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10/1/02013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Brian Dekiep

SUBJECT: Montana Wind and Transmission Panel

At the Council meeting on October 8th, we have invited experts from four organizations involved in Montana's electric power industry to participate on a panel about wind and transmission opportunities and challenges in the state.

Council Member Pat Smith will act as a moderator for the panel, and he will ask series of questions about the current situation in Montana to help guide the conversation. Topics will include the past, present and future role of renewable energy, primarily wind, in Montana and the challenges of transmission capacity between Montana and the rest of the Pacific Northwest.

The panel members will be:

- Brian Altman, Transmission Accounts Executive at Bonneville Power Administration
- Mike Cashell, Vice President of Transmission at NorthWestern Energy;
- Joe Lukas, General Manager of Western Montana Electric Generating and Transmission Cooperative, Inc.;
- Jeff Fox, Energy Policy Analyst at the Renewable Northwest Project;

Bios for each of the panel members are attached.

Bios:

Brian Altman:

Brian Altman has been with the Bonneville Power Administration since 1992 where he has served in their Transmission Contracts, Office of General Counsel, and has been a Transmission Account Executive (AE) since 2002. As an AE he has worked with a variety of customers including IOUs, cooperatives, PUDs, municipalities, marketers, generation and transmission developers, as well as PNGC, PPC, NRU, and WMG&T. Before starting with BPA, Brian served in the Navy as a nuclear submarine officer, worked for ABB on commercial nuclear power units, and has an engineering and law degree. In addition, Brian has 30 years and is still serving in the Navy where he leads the nation's Submarine Reserve Force.

Joe Lukas:

In August of 2012, Joe Lukas was hired as General Manager of Western MT G&T. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Idaho and a Master of Science degree from Virginia Tech. After graduate school he worked for Idaho Power Company and from 1995 to 2012 he worked for Grant County Public Utility District in many different jobs ranging from scientist to Assistant General Manager. Overall, he has more than 20 years of experience working on a wide range of utility issues in the Pacific Northwest.

Jeff Fox:

Jeff is a native Montanan, wilderness lover, elk hunter, and backcountry skier deeply committed to clean energy solutions for Montana and the nation.

Jeff joined Renewable Northwest Project in February of 2011 to further the organization's on-the-ground presence in Montana. As the Montana Policy Manager for Renewable Northwest Project he lobbies the Legislature each biennium on behalf of renewable energy interests. In the interim Jeff works to expand market opportunities for Montana's renewable energy, promote grid and operations reforms that allow for further development of renewables, and help develop workable siting policies that protect wildlife and allow for responsible renewable energy development.

Jeff currently volunteers on the policy committee of the Montana Renewable Energy Association, an organization representing small renewable energy system installers.

Mike Cashell:

Mike is responsible for all of NorthWestern Energy's electric transmission and natural gas transmission and storage operations. Mike, a Butte, Montana native, has held his current position since May 2011 and has over 27 years of utility industry experience with responsibility in the areas of transmission system and balancing authority operations, planning and maintenance, hydroelectric and thermal power system operation, independent power production, gas transmission system operation and business management.

Mike is active in state and regional transmission and energy forums and represents NorthWestern Energy at the Western Electricity Coordinating Council. He and his wife Kathy live in Butte, Montana and have one daughter, Courtney, a student at the University of Montana.