Section 5: Forecasted Need for Resources in Colorado

Load and Resource Balance

Base Case Results

Using the base case load forecast developed in Section 2 and the generation in Colorado presented in Section 3, we can look at the potential need for new generation in the state. Figure 5-1 presents Colorado loads versus resources through 2025. The requirement line represents the base case peak demand in Colorado times a 15 percent reserve margin requirement. The resource stack includes all the generation located in Colorado, less the 620 MW owned by utilities that serve customers outside of Colorado, as well as out-of-state resources that are dedicated to serving load in Colorado (see Section 3 discussion). Additionally, two new baseload resources were added to the resource mix, the Springerville 400-MW expansion in 2006 (however, only 200 MW is expected to come to Colorado) and the 750-MW Comanche expansion in 2010. Based on the base case forecast, additional resources are needed in the state as soon as 2007, although with the addition of Comanche, reserves are almost met in 2010. By 2025, 4,900 MW of new generation will be needed.

Figure 5-1: Load – Resource Balance in Colorado, Base Case

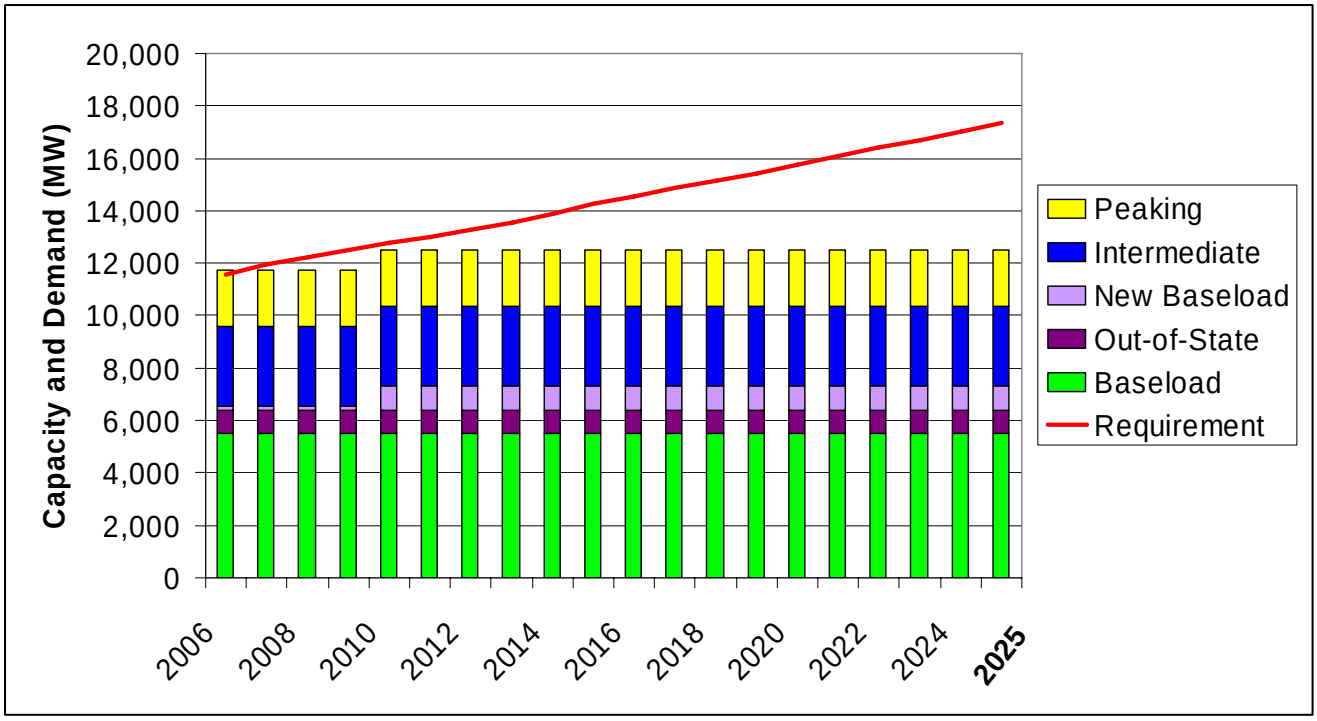

Figure 5-2: Load–Resource Balance in Colorado, High Case

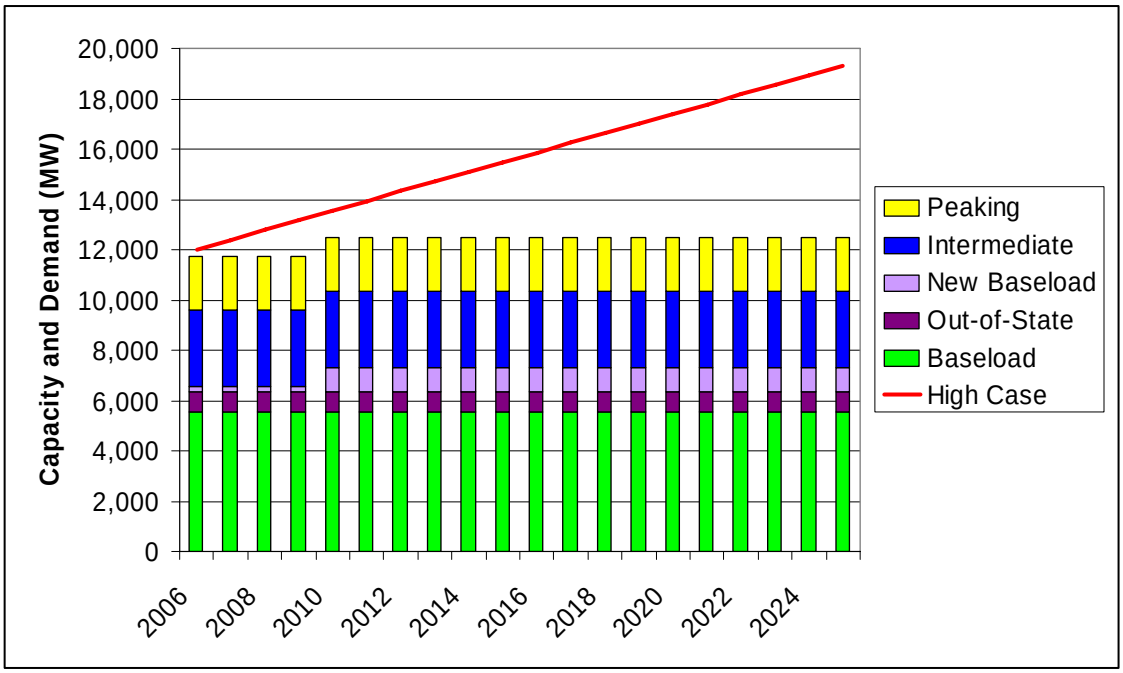

Figure 5-3: Load–Resource Balance in Colorado, Low Case