

From: [Will Johnson](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Cc: [William Johnson](#)
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What is often poorly understood about green energy, primarily wind and solar, is how utilities must deal with the intermittent nature of these sources. The grid must always have enough power available for peak demand, and if there is a green energy supply shortfall then "rolling reserves" must be available almost instantly, with sufficient capacity to make up the shortfall, or the grid will go down. Depending on the extent of a power outage, it can take hours to get the grid back up and power restored to all customers. It is difficult to find a better source of instant power than hydroelectric. If those who are pushing for using green energy sources are serious, and are concerned about reliability and costs, they need to think about what is available to provide these rolling reserves. Other possible alternatives are batteries or operating fossil power plants connected to the grid, which are inefficient at low loads when on standby waiting for a green energy shortage. Large fossil power plants can't be started instantly, and even combustion turbines can take several minutes or more to come up to speed and go on-line to deal with shortfalls.

Thank you,

William Johnson
3239 La Ree Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907-451-0088