

# **U.S. Hydropower Resource Assessment Final Report**

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## **ABSTRACT**

To provide a more accurate assessment of the domestic undeveloped hydropower capacity, the U.S. Department of Energy's Hydropower Program developed a computer model, Hydropower Evaluation Software (HES). HES allows the personal computer user to assign environmental attributes to potential hydropower sites, calculate development suitability factors for each site based on the environmental, legal, and institutional attributes present, and generate reports based on these suitability factors. This report describes the development of HES, its data requirements, and its application to each state assessment; in addition, it summarizes the data derivation process and data for the states. Modeling of the undeveloped hydropower resources in the United States, based on environmental, legal, and institutional constraints, has identified 5,677 sites that have a total undeveloped capacity of about 30,000 megawatts.

## SUMMARY

This report presents the culmination of U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) efforts to produce a more definitive assessment of undeveloped hydropower resources within the United States. Initial efforts began in 1989 and information from the last state was received in 1998. State agencies contributed information about hydropower resources within their states to DOE's computer model, Hydropower Evaluation Software, and completed their review of the data. The state agencies involved in the project have included departments of dam safety, water resources, environmental quality, fish and game, history, and commerce. The Association of Dam Safety Officials has served as a conduit to identify the appropriate agencies from each state to assist in the modeling effort. Each state received on the average of \$4,000 to complete the hydropower assessment. This level of funding did not cover each state's expenses, so the states provided the difference.

Past efforts to identify and measure the undeveloped hydropower capacity in the United States have resulted in estimates ranging from about 50,000 MW to almost 600,000 MW; these include the Hydropower Resource Assessment team's original estimate of 52,900 MW, the FERC's estimate of 70,000 MW, and the Corps of Engineers' theoretical estimate of 580,000 MW. None of these historical estimates have been universally accepted. These early estimates failed to consider the environmental, legal, and institutional constraints to developing hydropower projects. To provide a more accurate assessment of the domestic undeveloped hydropower capacity, the DOE Hydropower Program developed a computer model, Hydropower Evaluation Software (HES). HES allows the personal computer user to assign environmental attributes to potential hydropower sites, calculate development suitability factors for each site based on the environmental, legal, and institutional attributes present, and generate reports based on these suitability factors. Modeling of the undeveloped hydropower resources in the United States, based on environmental, legal, and institutional constraints, has identified 5,677 sites that have a total undeveloped capacity of about 30,000 megawatts.

This report summarizes the data derivation process and data for the United States. It also describes the development of HES, its data requirements, and its application to each state assessment. This report does not discuss or present the various user-friendly menus of HES. Readers are referred to the User's Manual for specifics. Information for ordering is provided on pages 33-34.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# U.S. Hydropower Resource Assessment Final Report

## INTRODUCTION

In June 1989, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) initiated the development of a National Energy Strategy to identify the energy resources available to support the expanding demand for energy in the United States. Public hearings conducted as part of the strategy development process indicated that the undeveloped hydropower resources were not well defined. One of the reasons was that no agency had previously estimated the undeveloped hydropower capacity based on site characteristics, stream flow data, and available hydraulic heads. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC's) Hydropower Resource Assessment (HPRA) database was used as the basis for this evaluation. The undeveloped capacity data is based on individual site evaluations that included capacity estimation. It was this information that for the first time was reviewed by the various state agencies and then modeled based on environmental, legal, and institutional constraints. As a result, DOE established an interagency Hydropower Resource Assessment Team to ascertain the country's undeveloped hydropower potential. The team consisted of representatives from each power marketing administration (Alaska Power Administration, Bonneville Power Administration, Western Area Power Administration, Southwestern Power Administration, and Southeastern Power Administration), the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The interagency team drafted a preliminary assessment of potential hydropower resources in February 1990. This assessment estimated that 52,900 MW of undeveloped hydropower energy existed in the United States.

Partial analysis of the hydropower resource database by groups in the hydropower industry

indicated that the hydropower data included redundancies and errors that reduced confidence in the published estimates of developable hydropower capacity. The DOE has continued assessing hydropower resources to correct these deficiencies, improve estimates of developable hydropower, and determine future policy. To support these efforts by the DOE, the INEEL designed the Hydropower Evaluation Software (HES).

This report summarizes and discusses the undeveloped conventional hydropower capacity for the 5,677 sites within the United States. However, this capacity does not include that produced by pumped storage sites. The resource assessment is limited to sites with conventional undeveloped hydropower potential. In addition, while every reasonable effort was made to include all sites with undeveloped potential, the authors acknowledge that not every site in the United States with undeveloped hydropower potential was included. Only sites that have been either previously identified by third parties and included in the FERC HPRA database, or sites that local state agencies are aware of, are included in the database.

## Need For Uniform Criteria

The INEEL's HES, both a database and a probability-factor computer model, is a menu-driven software application that is intended to be user-friendly. Computer screens and report generation capabilities were developed to meet the needs of users nationwide. HES considers a uniform set of possible site-specific environmental attributes to assess the likelihood of developing the undeveloped hydropower resources of regions and states. These site-specific environmental attributes, derived from the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, include whether a site has Wild and Scenic Protection or is on a tributary of a site with such protection;

whether cultural, historical, fishery, geologic, recreational, scenic, or wildlife attributes are present; and whether threatened or endangered fish or wildlife are present. The attributes are based on the potential project's location, including whether the site is within a national park, national grasslands, national wildlife refuge, or other federal lands. HES's use of uniform criteria allows personal computer users nationwide to identify environmental attributes present at sites with undeveloped hydropower capacity, calculate development suitability factors for each site based on the attributes present, and generate uniform reports based on these factors.

HES was developed as a tool for use by regional power marketing administrations and state energy agencies, because they are the most likely to need accurate hydropower information. HES was not intended to provide precise development factors for individual sites, but to provide regional or state capacity totals. Because the software was developed as a generic measurement tool encompassing national issues, regional and state totals must be considered judiciously; various local issues may skew hydropower capacity totals. Employing HES as a national measurement tool will smooth any local anomalies.

## **Model Development**

HES uses environmental attribute data to generate an overall project suitability factor between 0.1 and 0.9, with 0.1 representing the lowest possibility of development and 0.9 representing the least impediment to development. A combination of attributes results in a lower suitability factor because multiple environmental considerations reduce the likelihood that a site may be developed to its physical capacity.

HES was developed with input from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which provided the essential environmental evaluation support (Sale 1990). The INEEL also received valuable assistance from the Southwestern Power

Administration, which helped defined the database requirements and the reporting capabilities required by a power marketing administration, and valuable managerial assistance from the Association of Dam Safety Officials.

## **Model Validation**

The INEEL used the HES to assess the undeveloped hydropower capacity in the Southwestern Power Administration area during the HES testing stage. The states in this area include Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. HES identified about 250 sites with undeveloped hydropower capacity. After the HES computer model analysis was completed, the estimated Southwestern Power Administration hydropower resources were reduced 33.5%. This reduction resulted from the influence of various environmental attributes on the reality of successfully developing a hydropower site.

After successfully developing and testing HES in conjunction with the Southwestern Power Administration, the interagency team recognized that a process was necessary to successfully integrate the evaluation process between the individual states and the DOE's Hydropower Program. With administrative relationships already in place with the individual states, the team believed that using the DOE's Support Offices to coordinate the assessment process might prove to be a practical method to assess the entire United States. The Denver Support Office coordinated the assessments of the individual states within their administrative region (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming), as did the Boston Support Office (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), the Kansas Support Office (Iowa), and the Chicago Support Office (Indiana). The test assessments, including obtaining individual state input, proved to be a viable method that could be used to assess hydropower capacity throughout the United States.



## Modeling Process

The basic modeling process incorporated the following steps:

1. The FERC HPRA database was used for basic site information such as site name, river, county, state, if a dam or power plant was previously developed, and the undeveloped hydropower potential.
2. This data was reviewed by the INEEL for redundancy and accuracy and entered into the HES model.
3. The National Rivers Inventory data, containing environmental, institutional, and legal attributes, was entered into the HES by the INEEL for those undeveloped sites that are located on river reaches containing NRI-listed attributes.
4. Wild and Scenic information was obtained from several sources and this information was also entered by the INEEL into the HES for those undeveloped sites that are located on river reaches with either wild and scenic designation or river reaches being considered for wild and scenic designation.
5. The HES containing the above information for each respective state was then sent to the

individual states agencies for review and input.

6. After the state information was entered into the HES, the INEEL generated individual state reports for public dissemination via published reports and the internet (<http://www.inel.gov/national/hydropower/state/stateres.htm>)

## Model Goal

The goal of HES is to ensure that a set of uniform criteria is used to determine the viable national hydropower capacity. This undeveloped hydropower is not limited to that which could be produced at new sites; it also includes the hydropower that could be produced at sites that currently produce hydropower but are not developed to their full capacity. This undeveloped hydropower is a source of nonpolluting, renewable energy available to meet the growing power needs of the United States. HES has helped to make this goal obtainable and ensured the use of uniform criteria during the national assessment process.

The HES is not intended to be a static assessment, as sites can be added and changes can be made to the modeling dynamics if the need for additional renewable sites becomes such that the influence of the attributes changes in the future.

# DATA SOURCES

## Primary Data Sources

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC's) HPRAs database and the National Park Service's Nationwide Rivers Inventory database are the two main information databases used for hydropower site data. State input is used to validate the HES-modeled results.

**Hydropower Resource Assessment Database.** This database is maintained by FERC and contains the best available national inventory of undeveloped hydropower capacity. It contains information about all sites that have been subject to any FERC hydropower licensing action and information on project sites that have been identified by FERC, or other agencies, as having development capacity even if no licensing action has taken place. This database lists project sites and corresponding basic site data. Approximately 5,700 sites with undeveloped hydropower capacity are listed in the HPRAs database.

**Nationwide Rivers Inventory Database.** The Nationwide Rivers Inventory was initially completed in 1982 by the National Park Service and has been periodically updated since that time. Park Service regional offices systematically collected information on rivers and identified those with outstanding resources. Uniform procedures for identifying rivers for the Nationwide Rivers inventory, including field and map verification of each river's values, were applied throughout the country. Specific outstanding resources were identified for those river reaches selected for inclusion in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Reaches were identified if outstanding fisheries, wildlife, geologic features, historical resources, cultural resources, recreation resources, scenic values, or other resources were present. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory also indicates the presence of threatened and endangered species (classified as fish or terrestrial wildlife) and whether the reach is part of, or considered for, inclusion in a state or federal wild and scenic rivers program.

Although the National Park Service used uniform procedures to consider rivers throughout the United States for inclusion in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, it would be incorrect to assume that if a potential site is not on a reach listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory there would be few environmental impediments to development: significant changes, such as new fisheries or increased recreational use, may have occurred since the Nationwide Rivers Inventory was last updated.

**State Resource and Energy Agencies.** After the information contained in FERC's HPRAs database and the National Park Service's Nationwide Rivers Inventory database were entered into HES, the modeled results were presented to the natural resource departments or energy offices. Each state was then able to provide input, validate, and in many cases update the environmental and physical attributes present at each of the undeveloped hydropower sites. Additionally, the individual states were able to add previously unlisted sites that were known to state agencies as having undeveloped hydropower capacity.

State input is often the result of coordinated canvassing between several state agencies within each state. For instance, water management agencies may identify sites with undeveloped hydropower capacity that were not listed in FERC's HPRAs database. Or, state agencies may be aware of state historical sites such as archeological sites of early Indian societies or other historical values that would impact the probability of developing a hydropower site. This state input often results in an adjustment of a site's overall project suitability value. In the case of the addition of previously unidentified sites with undeveloped hydropower capacity, a state's sum of undeveloped hydropower capacity may be increased. The value of state input to the modeling of undeveloped hydropower capacity cannot be overstated. Based on site visits such as dam safety inspections, wildlife field work, and cultural assessments, each state is the best source of local site knowledge.

## Secondary Data Sources

Other data sources can also be used to identify project locations and to assign environmental attributes to these locations. Some of these data sources are national in coverage, while others are available only for smaller areas such as individual states. Each additional database used will need to be obtained from its source, and the environmental attributes it lists will need to be extracted.

### **Power Marketing Administrations.**

Power marketing administrations possess significant information that is of primary importance to the successful application of HES. Each power marketing administration can verify any outside sources of data that are used; but, of greater importance, each power marketing administration can provide significant information about anything affecting potential hydropower development within its region. Power marketing administrations will be aware of possible state opposition and any local action regarding a specific project.

**State Environmental Databases.** Many states keep inventories of aquatic and riparian resources. These inventories can include lists of high-quality and possibly protected streams, natural areas, and recreational resources. State data is often very useful for determining the environmental feasibility of hydropower sites, but the data may require a great deal of manipulation before it can be incorporated into a regional database for hydropower evaluation. Because little state information is available in digital format, it is difficult to input state data into the HES database.

An example of a state database is the California Department of Fish and Game Wild Trout Program inventory, which lists streams identified as outstanding trout fisheries; such streams are protected from development under California law. As another example, the state of Utah has rated each of its streams by the following categories: (a) type of fishery, (b) productivity, (c) reproductive success, (d) spawning habitat, and (e) aesthetics. Projects

on streams with high ratings in these categories will have greater environmental concerns.

**American Rivers Outstanding Rivers List.** During 1988, an organization named American Rivers published its Outstanding Rivers List. This list is a comprehensive, nationwide compilation of rivers that possess some outstanding ecological, recreational, natural, cultural, or scenic values. Rivers protected by legislation and rivers currently unprotected are included. The list contains an estimated 15,000 river reaches, totaling about 300,000 river miles. Each river reach is described in terms such as its upriver and downriver end points, its total length, its significance, and the source of information. Some of this information is redundant with the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, which is included within the Outstanding River List, but much of it is additional information.

### **Northwest Power Planning Council.**

Streams under the jurisdiction of the Bonneville Power Administration have been studied by area states and rated by the Northwest Power Planning Council for the suitability of additional hydropower development. Streams were rated for values such as anadromous fish presence, resident fish populations, wildlife, natural features, cultural features, and recreation. In 1987, the Northwest Power Planning Council published a list of streams deemed unsuitable for hydropower development, which generally includes all streams containing anadromous fisheries. For projects proposed in the Bonneville Power Administration marketing area, the stream ratings are an important source of environmental attributes.

**Wetlands Inventories.** The presence of wetlands that could be affected by a potential hydropower project is an important environmental attribute because wetlands are protected under the Clean Water Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has inventoried wetlands in some regions, and maps of these inventoried wetlands are available. Wetland inventories are also available from some states.

## **Data Sources for Threatened and Endangered Species**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened and Endangered Species Database.** Geographic information in this database is given by county and hydrologic unit and sometimes at finer resolutions. Species information includes locations of species, life histories of species, legal histories of the designation as threatened and endangered species, habitat use, bibliographies, contact

people, and key words that identify species as aquatic, wetland, or riparian species. The database has been in transition between in-house development and contracted management (by the Nature Conservancy) for several years. It appears that a wealth of information exists but may be difficult to access.

**Nature Conservancy.** The Nature Conservancy has a national database of all species that identifies threatened and endangered species. This database organizes geographic information by county.

## SITE ATTRIBUTES AND SUITABILITY FACTOR DETERMINATION

### Environmental, Legal, and Institutional Attribute Definitions

The INEEL derived the following 19 environmental attributes from the Nationwide Rivers Inventory. The corresponding suitability factors are fully explained in the Suitability Factor Determination section below.

**Wild/Scenic Protection.** This attribute identifies project sites that are included in the federal wild and scenic rivers system, under consideration for inclusion in the federal system, included in a state river protection program, in a designated wilderness area, or protected from development under another program. Relatively few sites have this status, but those that do are highly unlikely to be developed. Projects at undeveloped sites on state or federally protected wild and scenic rivers, or in wilderness areas, must be assumed to be legally protected from hydropower development. Also, projects at sites under consideration for protection are highly likely to be opposed by state and federal resource agencies, and protection will be approved at many such sites before hydropower development could occur. Since it is possible, but highly unlikely, that development could occur at a site with wild and scenic river protection, the suitability factor assigned to all such projects at undeveloped sites is 0.1.

It is highly unlikely that a project at an existing dam would be on a wild and scenic river since rivers are usually designated as wild and scenic only if they are free of developments such as dams. A suitability factor of 0.5 is assigned for such unusual cases.

**Wild and Scenic Tributary or Upstream or Downstream of a Wild and Scenic Location.** This attribute is assigned to a project if it is at the upstream or downstream end of a wild and scenic river reach or is on a tributary of a wild and scenic river. A project at

a developed site would affect a downstream wild and scenic river if additional alterations to the flow regime resulted. A suitability factor of 0.75 is assigned for such projects. Projects at undeveloped sites are highly likely to alter the flow regime and may cause changes in downstream water quality, so a suitability factor of 0.5 is assigned to undeveloped sites.

**Cultural and Historic Values.** Project impacts on cultural and historic resources can often be mitigated (for example, by excavating archeological sites or relocating historic structures). Projects at existing dams are unlikely to affect such resources unless an increase in reservoir pool elevation occurs or major new structures are built. A suitability factor of 0.75 is assigned to such projects. Development of undeveloped sites is more likely to affect cultural and historic resources, so a suitability factor of 0.5 is assigned.

**Fish Presence Value.** A stream reach may or may not have legally protected fisheries. In either case, however, strong state opposition to new development must be expected if a valuable fishery resource exists. Relatively high instream flow release requirements can mitigate the impact on fisheries, but a high instream flow release would reduce the economic viability of the project. Projects at developed sites could have some impact, such as increased turbine mortality. A suitability factor of 0.75 is assigned to projects at developed sites. Development at undeveloped sites could have a major impact on aquatic habitat through inundation, migration blockage, turbine mortality, water quality, and altered flows. Some of these can be mitigated, but such mitigation could be expensive. A suitability factor of 0.25 is assigned to undeveloped sites.

**Geologic Value.** Geologic values such as rock formations are rarely protected legally and are not generally affected by small projects. Development at existing sites is not affected by

geologic resources, so a suitability factor of 0.9 is assigned. Development at undeveloped sites may inundate geologic features, so a suitability factor of 0.5 is assigned.

**Recreation Value.** River recreation users tend to be effective opponents of hydropower development. Development at any storage dam would affect recreation by altering flow releases; mitigation typically includes higher flow releases during periods of high recreation use. Such releases can be made through turbines, but higher flow releases tend to occur when power demands are low. Projects at existing dams would have little effect on recreation besides flow alterations, so they are assigned a suitability factor of 0.75. Projects at undeveloped sites would inundate reaches, block the passage of boats, and reduce aesthetics. Because projects at undeveloped sites are likely to be strongly opposed, a suitability factor of 0.25 is assigned.

**Scenic Value.** Scenic values are not legally protected but must be considered in assessing the impact of a project. Scenic values are also important to recreational river users. The addition of power to existing dams would alter scenic values only through the addition of new structures and perhaps by reducing visually attractive spillage, so a suitability factor of 0.9 is assigned. New projects at undeveloped sites would have important effects on scenic resources because views would be altered by the project. Undeveloped projects are assigned a suitability factor of 0.5.

**Wildlife Value.** Terrestrial wildlife and wildlife habitat are protected by fish and game agencies that are influential in determining mitigation requirements for hydropower projects. Development at existing sites would have little effect on wildlife unless reservoir pool elevations are altered or construction of major facilities is required. A suitability factor of 0.75 is assigned for projects at existing sites. Development at undeveloped sites could inundate wildlife habitat, and construction would cause a great deal of disturbance. It is difficult to mitigate for such impacts, so opposition to such a project could be strong.

Undeveloped projects are assigned a suitability factor of 0.25.

**Other Value.** The effects of other values, such as the presence of rare wetland communities or consideration for wilderness designation, are assigned by using the most commonly assigned suitability factor for the other values. For projects at developed sites, the suitability factor is 0.75. For projects at undeveloped sites, the suitability factor is 0.5.

**Threatened and Endangered Fish or Wildlife.** The presence of threatened and endangered species near a project site requires additional consultations with wildlife agencies and can result in additional studies and mitigation requirements. The presence of threatened and endangered fish species may preclude development of new storage projects because new projects can involve the greatest alteration of aquatic habitat. Terrestrial threatened and endangered species are unlikely to be highly affected by run-rivers projects, but storage reservoirs could affect terrestrial habitat. For existing sites, a suitability factor of 0.75 is assigned when threatened and endangered species are present. For projects at undeveloped sites, a suitability factor of 0.5 is assigned when threatened and endangered species are present.

**Federal Land Code 103: National Park, Monument, Lakeshore, Parkway, Battlefield, Or Recreation Area.** These lands are legally protected from development. A suitability factor of 0.1 is assigned for such projects.

**Federal Land Code 104: National Forest or Grassland.** These lands are not legally protected from development, but the managing agency has the right to impose additional mitigation requirements on projects. A suitability factor of 0.75 is assigned to projects at existing sites, since these projects typically have fewer impacts. A suitability factor of 0.5 is assigned for undeveloped sites.

**Federal Land Code 105: National Wildlife Refuge, Game Preserve, or Fish Hatchery.** These lands are managed for fish

and wildlife habitats, and hydropower development would almost always be incompatible. A suitability factor of 0.1 is assigned for such projects.

**Federal Land Code 106: National Scenic Waterway or Wilderness Area.**

These lands are legally protected from development. A suitability factor of 0.1 is assigned for such projects.

**Federal Land Code 107: Indian**

**Reservation.** These lands are not legally protected from development, but Indian tribes have the right to impose additional mitigation requirements on projects. A suitability factor of 0.75 is assigned for projects at developed sites, and a suitability factor of 0.5 is assigned for projects at undeveloped sites.

**Federal Land Code 108: Military Reservation.** These lands are not legally protected from development, but the managing agency has the right to impose additional mitigation requirements on projects. A suitability factor of 0.75 is assigned for projects at developed sites, and a suitability factor of 0.5 is assigned for projects at undeveloped sites.

**Federal Land Code 198: Not on Federal Land.** This variable indicates that the project is not on federal land, so there are not any development constraints based on Federal Land Codes. The value for this variable is 0.9.

Figure 1 illustrates all of the data requirements presented above in a report printout from HES. The cultural, fish presence, historic, and scenic values combine to give the sample site a project suitability factor (PESF) of 0.5.

# Georgia Hydropower Resource Database Listing

**FERC Number:** 01218  
**Class:** P  
**Owner:** GEORGIA POWER CO

**Plant Name:** FLINT RIVER  
**Stream:** FLINT R  
**County:** DOUGHERTY  
**Basin:** APALACHICOLA RIVER BASIN

<i>Name Plate</i>			<i>Annual Energy Rating</i>	<i>PESF Annual Energy</i>		
<i>Rating (KW)</i>	<i>PESF</i>	<i>PESF*KW</i>	<i>(MWh)</i>	<i>Rating (MWh)</i>		
2800	0.5	1400	8700	4350		
<i>Unit Type</i>	<i>Plant Type</i>	<i>Project Status</i>	<i>Dam Status</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	
C	ROR	MO	W	3137	8406	
<u><i>Factor</i></u>	<u><i>Exists</i></u>	<u><i>Prob</i></u>	<u><i>Factor</i></u>	<u><i>Exists</i></u>	<u><i>Prob</i></u>	
<i>Wild/Scenic Protection</i>		0.9	<i>Wildlife Value</i>	Y	0.75	
<i>Wild/Scenic Tributary or</i>			<i>Threatened/Endangered Fish</i>		0.9	
<i>Upstream/Downstream</i>			<i>Threatened/Endangered</i>			
<i>Wild/Scenic Location</i>		0.9	<i>Wildlife</i>		0.9	
<i>Cultural Value</i>		0.9	<i>Federal Land Code 103</i>		0.9	
<i>Fish Presence Value</i>	Y	0.75	<i>Federal Land Code 104</i>		0.9	
<i>Geologic Value</i>	Y	0.9	<i>Federal Land Code 105</i>		0.9	
<i>Historic Value</i>		0.9	<i>Federal Land Code 106</i>		0.9	
<i>Other Value</i>		0.9	<i>Federal Land Code 107</i>		0.9	
<i>Recreation Value</i>	Y	0.75	<i>Federal Land Code 108</i>		0.9	
<i>Scenic Value</i>	Y	0.9	<i>Federal Land Code 198</i>		0.9	

**Figure 1.** Sample printout of resource database listing.



## Suitability Factor Values

Suitability factors depend on the environmental attributes of the potential project site. They reflect the probability that environmental considerations can make a project site unacceptable, prohibiting its development. The suitability factors were developed in conjunction with Oak Ridge National Laboratory staff who are experienced in hydropower licensing cases. Five potential values were selected, as shown in Table 1. *These suitability factors are appropriate only for the regional analysis of overall hydropower development capacity and are not useful for determining the ultimate viability of developing a specific project site.*

## Dam Status

The effects of environmental attributes vary by dam status. The dam status classifications follow FERC standard, which is

- W = Developed hydropower site with power.
- W/O = Developed site without power generation (the site has some type of developed impoundment or diversion structure).

- U = Undeveloped site (the site does not have power generation capability, no developed impoundment, nor a diversion structure).

Undeveloped sites do not have any power or civil structures in place; developed sites without power do not have any power generation capability but do have some type of civil structure such as a dam or water diversion structure; and developed sites with power have current generation and a civil structure onsite with additional, undeveloped hydropower capacity.

The best way to explain the influence dam status has on a project's environmental suitability factor is to provide an example: development at an undeveloped site will have a greater impact on recreation than additional development at an existing site. So if a recreation value is present at an undeveloped site, a probability of 0.25 is assigned to reflect the decreased likelihood of development. If a recreation value is present at a developed site (either with or without power), then a value of 0.75 is assigned because additional development of a site already having a structure, either with or without power, is less likely to be impacted by any recreation value. These factors and all the other factors used are shown in Table 2.

**Table 1.** Valuation of environmental attributes.

Effect of Environmental Attribute	Value of Suitability Factor
Least impediment to development	0.90
Minor reduction in likelihood of development	0.75
Likelihood of development reduced by half	0.50
Major reduction in likelihood of development	0.25
Development prohibited or highly unlikely	0.10

**Table 2.** Suitability factors by dam status for environmental attributes.

Environmental Attribute	Suitability Factors		
	Existing Dam With/Without Power	Undeveloped Site	Not Applicable
Wild/Scenic Protection	0.50	0.10	0.90
Wild/Scenic Tributary or Upstream/Downstream Wild/Scenic Location	0.75	0.50	0.90
Cultural Value	0.75	0.50	0.90
Fish Presence Value	0.75	0.25	0.90
Geologic Value	0.90	0.50	0.90
Historic Value	0.75	0.50	0.90
Other Value	0.75	0.50	0.90
Recreation Value	0.75	0.25	0.90
Scenic Value	0.90	0.50	0.90
Wildlife Value	0.75	0.25	0.90
Threatened/Endangered Fish	0.75	0.50	0.90
Threatened/Endangered Wildlife	0.75	0.50	0.90
Federal Land Code 103	0.10	0.10	0.90
Federal Land Code 104	0.75	0.50	0.90
Federal Land Code 105	0.10	0.10	0.90
Federal Land Code 106	0.10	0.10	0.90
Federal Land Code 107	0.75	0.50	0.90
Federal Land Code 108	0.75	0.50	0.90
Federal Land Code 198	0.90	0.90	0.90

The “not applicable” column in Table 2 assigns the default value of 0.90 if the user indicates the attribute is not present or if the entry is left blank. Environmental concerns will exist even if no environmental attributes are assigned, so a default value of 0.90 (rather than 1.0) is used to reflect this reality.

### **Overall Project Suitability Factor**

The final step in evaluating the environmental suitability of each project site is

to combine the suitability factors for the individual environmental attributes into a single factor for each project site. This overall suitability factor is an estimate of the probability of a project's successful development, considering only the attributes identified in Table 2 and their effects on site development. The project environmental suitability factors will be used to predict the contribution that each individual project makes to the aggregate potential energy supply for a state or region.

The overall suitability factor is a function of the suitability factors for the individual

environmental attributes. The presence of more than one environmental attribute means that more than one environmental concern affects a project. *The overall suitability factor should obviously be no greater than the lowest factor for individual attributes, and it should be less than the lowest factor if multiple significant environmental constraints are present.* For example, if an undeveloped project has both fish values (suitability factor = 0.25) and recreation values (suitability factor = 0.25), the cumulative effects of these two concerns will make its overall suitability even less than 0.25; so an overall suitability factor of 0.1 is assigned.

If the environmental suitability factors for individual environmental attributes were truly the probability of the project's being developed, then the overall probability of development could be mathematically calculated. And, if the individual suitability factors were true and independent probabilities, then the probability of

developing the project site because of environmental concerns would be equal to the product of all the individual factors. However, FERC's licensing process is not a statistical probability function, and it cannot be assumed that suitability factors can be handled as independent probabilities (for example, there is a strong correlation between the scenic, recreational, and fishing values of a stream). In addition, environmental attributes not considered by HES would bias the value of the overall suitability factor if it were calculated as a probability.

The procedure outlined in Table 3 is used for assigning overall suitability factors. This procedure assumes that the lowest suitability factor dominates the likelihood of a project's development. However, it also considers the reduced likelihood of development resulting from the occurrence of multiple low suitability factors.

**Table 3.** Overall project suitability factor computation.

Individual Environmental Suitability Factors	Project Suitability Factors
No environmental attributes assigned	0.90
Lowest individual factor(s) = 0.90	0.90
Lowest individual factor = 0.75	0.75
Two or more lowest individual factors = 0.75	0.50
Lowest individual factor = 0.50	0.50
Two or more lowest individual factors = 0.50	0.25
Lowest individual factor = 0.25	0.25
Two or more lowest individual factors = 0.25	0.10
Lowest individual factor(s) = 0.10	0.10

## LIMITATIONS AND APPLICABILITY

HES is not intended to model the likelihood of development of any specific hydropower project. To perform this function, HES would have had to encompass the many site-specific factors affecting a distinctive site. With so many unique sites in the nation, an unmanageable number of single-site-specific attributes would be required, the database and software would become burdensome and unmanageable, and it would fail to provide a uniform nationwide evaluation. In the Pacific Northwest, for instance, if HES incorporated single-site-specific criteria it would have included any outcomes from the “Salmon Summit,” the attempt to aid the migration of salmon and steelhead. This consideration would have been unique to the Northwest area only, not to the majority of the United States. Additionally, if a single state decreed that there would be no additional hydropower development within its boundaries, HES would fail in its mission if it included an

attribute unique to that single state but not pertinent to the remaining 49 states. If there is significant state opposition, it will most likely be based on factors such as fish and recreation values, which HES is designed to model; and if the site is undeveloped and fish and recreation values are present, then HES would assign an overall project suitability factor of 0.1. Tests conducted with the Southwestern Power Administration, and through them several states, indicated that HES does satisfactorily model local concerns affecting hydropower development when environmental, legal, and institutional constraints to development are present. The model provides a uniform evaluation of hydropower capacity, and it should be used to accumulate regional capacity, not individual project capacity. Summing the regional totals provides a national total of the undeveloped hydropower resources available.

## ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The assessment process uses a logical extraction of data from the two primary data sources discussed previously: the Nationwide Rivers Inventory and the HPRA databases. The basic site data is relatively easy to download. However, extracting the environmental attributes data is somewhat tedious because of the cross-referencing needed between the two database sources and the interpretation of narrative descriptions of outstanding environmental attributes.

Environmental attributes for sites on river reaches listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory can be assigned several ways. The first and simplest is to assign the environmental attributes of a Nationwide Rivers Inventory reach to any undeveloped hydropower project that is located in the same state and county and on the same river that is listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory. This method relies on the state, county, and river identifiers in the HPRA database for location; these identifiers are unlikely to be inaccurate.

A second method for assigning Nationwide Rivers Inventory attributes to projects is to (a) use the river mile designations for Nationwide Rivers Inventory reaches to locate the reaches on FERC river basin maps, (b) use the Geographic Information System to map the projects at the same scale, and (c) overlay the

project maps on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory reach maps to see which projects fall on Nationwide Rivers Inventory reaches. This method is potentially more accurate since only the projects actually on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory reach would be identified. Sites within a specified distance upstream or downstream of the Nationwide Rivers Inventory reach could also be identified and assigned the environmental attributes of the Nationwide Rivers Inventory reach. The main disadvantage of this method is that it uses the latitude-longitude coordinates of projects from the HPRA database, which are occasionally missing or inaccurate. For this and other reasons, the first method was used. The first method also ensures that any upstream or downstream impacts from development are also considered.

The application of suitability factors is straightforward once all of the environmental attributes have been identified. One simply follows the specifications in Table 2.

The underlying assumption in the evaluation process is that the suitability factors being assigned to environmental attributes represent the degree to which these attributes will decrease the likelihood of developing a site. One must also assume that the combination of suitability factors is not multiplicative but can be represented by the weighing scheme shown in Table 3.

## SUMMARY OF COMPLETED HYDROPOWER RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

This status report discusses the undeveloped hydropower capacity within the United States. The hydropower resource assessment utilized the Hydropower Evaluation Software (HES).

As stated in the Abstract, the Southwestern Power Administration was used for model testing. The six states in this power marketing administration are Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. The remaining 44 states have also been assessed. The information for the resource assessment was obtained primarily from FERC's Hydroelectric Power Resources Assessment database and the National Park Service's National Rivers Inventory database. Input was also obtained from individual state agencies regarding the undeveloped hydropower capacity and the natural resources present within their respective states. Note, Delaware was not asked to participate due to only one site reported in Delaware.

The goal of HES is to ensure that a set of uniform criteria is used to determine the viable national hydropower capacity. Undeveloped hydropower is not limited to that which could be developed at new sites; it also includes power that could be produced at sites that currently have hydropower but are not developed to their full capacity. This criterion includes environmental, legal, and institutional attributes. These attributes can include (1) scenic, cultural, historical, and geological values; (2) Federal and state land-use, which includes parks, wildlife preserves, recreation areas, forests, wilderness areas, scenic waterways, and military or Indian reservations; and (3) legal protection issues such as Wild and Scenic legislation, and Threatened or Endangered Fish and Wildlife legislative protection.

The amount that each attribute affects the likelihood of development depends on the physical state of a site. HES assumes that a site

can have one of three development states. These are (a) completely undeveloped with no structures present; (b) developed site without power—some type of civil structure such as a dam, weir, or abandoned power plant may be present, but there is no power being generated; or (c) ongoing power generation with additional undeveloped capacity.

Using the hydropower summary report menu feature of HES, the 50 states are summarized in Table 4. Figures 2 through 7 elaborate on the capacity adjustments presented in Table 4. The figures show that HES will adjust the undeveloped capacity downward due to the effects of environmental, legal, and institutional attributes. The figures also demonstrate the wide variation in the number of sites and the undeveloped capacities that are unique to each state.

Figures 2 and 3 summarize the number of potential hydropower sites in each of the 50 states, based on environmental and legal conditions existing as of 1998 or earlier. The number of sites does not change after HES adjustments are made. California has the highest total number of sites (763) and the most undeveloped sites (463), and Delaware has the fewest sites (1). Wisconsin has the largest number of developed sites (46) that also have additional undeveloped hydropower capacity. While Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Wyoming do not have any sites with existing power production that are not already developed to their full capacity. The total number of sites for the 50 states is 5,677. Developed sites with existing power (389) account for about 7% of the total number of sites while there are 2,527 developed sites without power, and 2,761 undeveloped sites.

**Table 4.** Hydropower capacity summary modeled by HES.

State	Category	Number Of Projects	Name Plate Capacity (MW)	HES Adjusted Capacity (MW)
Alabama	With Power	4	71	35
	W/O Power	21	281	216
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>112</u>
	State Total	33	498	363
Alaska	With Power	3	65	58
	W/O Power	60	2,866	1,610
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>1,111</u>	<u>490</u>
	State Total	119	4,042	2,158
Arizona	With Power	2	207	157
	W/O Power	6	51	15
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1,552</u>	<u>166</u>
	State Total	21	1,810	338
Arkansas	With Power	13	193	174
	W/O Power	28	378	332
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>638</u>	<u>231</u>
	State Total	61	1,209	737
California	With Power	26	1,745	653
	W/O Power	274	4,812	1,894
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>463</u>	<u>3,834</u>	<u>843</u>
	State Total	763	10,391	3,390
Colorado	With Power	5	156	78
	W/O Power	91	782	377
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>1,408</u>	<u>209</u>
	State Total	251	2,346	664

**Table 4.** (continued).

State	Category	Number Of Projects	Name Plate Capacity (MW)	HES Adjusted Capacity (MW)
Connecticut	With Power	3	21	11
	W/O Power	50	27	14
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>191</u>	<u>19</u>
	State Total	68	239	44
Delaware	With Power	0	0	0
	W/O Power	1	0.18	0.02
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	State Total	1	0.18	0.02
Florida	With Power	0	0	0
	W/O Power	8	49	34
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
	State Total	13	61	43
Georgia	With Power	7	145	89
	W/O Power	31	717	486
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>37</u>
	State Total	62	1,137	612
Hawaii	With Power	1	3	3
	W/O Power	7	20	13
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>406</u>	<u>52</u>
	State Total	25	429	68
Idaho	With Power	14	1,003	504
	W/O Power	86	541	447
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>6,169</u>	<u>704</u>
	State Total	373	7,713	1,655



**Table 4.** (continued).

State	Category	Number Of Projects	Name Plate Capacity (MW)	HES Adjusted Capacity (MW)
Illinois	With Power	9	80	41
	W/O Power	35	457	242
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>18</u>
	State Total	49	595	301
Indiana	With Power	3	16	8
	W/O Power	24	51	34
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>
	State Total	30	84	44
Iowa	With Power	7	115	61
	W/O Power	69	310	219
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>25</u>
	State Total	79	455	305
Kansas	With Power	1	0.06	0.03
	W/O Power	12	53	45
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>38</u>
	State Total	18	153	83
Kentucky	With Power	1	19	10
	W/O Power	46	851	425
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>4</u>
	State Total	51	913	439
Louisiana	With Power	0	0	0
	W/O Power	14	78	67
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>133</u>
	State Total	22	226	200

**Table 4.** (continued).

State	Category	Number Of Projects	Name Plate Capacity (MW)	HES Adjusted Capacity (MW)
Maine	With Power	24	83	47
	W/O Power	74	1,069	768
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>554</u>	<u>227</u>
	State Total	367	1,706	1,042
Maryland	With Power	1	196	20
	W/O Power	32	32	10
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0.10</u>
	State Total	36	229	30
Massachusetts	With Power	12	28	14
	W/O Power	87	118	62
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>56</u>
	State Total	130	325	132
Michigan	With Power	11	25	17
	W/O Power	53	459	354
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>18</u>
	State Total	86	613	389
Minnesota	With Power	12	98	72
	W/O Power	21	73	51
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>14</u>
	State Total	40	226	137
Mississippi	With Power	0	0	0
	W/O Power	13	81	62
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>29</u>
	State Total	19	128	91

**Table 4.** (continued).

State	Category	Number Of Projects	Name Plate Capacity (MW)	HES Adjusted Capacity (MW)
Missouri	With Power	6	116	104
	W/O Power	12	203	181
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>38</u>
	State Total	29	697	323
Montana	With Power	7	470	235
	W/O Power	72	1,129	502
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>2,073</u>	<u>277</u>
	State Total	158	3,672	1,014
Nebraska	With Power	3	46	28
	W/O Power	23	117	62
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>59</u>
	State Total	45	345	149
Nevada	With Power	9	5	4
	W/O Power	48	41	31
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>32</u>
	State Total	181	126	67
New Hampshire	With Power	0	0	0
	W/O Power	63	51	25
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>7</u>
	State Total	97	116	32
New Jersey	With Power	0	0	0
	W/O Power	9	6	5
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	State Total	12	11	9

**Table 4.** (continued).

State	Category	Number Of Projects	Name Plate Capacity (MW)	HES Adjusted Capacity (MW)
New Mexico	With Power	2	11	6
	W/O Power	12	48	24
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>5</u>
	State Total	22	90	35
New York	With Power	44	286	162
	W/O Power	212	754	495
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>1,079</u>	<u>652</u>
	State Total	352	2,119	1,309
North Carolina	With Power	6	16	14
	W/O Power	57	594	369
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>848</u>	<u>125</u>
	State Total	93	1,458	508
North Dakota	With Power	2	86	43
	W/O Power	10	13	7
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0.04</u>	<u>0.04</u>
	State Total	14	99	50
Ohio	With Power	1	2	1
	W/O Power	33	183	138
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>44</u>
	State Total	43	242	183
Oklahoma	With Power	9	274	179
	W/O Power	18	78	68
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>94</u>
	State Total	33	542	341

**Table 4.** (continued).

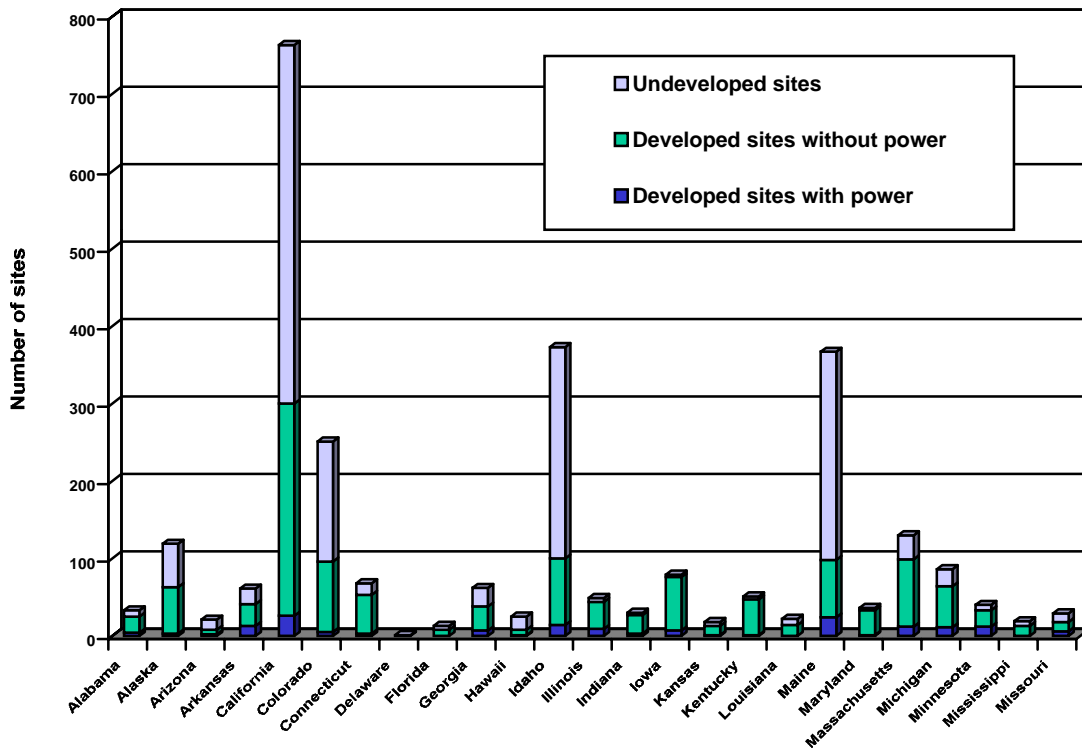
State	Category	Number Of Projects	Name Plate Capacity (MW)	HES Adjusted Capacity (MW)
Oregon	With Power	3	45	11
	W/O Power	101	2,549	1,916
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>950</u>	<u>318</u>
	State Total	222	3,544	2,245
Pennsylvania	With Power	5	207	105
	W/O Power	67	310	187
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>1,701</u>	<u>411</u>
	State Total	104	2,218	703
Rhode Island	With Power	0	0	0
	W/O Power	27	12	10
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	State Total	30	14	11
South Carolina	With Power	2	6	3
	W/O Power	31	855	444
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>33</u>
	State Total	49	1,134	480
South Dakota	With Power	5	569	285
	W/O Power	25	548	405
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
	State Total	33	1,123	695
Tennessee	With Power	0	0	0
	W/O Power	11	20	10
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>476</u>	<u>128</u>
	State Total	22	496	138

**Table 4.** (continued).

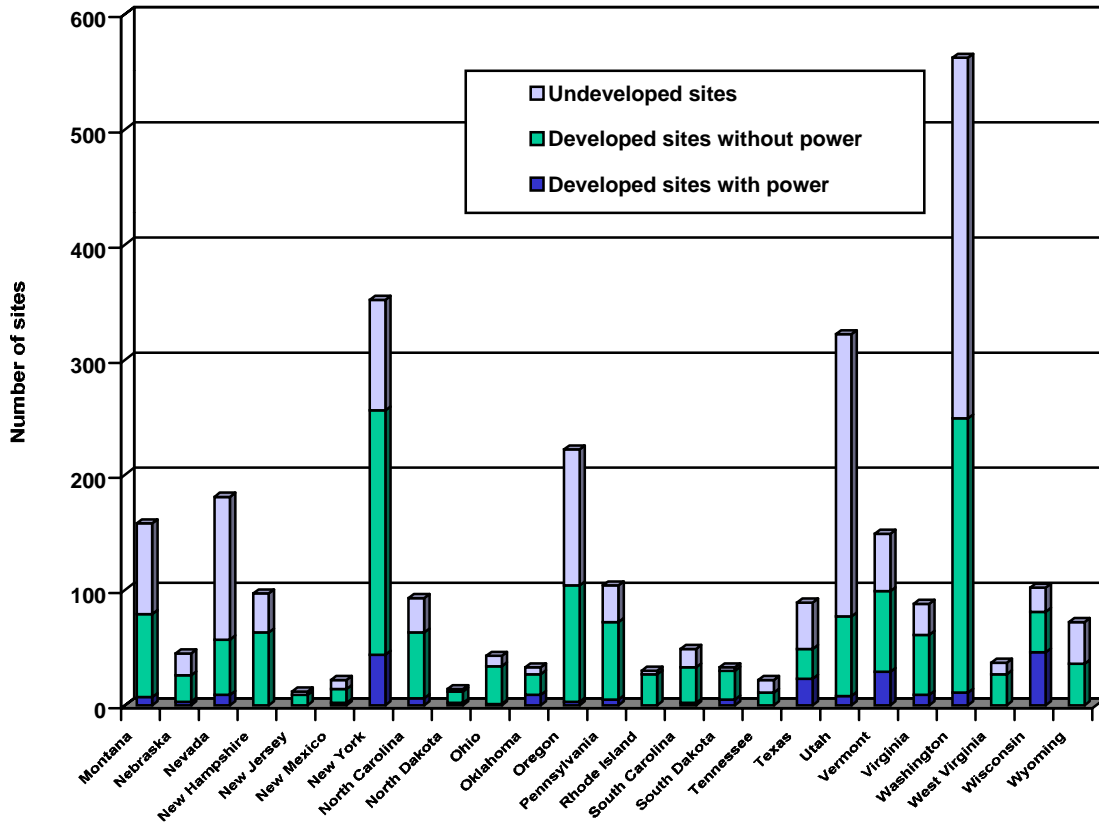
State	Category	Number Of Projects	Name Plate Capacity (MW)	HES Adjusted Capacity (MW)
Texas	With Power	23	56	46
	W/O Power	26	164	140
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>1,014</u>	<u>832</u>
	State Total	89	1,234	1,018
Utah	With Power	8	48	8
	W/O Power	69	900	414
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>245</u>	<u>990</u>	<u>472</u>
	State Total	322	1,938	894
Vermont	With Power	29	69	32
	W/O Power	70	261	130
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>12</u>
	State Total	149	420	174
Virginia	With Power	9	16	12
	W/O Power	52	690	376
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>229</u>
	State Total	88	1,250	617
Washington	With Power	11	1,033	875
	W/O Power	238	3,373	1,777
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>313</u>	<u>3,069</u>	<u>762</u>
	State Total	562	7,475	3,414
West Virginia	With Power	0	0	0
	W/O Power	27	1,597	1,002
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>328</u>	<u>147</u>
	State Total	37	1,925	1,149

**Table 4.** (continued).

State	Category	Number Of Projects	Name Plate Capacity (MW)	HES Adjusted Capacity (MW)
Wisconsin	With Power	46	190	111
	W/O Power	35	53	16
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>26</u>
	State Total	102	453	153
Wyoming	With Power	0	0	0
	W/O Power	36	920	487
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>708</u>	<u>317</u>
	State Total	72	1,628	804
Totals	With Power	389	7,820	4,316
	W/O Power	2,527	29,625	16,998
	<u>Undeveloped</u>	<u>2,761</u>	<u>32,452</u>	<u>8,466</u>
	Grand Total	5,677	69,897	29,780



**Figure 2.** Number of sites with undeveloped hydropower capacity by state for Alabama through Missouri.



**Figure 3.** Number of sites with undeveloped hydropower capacity by state for Montana through Wyoming.

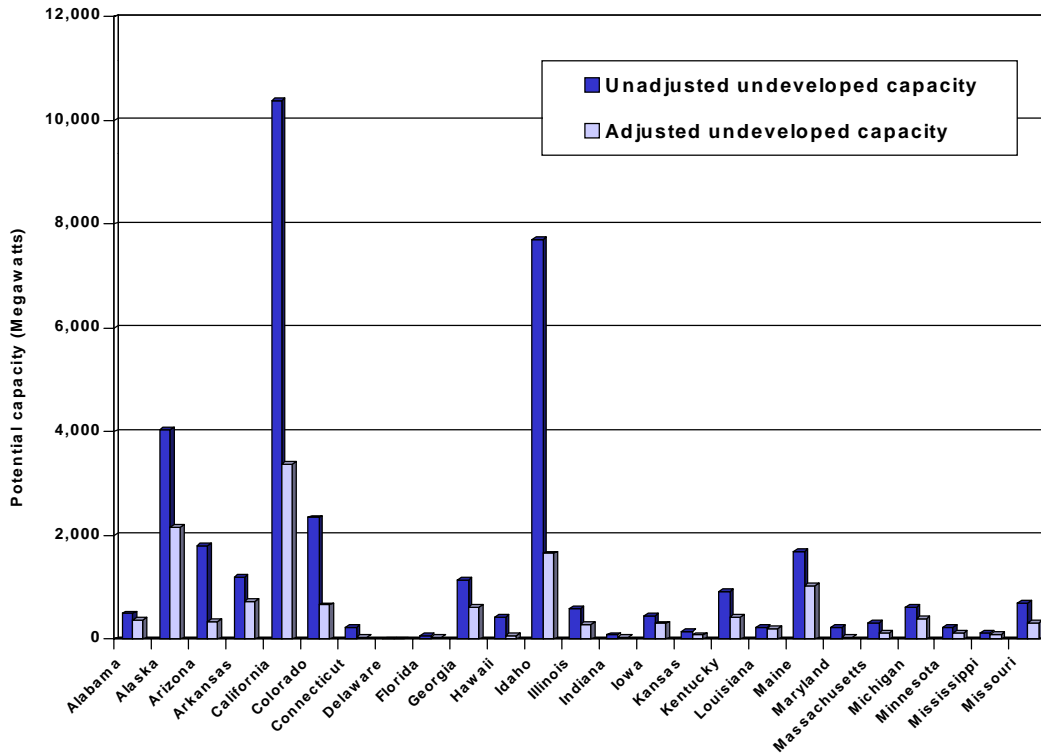
Figures 4 and 5 summarize the nonmodeled (unadjusted) and the HES-modeled (adjusted) total undeveloped hydropower capacity. California has the highest unadjusted undeveloped capacity, and Washington has the highest undeveloped capacity after adjustment for environmental attributes using HES. California also has the largest adjustment decrease (7,001 MW). Delaware and New Jersey show the smallest capacity decreases of 0.16 MW and 2 MW, respectively. Delaware also remains the state with the least undeveloped capacity with or without modeling. The unadjusted undeveloped hydropower capacity total for the 50 states is 69,897 MW. HES results lowers this estimate about 57% to 29,780 MW.

Figure 6 compares unadjusted and adjusted total undeveloped hydropower capacity by site status. As expected by the probability-weighting

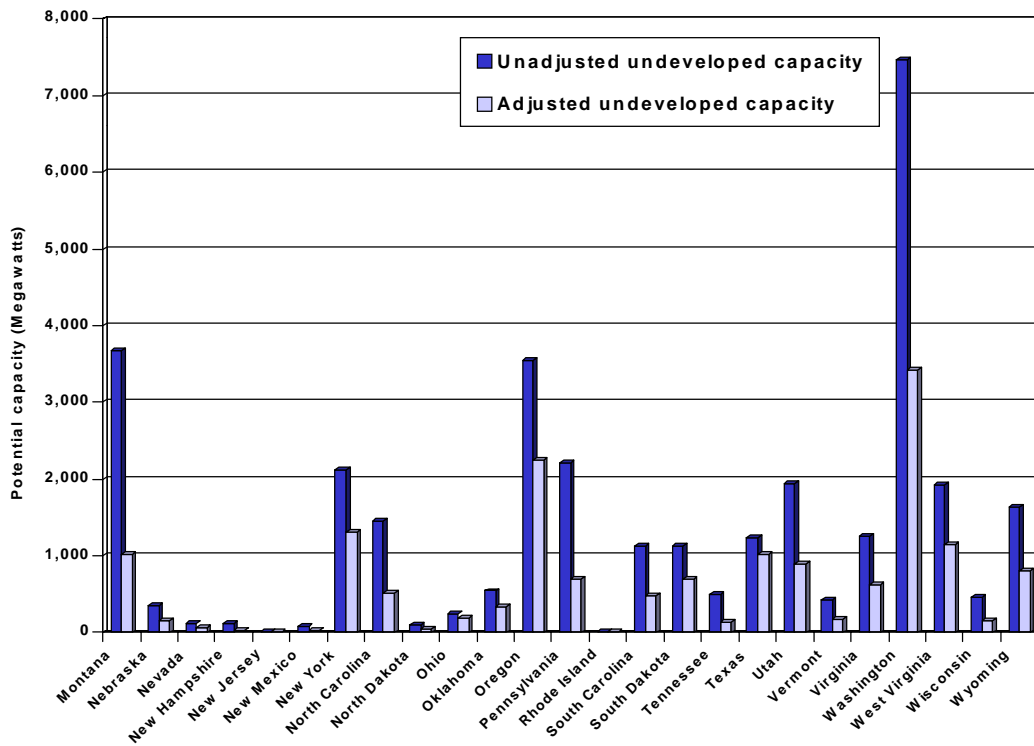
scheme, the capacity associated with an undeveloped site has the largest reduction from 32,452 to 8,466 MW, or a loss of 23,986 MW (74%). Developed sites with power (389 sites) have a reduction in undeveloped capacity from 7,820 MW to 4,316 MW, or a loss of 3,504 MW (45%). Developed sites without power (2,527 sites) have a reduction from 29,625 MW to 16,998 MW, or a loss of 12,627 MW (43%). Developed sites without power have the greatest overall capacity after adjustment (16,998 MW). The additional hydropower capacity for developed sites with current power generation remains considerably less (4,316 MW).

As shown in Figure 7, the majority of the hydropower sites (53% or 2,990) are located within seven states: California, Colorado, Idaho, Maine, New York, Utah, and Washington; five of those states are in the western United States.

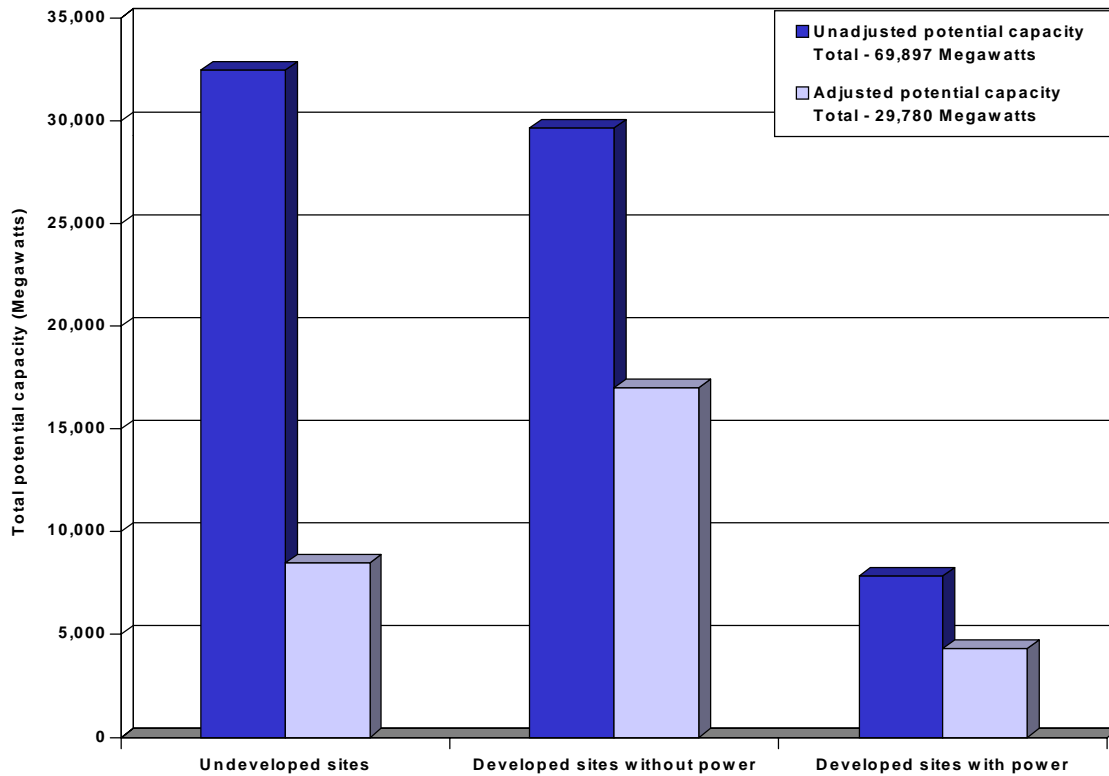




**Figure 4.** Total undeveloped hydropower capacity by state for Alabama through Missouri.



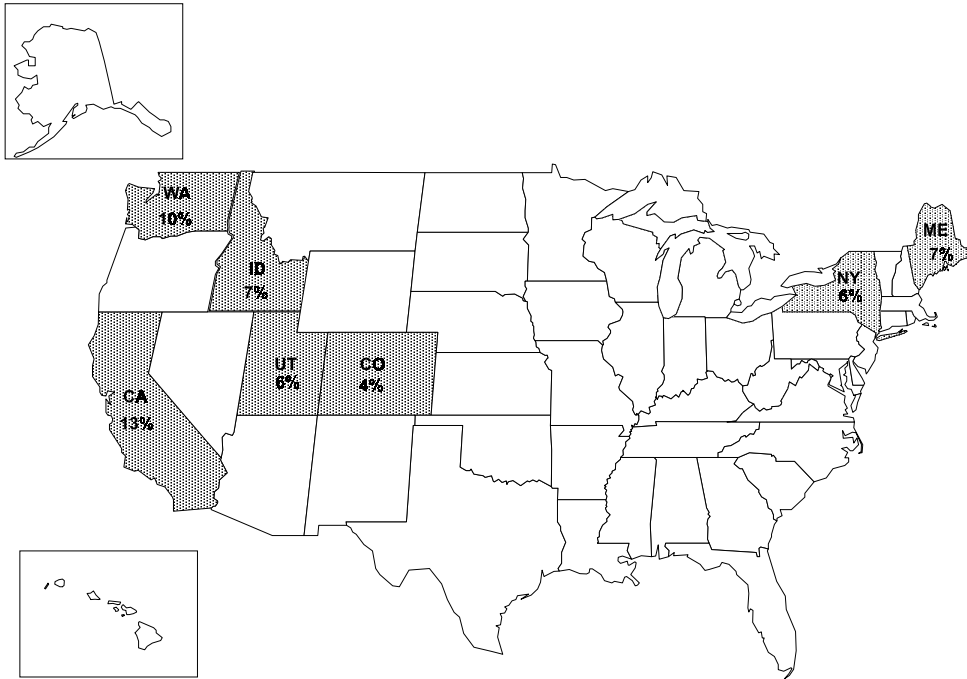
**Figure 5.** Total undeveloped hydropower capacity by state for Montana through Wyoming.



**Figure 6.** Total undeveloped hydropower capacity by site status.

Table 5 identifies the percent of the original undeveloped hydropower capacity that remains after HES is applied. Louisiana has the greatest percentage (89%) of the undeveloped hydropower capacity remaining for

development, while Delaware and Maryland have the least remaining original capacity. Many (25) of the states have greater than 50% of the original hydropower capacity remaining for development after HES model is applied.



**Figure 7.** Location of the majority of hydropower sites by state, reported as a percentage of the total number of sites.

**Table 5.** The percent of the original undeveloped hydropower capacity that remains after HES is applied.

State	Sites	Modeled Capacity (MW)	Nonmodeled Capacity (MW)	Percent of Original
AK	119	2,158	4,042	53.39%
AL	33	363	498	72.89%
AR	61	737	1,209	60.96%
AZ	21	338	1,810	18.67%
CA	763	3,390	10,391	32.62%
CT	68	44	239	18.41%
CO	251	664	2,346	28.30%
DE	1	0.02	0.18	11.11%
FL	13	43	61	70.49%
GA	62	612	1,137	53.83%

**Table 5.** (continued).

State	Sites	Modeled Capacity (MW)	Nonmodeled Capacity (MW)	Percent of Original
HI	25	68	429	15.85%
IA	79	305	455	67.03%
ID	373	1,655	7,713	21.46%
IL	49	301	595	50.59%
IN	30	44	84	52.38%
KS	18	83	153	54.25%
KY	51	439	913	48.08%
LA	22	200	226	88.50%
MA	130	132	325	40.62%
MD	36	30	229	13.10%
ME	367	1,042	1,706	61.08%
MI	86	389	613	63.46%
MN	40	137	226	60.62%
MO	29	323	697	46.34%
MS	19	91	128	71.09%
MT	158	1,014	3,672	27.61%
NC	93	508	1,458	34.84%
ND	14	50	99	50.51%
NE	45	149	345	43.19%
NH	97	32	116	27.59%
NJ	12	9	11	81.82%
NM	22	35	90	38.89%
NV	181	67	126	53.17%
NY	352	1,309	2,119	61.77%
OH	43	183	242	75.62%
OK	33	341	542	62.92%
OR	222	2,245	3,544	63.35%
PA	104	703	2,218	31.70%
RI	30	11	14	78.57%
SC	49	480	1,134	42.33%
SD	33	695	1,123	61.89%
TN	22	138	496	27.82%

**Table 5.** (continued).

State	Sites	Modeled Capacity (MW)	Nonmodeled Capacity (MW)	Percent of Original
TX	89	1,018	1,234	82.50%
UT	322	894	1,938	46.13%
VA	88	617	1,250	49.36%
VT	149	174	420	41.43%
WA	562	3,414	7,475	45.67%
WI	102	153	453	33.77%
WV	37	1,149	1,925	59.69%
WY	72	804	1,628	49.39%
Totals	5,677	29,780	69,897	42.61%

## CONCLUSIONS

The trend for hydropower development is downward because of current environmental attributes and legal and institutional constraints. After loading hydropower data for the states into HES and checking the data with the respective states, the analysis indicates that undeveloped hydropower capacity will drop by about 43%. The greatest decrease for any state is always at undeveloped sites. However, with the development of new technologies (e.g., environmentally friendly turbines, ultra-low head turbines), or changes in the energy picture (e.g., another oil crisis), hydropower production could increase.

The results of the HES are obtained in a viable, low-cost manner and can be used by

developers as a preliminary means for identifying developable sites. These results provide a peerless means for identifying the undeveloped hydropower capacity essential for continued energy growth, which in turn is necessary for the continued economic strength of the United States.

Application of HES to current data significantly reduces state and regional totals for undeveloped hydropower capacity. However, an abundance of potential sites remain that are likely to be developed, given the current environmental awareness and geopolitical constraints. Strategies may need to be formulated to further assess those sites with the most potential for development.

## OBTAINING INDIVIDUAL STATE INFORMATION

The HES results for the 49 states<sup>a</sup> can be obtained by accessing DOE's Hydropower Program homepage on the Internet at [www.inel.gov/national/hydropower/index.html](http://www.inel.gov/national/hydropower/index.html), writing or calling the authors, or calling the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). Hydropower Evaluation Software can be obtained by contacting the authors. Reports of DOE-sponsored projects or reports received on foreign exchange agreements can be ordered from Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Reports are available in paper, microfiche, computer disks, and magnetic tape formats.

**Telephone Orders.** (703) 487-4650. NTIS sales desk and customer services are available between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

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<sup>a</sup> Delaware was not included because of few hydropower resources.

## **ADDITIONAL HYDROPOWER EVALUATION SOFTWARE INFORMATION**

Additional information concerning HES can be obtained by contacting Alison Conner, Jim Francfort, or Ben Rinehart at the addresses provided below. Copies of the software and the User's Manual may also be obtained from these individuals.

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**Appendix A**  
**Basic Site Data**



## Appendix A Basic Site Data

The INEEL obtained the basic site data for each of the undeveloped sites from FERC's Hydropower Resource Assessment database. The following data fields were copied into HES from the FERC database for each site. The names used are the actual structural names assigned to each field in the database. (Note: “\_” is used in dBASE as a separator character.)

**PROJNUM.** The number assigned to each project by FERC. When a PROJNUM is not assigned for a project, the user is strongly encouraged to provide a pseudo number (see HES User's Manual).

**PLANT\_NM.** Name of the project.

**STREAM.** Name of the stream where the project is located.

**STATE\_NM.** Name of the state where the project is located.

**LAT\_U.** The latitude of the site.

**LONG\_U.** The longitude of the site.

**CLASS\_C.** The owner class code:

C = Cooperative

F = Federal

I = Industrial

M = Municipal and other nonfederal

P = Private utility

R = Private nonutility.

**OWNER\_NM.** Name of the project owner.

**KWRATE\_P.** The estimated potential nameplate rating (kW) of the project assigned by the Hydropower Resource Assessment database. This is not the current capacity at a developed site. It is the undeveloped capacity at a site or the additional capacity of a site that already has power generation capability.

**GEN\_AA\_P.** The potential Average Annual Generation (MWh) of a site estimated by Hydropower Resource Assessment database. This is not the current average annual generation at a developed site but the undeveloped capacity average annual generation at a site or the additional average annual generation of a site that already has power generation capability.

**UNITYP\_P.** Type of unit:

C = Conventional

R = Reversible

Z = Missing.

**PLANTTYP.** The project type or type of operation:

CMB = Combined conventional and reversible units

DIV = Gravity diversion (powerhouse on different stream)

PDV = Pumped diversion (one-way pumped storage)

PMP = Pure (recycled) pump storage

RES = Reservoir only

ROR = Run-of-river (dam 10 ft high with minimal storage)

RRG = Reregulating

STG = Storage, conventional (dam > 10 ft high with significant storage)

TID = Tidal conventional hydropower.

**STATUS\_C.** Project status code:

DJ = Disclaimer of FERC jurisdiction

EA = Exemption applied for

FA = Federally authorized

FR = Federally recommended

LE = License exception

LJ = Lack of FERC jurisdiction

MA = FERC major license application

MO = FERC major license outstanding

NA = FERC minor license application

NO = FERC minor license outstanding

PA = FERC preliminary permit application

PO = FERC preliminary permit outstanding

XX = No status

YO = FERC minor part license outstanding



ZZ = Missing.

**BASIN\_NM.** The river basin where the project is located.

**CNTY\_NM.** The county where the project is located.

Not all of the above 15 variables are present for each site in the Hydropower Resource Assessment database, and the information the database provided was not always accurate. Various state agencies and INEEL personnel reviewed the information in an effort to ensure the accuracy of the site information.