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# Northwest **Power** and Conservation Council

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Washington

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Oregon

**Charles F. Sams III**  
Oregon

September 3, 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.

**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  
September 9, 2025



Northwest **Power** and  
Conservation Council

This is the last time you will see this slide!!

# 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
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**Treatment of Costs:**

Existing policies and goals	Consistent treatment of costs	Environmental methodology	Approach to social cost of carbon
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**Scoping Considerations:**

Representation of existing system	New Resource & Transmission Risk Scenario Scope	Changing Hydro Operations Scope
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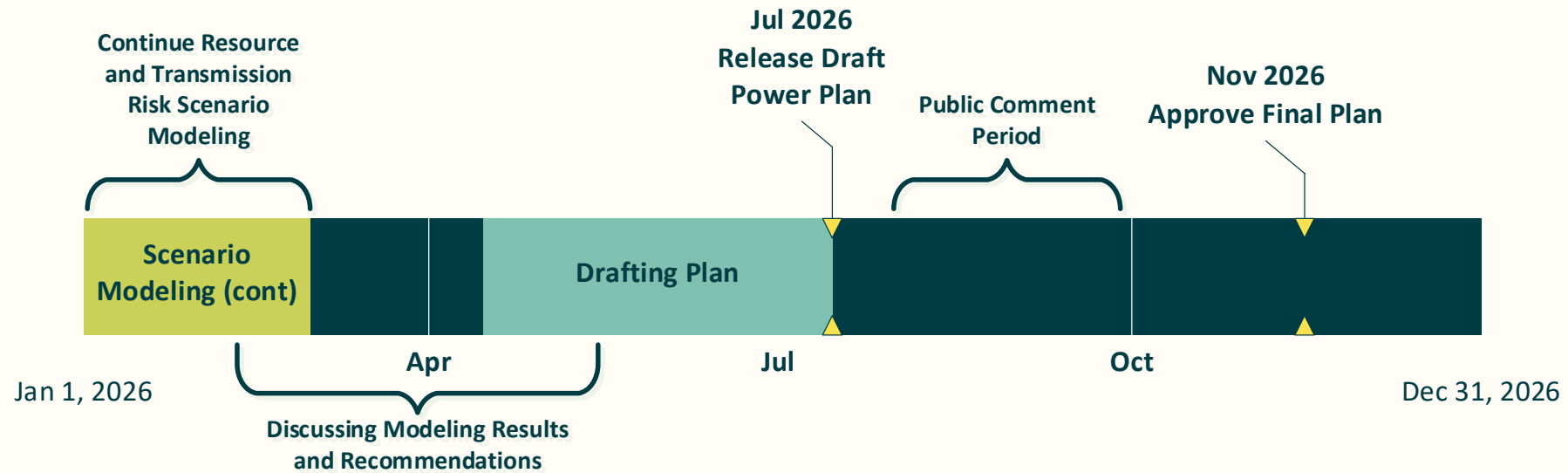
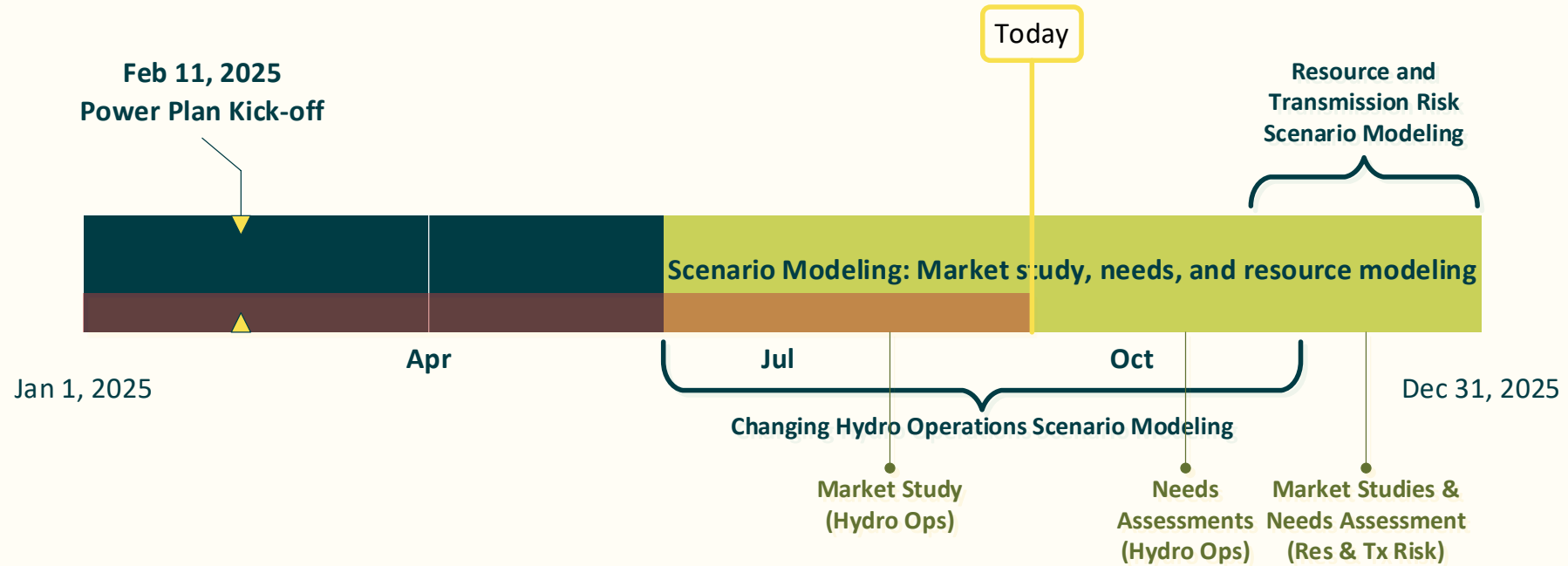
**Power System Model Inputs:**

Load forecast trajectories	New generating resource options	New conservation potential	New demand response potential	New behind the meter potential
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**Color Key:**

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

# Power Plan Timeline



# Reminder: Plan Scenarios and Analysis

## Scenarios

### New Resource and Transmission Risk Scenario

Broad scenario to explore uncertainty around resource availability, resource costs, and transmission availability

### Hydro Operations Flexibility Scenario

Exploring the implication for resource needs with varying hydro operations impacting the flexibility of the hydro system

## Other Analytical Interests

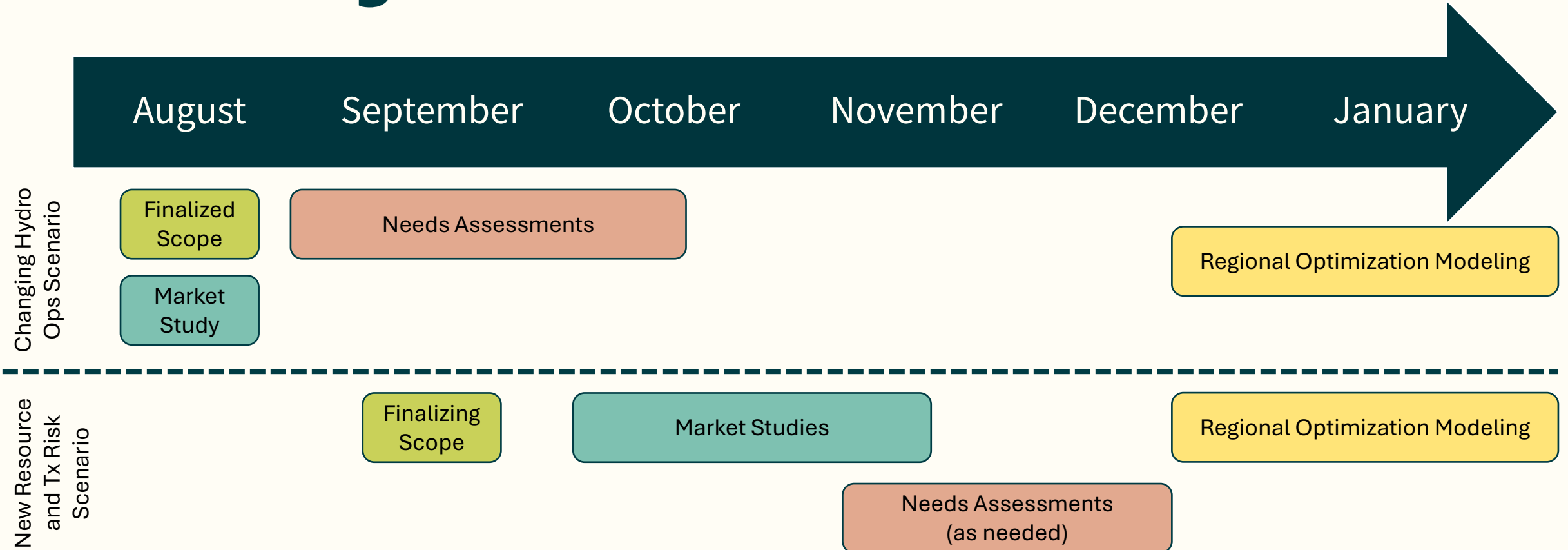
### Extreme Weather Analysis

Include extreme weather futures across all scenarios and using the results for focused exploration of this risk area

### Load Growth Uncertainty Analysis

Include high load futures across all scenarios to inform risks of this uncertainty (including data centers, decarbonization loads, etc.)

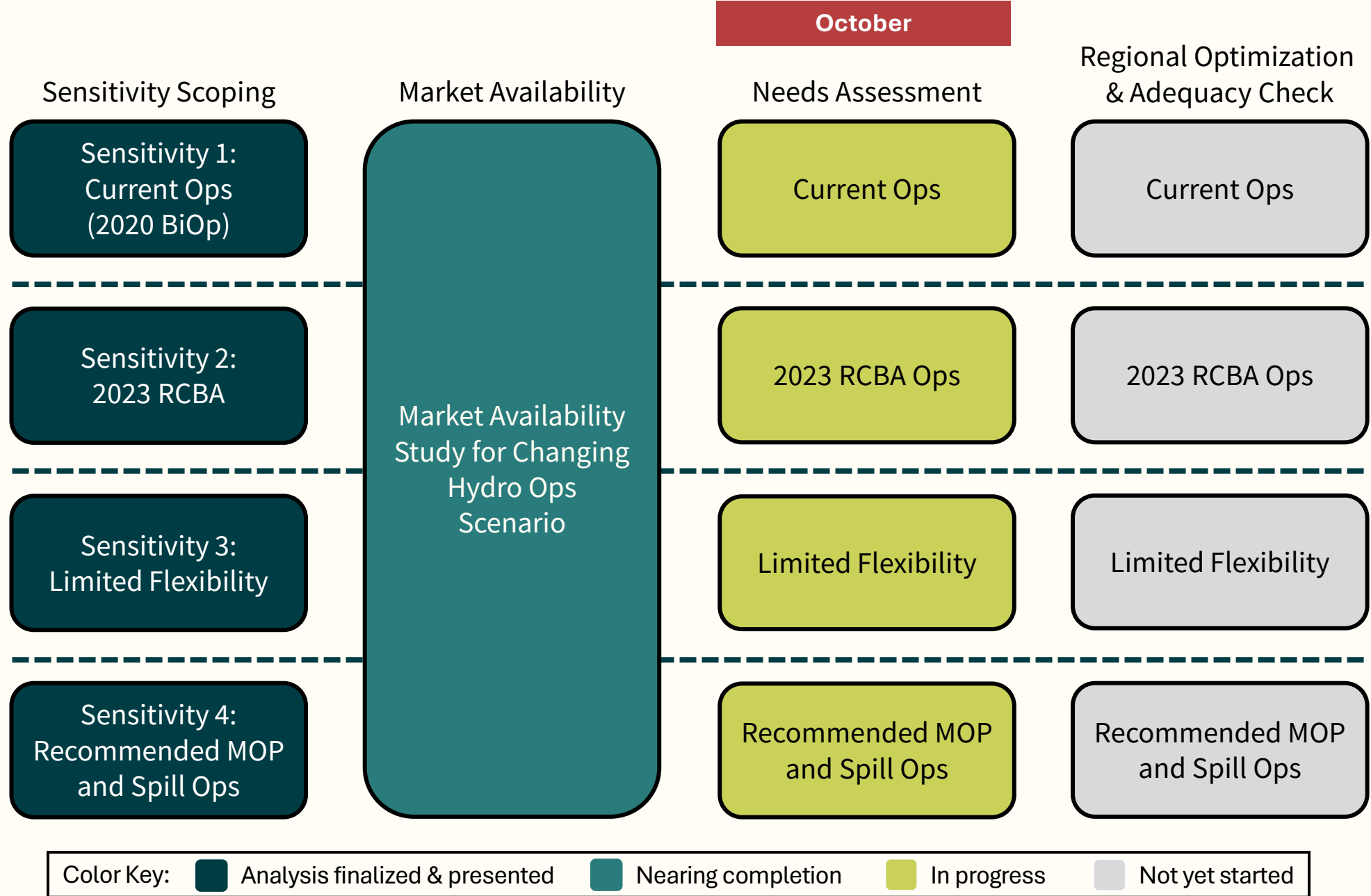
# Modeling Flow & Timeline



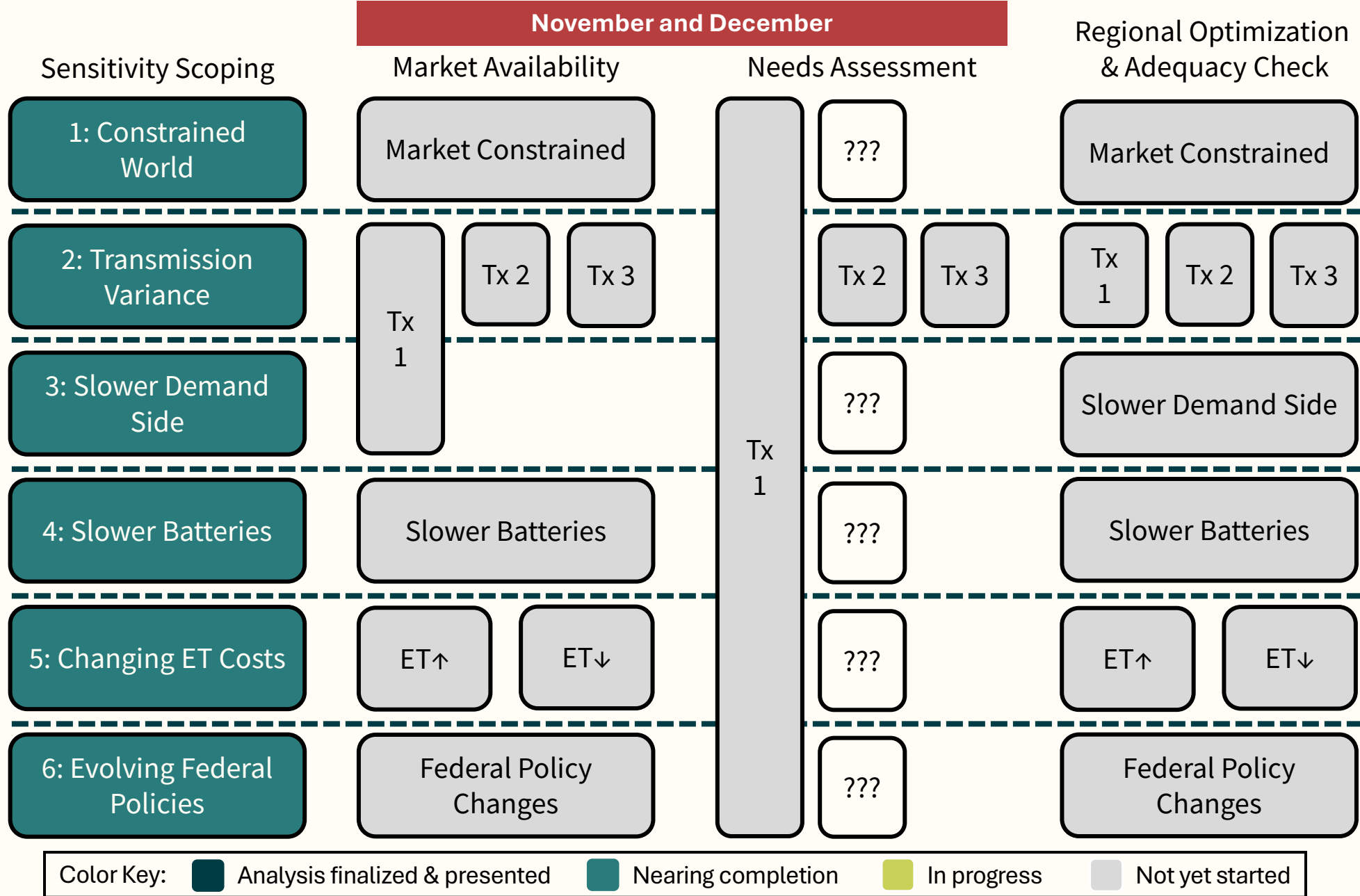
★ **Decision point:** We will need to determine a set of hydro operations to run through the new resource and transmission risk scenario



# Changing Hydro Ops



# Resource and Tx Risk





# What's Coming Up?

Month	Council meeting agenda item
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"> <li>• Resource Strategy</li> <li>• Conservation Program Elements</li> <li>• Supporting Recommendations</li> </ul>
June (TBD)	Draft Power Plan Chapters (3 hrs)
July (TBD)	Adopt Draft Power Plan for Public Comment

**Questions?**