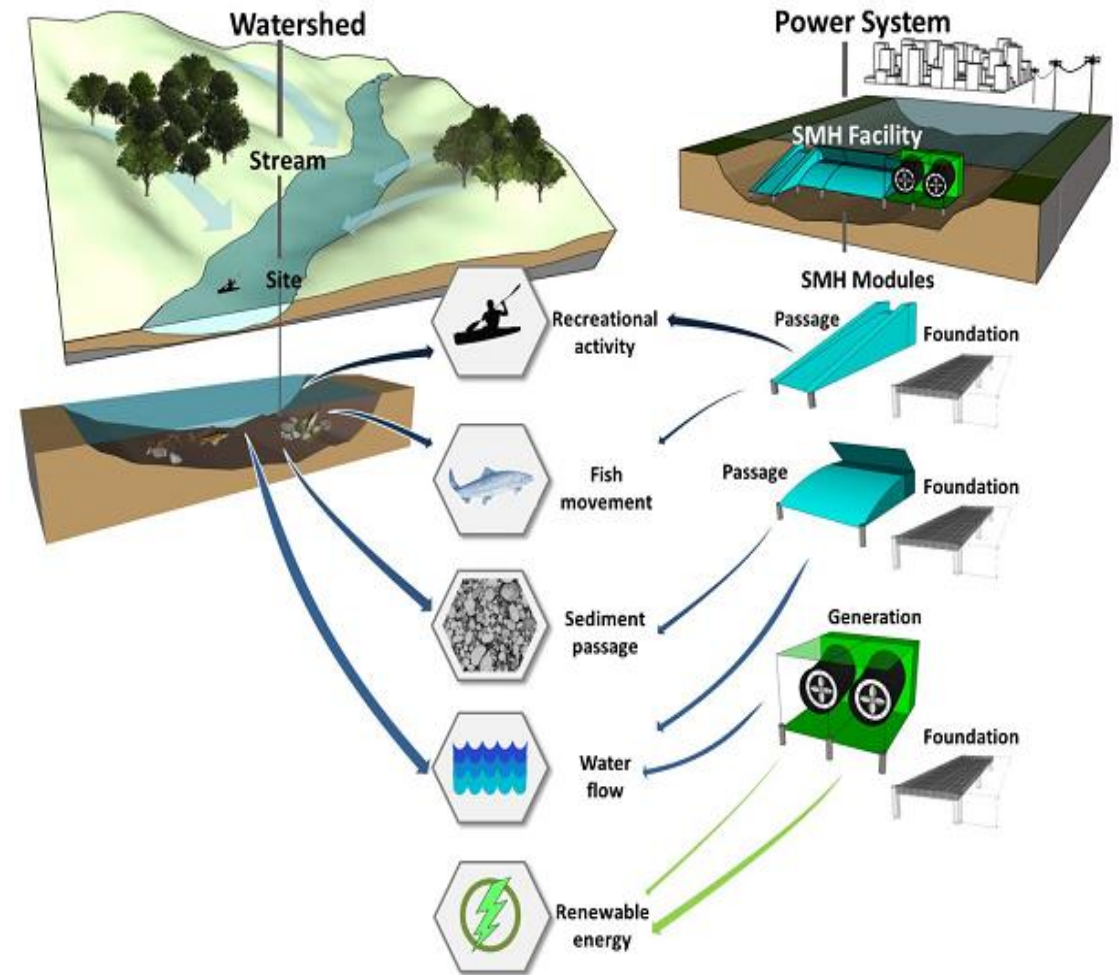
Majority of NSD sites are **low-head** (< 30ft) compared to existing fleet



Environmental Attributes of NSD Sites with <10MW Potential



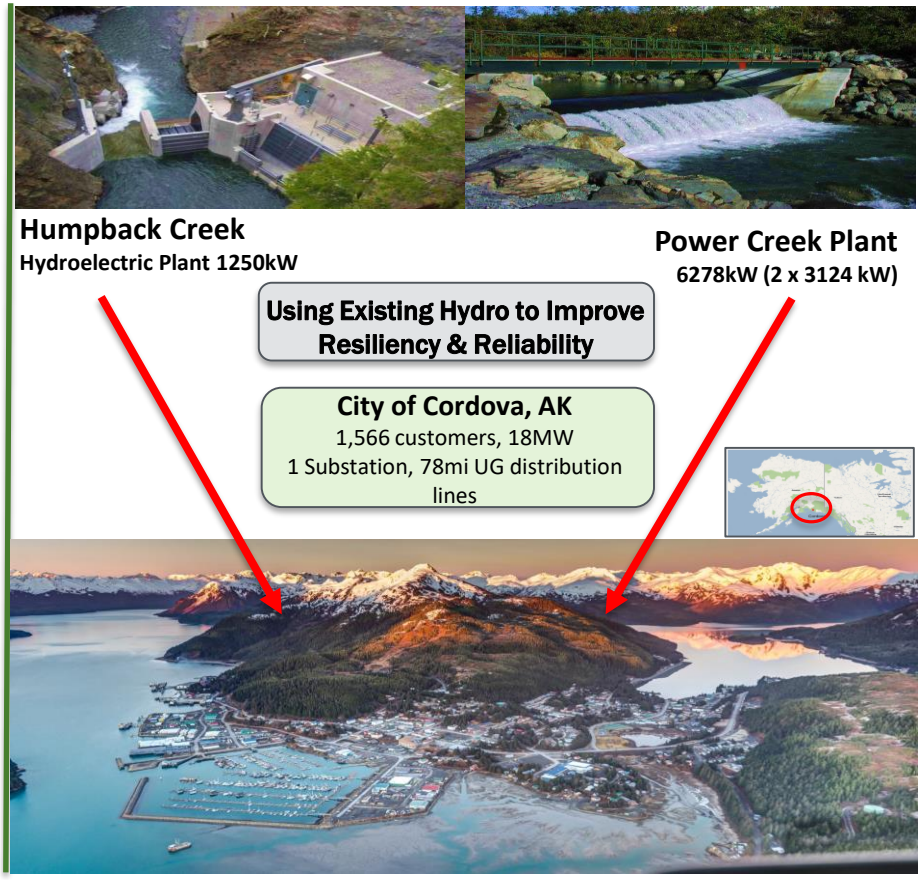
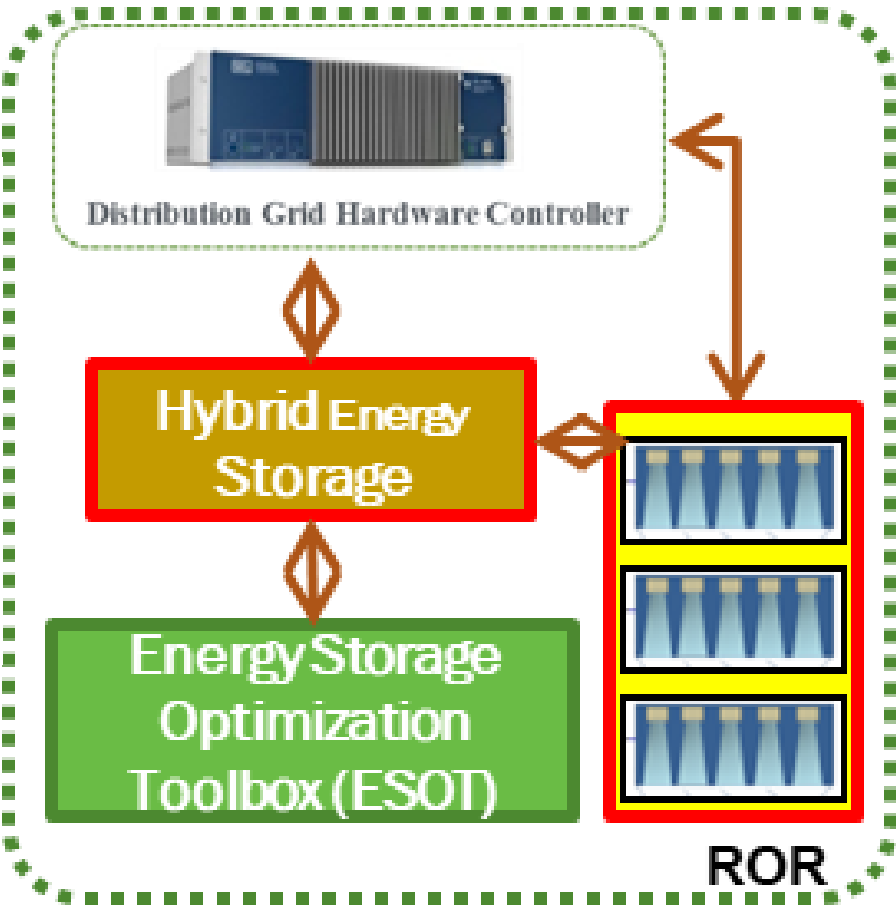
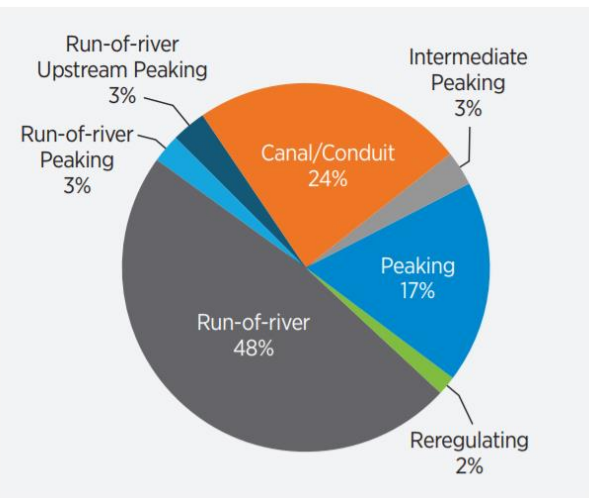
## New Approaches to Designing and Developing New Hydro





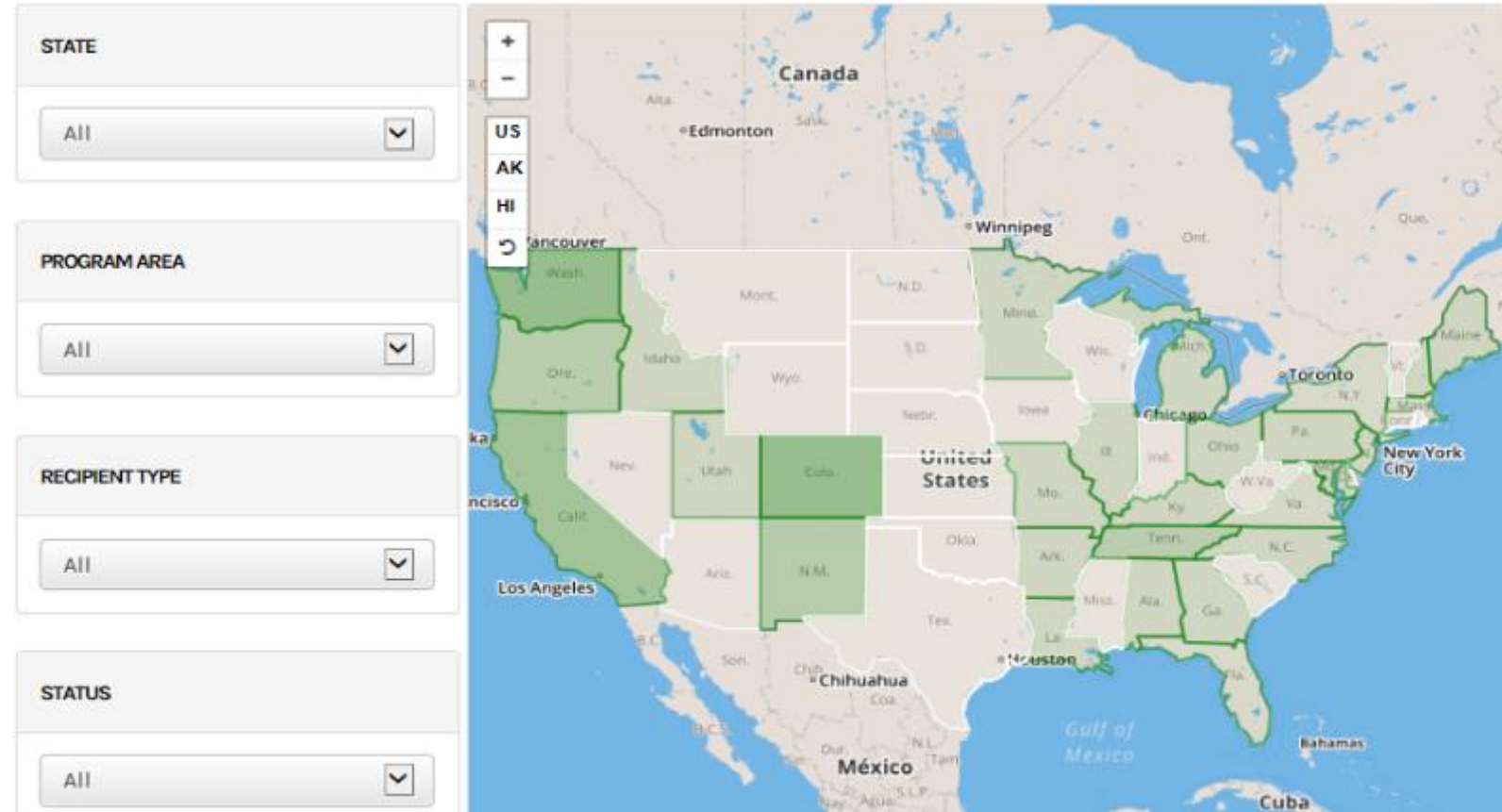
# How WPTO's Hydropower Portfolio Aligns with EERE Priorities: Integration

## Increasing flexibility of run-of-river (ROR) hydro plants through use of hybrid energy storage systems



Pictured: RADIANCE project in Cordova, Alaska

- Interactive map
- Provides information on WPTO's R&D portfolio
- Features multiple filters to isolate specific details on DOE hydropower and marine energy projects throughout the U.S.
- Contains historical information on completed projects with associated materials, research findings, and publication links



<https://energy.gov/eere/water/water-power-technologies-office-projects-map>

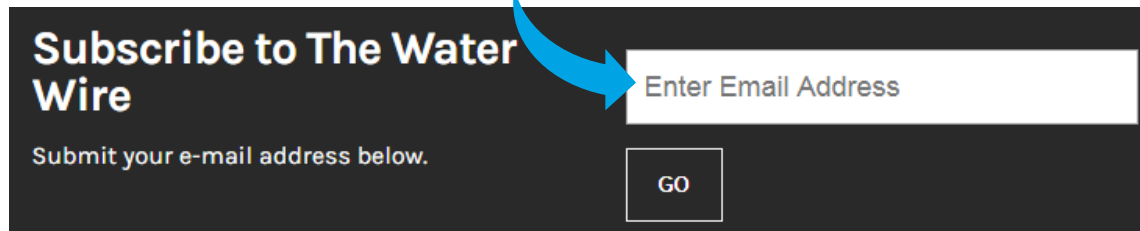
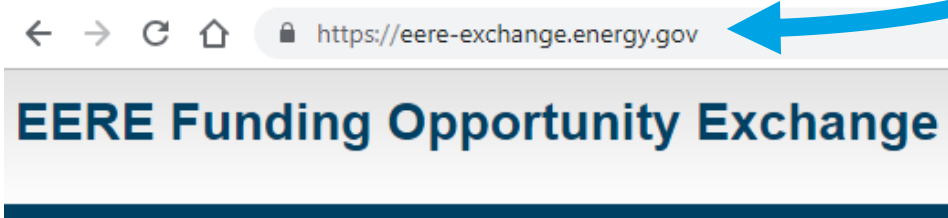
1. DOE/EERE overview
2. PSH overview
3. Industry challenges; operational changes/costs/cap costs and permitting
4. Danny's priorities
5. Example projects for each priority
6. How to partner? Priming questions
7. Upcoming items for release

- **Competitive funding opportunities** through which organizations can apply for financial support. These projects, established through cooperative agreements, generally require some level of cost-share from the awardee.
- Innovative funding mechanisms such as **prizes and challenges** are also being used more frequently across DOE and other federal agencies.
- The **Small Business Innovations Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs** are competitive programs targeted to small businesses.
- WPTO and other DOE offices often utilize a public **Requests for Information (RFI)** to solicit feedback from stakeholders on WPTO's programmatic strategy and industry's research and development needs.
- DOE's **National Laboratories** have research centers that can help water power researchers and manufacturers (there are a number of different options for working with Labs).

Most of these opportunities are publicly posted on **EERE Exchange** (*SBIR and STTR can be found on <https://science.energy.gov>*).

You can **reach out to WPTO** to ask a question, offer feedback, or request a meeting by writing to [WaterPowerTechnologiesOffice@EE.DOE.GOV](mailto:WaterPowerTechnologiesOffice@EE.DOE.GOV)

Want **periodic updates** on water power funding opportunities, events, and publications?

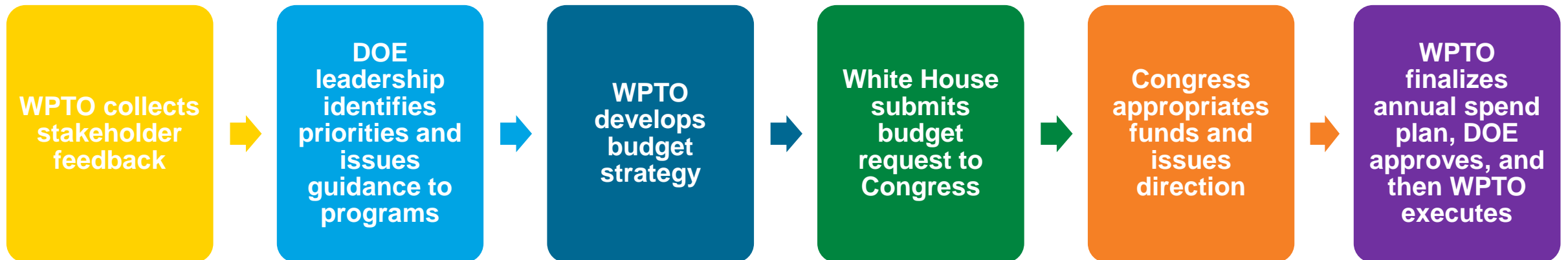


Federal fiscal years (FY) run October – September. At any time, WPTO is working on budgets for three FYs:

- **Executing the current fiscal year** (e.g. implementing the budget appropriated by Congress for the current FY)
- **Formulating or developing for the next fiscal year** (e.g. justifying the President’s budget request for the next FY by outlining how WPTO would use requested funds)
- **Planning for the fiscal year after next** (e.g. outlining funding needs/priorities for the FY after next)

WPTO is currently executing FY19, formulating FY20, and planning for FY21.

The simplified flow diagram below typically takes an entire year in practice.



## ***Vision:***

*A U.S. hydropower and pumped storage industry that is fully utilized to **support grid reliability** and the integration of other energy resources; capitalizes on new, low-impact opportunities for growth; **maintains and optimizes existing assets**; and continues to improve the **environmental sustainability** of hydropower systems .*

## ***Mission:***

*Conduct early-stage R&D and applied science to further the development of **transformative, cost-effective, reliable and environmentally-sustainable hydropower and pumped storage technologies**; better understand and capitalize upon opportunities for hydropower and pumped storage to **support a rapidly evolving grid**; and support the use of hydro to **improve U.S. energy-water infrastructure and water security**.*

