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July 8, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jennifer Light, Director of Power Planning

SUBJECT: Power Plan Update

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Jennifer Light

Summary: The Power Division is preparing the Council's Ninth Regional Power Plan. Since this is a long process with many interconnected components, staff plan a standing item at Council meetings to provide members an update on the status of work to date and highlight next steps.

The division is transitioning into scenario modeling. Director Light will discuss the status of the final input and scoping elements, and will provide a preview of what is planned in the coming months.

Relevance: Under the Northwest Power Act, the Council is required to review its power plan no less frequently than once every five years. The Council initiated its review of the power plan in February 2025, with a goal of developing a final power plan by November 2026.

Workplan: B. Development of Ninth Power Plan

Power Plan Update

Jennifer Light

July 15, 2025



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

Topics Since Power Plan Kick-off

Month	Council meeting agenda item
February (Portland, OR)	Power Plan Kickoff (2 hr) ✓ Proposed Natural Gas and Other Fuels Price Forecast (1 hr) ✓ Proposed Reference Plants for the Ninth Plan – Part 1 of 2 (1 hr) ✓
March (Portland, OR)	Proposed Reference Plants for Ninth Plan – Part 2 of 2 (1.5 hr) ✓ Proposed Conservation Supply Curve – Part 1 of 3 (1 hr) ✓ Proposed Ninth Plan Demand Forecast – Part 1 of 2 (1 hr) ✓ Primer on Needs Assessment (45 min) ✓ Primer on WECC-Wide Buildout Study (45 min) ✓
April (Portland, OR)	Approach to Social Cost of Carbon (15 min) ✓ Developing Demand Forecast Pathways (30 min) ✓ Proposed Rooftop Solar Potential (30 min) ✓ Outside the Northwest Load and Resources Assumptions (1 hr) ✓ Proposed Adequacy Criteria for Ninth Plan (45 min) ✓ Primer on OptGen/SDDP Model (45 min) ✓
April Webinar	Proposed Ninth Plan Demand Forecast (2 hr) ✓
May (Pasco, WA)	Proposed Conservation Supply Curve – Part 2 of 3 (1 hr) ✓ Proposed Demand Response Supply Curve – Part 1 of 2 (1 hr) ✓ Final Approach to Wildfire Risk for Ninth Plan (45 min) ✓ Hydrosystem Operations – Intersection between F&W Program and Power Plan (85 min) ✓
June (Missoula, MT)	Proposed Conservation Supply Curve – Part 3 of 3 (45 min) ✓ Proposed Demand Response Supply Curve – Part 2 of 2 (45 min) ✓ Scoping of Changing Hydro Operations Scenario (2 hr) ✓

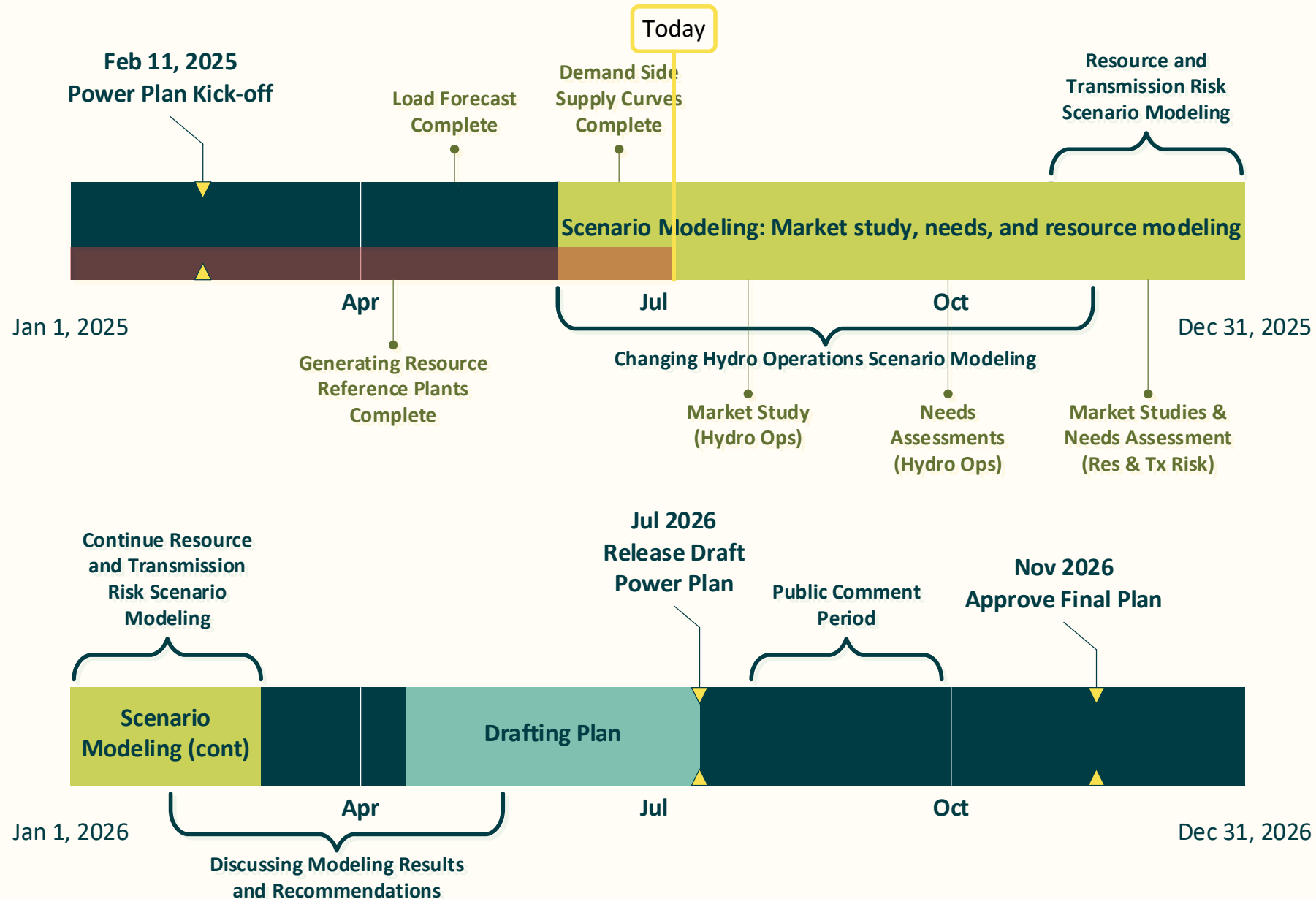
Power Plan Elements Discussed

Cross Cutting Assumptions:	Forecast Period	Financial Parameters	Peak and Line Loss Assumptions	Climate and Weather Data	Natural gas and coal price forecasts
Treatment of Costs:	Existing policies and goals	Consistent treatment of costs	Environmental methodology	Approach to social cost of carbon	
Scoping Considerations:	Representation of existing system	New Resource & Transmission Risk Scenario Scope	Changing Hydro Operations Scope		
Power System Model Inputs:	Load forecast trajectories	New generating resource options	New conservation potential	New demand response potential	New behind the meter potential

Color Key:

- Locked in
- Nearing completion
- More Council discussion to come
- Not yet discussed at Council

Power Plan Timeline



What's Coming Up?

Month	Council meeting agenda item
August	Finalizing Scope for Changing Hydro Operations Scenario (1 hr)
September or October	Needs Assessment Results for Changing Hydro Operations Scenario (1.5 hrs)
November	Market Availability Studies for New Resource and Transmission Risk Scenario (1.5 hrs)
December	Needs Assessment Results for New Resource and Transmission Risk Scenario (1 hr)
January	Primer on Scenario Results (1 hr) Reminder of Power Act Elements for the Power Plan (45 min)
February & March	Scenario Modeling Results (3+ hours, each meeting)
April & May	Developing Recommendations (3+ hours, each meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Strategy • Conservation Program Elements • Supporting Recommendations
June	Draft Power Plan Chapters (3 hrs)
July	Adopt Draft Power Plan for Public Comment

Questions?