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February 25, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Power Committee

FROM: Jeff King, Senior Resource Analyst

SUBJECT: Chapter 5 initial draft of generating resource section

The initial draft of the generating resources section of Chapter 5 of the Sixth Power Plan is attached for discussion at the March Power Committee meeting. The purpose of this section is to describe the generating resource and energy storage options expected to be available to the Northwest during the 2010 - 2029 period of the Sixth Power Plan.

The section is organized into three subsections. The first is a summary of the estimated resource availability, benchmark costs and planning assumptions, in tabular form. The first table (resource potential) is largely complete except for availability and cost of resources for which assessments are not yet complete. The second and third tables (cost and performance characteristics, respectively of available resources) are shown with an example entry each (a combined-cycle plant).

The second subsection consists of resource descriptions, organized by primary energy resource. The intent is to briefly describe the primary resource, principal technologies for production of electric power from the resource, availability to the Northwest, prospective role, economic characteristics and key issues relating to the commercial development of the resource. This section needs additional work to provide consistent treatment of these topics.

The final subsection will address "supply side" energy storage technologies. This section is not complete, but will include pumped storage hydropower, compressed air energy storage and perhaps other storage options, and will address the topics considered in the generating resources subsection.

Additional discussion regarding the derivation of the data appearing in this chapter will be provided in appendices.

Staff is looking for guidance from the Power Committee regarding the scope, detail and format proposed in this draft.