



**Nevada  
Irrigation  
District**

## **NID Purchases Generators to Protect the Hydro System from Electric Power Shutoffs**

When the lights go out, it's important NID's hydroelectric systems and powerhouses are protected. To that end, we've purchased two new backup generators for use at the Chicago Park and Rollins powerhouses.

Besides supplying water, NID also produces clean hydroelectric energy. Each year, our seven power plants generate enough electricity to supply the equivalent of 60,000 homes. PG&E's PSPS program calls for an electricity shutdown for multiple days in high-risk areas if the risk of sparking power lines could cause wildfires. This will have an effect on NID's hydroelectric systems, which rely upon uninterrupted electrical power to ensure safe and reliable operations, as well as to continue to generate hydropower. In other words, it takes electricity to make electricity.

"As PG&E spins up its public safety power shutoff program, we need to make sure our powerhouses can function and are available. We have to be ready," said NID's Hydroelectric Manager Keane Sommers.

A new study identifying impacts on operational and economic factors indicated if action wasn't taken, PSPS impacts could cost NID up to \$465,000 a year: "If the system shuts down for 1-2 weeks a year, we lose that revenue because we're not available to generate and sell electricity. That's a cost we are trying to offset," Sommers said.

NID began producing power in 1966, using its snowmelt water source from the Sierra. As water flows to customers from the high country, it also feeds power plants located along the way. In total, we have a generation capacity of 82.2 megawatts, producing an average 375 million kilowatt hours of energy each year, which we sell to PG&E.



Chicago Park powerhouse

### **NID Powerhouses Generate Megawatts of Energy for You**

Chicago Park 39.0 MW  
Combie South 1.5 MW

Dutch Flat 24.57 MW  
Scotts Flat 0.875 MW

Rollins 12.15 MW  
Combie North 0.5 MW

Bowman 3.6 MW

1 MW is enough electricity for the demand of about 750 homes at once