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April 30, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Power Committee

FROM: Charlie Grist

SUBJECT: End Use Load Research Update

Staff recommends temporarily delaying the effort to convene a Council forum on end use load research until more immediate interest emerges from Bonneville and regional utilities.

This recommendation is based on several factors. First, efforts underway at Bonneville, EPRI, and several regional utilities need some time to develop so that, if warranted, a forum can be scheduled and topics can be focused to produce results. Further, it is doubtful that data collection not already underway would be available in time to inform Seventh Power Plan analysis. Efforts to convene a forum at this time would divert attention of Council staff from developing other necessary elements and analysis required for the Seventh Power Plan.

Staff believes that emerging capacity issues are likely to eventually highlight the need for better data on the seasonal and daily shape of end use loads, as well as the shape of savings from energy efficiency measures. As these needs become apparent, we anticipate that understanding and support for initiating research on end use load shapes will increase.

Currently, Bonneville is taking steps with EPRI to explore low-cost research methods such as non-invasive load monitoring (NILM), conditional demand analysis, and analysis of AMI data. BPA is also in the process of defining how it uses end use load data on both the power and transmission side. Several Northwest utilities, who have identified a need for end use load shape data, are communicating with Bonneville on next steps. If progress is made on these issues, and utility leaders emerge to champion a Northwest or west coast effort, a forum can be developed and scheduled by the Council or perhaps by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Taskforce (NEET).