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April 30, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Charlie Black

SUBJECT: Identification of Initial Topics for the Seventh Northwest Power Plan

The Sixth Northwest Power Plan Mid-Term Assessment included a list of 12 candidate topics that could be addressed in the Seventh Northwest Power Plan. To help prioritize initial efforts leading into the Seventh Plan, each Council Member was asked to identify several topics that they would like to emphasize early in the process. Based on this input, four topics emerged as receiving the broadest overall support from Council Members. The full list of 12 candidate topics included in the Mid-Term Assessment is attached. The four priority topics are grouped at the top of the list, followed by the remaining eight topics.

At the Council meeting on May 7, we will review the list of topics and discuss a proposed approach to address the four topics that have been identified for early focus.

Attachment: Topics for Seventh Northwest Power Plan

Topics for Seventh Northwest Power Plan



Council Identified Topics for Early Focus

- Regional needs for energy, peaking capacity, and system flexibility; strategies to help meet those needs
- Renewable resources development and integration; impacts on the regional hydro system
- Customer demand response, including its potential as a source of peaking capacity and system flexibility
- Incorporating intra-regional transmission constraints in regional power system planning

Other Topics Identified in Mid-Term Assessment

- Making the power plan useful for all regional utilities, including utilities that face differing circumstances
- Avoided cost benchmarks to evaluate new resources
- Energy efficiency – how can different types of measures help meet needs for energy, peaking capacity and system flexibility
- Changing paradigm for energy efficiency; its impact on assessing cost-effectiveness
- Distributed generation
- Greenhouse gas – regional emissions outlook, regulatory and social costs
- Growth in use of natural gas for electric generation; intersection of planning for the regional power and gas systems
- Inter-regional power system and market linkages, including Northwest and California