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June 4, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Power Committee

FROM: Charlie Black

SUBJECT: Setting the Context for the Seventh Northwest Power Plan

During development of the Sixth Northwest Power Plan Mid-Term Assessment, several regional stakeholders provided comments requesting the Council to address significant changes that have occurred since the Northwest Power Act was adopted in 1980, and to consider how these changes can be reflected in development of the Seventh Northwest Power Plan.

It seems to make good sense for the Council to continue making its power plans responsive to fundamental characteristics of the region and the electric utility industry. This includes updating the power plan process to reflect major changes, while also ensuring ongoing compliance with requirements set forth by the Act.

Staff from several divisions have been discussing how to frame and organize the discussion on this topic. After considering various approaches, the following key elements have emerged:

1. What requirements does the Northwest Power Act impose regarding the process and content of the Council's Northwest Power Plans?
2. What was the overall context for power planning in 1980 and how did it shape development of the Act and the Council's First Northwest Power Plan?
3. What is the overall context for power planning in 2013 and how should it shape development of the Council's Seventh Northwest Power Plan?

At the Power Committee meeting on June 11, 2013, staff will present a proposed approach for addressing the items listed above and ask for feedback from the Committee. We will then incorporate your feedback into preparations for an initial discussion with the full Council at its meeting in Seattle in July.