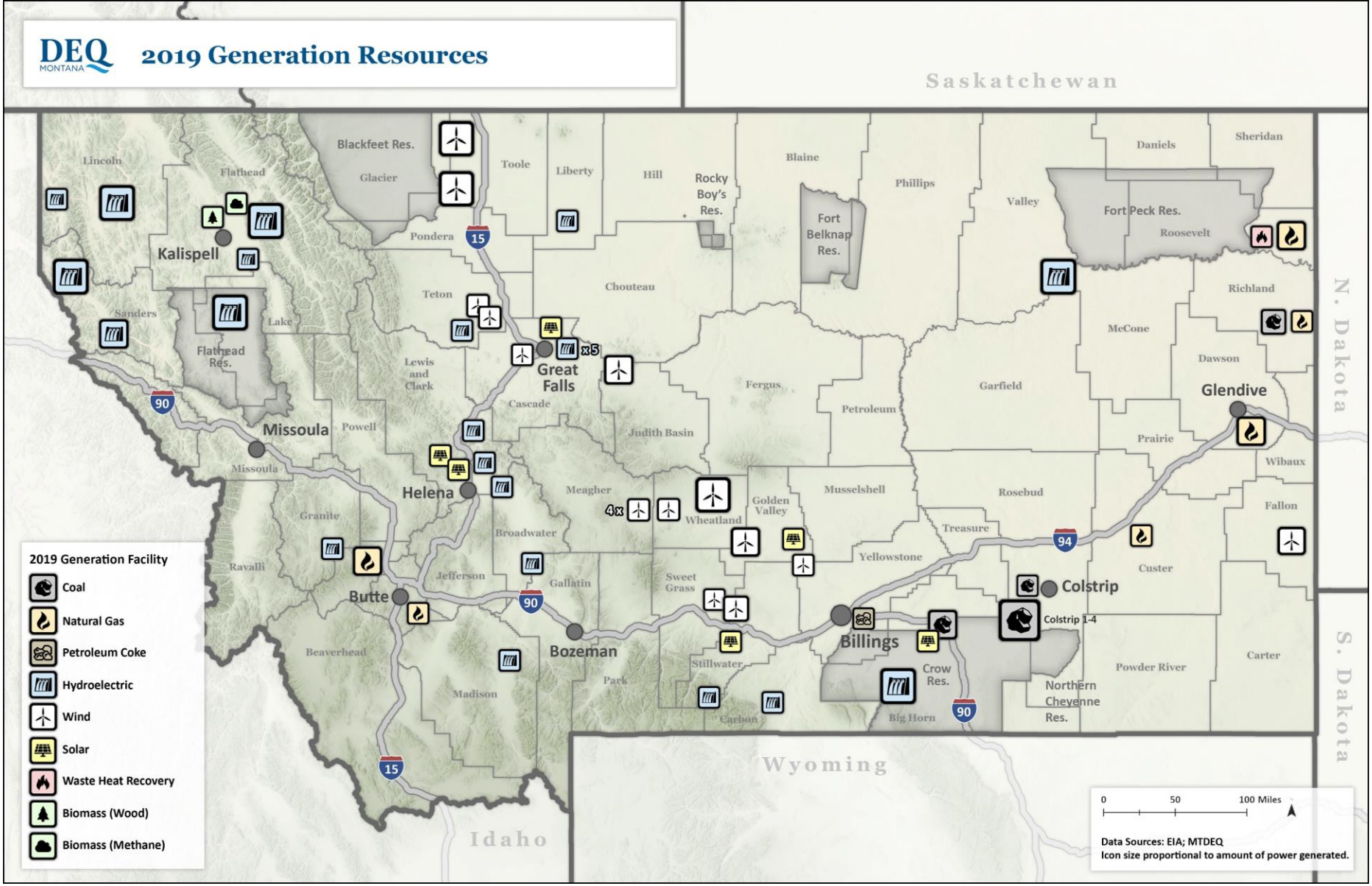
Montana Energy Development 2019-2025

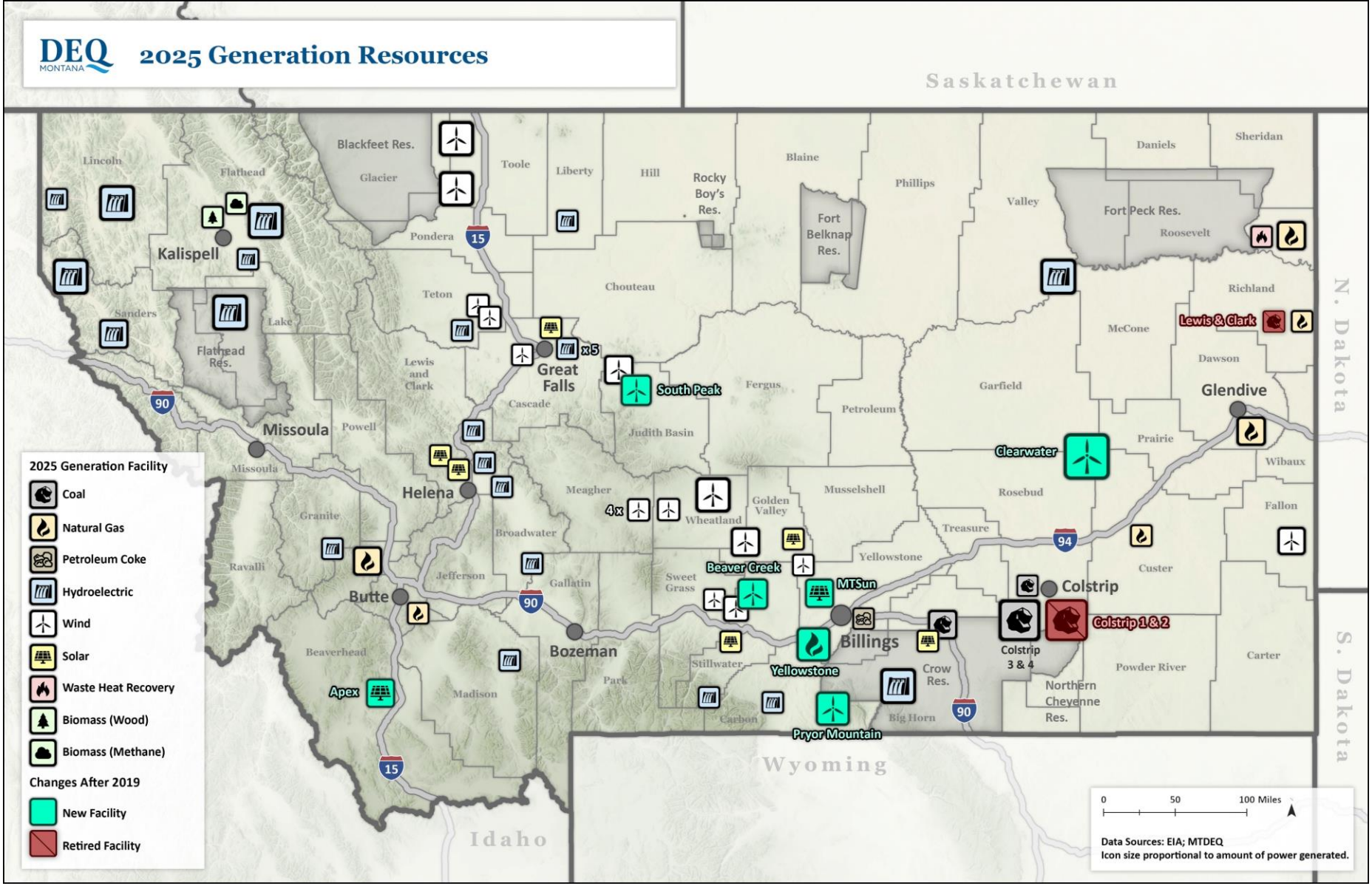
DEQ MONTANA

2019 Generation Resources



Source: Energy Information Administration (EIA) Form 860

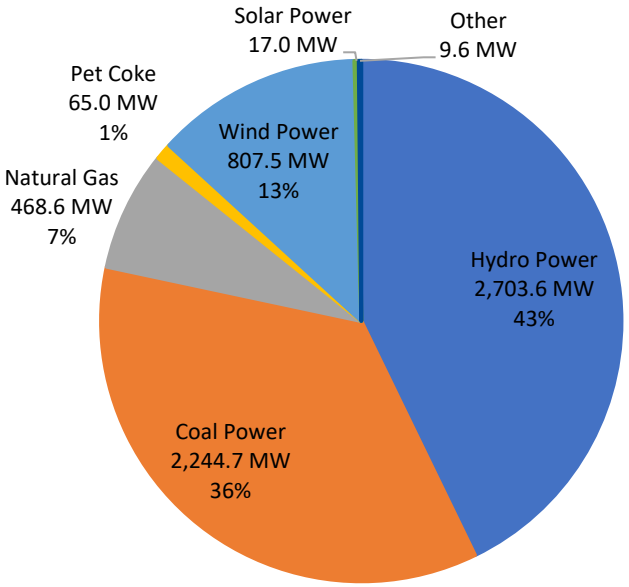
DEQ MONTANA 2025 Generation Resources



Source: EIA Form 860

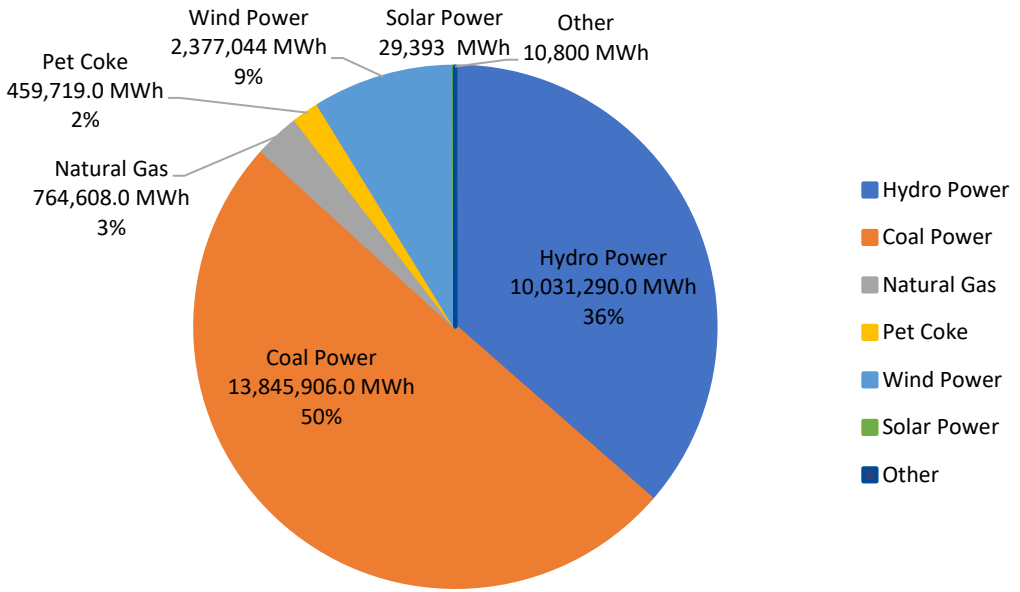
2019 Energy Generation Statistics

Nameplate Capacity (MW)



Total Nameplate Capacity Electric Generation by Energy Source (MW and Percent Total) – EOY 2019

Energy Generation (MWh)

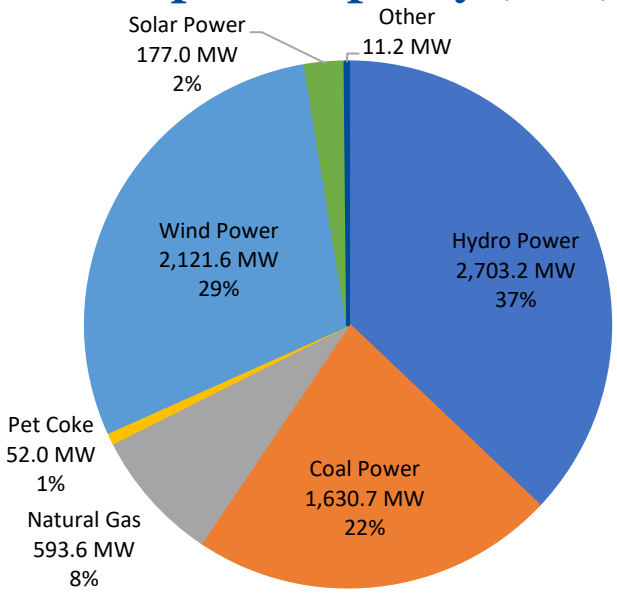


Net Electric Generation by Energy Source (MWh and Percent Total) – EOY 2019

Sources: EIA Forms 860 and 923

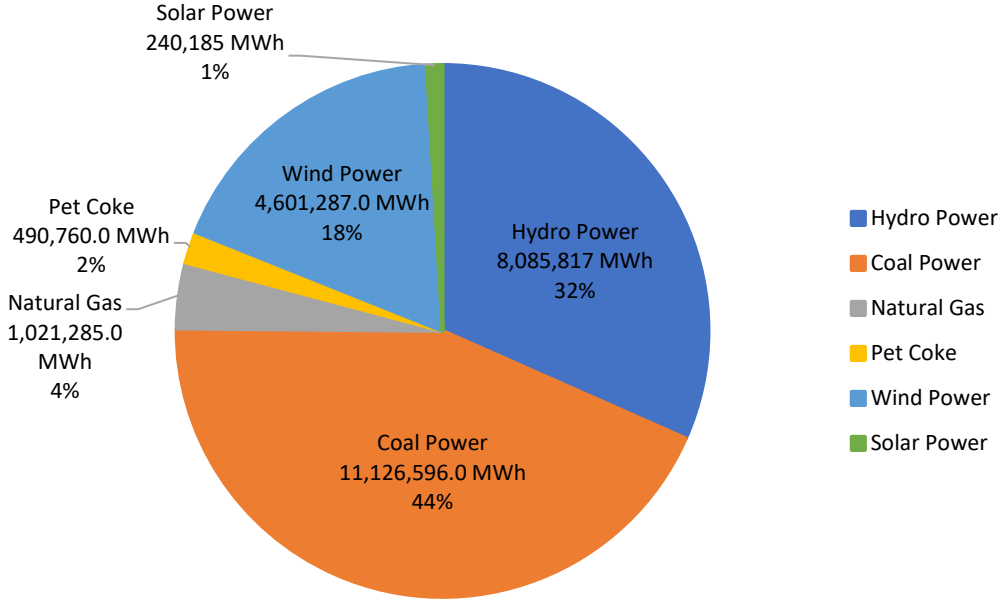
Current Energy Generation Statistics

Nameplate Capacity (MW)



Total Nameplate Capacity Electric Generation by Energy Source (MW and Percent Total) – ***September 2025***

Energy Generation (MWh)



Net Electric Generation by Energy Source (MWh and Percent Total) – ***EOY 2023***

Note plants that have come online since EOY 2023: Yellowstone County Generating Station (2024, 175 MW, natural gas) and Beaver Creek Wind Farm (2025, 248 MW)

Sources: EIA Forms 860 and 923

Capacity and Generation Trends

Overall: 15.6% increase in nameplate capacity, but 8.2% *decrease* in energy generation

- Fewer firm resources (closure of Colstrip 1 & 2) and more variable resources with lower capacity factors (1.3 GW new wind)

Wind: 162% increase in capacity and 93.6% increase in generation since 2019

- Comprising 84% of capacity added to Montana's grid since 2019

Electricity Sales & Peak Demand Trends

In-state electricity sales, 2019-2023:

- 14.6 GWh → 15.5 GWh

Peak demand, NWE Balancing Area, 2019-2024:

- 1,900 MW → 2,079 MW

Sources: EIA-930, NorthWestern Energy

Electricity Sales & Peak Demand Trends

Electricity demand in Western Interconnection expected to increase 20% by 2034.

This is more than double the 9.6% growth forecast in 2022

Drivers of increased demand:

- Industrial loads, data centers
- Population growth
- Electrification (transportation, buildings)

Source: Western Electricity Coordinating Council 2024 Western Resource Adequacy Assessment

Power Plant Retirements

Colstrip 1 & 2, 614 MW, Coal, 2019

Lewis & Clark, 50 MW, Coal, 2021

Photo Credits: DEQ, Montana-Dakota Utilities

Power Plant Additions 2020 & 2021

South Peak, 80 MW, Wind, 2020

Pryor Wind, 240 MW, 2021

Photo Credits: DEQ, PacifiCorp

Power Plant Additions 2023

Clearwater I-III, 750 MW, Wind

Apex Solar, 105 MW

Photo Credits: Governor's Office, Enlight/Clenera

Power Plant Additions 2024 and 2025

Yellowstone Generating Station, 150 MW, Natural Gas, 2024

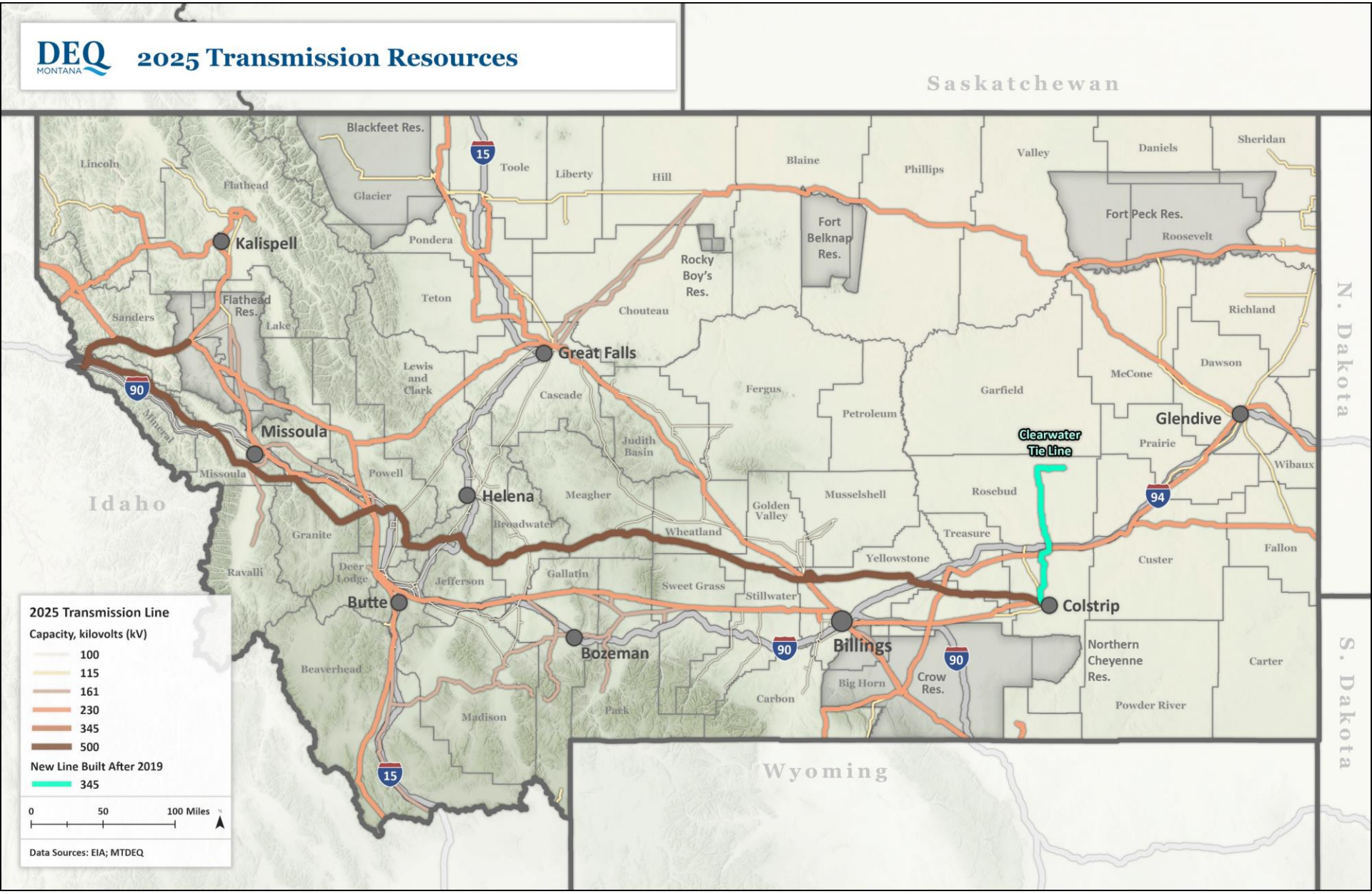
Behind-the-Meter at GCC Trident, 4 MW, Solar, 2024

Beaver Creek Wind Farm, 248 MW, 2025

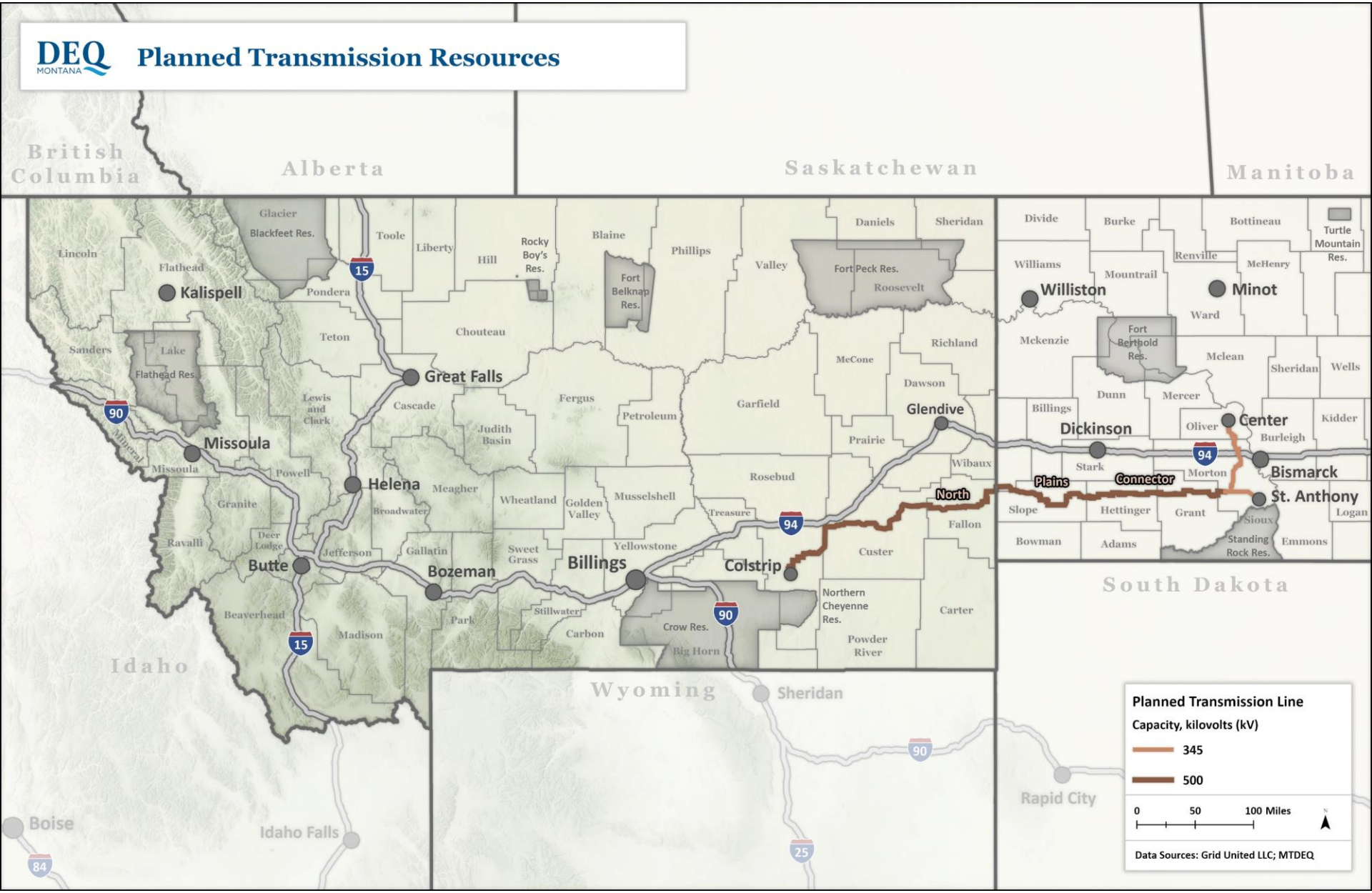
Photo Credits: NorthWestern Energy, Puget Sound Energy, American Cement Association

2019 Transmission Resources

2025 Transmission Resources



Planned Transmission Resources



Looking Ahead

- Increasing energy demand from industrial load, population growth and electrification
- At the same time, actual energy generated in Montana has decreased and limited transmission resources have been built
- Energy and transmission resources critical to address increasing demand and meet economic security and safety needs
- This task force will identify actionable solutions to meeting current and future energy needs and goals