

Mike Milburn
Chair
Montana

Doug Grob
Montana

Jeffery C. Allen
Idaho

Ed Schriever
Idaho



Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

Thomas L (Les) Purce
Vice Chair
Washington

KC Golden
Washington

Margaret Hoffmann
Oregon

Charles F. Sams III
Oregon

December 9, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jennifer Light, Director of Power Planning

SUBJECT: Power Plan Update

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Jennifer Light

Summary: The Power Division is preparing the Council's Ninth Regional Power Plan. Since this is a long process with many interconnected components, staff plan a standing item at Council meetings to provide members with an update on the status of work to date and highlight the next steps.

At the December meeting, Jennifer will share the results of the needs assessment analysis for the New Resource and Transmission Risk scenario. She will also spend time walking through the game plan for the next several months as the Council works towards release of a draft Power Plan.

Relevance: Under the Northwest Power Act, the Council is required to review its power plan no less frequently than once every five years. The Council initiated its review of the power plan in February 2025, with a goal of developing a final power plan by November 2026.

Workplan: B. Development of Ninth Power Plan

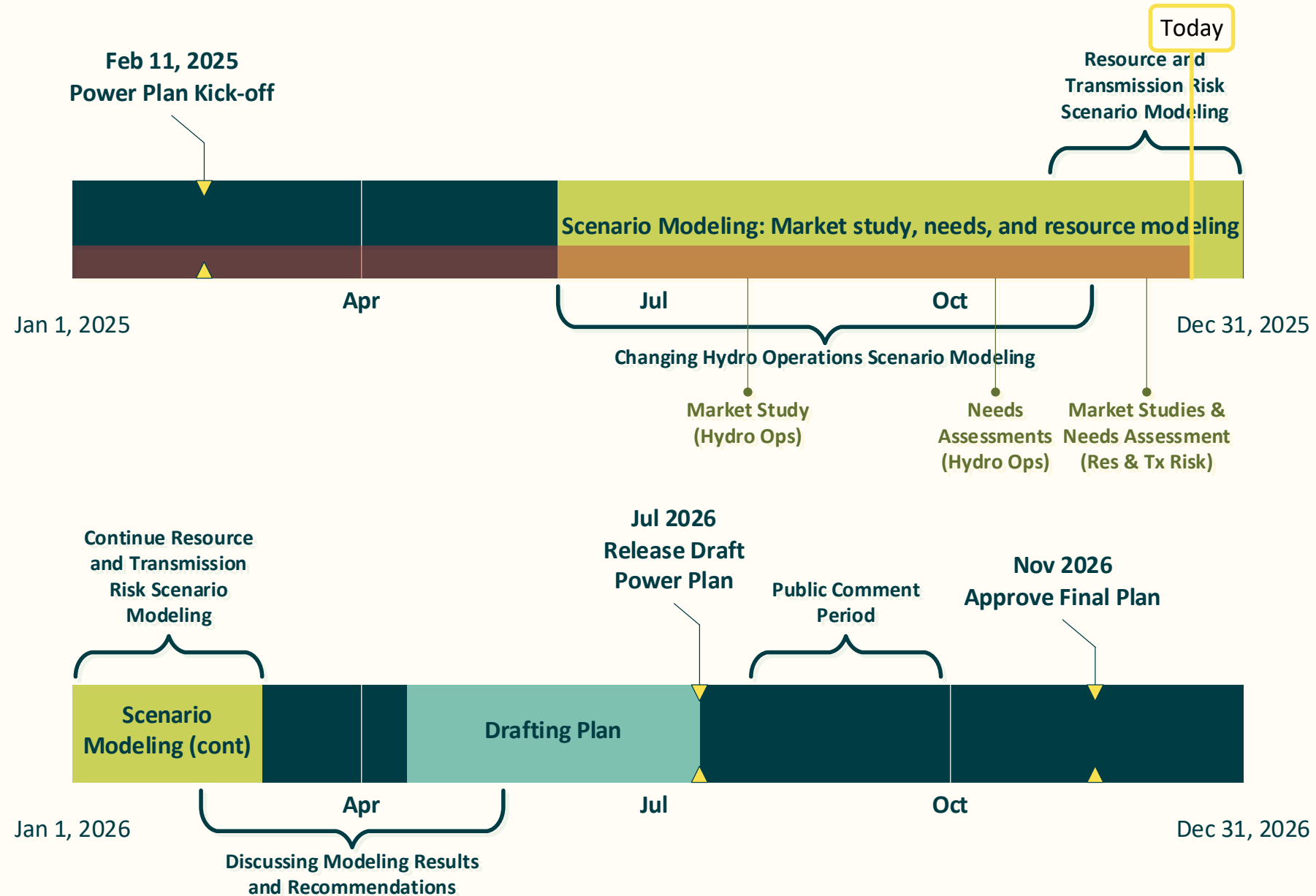
Power Plan Update

Jennifer Light
December 16, 2025

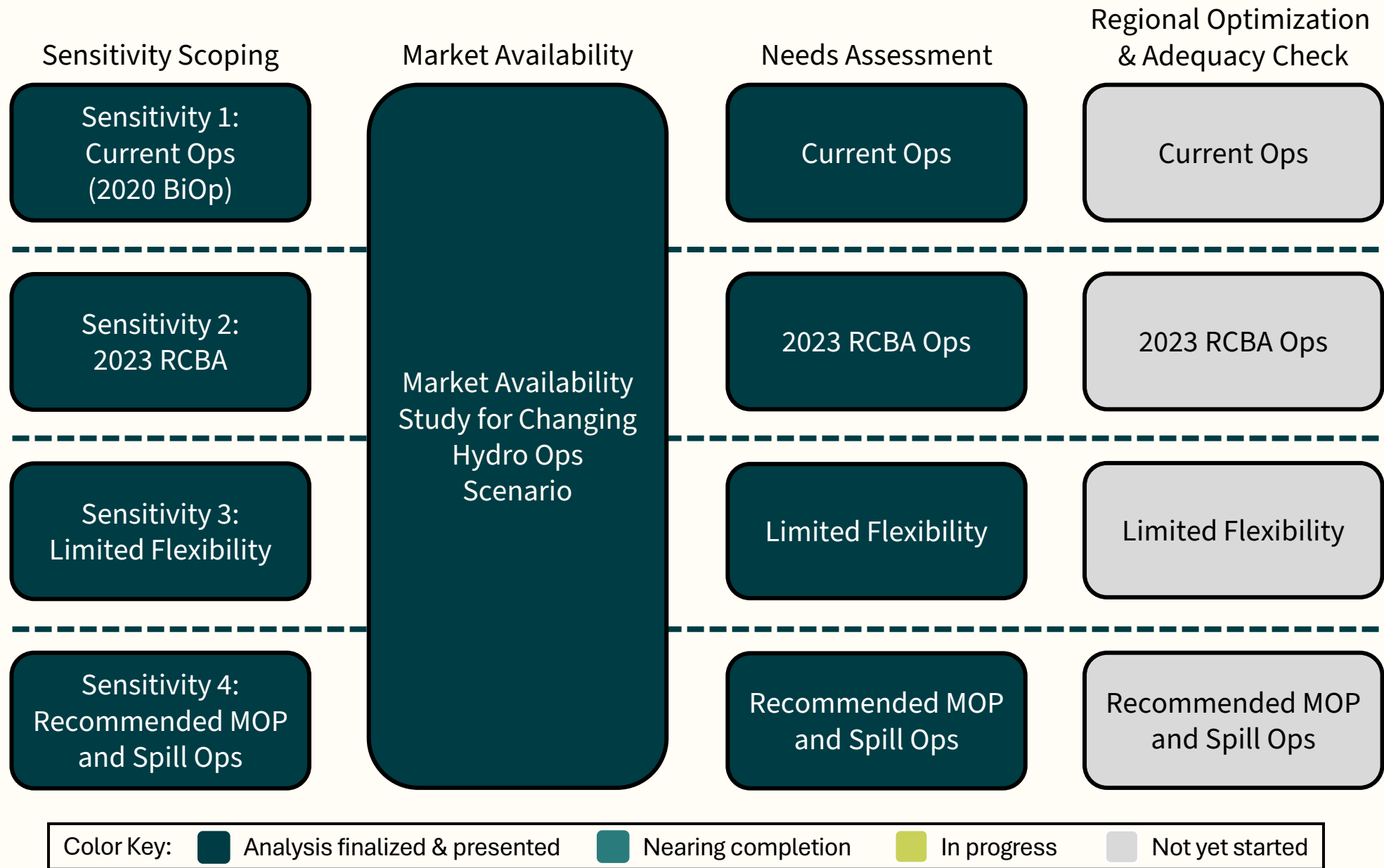


Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

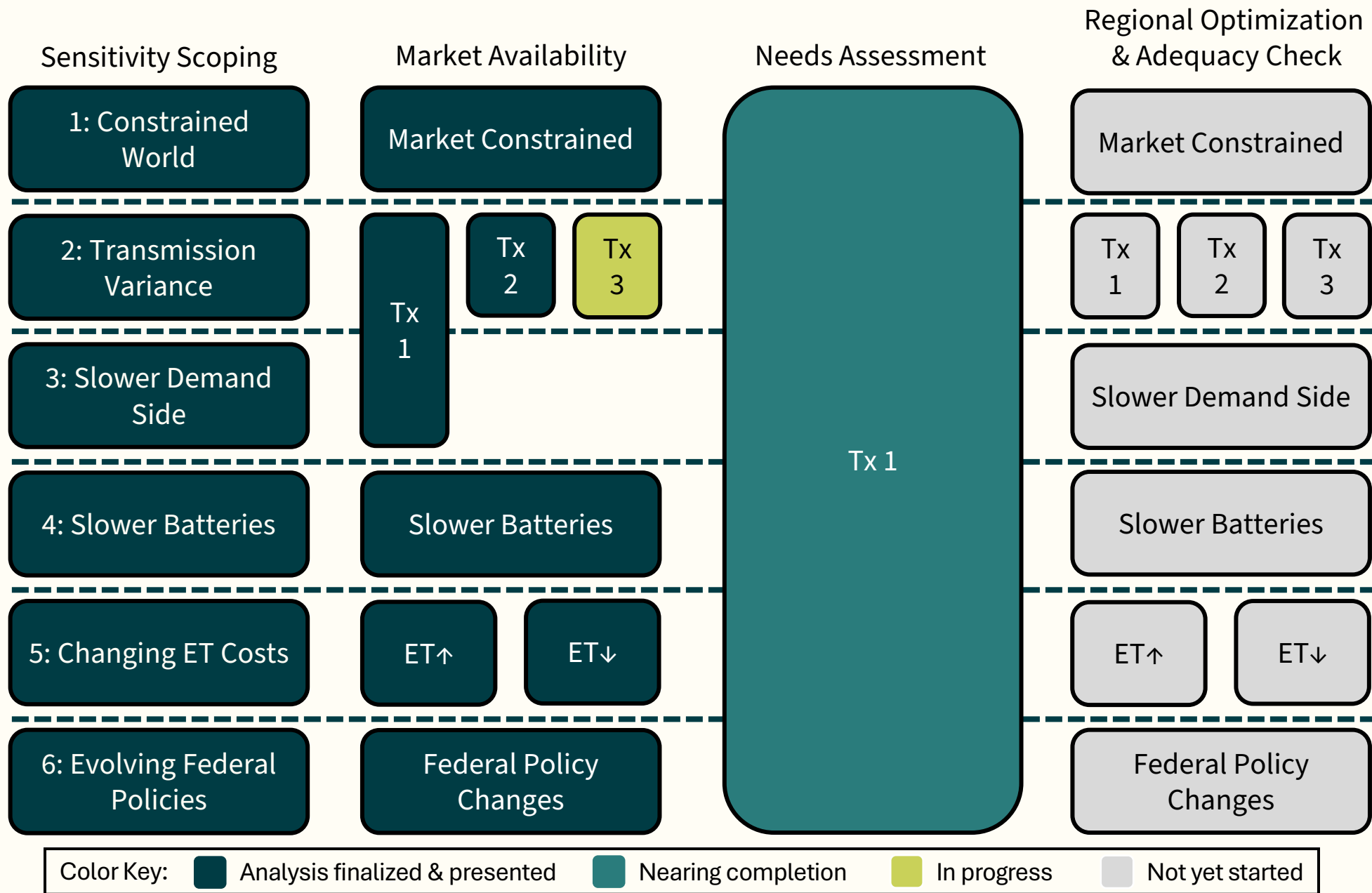
Power Plan Timeline



Changing Hydro Ops



Resource and Tx Risk



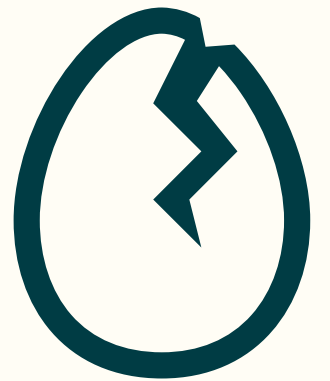
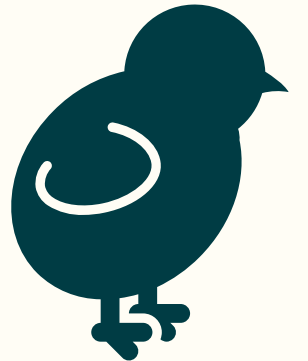
Needs Assessment for New Resource and Transmission Risk Scenario

Hydro Operations in New Resource and Transmission Risk Scenario

- For the New Resource and Transmission Risk scenario modeling, staff is working to align assumptions on hydro operations with:
 - All current operations as defined by existing BiOps, the Water Management Plan, Fish Passage Plan and Fish Operations Plan, Columbia River Treaty, etc.
 - Measures for new operations as proposed by the Council in the Draft Fish and Wildlife Program
- This includes:
 - Limited spring and summer flexibility, while allowing flexibility in other times of year (measures H 18 and H 19)
 - Spring and summer spill operations for juvenile fish passage (measures H 51 and H 52)

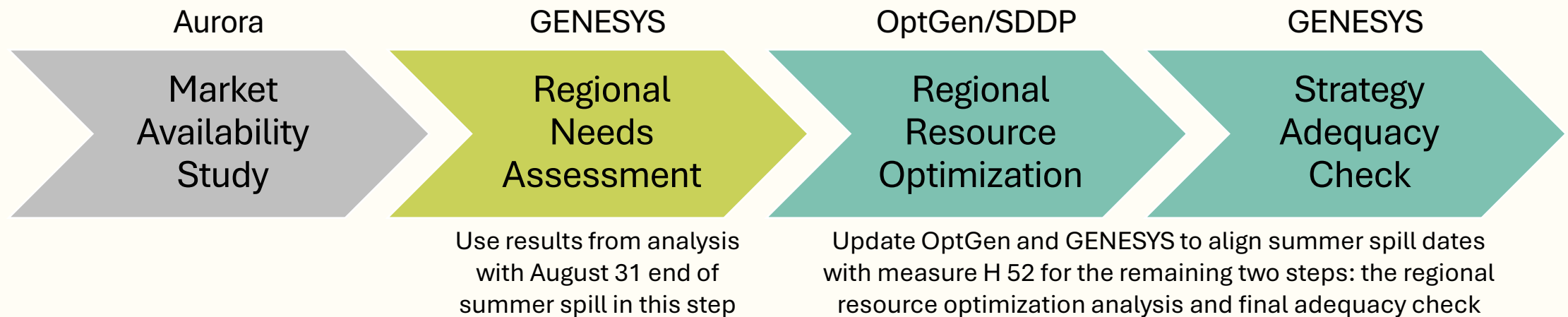
Summer Spill Operations

- Staff kicked off the needs assessment analysis in November to stay on target with planning timelines
- The working draft of the Fish and Wildlife Program amendment at that time considered two different end dates to the summer operations (August 1 and August 31)
- In effort to align with the program, staff opted to spend the resources to model both options, with the intent to pick one when decided on by the Council
- The Draft Fish and Wildlife Program ultimately landed on a different set of summer spill operations (end date of August 1 for the lower Snake and August 15 for the lower Columbia)
- Question now is which set of results should we use for the remainder of analysis

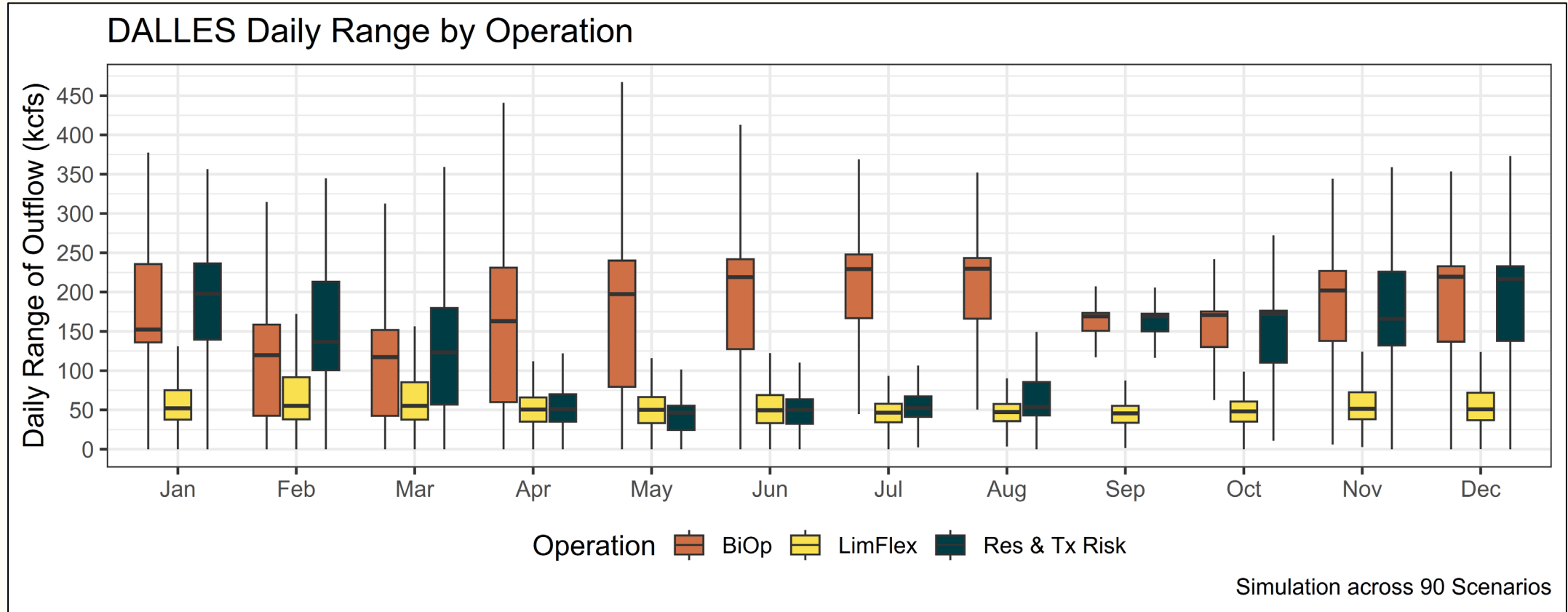


Proposed Approach

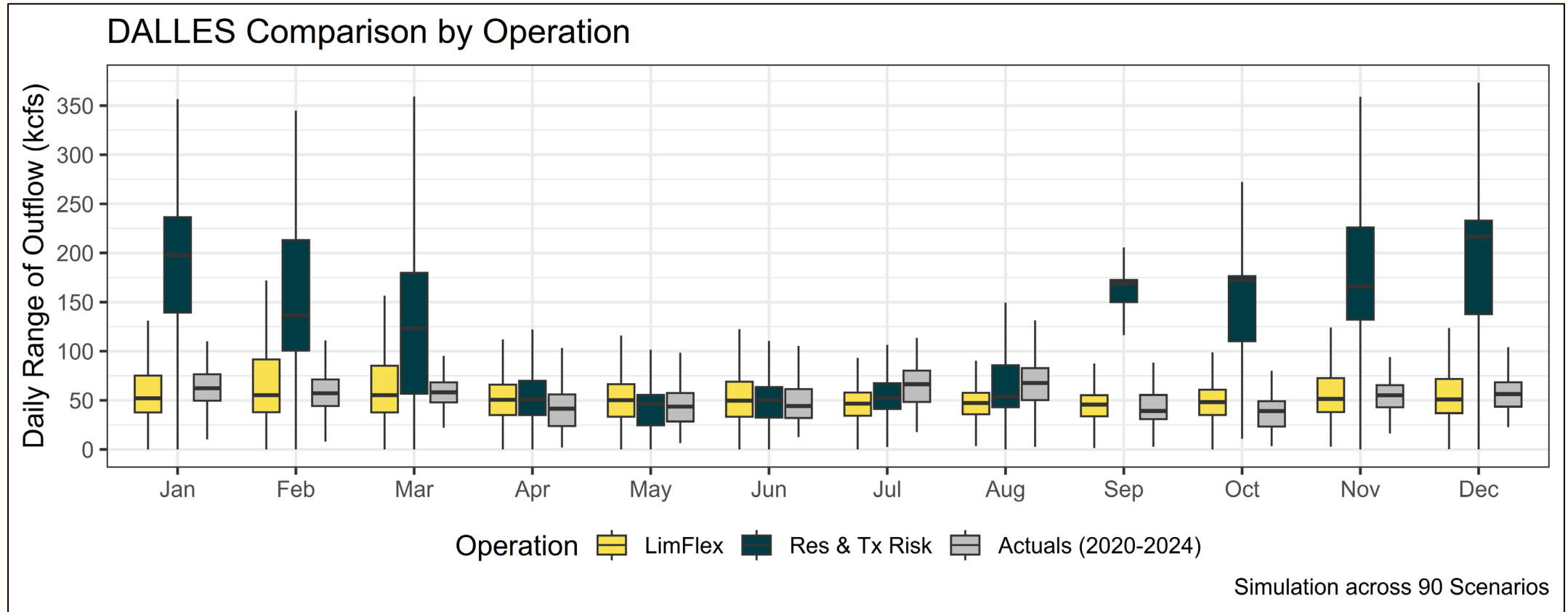
- Staff propose to use the adequacy reserve margins generated from the study that assumed summer spill ends on August 31
- This is the **more conservative** look, which is the appropriate for developing an adequacy signal to inform the next steps
- For remaining steps of analysis, staff will align with summer spill operations as defined in measure H52 (August 1 for the lower Snake and August 15 for the lower Columbia)



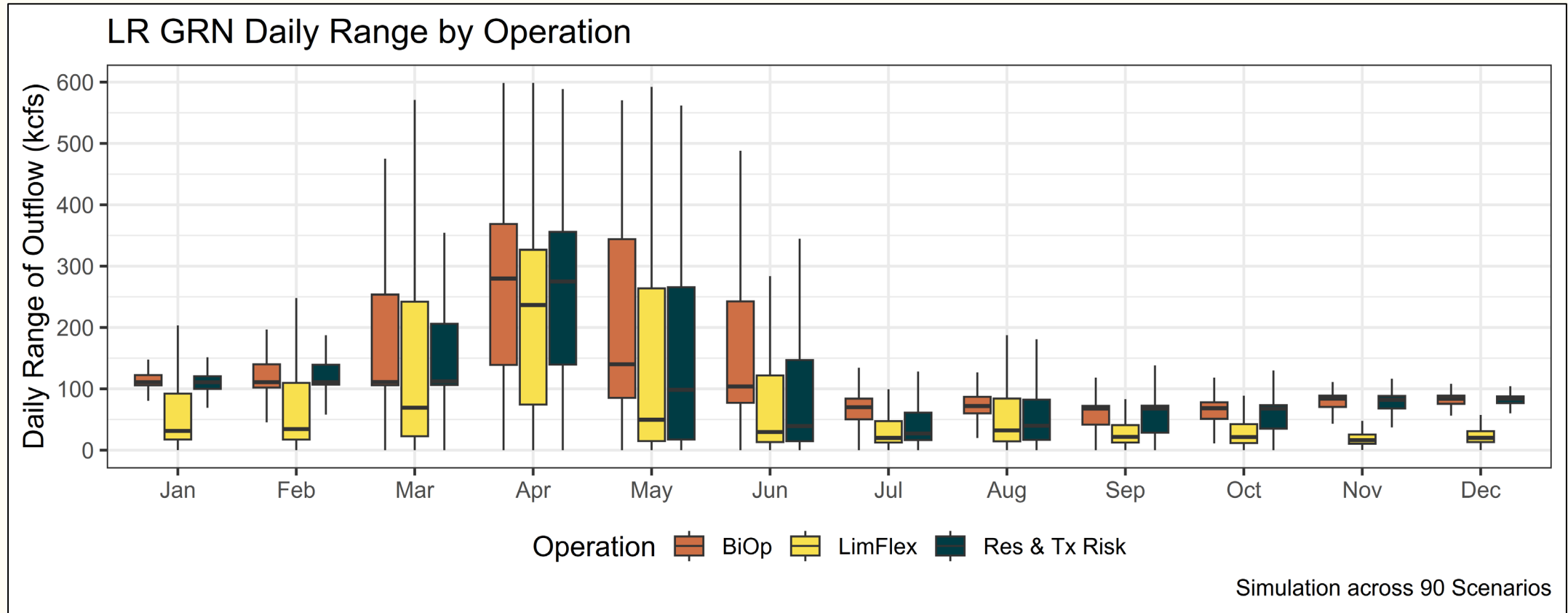
The Dalles Daily Range as Modeled



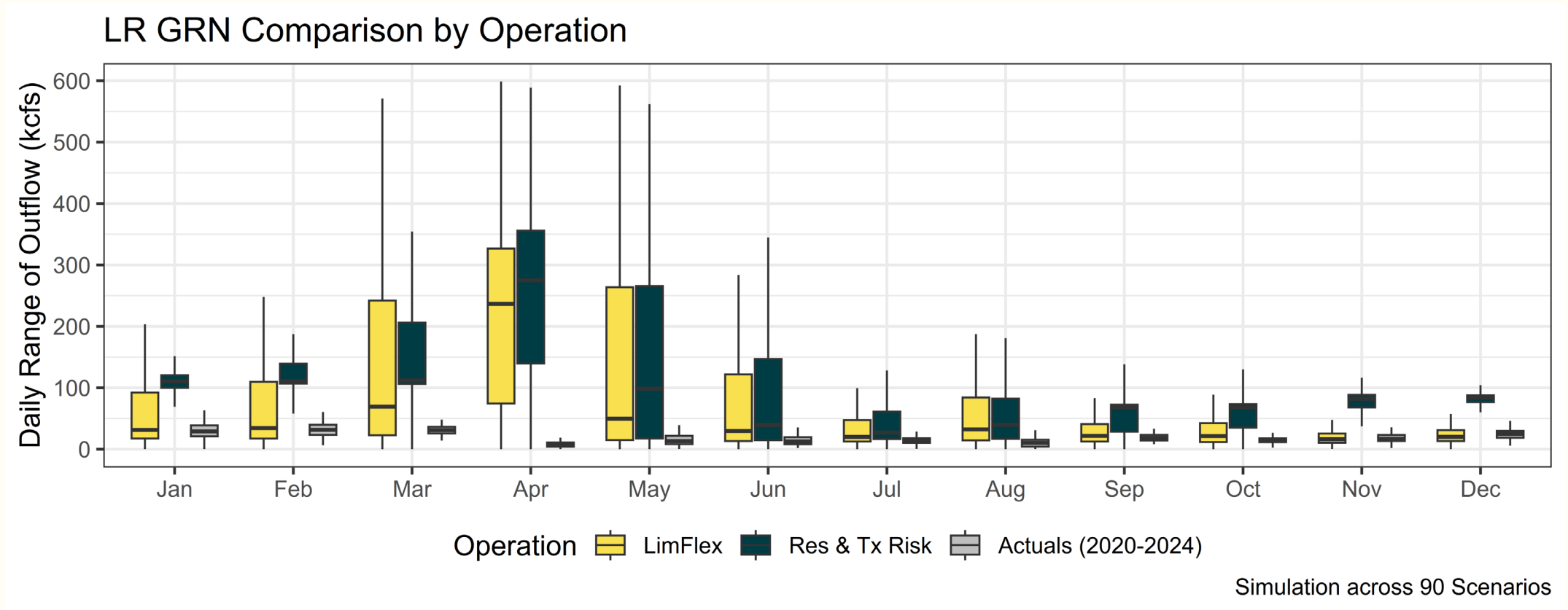
Comparing Modeled Range to 2020-2024 Actuals at The Dalles



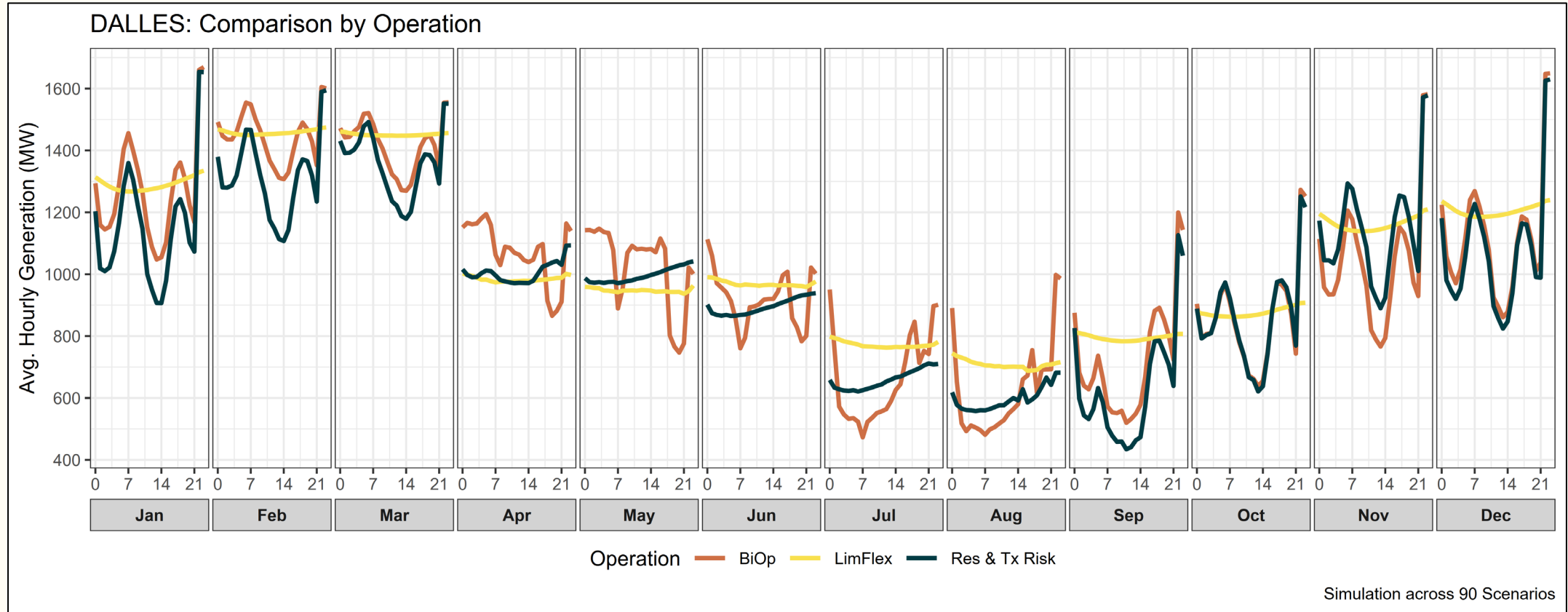
Lower Granite Daily Range as Modeled



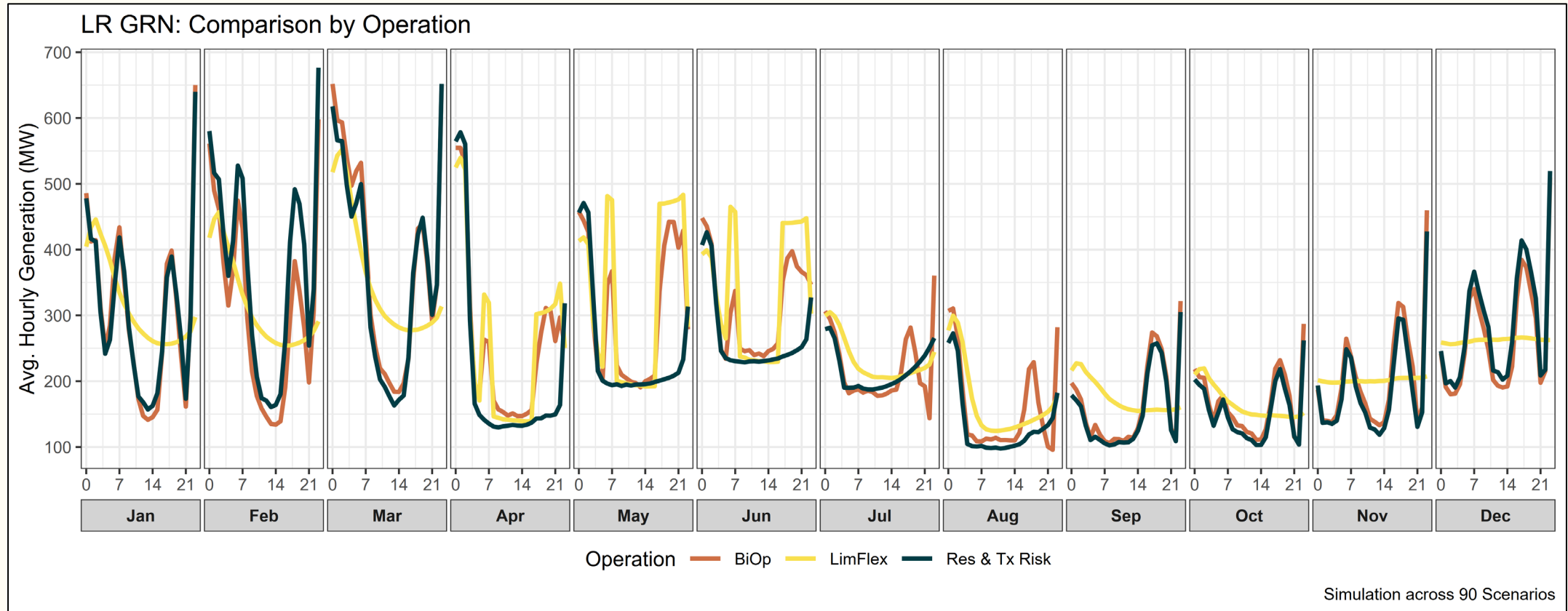
Comparing Modeled Range to 2020-2024 Actuals at Lower Granite



Modeled Average Hourly Generation at The Dalles



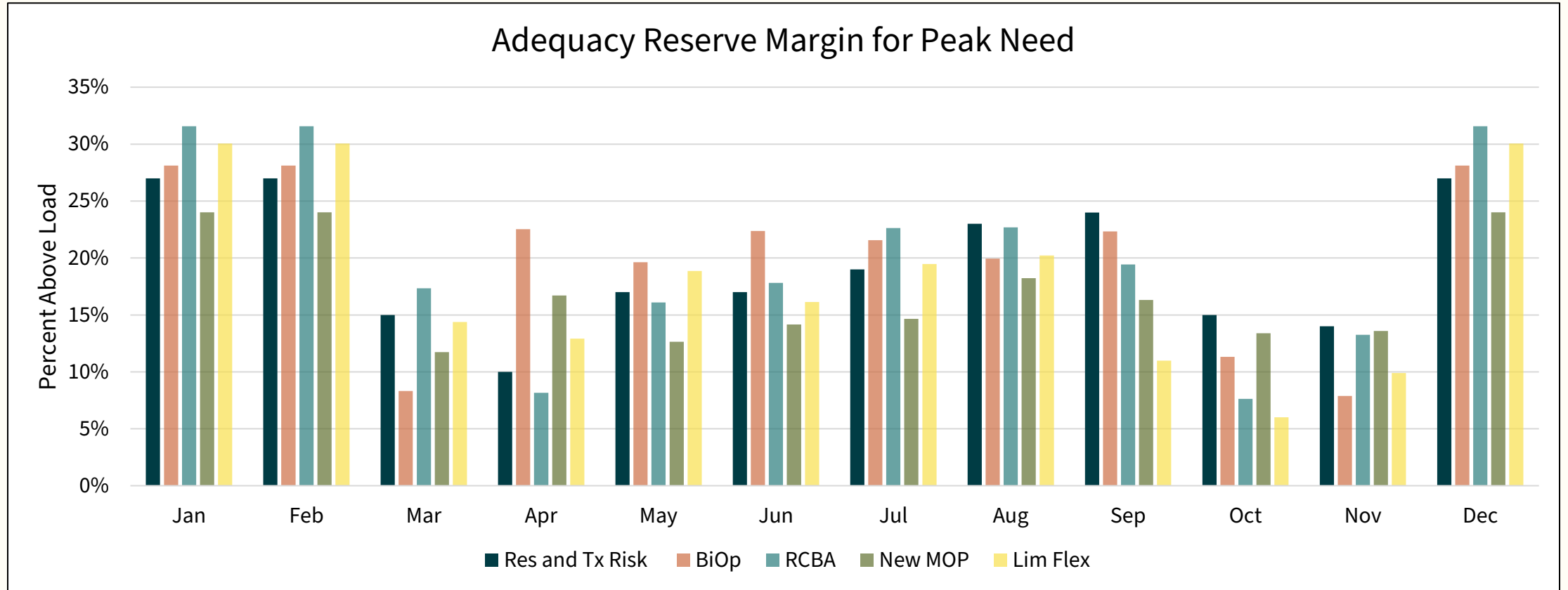
Modeled Average Hourly Generation at Lower Granite



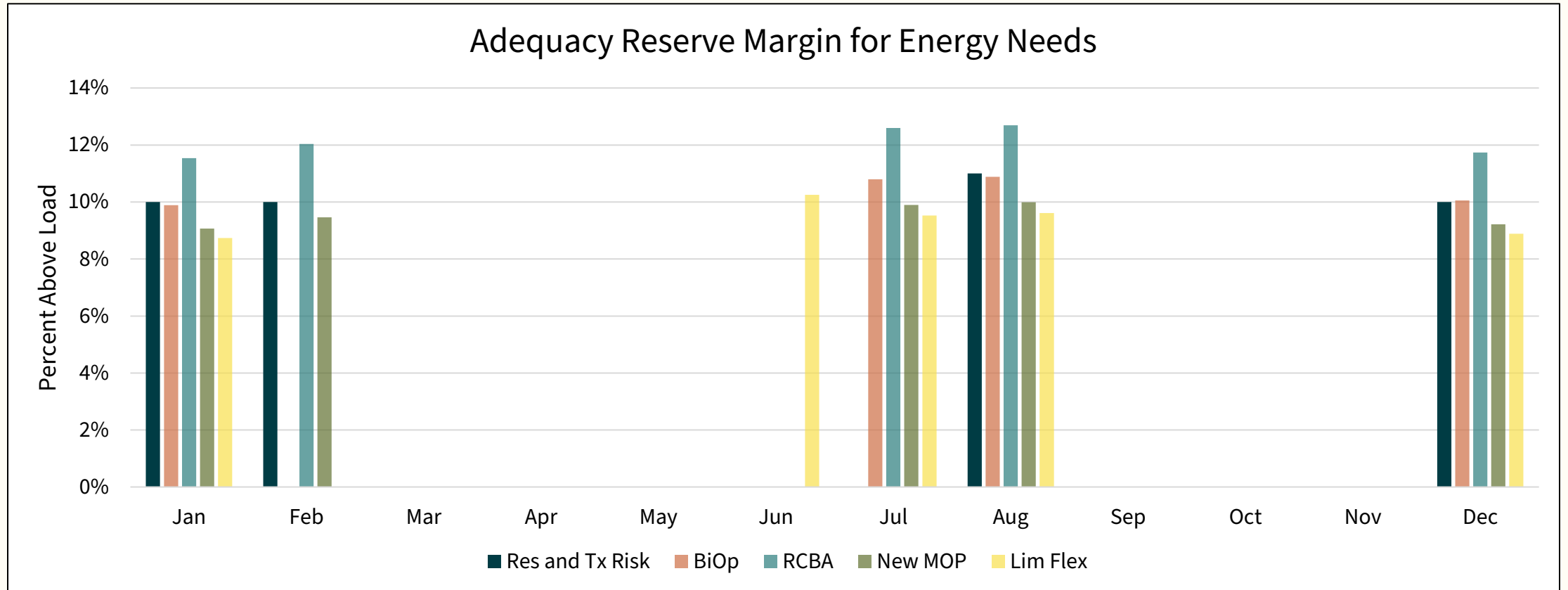
Overall Results Compared to Metrics

	Frequency			Extreme Deficits		
	Annual LOLEV (events)	Winter LOLEV (events)	Summer LOLEV (events)	VaR Duration (hr)	VaR Peak (MW)	VaR Energy (MWh)
Adequacy Criteria	0.2	0.1	0.1	8	1,200	9,600
Res and Tx Risk	237	91	62	22	9,078	301,521
BiOp	218	61	75	22	9,681	354,192
RCBA	210	57	85	21	10,366	348,771
New MOP	189	59	55	21	8,917	326,858
Limited Flex	168	49	53	22	10,200	327,008

Peak Needs for New Resource and Transmission Risk Scenario



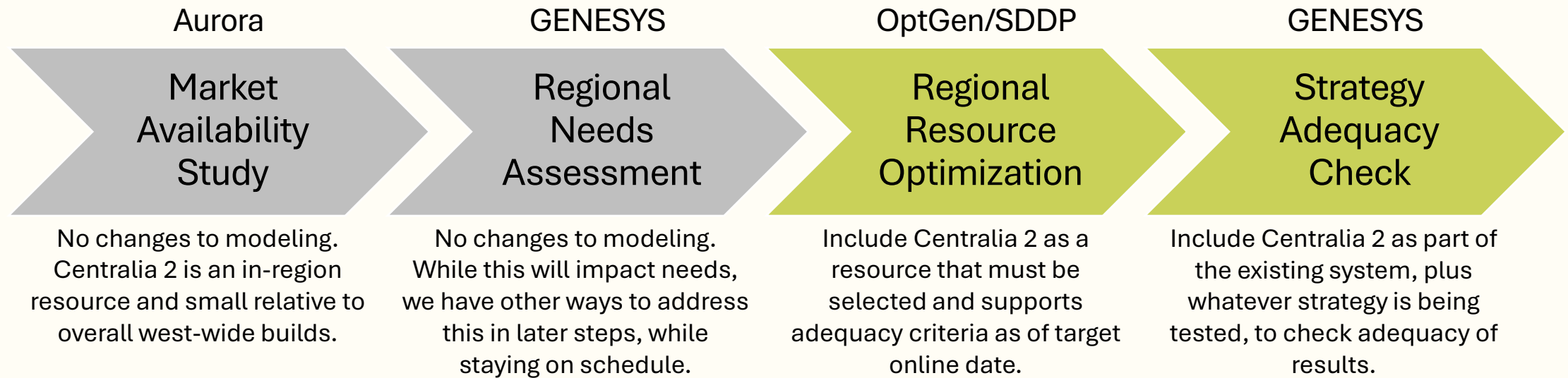
Energy Needs for New Resource and Transmission Risk Scenario



Centralia 2 Conversion

Centralia 2 Conversion to Natural Gas

- Centralia 2 was scheduled to retire at the end of 2025, therefore excluded from the existing system
- Last week, TransAlta announced it signed an agreement with PSE to convert Centralia 2 from coal to gas, resulting in an additional 700 MW in the existing system with a target online date of late 2028
- Staff developed a proposed path forward to account for Centralia 2 as an existing system resource while not requiring us to rerun any of the analysis to date



What's Coming Up Next

What's Coming Up?

Month	Council Meeting Agenda Item	Time Est.
January (Portland)	Power Plan Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder of legal elements from Power Act • Proposed table of contents Panel on supply side emerging technologies Panel on data centers – focus on efficiency and flexibility opportunities	1-1.5 hr 3 hr
February (Portland)	Initial review of scenario modeling results (<i>tentative</i>)	2-4 hr
March (Portland)	Deeper dive into modeling results	2-4 hr
April (White Fish, MT)	Discussing proposed recommendations, topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource strategy options and conservation program elements • Supporting recommendations 	4+ hr
May (Pendleton, OR)	Continued discussion of proposed recommendations and review of draft power plan chapters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First look at context setting chapters 	4+ hr
June (Portland)	Continued review of draft power plan chapters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First look at chapters covering the recommendations, as discussed in previous meetings • Second look at context setting chapters 	4+ hr
July (Portland)	Adopt draft power plan for public comment	TBD

Work sessions

Questions?