

## EUC Resource Planning Working Group Questions

Batch 3

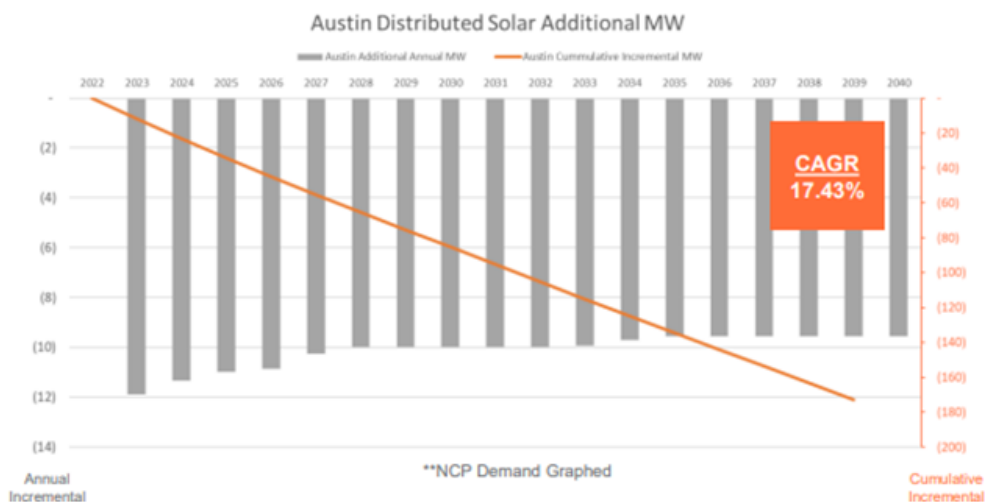
October 12, 2023

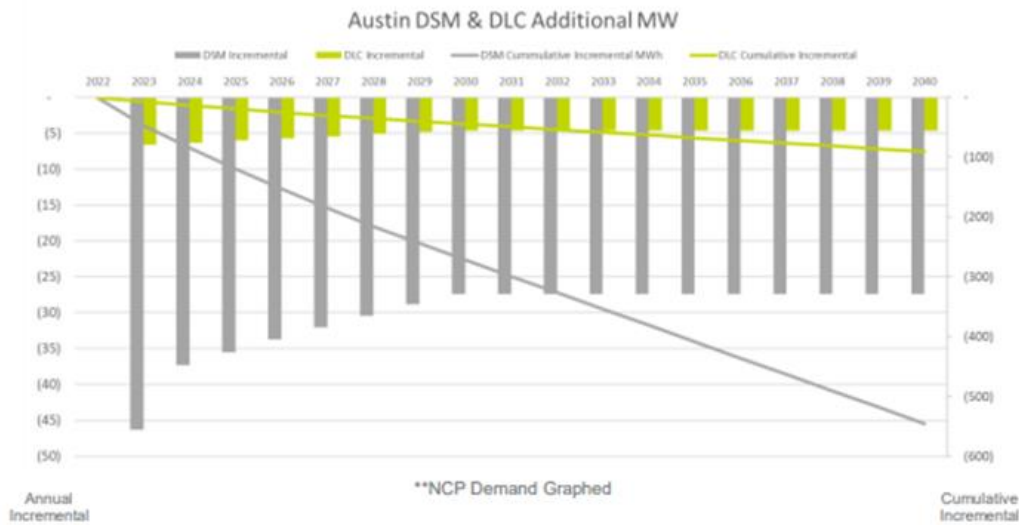
1. In our last batch of questions we asked “Is conversion to a synchronous condenser a viable and appropriate option for either the Sandhill or Decker plants? Why or why not?” and the response we received was “Yes, at Decker Austin Energy has already converted one unit operation into a double mode of operation. The unit can be started, connected to the grid, and then it becomes a motor when the fuel is turned off. It has the ability to go back into generating mode when the fuel is turned back on. This is because the units have a free spinning compressor. The Sand Hill units do not have this capability.” Does this mean that Decker is still generating? Does the mention of “fuel” mean that it is still using natural gas to operate in this new way? If so, what are the annual emissions? And is there a way to operate a synchronous condenser without using fossil fuels?

Decker units #1 and #2 are decommissioned. The Decker CTs are still available to operate as call on to bridge the MW gaps between solar and wind supply. These CT are using NG as a fuel to operate. The annual emission is based on the operational needs; however, the summer limit is 400 hours of operations per unit from June thru September. To operate in the Sync Condenser mode, require the turbine to spin up to full RPM’s so that in can synchronize with the grid. This is about an 5-7 min window, when the unit is motorized, the fuel can be shut off.

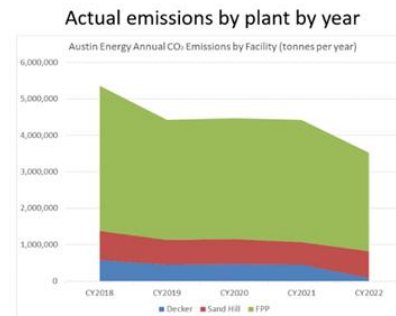
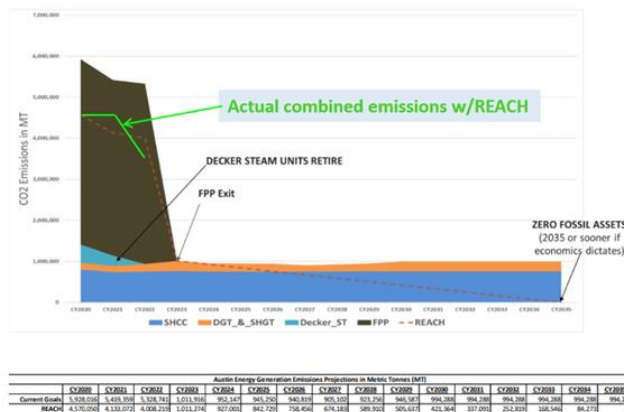
2. Can you please provide full page high def versions of these graphs that are more readable?

Please see accompanying PowerPoint slides. These graphics were all prepared based off of screen shots. Unfortunately, there are no hi-res. versions available.





Actual Emissions superimposed over the original Resource Plan projection



	CY2018	CY2019	CY2020	CY2021	CY2022	CY2023	CY2024	CY2025	CY2026	CY2027	CY2028	CY2029	CY2030	CY2031	CY2032	CY2033	CY2034	CY2035	CY2036	CY2037	CY2038	CY2039	CY2040	
Current Graph	5,228,026	5,439,376	5,328,741	5,013,392	492,147	465,292	440,819	409,102	383,292	365,587	348,398	332,288	316,288	300,288	284,288	268,288	252,288	236,288	220,288	204,288	188,288	172,288	156,288	140,288
REACH	4,176,026	4,131,026	4,008,026	3,813,026	3,613,026	3,413,026	3,213,026	3,013,026	2,813,026	2,613,026	2,413,026	2,213,026	2,013,026	1,813,026	1,613,026	1,413,026	1,213,026	1,013,026	813,026	613,026	413,026	213,026	113,026	13,026

\*These are projections as of March 2020 and actual results for a given period may differ depending upon market conditions.

3. For the new transmission lines being considered by AE, does the utility already have potential routes identified? If so, please provide maps and/or descriptions (whatever is available).

That information is not able to be made public at this time.

4. For the which of the transmission upgrade solutions has procurement been started for? n/a, see above

5. When will AE request approval for ERCOT cost recovery for each of the various transmission upgrades that are being considered?

Austin Energy will seek cost recovery after the upgrades become used and useful in rendering service to the public.

6. How long does the ERCOT transmission project approval process normally take?  
The time of approving a transmission project by ERCOT depends on the cost of the project and several other factors. Attached please find the one-page explanation from ERCOT. For some small Tier 4 projects such as reconductoring transmission lines, the approval process will not take a long time. Also, the attached RPG\_Charter\_and\_Procedure, Section 2.3 summarizes ERCOT's timeline for every Tier project category.
7. Will AE use cash or financing for the transmission projects? If a combination, please provide a rough division.  
Generally speaking Austin Energy will finance capital projects using a 50/50 split of cash and debt.
8. When AE examined the last best offer from the LCRA, what period of time did the utility assume that the costs would be recovered from ratepayers over? (i.e. 1 year, 3 years, 25 years)  
The offer made by LCRA was not affordable and the structure of the offer was unworkable. Thus, the type of analysis this question presumes was unnecessary.