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September 1, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jennifer Light, Director of Power Planning

SUBJECT: Ninth Power Plan Update

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Jennifer Light

Summary: The Council is currently in the public comment period on the draft Ninth Power Plan. At this meeting, staff will provide an update on the overall public comment process, including a list of upcoming public hearings and other information.

Staff will also provide some high-level analysis regarding approximate amounts of potential resources that could be added to the single target strategy assessed in Technical Appendix Q of the draft Plan. The single target strategy assessed in this technical appendix did not meet the Council's adequacy criteria. The appendix states "Should the Council develop a single target approach to conservation in its Final Power Plan, it will need to revisit the overall resource portfolio to ensure that there are sufficient resources to maintain adequacy." After releasing the draft, Bonneville and public power submitted requests that the Council provide more information regarding an adequate single conservation target resource strategy. The additional analysis to be presented by staff is intended to provide some more data to inform commenters overall, without getting ahead of the ongoing public comment process on the draft Power Plan.

Relevance: The Council released the draft Ninth Power Plan for public comment in August of 2026, and the public comment period closes October 16. During this period, the Council is seeking comments on all aspects of the draft Plan. The Council aims to develop a final Power Plan for adoption and release by the end of 2026 or early 2027.

Workplan: B. Development of the Ninth Power Plan

Power Plan Update

September 9, 2026



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

What's the Flight Plan for Today?

- Update on the public comment period process
 - Public hearing schedule
 - All the places to find the plan
- Additional analysis in response to letters received from Bonneville and public power regarding Technical Appendix Q

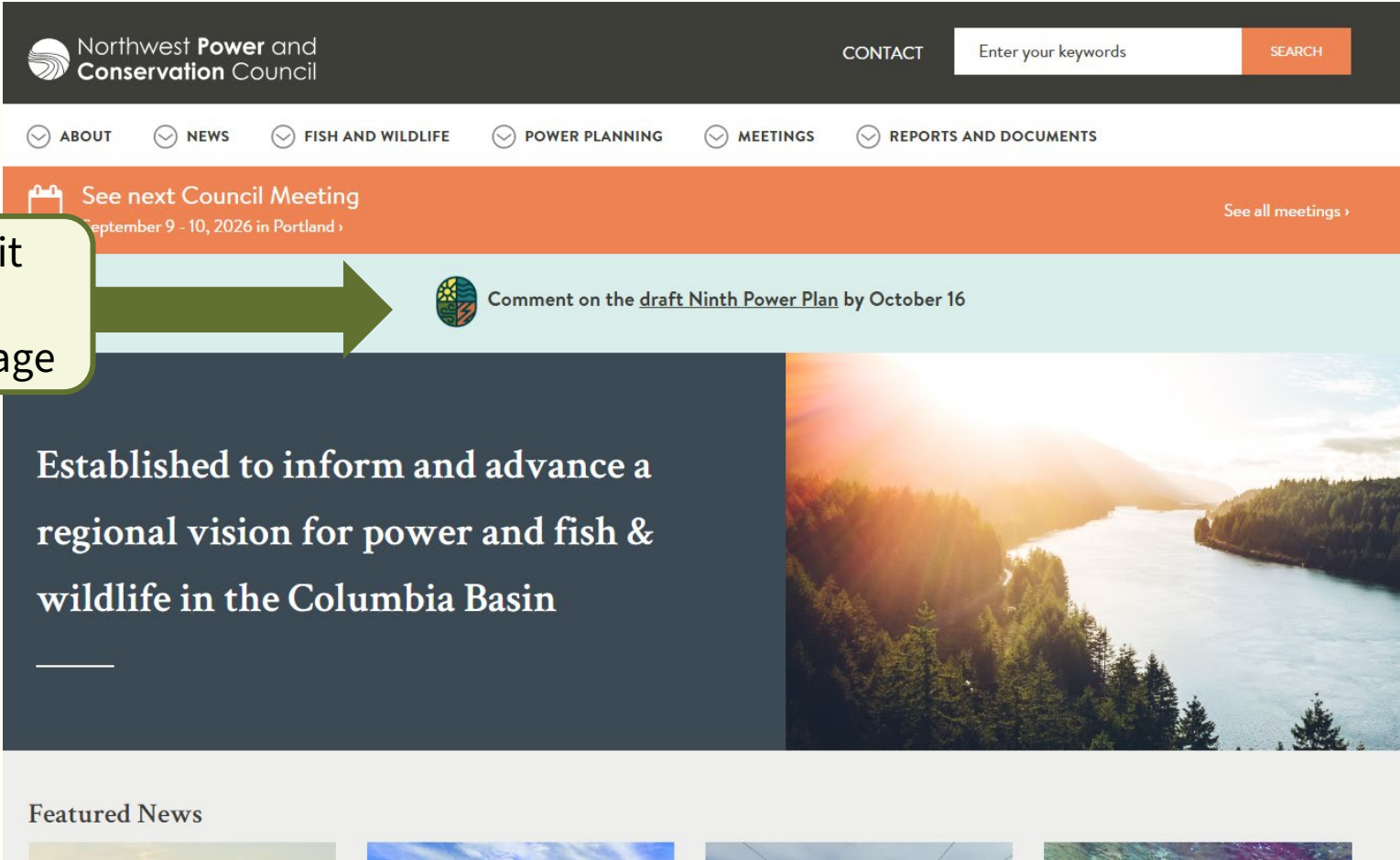


Photo by [Bastian Cimander](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Public Comment Process

Draft Ninth Plan is Available!

You can access it right from the Council's homepage



The screenshot shows the Northwest Power and Conservation Council website. At the top is a dark header with the council's logo, name, a 'CONTACT' link, and a search bar. Below this is a white navigation bar with links for ABOUT, NEWS, FISH AND WILDLIFE, POWER PLANNING, MEETINGS, and REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS. An orange banner below the navigation bar announces the 'next Council Meeting' on September 9-10, 2026, in Portland. Below this, a light blue banner features a circular icon and the text 'Comment on the draft Ninth Power Plan by October 16'. A large green arrow points from a text box on the left to this banner. The main content area has a dark blue background with the text 'Established to inform and advance a regional vision for power and fish & wildlife in the Columbia Basin'. To the right of this text is a large photograph of a river flowing through a forested valley under a bright sky. At the bottom, a 'Featured News' section is partially visible.

Draft Ninth Plan is Available!

The screenshot shows the Northwest Power and Conservation Council website. The header includes the council's name, a 'CONTACT' link, and a search bar. A navigation menu lists: ABOUT, NEWS, FISH AND WILDLIFE, POWER PLANNING, MEETINGS, and REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS. The main banner features the council's logo and the text 'The 9th Northwest Regional Power Plan'. Below this, a section states: 'The Council requests public comment on its [draft Ninth Power Plan](#) by October 16.' To the left, a text box explains the council is developing its next power plan and provides an 'Estimated timeline (click for detail):' with a flowchart showing the stages: Modeling inputs, Scenario modeling, Draft Plan, Public Comments, and Final Plan. On the right, a 'How to comment' section states the draft plan has been released for public comment through October 16, 2026, with public hearings scheduled in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and online. A prominent orange button reads 'VIEW AND COMMENT ON THE PLAN'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Attend a public hearing:'.

That will take you to the Ninth Plan homepage, where you can access the plan from almost anywhere you look

Draft Ninth Plan is Available!

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

CONTACT Enter your keywords SEARCH

ABOUT NEWS FISH AND WILDLIFE POWER PLANNING MEETINGS REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

Draft Ninth Northwest Power Plan

COUNCIL DOCUMENT NUMBER: 2026-3 PUBLISHED DATE: AUG. 13, 2026 DOCUMENT STATE: **ACCEPTING COMMENTS**

The Council released its draft Ninth Power Plan and is inviting public comment through **October 16, 2026**.

The Council's power plans put forward a regional strategy for new, cost-effective resource additions to meeting growing power needs over the coming years. This draft Power Plan recognizes the need for a portfolio approach, recommending new conservation, demand response, voltage regulation, renewables, storage, and natural gas to the system. The draft Plan also includes supporting recommendations that will help ensure the region an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply.

Through October 16, the Council is seeking public comment on these proposed recommendations, with an eye towards strengthening the recommendations in a final Power Plan. The Council is aware that this draft Power Plan comes at a critical time for the power system and appreciates engagement in this process.

[View the draft Ninth Power Plan](#) [Submit a comment](#)

Also see technical appendices supporting the draft:

- [A: Global Assumptions](#)
- [B: Existing System Parameters and Policies](#)
- [C: Methodology for Quantifiable Environmental Costs and Benefits](#)

The 9th Northwest Power Plan

Document 2026-3 | August 12, 2026

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

For more information, see:

- [Ninth Plan homepage](#) (including schedule of public hearings)

Public Hearing Schedule

	Date	Location		Time
	September 9	Portland, OR	Council Offices	4:30 – 6:30 pm (PST)
	September 14	Spokane, WA	Spokane City Hall	4:00 – 6:00 pm (PST)
	September 14	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Idaho Fish and Game Office	4:30 – 6:30 pm (PST)
	September 29	The Dalles, OR	Discovery Center	4:30 – 6:30 pm (PST)
	October 1	Webinar		4:00 – 6:00 pm (PST)
	October 5	Missoula, MT	Edgewater Hotel	4:30 – 6:30 pm (MST)
	October 6	Idaho Falls, ID	Idaho Fish and Game Office	4:30 – 6:30 pm (MST)
	October 7	Seattle, WA	Seattle University	4:00 – 6:00 pm (PST)

Keep the Comments Coming

- We are already receiving comments that touch almost every aspect of the regional resource strategy and expect a lot more before the comment period closes
- Keep the dialogue going:
 - Staff is getting out there to provide context and answer questions
 - Members should continue to have conversations with entities throughout the region
 - No consultations have been requested yet, but we are open and available if entities are interested



Additional Analysis

Context for this Analysis

- As part of releasing the draft Ninth Plan, the Council included Technical Appendix Q which provides analysis on the power system implications of shifting the proposed regional strategy (RES-1) to a single target for conservation
- Analysis showed
 - Levelized cost of \$107/MWh regionally
 - Shift in 40 aMW from west to east
 - Tested strategy was found to be inadequate (i.e. some amount of additional resource would need to be added to ensure adequacy)
- Council received letters from Bonneville, Public Power Council, and Northwest Requirements Utilities requesting additional analysis on a single target resource strategy

Additional Analysis for Today

- Staff ran some sensitivities in OptGen to provide some additional context around how much of different resources might be sufficient to round out the strategy tested in Technical Appendix Q
- Analysis focused on resources that support energy needs
 - Strategy tested in Technical Appendix Q shifted energy from one side of the region to the other and supporting analysis in OptGen suggested an energy gap in this approach
 - Modeling leading into the development of draft Plan resource strategy (RES-1) indicated that energy resources were on the ones on the margin (all else being equal)
- This additional analysis does not recommend any specific resource for filling the gap in order to not get ahead of the ongoing public comment process

Analysis Approach

- Starting with the Technical Appendix Q test strategy, staff let OptGen determine how it would optimize the system testing each resource independently
- Important notes about this approach
 - While OptGen has information to guide adequate strategies, it is not tuned to directly assess adequacy like GENESYS
 - Based on scenario modeling results, it is clear that OptGen does create optimized strategies that are adequate
 - Some OptGen strategies include more resources than strictly required to meet the Council's adequacy criteria
 - Staff believe this approach is appropriate to roughly size the gap given where the Council is in the power plan process

Key Takeaways from Analysis

Conservation:

~75 aMW

Up to \$150/MWh on the west side, and then some additional summer shaped conservation regionally

Wind:

~100 MW

More wind was selected in the BPA OR zone, suggesting the need for more energy on the west side of the region

Natural Gas:

100 MW is enough

100 MW, likely on the west side, should be sufficient for adequacy, although less might also be sufficient

Caveat: These are approximate amounts intended to roughly size potential solutions. These should not be interpreted as a specific recommendation for any one of these resources. The Council will do more analysis, as needed, to ensure the resource strategy included in the Final Ninth Plan provides for an adequate system.

A Note About the Draft Resource Strategy

- Proposed resource strategy (RES-1) is adequate
- Council is currently accepting public comment on this strategy, seeking feedback on how the Plan can be more adequate, economic, and reliable
- Remember it's a balance – changing any one element of the strategy likely necessitates a change to other elements of the strategy to maintain adequacy
- Comments that recognize this balance and discuss these trade-offs will be most helpful for informing a final Power Plan



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Discussion