

# NERC

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

## Reliability Assessment: August 21, 2017 Solar Eclipse

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**RELIABILITY | ACCOUNTABILITY**



## Purpose:

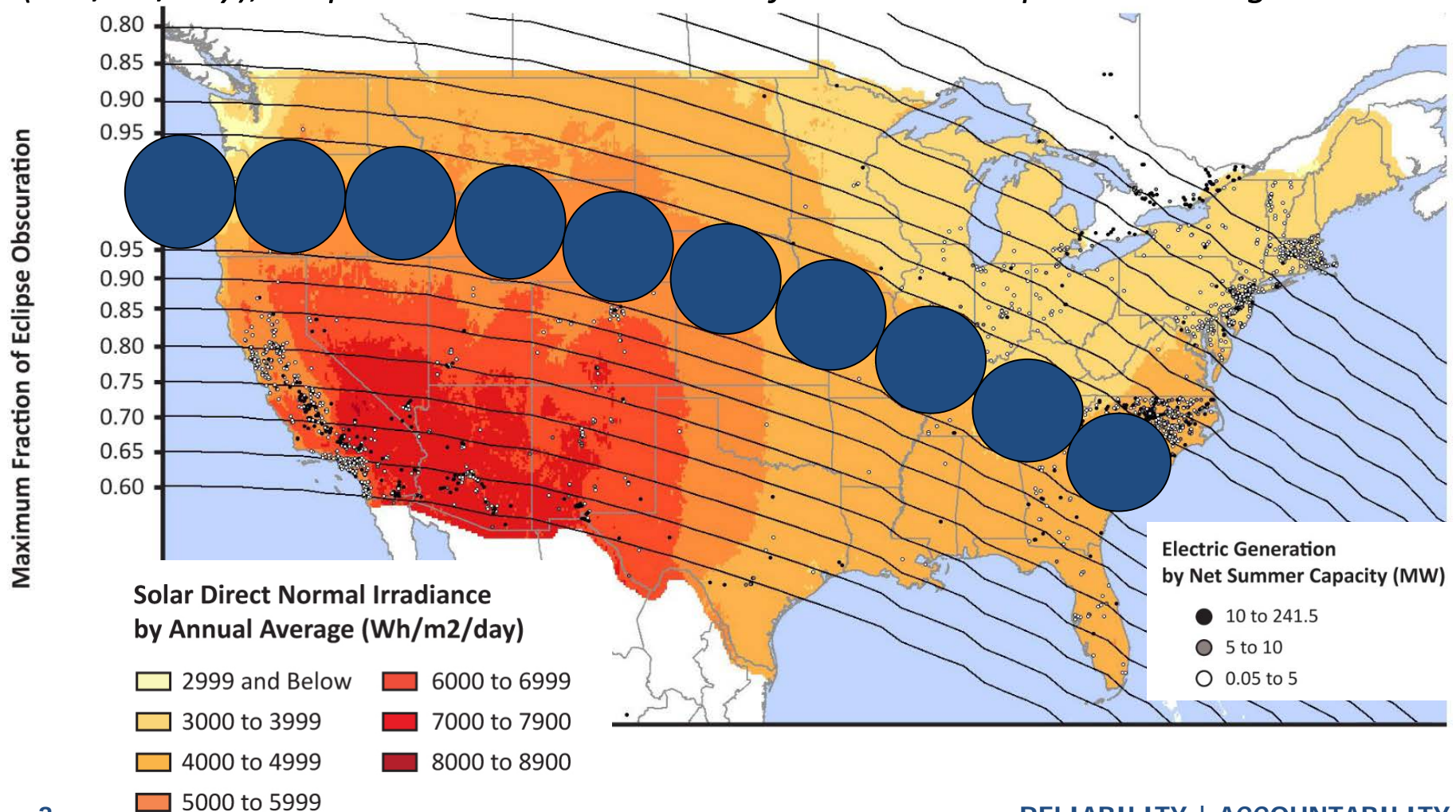
To evaluate potential reliability consequences of the August 21, 2017 total solar eclipse on the BPS

## Main Objectives:

- Develop an extreme case using ideal weather conditions under peak system operations
- Scenario eclipse test case which includes hourly load data, forecasted photovoltaic generation with a built in range
- Identify and assess the eclipse test cases for any potential system reliability and/or operational impacts in areas with:
  - High penetration of utility photovoltaic (PV) resources (*nameplate capacity*)
  - High penetration of DER resources (*total aggregated nameplate capacity*)
  - Significant sunlight reduction due to the eclipse (*eclipse bands*)

# Eclipse Path and Eclipse Bands

*Figure 1. U.S. Map showing direct normal irradiance by annual average ( $\text{Wh}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$ ), eclipse bands and locations of transmission photovoltaic generators*

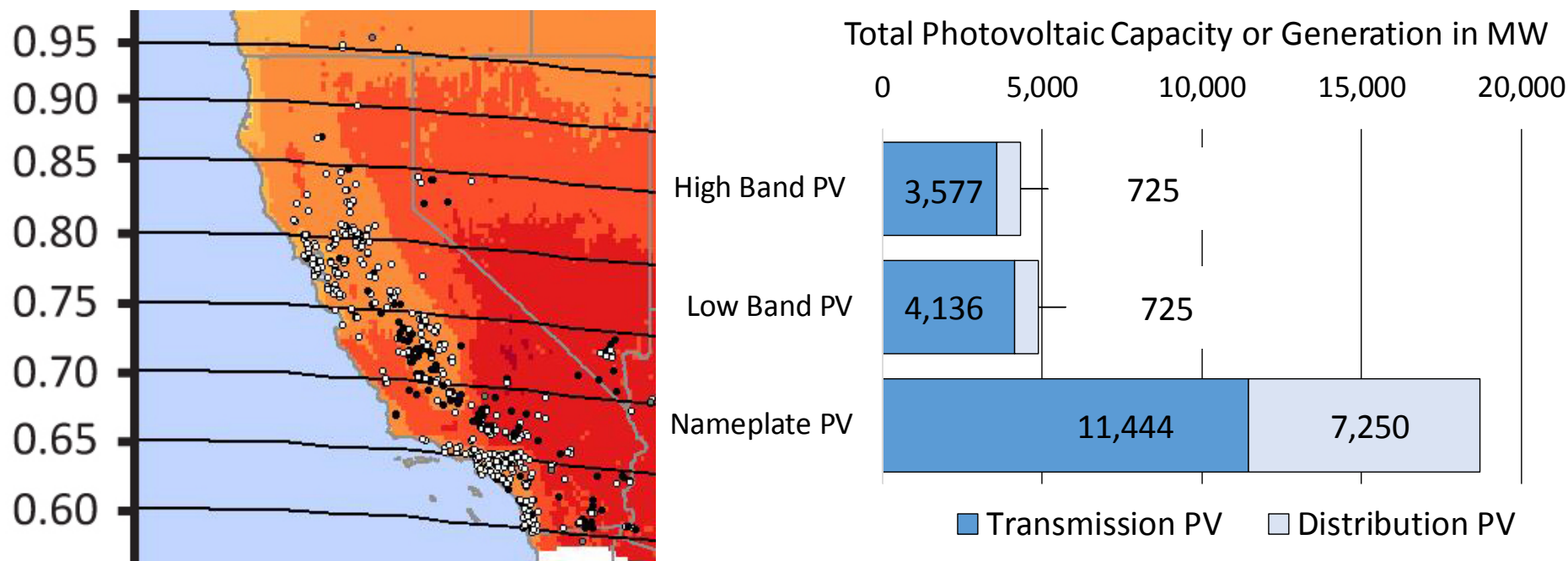


- The eclipse will first be observable in Oregon at 10:15 a.m. local
- 1 hour and 33 minutes to traverse the country
- Total coverage at any point is about 5 minutes
- Cumulative impact of about 9,000 MW (non-coincident)
- Over 1,000,000 PV installations in the U.S
  - Over 100,000,000 panels
- Growth in solar from 5 MW in 2000 to 42,619 MW in 2016
  - 15,000 MW of non-utility PV generation
- 19 GW in California, 4.5 GW in North Carolina
- 1,000,000 NEST thermostats expected to participate in conservation efforts



# California Eclipse And PV Generation for High and Low Bands Scenarios

*Figure 2. California Projected PV generation for high and low band PV scenarios in comparison to the total installed nameplate capacity*

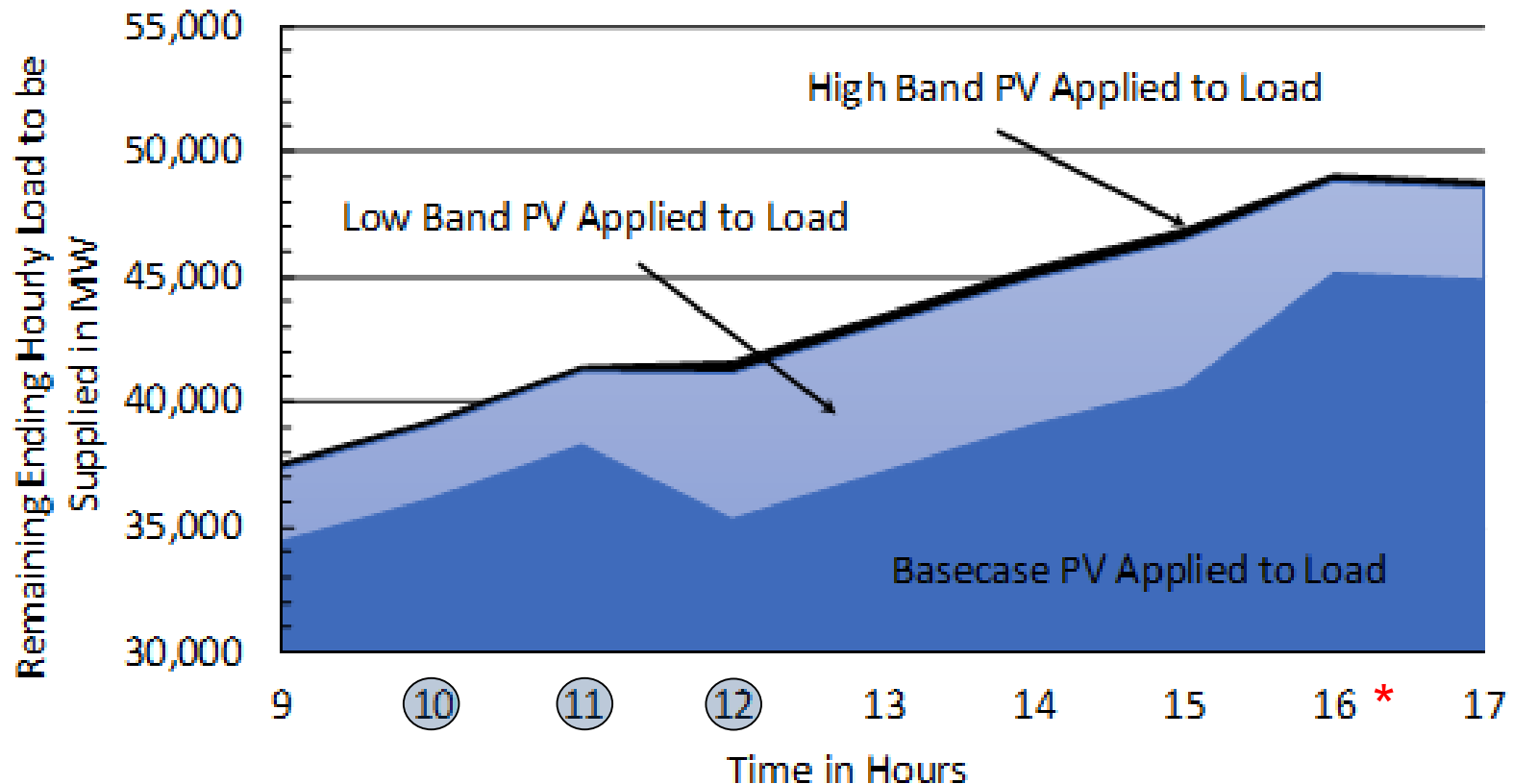


- Forecasted peak load: 51,233 MW (4 PM)
- Eclipse Time ≈ 9:01 AM - 11:45 AM

# California Total System Load Increases During Eclipse

- Results from the Assessment focused on an areas total system load:

*Figure 3. California remaining ending hour load (MW) to be supplied by Non-PV resources for the basecase, low band PV and high band PV scenarios*

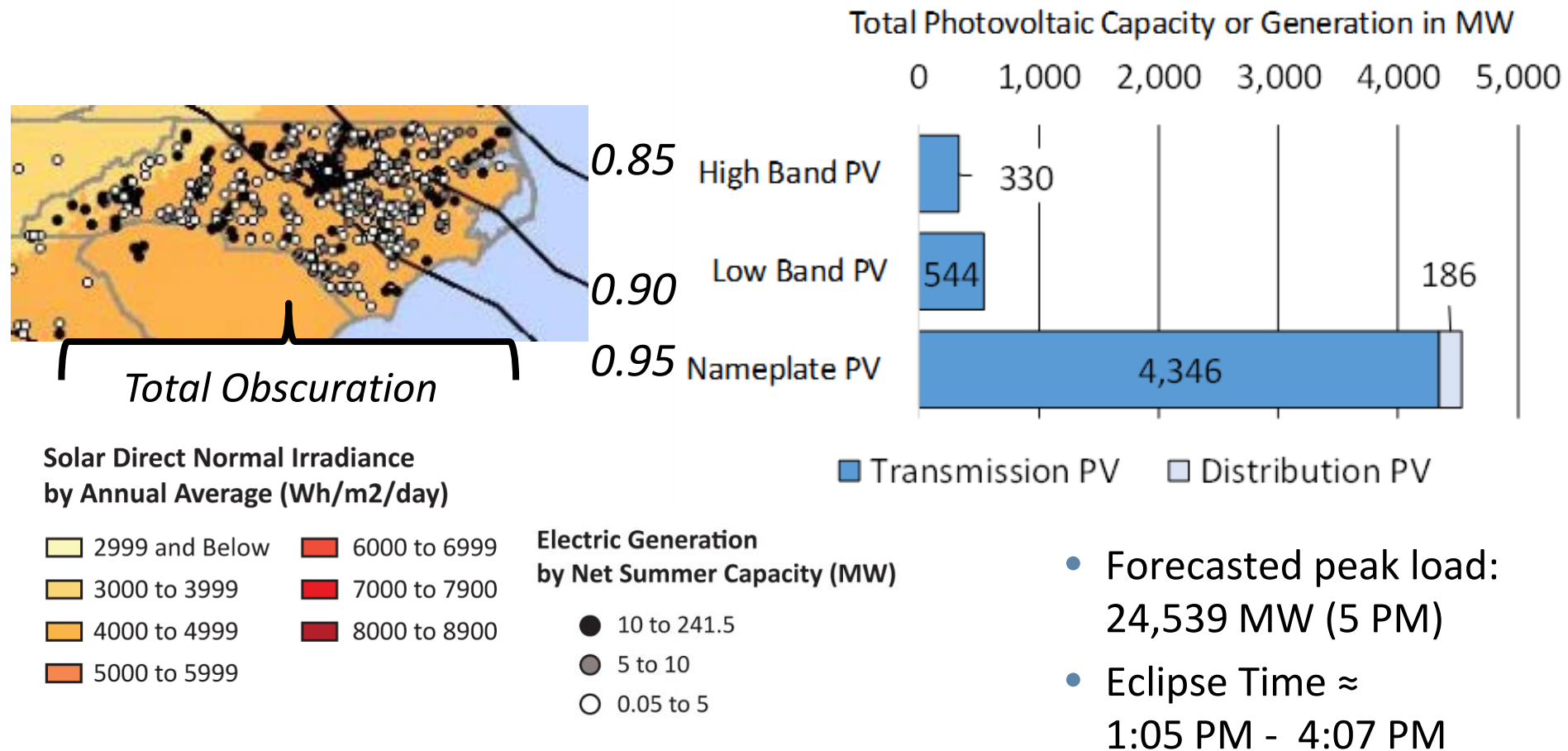


notes: \* forecasted ending hour peak load: 51,233 MW (hour 16 or 4 PM)

Hour ending for actual 2017 eclipse occurrence

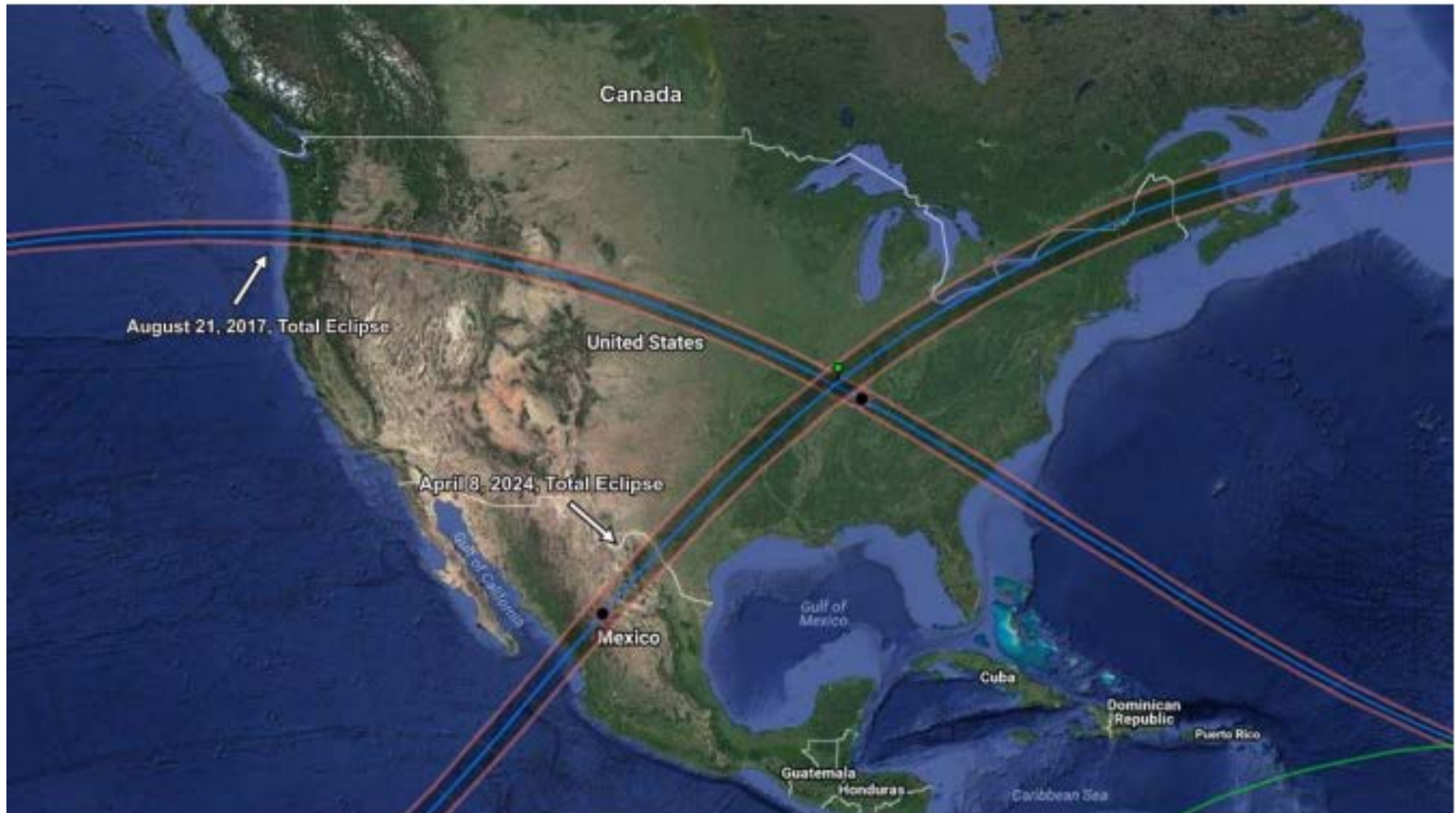
# North Carolina Eclipse And PV Generation for High and Low Bands Scenarios

*Figure 4. North Carolina Projected PV generation for high and low band PV scenarios in comparison to the total installed nameplate capacity*

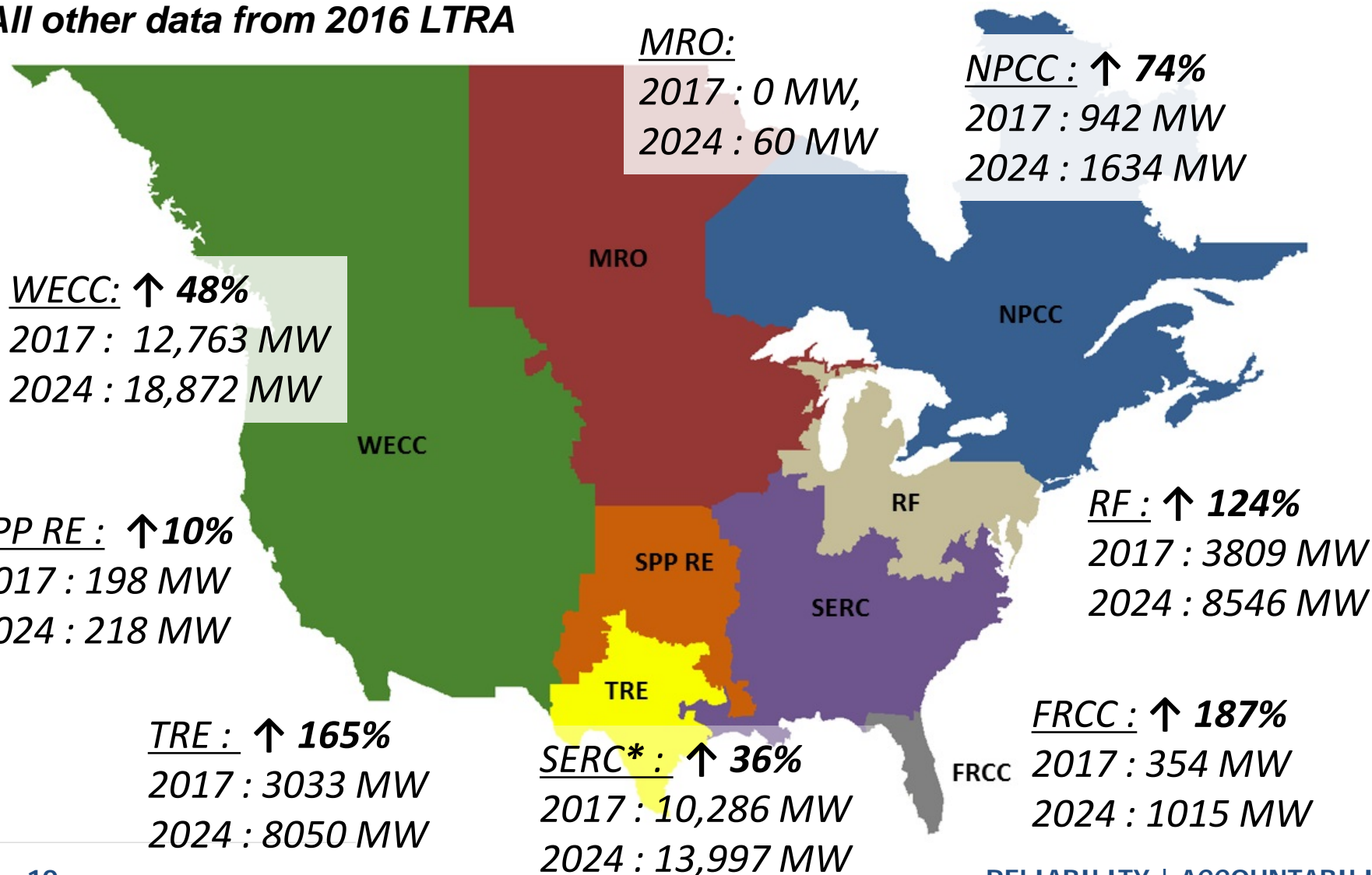


- Results of the total eclipse:
  - Showed no impacts to the reliability of BPS operations
  - Some states with a large amount of PV resources are expected to have:
    - Increased load
    - Possible ramping and balancing concerns that will require coordination
    - Significant gas generation ramping
- General Recommendations:
  - Areas should secure Non-PV resources for eclipse system operations
  - Recall voluntary maintenance
  - Perform advance coordination with neighboring systems for transfers



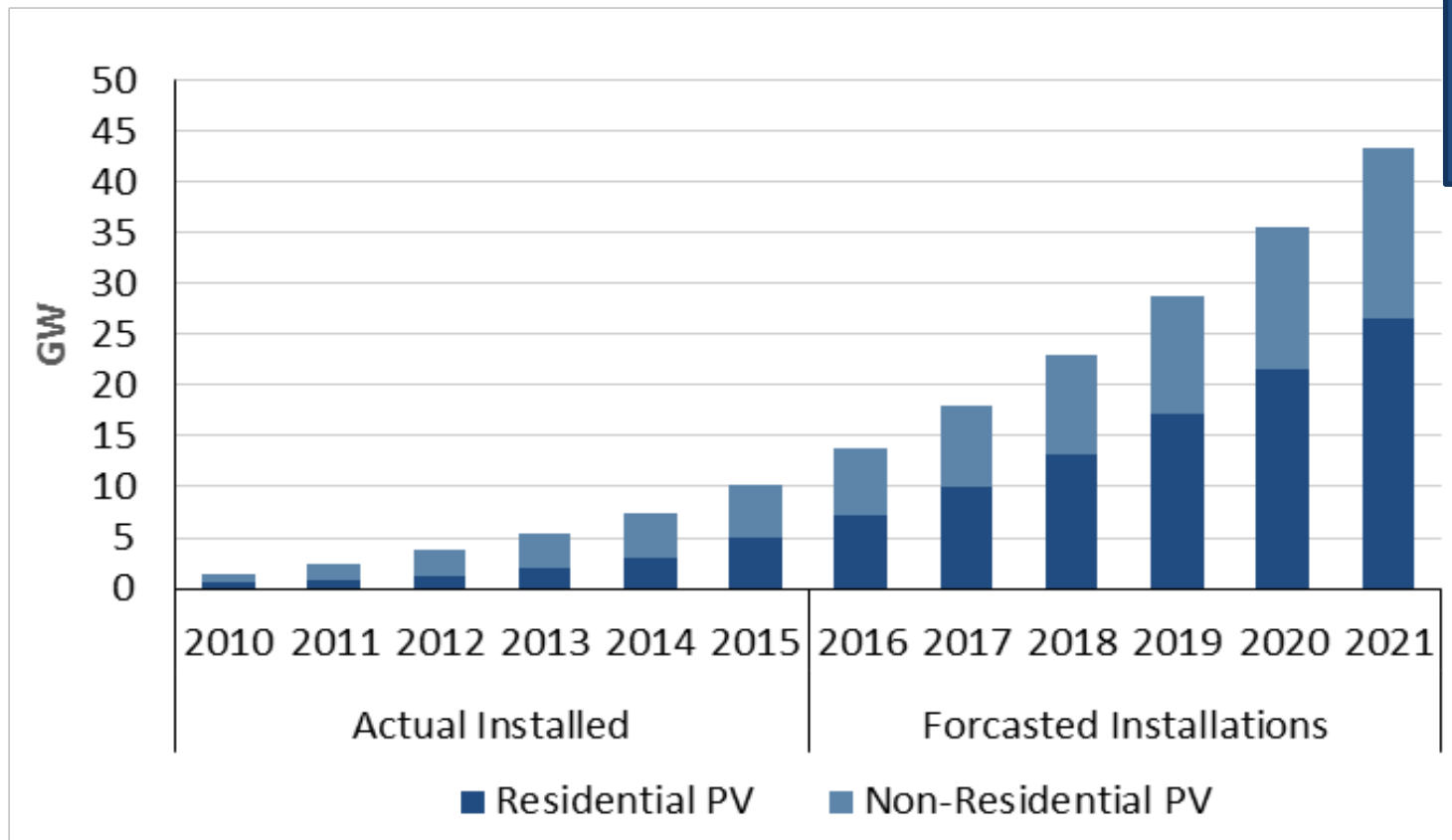


***\*Data from ABB Velocity Suite Tool  
All other data from 2016 LTRA***



## U.S. Cumulative Installations of Non-Utility PV Generation

*Over 100 GW by 2022 when considering utility-scale PV*



[4 GTM Research: Solar Market Insight Report 2016 Q2](#)



# Questions and Answers