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April 5, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Power Committee

FROM: Ben Kujala

SUBJECT: Draft scope of work for potential Lower Snake River dam power analysis

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Ben Kujala and John Ollis

Summary: On March 2, staff held a public meeting on the [Scope of Work on a Potential Lower Snake River Dam Analysis](#). At that meeting, we provided a [draft for feedback](#).

This is an opportunity to provide the committee with an updated draft of the scope of work. We will also discuss stakeholder feedback directed at the Council's consideration of whether to proceed with the work as scoped. We will take any feedback from the committee to refine both the scope of work and the summary of stakeholder feedback and concerns into a presentation and final scope of work to be taken to the Council at a future meeting, likely the May meeting.

Draft scope of work for potential Lower Snake River dam power analysis

Updates to the Scope of Work (1)

- Finesse around the potential for loss of power system services from a subset of the four projects while maintaining limits on not looking at different schedules for loss of power system services
- Added language to Phase 1 regarding timing and ongoing GENESYS vetting
- Added language to Phase 3 about how determining a reasonable measure of a “similar level of reliability” is part of the project

Updates to the Scope of Work (2)

- Added language in Phase 4 to indicate some portfolios should be designed to maintain system emissions at or below the emissions expected with the LSRDs included in the system
- Added language in Phase 5 about avoiding confounding a change in the regions import/export strategy with replacement of the power system services from the LSRDs
- Added language in Phase 6 about looking at emissions as part of the modeling outcomes

Feedback: The Scope Should Be Expanded

- Recommend the Council evaluate the “economic viability” of the LSRDs
- Council should include considerations of the impact on fish and wildlife from breaching the dams
- Add in sequestration of carbon from vegetation

Feedback: Additional Work Needed

- Transmission feasibility should be more central to the scope – work closely with transmission planners
- Phase Zero – build more trust in models before undertaking the studies
- Update assumptions on methane emissions from LSR dam reservoirs
- The Council should study SMRs as a replacement for LSRDs

Feedback: The Council Should Not Proceed

- Study is not legally required
- Preliminary findings could be used improperly
- Could impact the perception of the Council as an objective party
- Concerns raised about ratepayer funds being spent on something already considered within the EIS

Next Step

- Staff will deliver the scope of work to the Council incorporating any comments and feedback from the committee
- Beyond delivery of the scope of work, there will be no further work on the LSRDs unless directed by the Council to proceed