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January 3, 2011

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Power Committee

**FROM:** Terry Morlan

**SUBJECT:** Montana Utility Panel

Three representatives of Montana utilities have agreed to participate in a panel for the Power Committee meeting in Missoula on January 11. I have asked each to talk for 10 to 15 minutes about issues their utilities are facing, and important strategies they are implementing. Following that I hope there will be a good conversation among the utilities and the Power Committee.

The panel will consist of John Hines, Director of Energy Supply Planning for Northwestern Energy, Ken Sugden, General Manager of Flathead Electric Cooperative, and Bill Drummond, Manager of the Western Montana Generating and Transmission Cooperative. Although Flathead is a member of the Western Montana G&T, they will address different aspects of utility planning.

Some areas of possible discussion could include:

- Utility views on Bonneville's Post-2011 efficiency program, which will be on the Council agenda;
- Views about the proposed settlement of the residential exchange, which will likely be on the agenda for the February Council Meeting;
- What are utilities resource strategies; role of efficiency, renewables, and other generating capacity?
- And are there significant constraints (major challenges) keeping utilities from achieving their goals?

Another question, which the Power Committee may not need to ask, is whether the panel has questions for the Council. These are not likely to be bashful folks.

I think this panel is likely to provide some useful background for the Montana renewables development panel at the Council meeting on Wednesday.

