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October 1, 2024

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Laura Thomas
Regional Technical Forum Manager

SUBJECT: 2025-2027 RTF Member Appointments

PROPOSED ACTION: Staff is seeking decision from the Council on the appointment of the RTF Membership for the 2025-2027 term, including Chair and Vice Chair appointments.

SIGNIFICANCE: Per the RTF charter, the Council appoints the RTF members every three years. The current members are appointed through December 2024, and staff is seeking appointment of the 2025-2027 RTF membership.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

There is no budgetary impact associated with this decision. The RTF is primarily funded by regional utilities and Bonneville, with the Council providing staff time, website maintenance, and office/meeting space resources.

BACKGROUND

Staff is seeking Council appointment of RTF voting members, including the appointment of a Chair and Vice Chair, for the 2025-2027 term. The recommended slate of voting members was sent to members by email.

The RTF is an advisory committee to the Council. It plays a key role in the region as the non-constituent based committee of technical experts who develop standardized

estimation methods and protocols for verifying and evaluating conservation savings. Since its forming in 1999, the independence of this body has provided valuable and lasting expertise to the region's conservation work.

As set forth in the RTF's charter and bylaws, the Council is responsible for appointing voting members to the RTF. This process occurs approximately every three years with voting members serving three-year terms. The RTF is required to have between 20 to 30 voting members at any one time.

To start the process, staff solicit nominations for voting members from the Bonneville Power Administration, the region's utilities, the state energy offices, energy efficiency professionals, public interest groups, and other experts from inside and outside the region. In June 2024, the Council announced it was soliciting applications for the RTF membership. The Council received 35 applications expressing interest in voting member positions. After an extensive review, staff have come up with a recommended member slate that they are confident will maintain the technical expertise and participatory level necessary to accomplish the RTF's work for 2025 through 2027. This list represents an excellent balance of expertise from engineering, statistics, evaluation, and programs development, operation, and planning. Almost all the individuals have commercial and residential sector expertise, closely followed by industrial and agricultural expertise. In addition, almost all the individuals have electric efficiency expertise, 23 have natural gas efficiency expertise, and more than half have demand response expertise. While the recommended voting members are non-constituent based (not representing any specific entity), staff have considered the diversity of the proposed member's institutional experience and believes it provides a necessary range of perspectives. This includes individuals from Bonneville, public utilities (including small and rural utilities), investor-owned utilities, consultants supporting program implementation or evaluation, and independent experts. The recommended group contains 15 new voting members and 15 voting members continuing on from current service as a voting or corresponding member. A spreadsheet detailing this expertise is available to Council members upon request.

In addition to appointing voting members to serve on the RTF, the RTF charter also calls on the Council to select the RTF Chair and Vice-Chair. While not required by the charter and bylaws, the Council has traditionally appointed staff to the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. The staff recommend that the Council reappoint Jennifer Light, Director of Power Planning for the Council, as RTF Chair. Staff also recommend that the Council appoint Christian Douglass, Senior Energy Analyst for the Council, as RTF Vice-Chair.

Along with the voting members, the RTF also has two non-voting membership group known as corresponding members and *ex officio* members. Corresponding members are called upon to serve on RTF subcommittees, attend RTF meetings, and offer comments on matters, providing an additional breadth of expertise to the RTF. The Council received 7 applicants for corresponding members, and staff is recommending those members who applied for voting membership but were not selected be appointed as corresponding members. Per the RTF charter and bylaws, the state utility regulatory commissions from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington are offered the opportunity to participate as *ex officio* non-voting members of the RTF or serve as voting members

at their discretion. The Council received two appointments for participation as *ex officio* non-voting members from Idaho and Washington. Corresponding and *ex officio* members are appointed by the Director of the Council's Power Planning Division, in consultation with the Chair of the Power Committee. The list of applicants recommended by staff includes the list of corresponding and *ex officio* members recommended for 2025-2027. The non-voting members do not require a Council decision.

ALTERNATIVES

Council could choose to identify other individuals to appoint as members. Staff does not recommend as this proposed slate represents a balance of experience levels and organization experience types.

ATTACHMENTS

Staff recommendation of RTF Membership for 2025-2027 (sent under a separate cover)



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RTF Membership

- The Council appoints new members to the RTF every three years.
- 2024 is the last year of the current member term.
- Staff is seeking Council appointment of the 2025-2027 members, including appointment of Chair and Vice Chair
- Proposed slate of members includes a diverse and balanced mix of technical expertise and experience.



The image shows a bright, modern conference room with a long table and several chairs. Large windows in the background offer a panoramic view of a city skyline.

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RTF Membership



- RTF consists of 20-23 individuals and staff seek appointment of members that have a range of technical expertise and perspectives, including:
 - Engineers, evaluation experts, program implementers, etc.
 - Public utilities, investor-owned utilities, national labs, Bonneville, state-wide efficiency programs, etc.
- RTF convenes monthly and all members serve a three-year term

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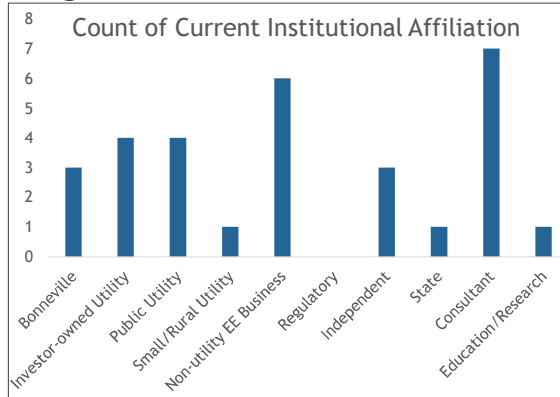
Types of RTF Members

- Voting Members
 - Do not represent their organization, but rather their individual expertise.
 - Council seeks a balance of technical expertise, sector experience, technology focus, policy experience, and institutional experience for both electric and natural gas efficiency.
- Non-voting Members
 - Corresponding members
 - These are members that bring special expertise to the RTF. May be asked to participate in subcommittees or provide comments on matters discussed by the RTF.
 - Ex Officio members
 - Commissioners and commission staff from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington are offered the opportunity to participate in the RTF. They can choose to apply as voting members or serve as ex officio non-voting members.

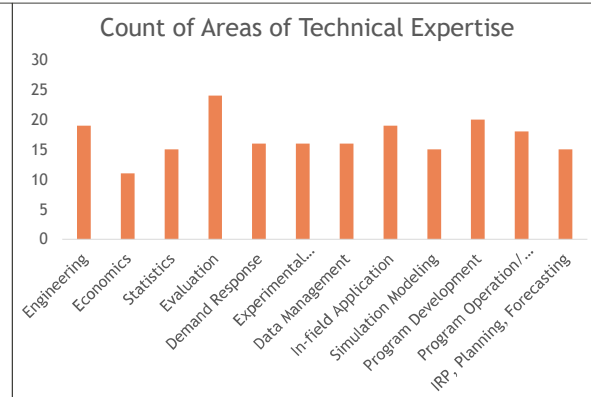
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Staff Proposed Voting Membership Representation

Organizational



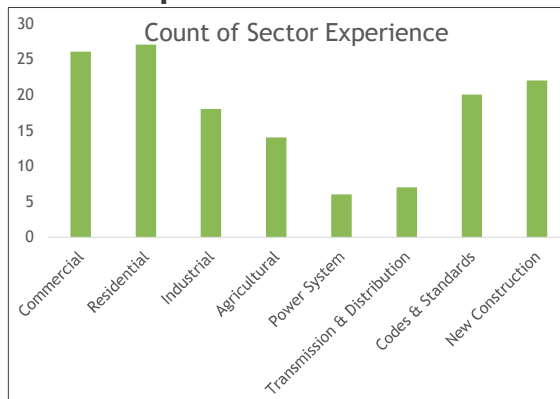
Technical Experience



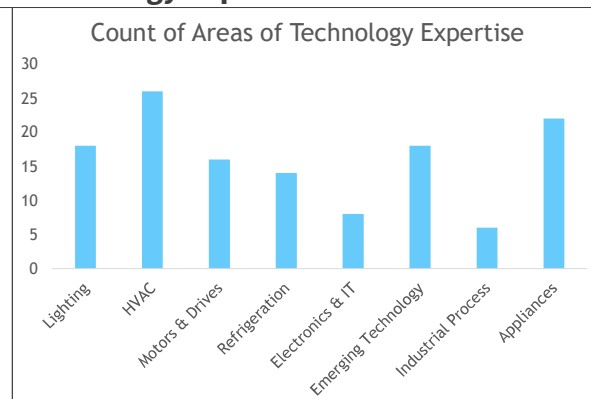
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Staff Proposed Voting Membership Representation

Sector Experience



Technology Experience



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Council Decision

- Staff is seeking Council decision on the appointment of the 2025-2027 members, including Chair and Vice Chair