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June 9, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jennifer Light, Director of Power Planning

SUBJECT: Ninth Power Plan Development

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Power division staff

Summary: The Council will meet on June 16th to continue working on the development of the Ninth Power Plan. This session will focus on refining recommendations to include in the Draft Plan. Staff will bring preliminary drafts of Chapter 4 – Action Plan and Chapter 5 – Conservation Program. These two chapters capture the suite of recommendations that the Council discussed at the May 13-14 meeting in Pendleton and the May 27 meeting by webinar.

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 and releasing a draft power plan in July of 2026 and a final power plan by November 2026.

Workplan: B. Development of the Ninth Power Plan

Ninth Power Plan Development

June 16, 2026



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

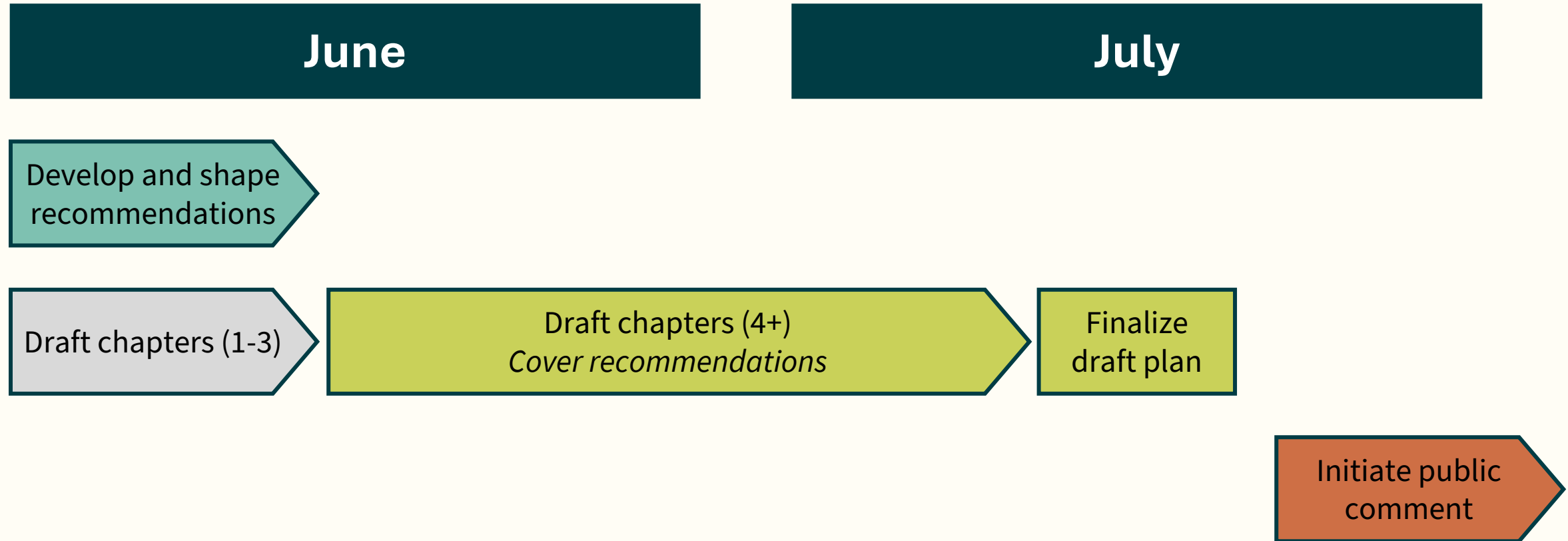
Today's Agenda

- Process check in
 - Next steps in preparing for release of the draft
 - Process between draft and final
 - Timeline options for finalizing a Power Plan
- First look at Chapters 4 and 5
 - Prioritize discussion and direction and regional resource strategy
 - Walk through full chapters and get general agreement or suggested refinement for other recommendations as well



What's Coming Up

Getting to a Draft Power Plan



Upcoming Council Meetings

Date	Council meeting agenda item
June 16-17 (Portland)	Seeking general agreement on regional resource strategy and review chapters that capture the recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 4 – Action Plan• Chapter 5 – Conservation Program
June 30 – July 1 (Webinar)	Continue discussion and refinement of chapters, as we work towards a draft plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 4 (second look)• Chapter 5 (second look)• Introduction (first look)• Chapters 1-3 (revisit as needed)
July 14-15 (Portland)	Possible decision to release the draft Ninth Plan

What Happens After Decision to Release the Draft?

- Final edits are made and the draft Plan is readied for publishing on the website
- Notice is provided to the region through email, newsletter, social media outlets
- Council accepts comment through public comment period via:
 - Written comment through the website and email
 - Oral comment at Council meetings
 - Comment at formal public hearings (at least one in each state)
 - Other consultations scheduled with entities throughout the region
- Council has traditionally had a 60-day public comment period for the power plan, with no extensions to that timeline, and this is staff's recommendation for the Ninth Plan with a goal of finalizing by the end of 2026

What Happens After Close of Public Comment?

- Comments will be sent to members and made available publicly via the Council's website
- Staff will begin processing and summarizing comments and preparing recommendations for how to address comments
 - Thorough review will likely take around 4 weeks
 - Plan is to have a deep dive review of all the comments and staff recommendations for Council discussion and direction
 - From here, staff will make suggested revisions to the document (in redline) for Council consideration and approval before final approval of the Final Power Plan
- Council has traditionally taken 2-3 months to finalize a plan after close of public comment

Potential Timelines

Step	Current Schedule	Longer Public Comment	1 Month Delay in Draft
Adopt Draft Ninth Plan	July 14-15	July 14-15	August 11-12
Release for public comment	July 20	July 20	August 17
Public hearings	mid-Aug to mid-Sep	mid-Aug to end of Sep	Sep to mid-Oct
Close public comment	September 18 (60 days)	October 3 (75 days)	October 16 (60 days)
In-depth review of public comments	October 14-15	November 17-18	November 17-18
Finalize Ninth Plan	Nov or Dec 2026	Dec 2026 or Feb 2027	Dec 2026 or Feb 2027

Propose we see where we are at after today's discussion, specifically around the resource strategy, and then we can revisit the timeline for moving forward.

A Quick Word on Chapters 1-3

- Council reviewed drafts of Chapters 1-3 at the April Council work sessions
 - Minor edits were made to Chapters 1 & 2 and later given a thumbs up by the Council
 - Members had no edits to Chapter 3 but did ask to revisit in the context of the full document
- At the next meeting, we plan to revisit these chapters alongside any updates to Chapters 4 and 5
 - Staff have provided updated hard copies of Chapters 1-3 to members
 - Please take some time between now and the next meeting to review and let staff know if there are specific sections to focus on during the next Council meeting

**Chapter 4: Action Plan
Resource Strategy and Other
Recommendations for
Bonneville and the Region**

Chapter 4 Outline

- Regional Resource Strategy
 - Discussion of Modeling Results
 - Regional Resource Recommendations (RES-1 to RES-8)
 - Recommendations to Bonneville (BPA-1 to BPA-8)
 - Data Centers and High-Tech Sector (DC-1 to DC-2)
 - Transmission and Distribution (T&D-1 to T&D-4)
- Research and Development Recommendations
 - Emerging Technologies (R&D-1 to R&D-2)
 - Demand Response (R&D-3 to R&D-7)
 - Conservation (R&D-8)
 - Data Sets and Tool Development (R&D-9 to R&D-16)

Specific recommendations on the resource strategy (resources and amounts and approach to addressing) live in Action Items RES-1, BPA-1, and BPA-2. Also CON-1 in Chapter 5.

What is a Resource Strategy?

- The resource strategy is the core piece of a power plan, putting forward a recommendation for new resources and amounts to meet the region's needs
- Agreement that a portfolio approach is required to meet the forecasted load growth
- More discussion is needed regarding the amounts for each resource
- Reminder, the staff recommended options:
 - Are cost-effective
 - Provide for an adequate system
 - Meet policy requirements
 - Account for uncertainty in future loads, hydro conditions (when and how much water is coming down the system), wind and solar fuel availability, natural gas prices, physical availability of all new resource, new resource costs, transmission availability, and hydro operations for F&W

Staff Will Need Time With the Strategy Before the Draft Plan Can Be Released

- Between deciding on a regional resource strategy to include in the draft Plan and releasing the draft Plan, there multiple pieces of analysis staff needs to finalize
 - **Adequacy assessment of strategy:** Complete a full assessment across all the different load trajectories (two different assessments for two sets of hydro operations)
 - **Final demand forecast:** Net out the recommended demand side resources to provide a final sales forecast for load growth to be met by recommended supply side resources
 - **Cost-effective conservation methodology:** Develop methodology and related avoided costs for use by the RTF, Bonneville, NEEA and others to assess cost-effectiveness of new and updated measures relative to the Ninth Plan
- All of these require information about the resources and amounts to develop
- Staff estimates 2 weeks to complete this analysis

Current Options Included in RES-1

Resource	Option 1	Option 2
Conservation	1,060 aMW \$150/MWh OR & WA (860 aMW) \$70/MWh ID & MT (200 aMW)	950 aMW \$100/MWh OR & WA (800 aMW) \$60/MWh ID & MT (150 aMW)
Demand Response	590 MW	
Voltage Regulation	220 MW	
Renewables	9,000 MW + 335 MW wind	9,000 MW
Storage	5,200 MW	
Natural Gas	2,000 MW	2,250 MW

Note: Elements of BPA-1, BPA-2, and CON-1 also connect to this. Staff will make changes to those items, as needed, based on this discussion.

Chapter 5: Conservation Program

Chapter 5 Outline

- Recommended Cost-Effective Conservation (CON-1 to CON-3)
- Supporting Recommendations Recommendations
 - Addressing Measure Costs (CON-4)
 - Addressing Residential Buildings (CON-5 to CON-8)
 - Addressing Commercial Buildings (CON-9 to CON-10)
- Model Conservation Standards (MCS-1 to MCS-2)
 - Surcharge Recommendation and Methodology

Next Steps