

What are the potential services and impacts of pumped storage hydropower?

These potential services and impacts are discussed in this section. Fig. 4: Economic and environmental factors and impacts. Pumped storage hydropower provides energy storage for power systems, ancillary grid services and water management, but also has economic and environmental impacts. GHG, greenhouse gas; VRE, variable renewable energy.

What is pumped storage hydropower (PSH)?

Pumped storage hydropower (PSH) provides the largest form of energy storage in power grids, with 179 GW installed globally as of 2023. In this Review, we discuss PSH operation in power system support. There are different modes of PSH operation, including open-loop versus closed-loop systems, and binary, ternary and quaternary systems.

How does a pumped storage hydropower plant work?

Image from IKM 3D. Pumped storage hydropower facilities rely on two reservoirs at different elevations to store and generate energy. When other power plants generate more electricity than the grid needs, a PSH plant can use that power to pump water into the upper reservoir.

Are there investment opportunities in hydropower?

A new report from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory explores investment opportunities in hydropower. With the clean energy transition well under way, there is plenty of exciting news about increasing deployment of renewable energy solutions like solar.

Are new hydropower and PSH projects a good investment?

With the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act offering many types of financial support for clean energy projects, new hydropower and PSH projects could offer increasingly attractive investment opportunities. On the U.S. electric grid, PSH can store energy for longer than technologies like batteries.

Can pumped storage hydropower be used in areas that are not practical?

Forms of PSH that are seawater-based, small-scale or based at former mining sites could potentially mitigate some of these impacts and enable PSH development in areas where it is not currently practical. Pumped storage hydropower stores energy and provides services for the electrical grid.



Hydropower station energy storage investment



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