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Northwest Power and Conservation Council

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August 5, 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 with an update on the status of work to date and highlight the next steps.

Director Light will take a couple minutes to walk through the Ninth Plan page on the Council's website, and then spend the rest of the update talking through the work anticipated for 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



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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	Color Key: Locked in Nearing completion More Council discussion to come Not yet discussed at Council
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

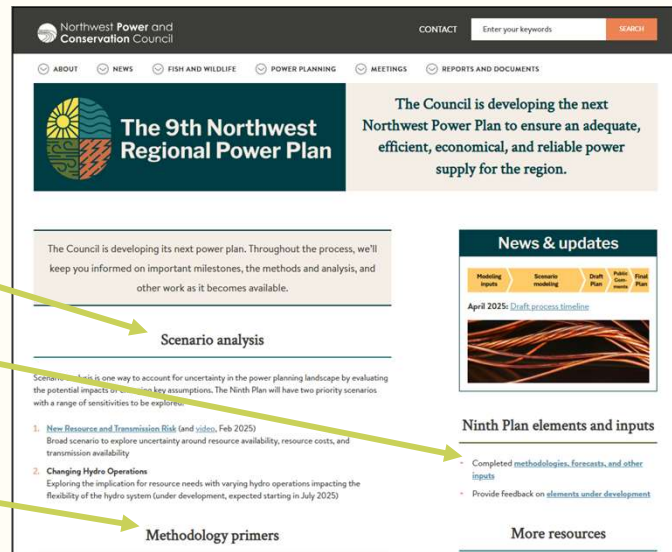
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Visit the Ninth Plan Webpage!

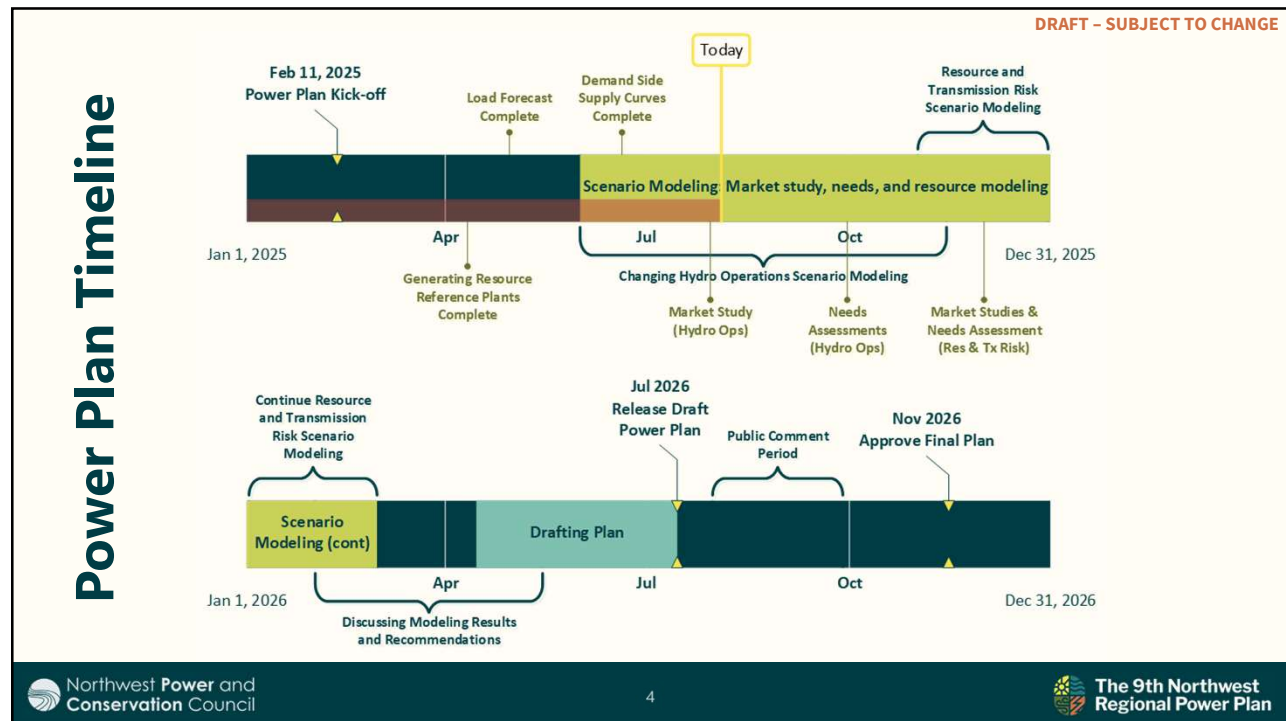
Holds all the information around the development and analysis of the plan including:

- Descriptions of the scenarios
- Links to presentations and workbooks containing information on loads, resources, and other input assumptions
- Primers on the methodologies for how we do power planning



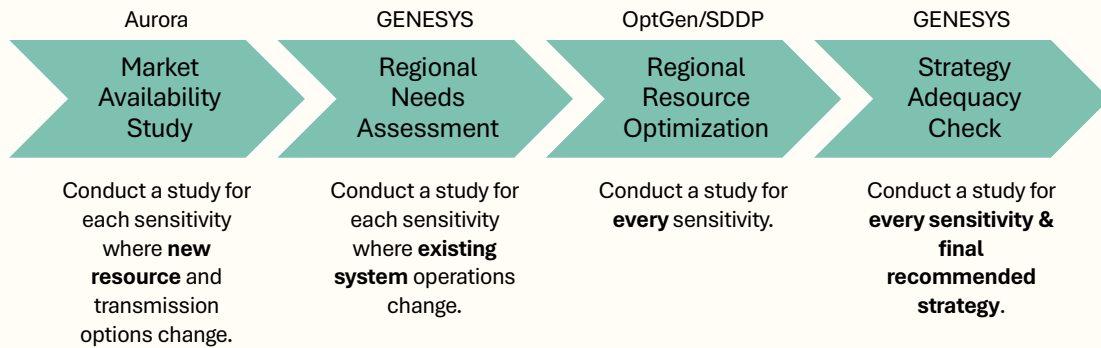
<https://www.nwcouncil.org/energy/ninthpowerplan/>

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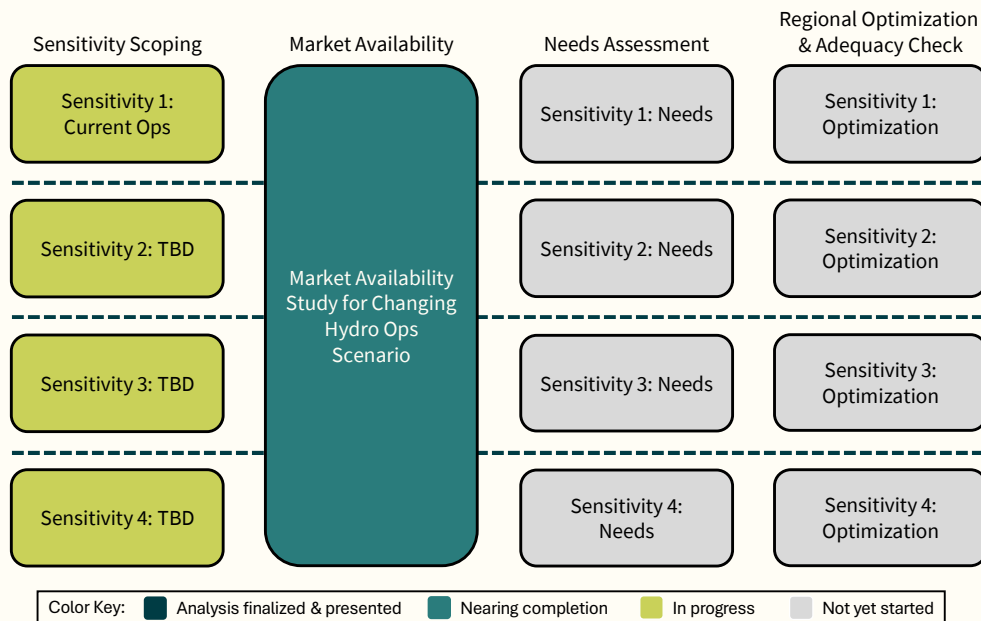
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Reminder on Scenario Modeling

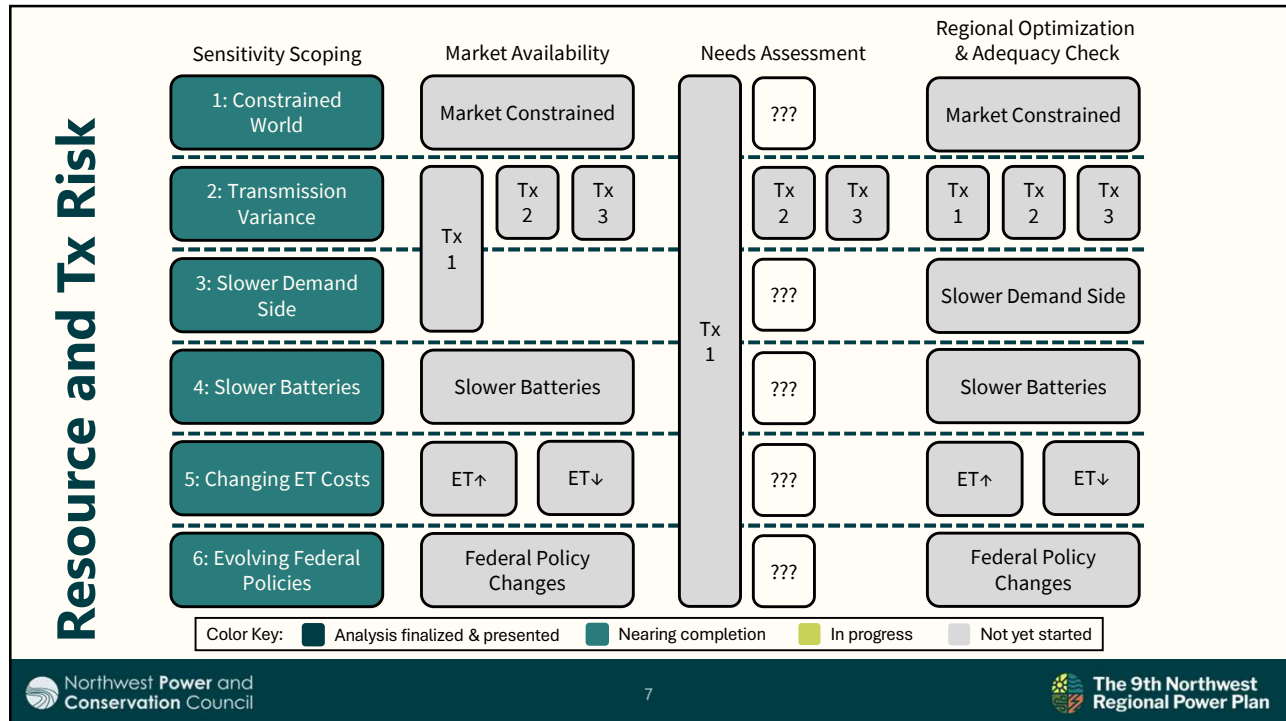


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Changing Hydro Ops



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What's Coming Up?

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

The 9th Northwest Regional Power Plan

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Questions?