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January 6, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Update on RM&E categorical review and fast-track process

Staff will provide an update on the progress and schedule for the RM&E/artificial production category review and the Fast-Track BiOp project reviews.

BACKGROUND

RM&E Category Review

Since the last update in August, the Bonneville/Action Agency/Council workgroups worked to analyze work elements, BiOp requirements, and BiOp and program gaps. While the BiOp workgroups continue to refine the products, Council staff is working on the Council's MERR Framework and the process for the review. Council and Bonneville staffs are also working together on making Taurus ready to support the RM&E review; part of which includes refining projects lists for this category. There may be up to 200 projects included in the RM&E/AP category review. Using Taurus for the process will help streamline the process for all involved.

Fast Track BiOp Projects

The Bonneville/Action Agency/Council workgroups identified 27 projects needed to meet high priority FCRPS RPA gaps by being implemented as soon as possible. These projects can be found in the AA/NOAA/NPCC BiOp RM&E Workgroup Recommendations Report and include new projects as well as suggested modifications to existing projects. Council staff assisted Bonneville in developing the process and schedule to solicit review and recommend proposals, ahead of the larger RM&E category review in the spring 2010 (see schedule below). The projects are intended to be implemented in the spring of 2010 so permits are essential for immediate implementation. If the fast-track process or permitting circumstances would not result in faster implementation, the default process for that project will be the regular RM&E category review. Council and Bonneville staffs will work with the project proponents to assess the feasibility of each project to meet the needs of the fast-track process. The call for fast-track proposals went out to select project proponents on December 14th, 2010.

Fast-Track Project Schedule

Date	Milestone	Note
14 December 2009	Proposal Forms Ready	On Council's website; updated for RM&E
25 January 2010	Proposal Forms Due	COB
27 January	Proposals Sent to ISRP for Review	Four-week review
26 February	ISRP Reports Due	Final Reports on some and Preliminary reports on others
03 March	Emails Requesting "response" to ISRP	3-week turnaround
04 March	Staff Recommendations to Council	For projects with Final Review from ISRP
09 March	Committee Recommendations	on staff recommendations
10 March	Council Recommendations	On committee rec's
25 March	Sponsor Responses Due	From sponsors
26 March	Responses sent to ISRP	3-week review
15 April	Final ISRP Report Due	On "responses"
22 April	Possible Special Council meeting	To approve final fast-track set