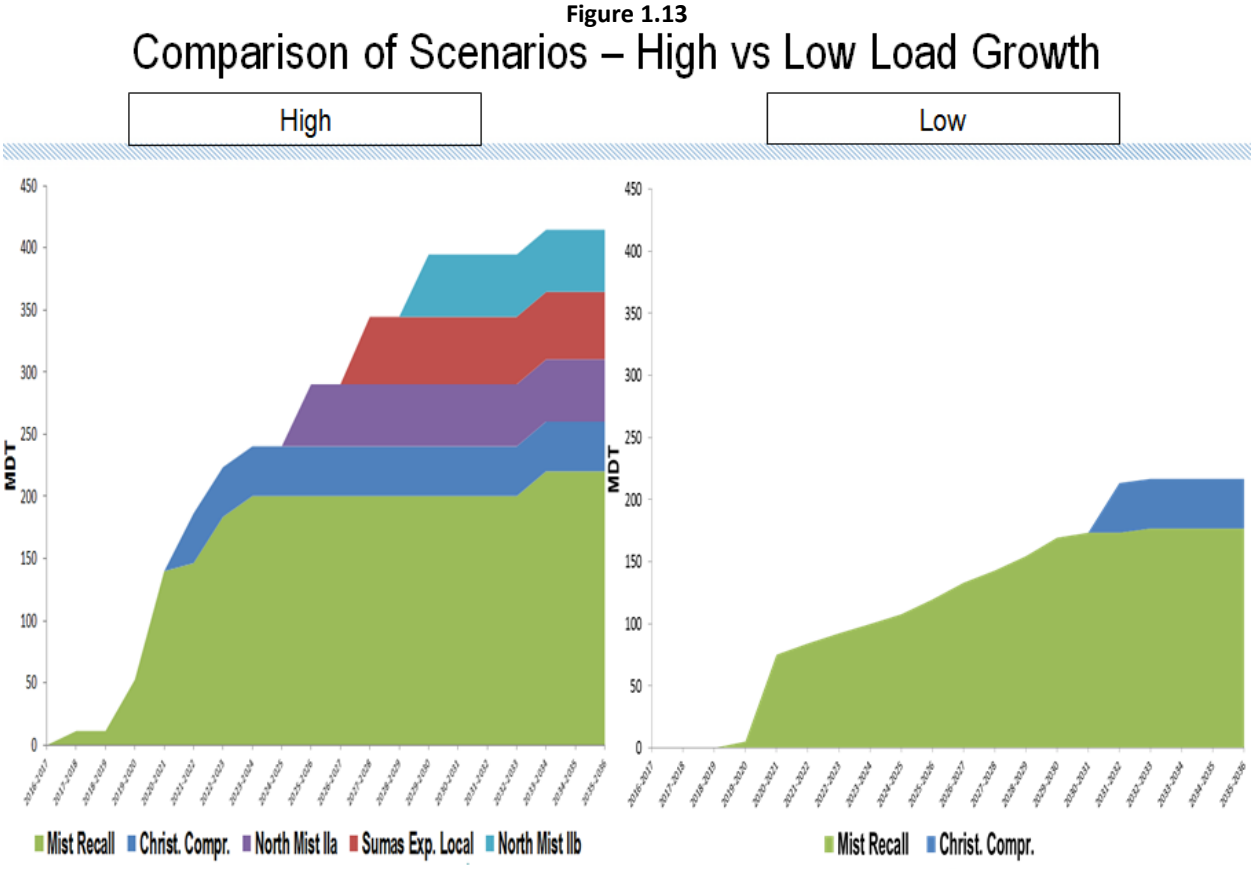
Figure 1.13



Except in the low-growth scenario, there is a need for future pipeline capacity to meet future winter energy needs. However, there is still a high degree of uncertainty regarding proposed regional gas projects (such as methanol/feedstock plants and the Jordan Cove LNG export facility) and the prospective interstate pipelines needed to serve them (Trail West, Pacific Connector, or a regional expansion by Northwest Pipeline south from Sumas).

This uncertainty surrounding regional projects—which are beyond NW Natural's control—makes it difficult to select a specific long-term gas supply resource portfolio, as the optimal set of resource additions depends on which scenario unfolds. Additionally, the range of present values of revenue requirement (PVRR) for the various portfolios including prospective resources ranges from $5,275 million to $5,293 million highlighting that there is not much difference in the PVRR between the different prospective pipeline projects.

Mist is a valuable resource that provides customers with unique flexibility. As the Company becomes more reliant on Mist over the planning horizon, it becomes even more imperative that the facility operates as planned. To this end, and as part of NW Natural's other storage plant efforts, the Company commissioned an Asset Management Study for the long-term maintenance of Mist.

Deploying accelerated Demand-Side Management programs may be the least-cost incremental resource and may serve to either defer or possibly eliminate the need for gas distribution system enhancement projects in a timely manner. However, while theoretically sound, it is an unproven resource with respect