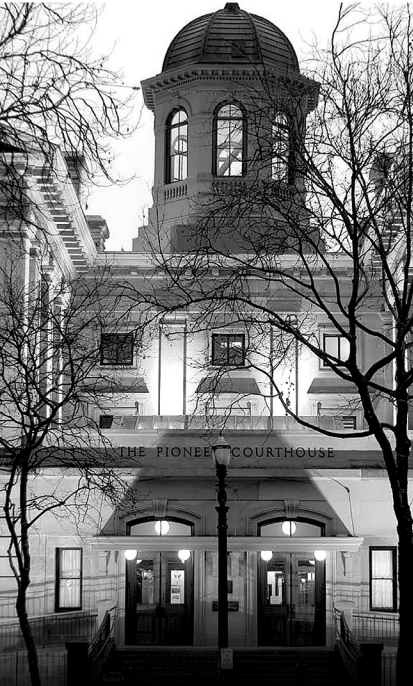




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TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARING

NINTH NORTHWEST POWER PLAN

HELD ON

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

4:00 P.M.

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Dr. Thomas (Les) Purce, Vice Chair

Jennifer Light, Director of Power Planning

Elizabeth Osborne, Senior Energy Policy Analyst

Mike Milburn, Chair

Christian Douglass, Senior Resource Analyst

Tomas Morrissey, Vice Chair, Fuels Advisory Committee

Dor Hirsh Bar Gai, Power System Analyst

Kim Buzdygon, Director of Public Affairs

John Shurts, General Counsel

PUBLIC COMMENTERS:

Thomas Soeldner

Jeff Mergler

Kelly Haugh

Andy Barth

Craig Hill

Tanya Riordan

Paige Kenney

Timothy Viall

Linda Carroll

Gabriel Kennedy-Gibbens

APPEARANCES (CONTINUED)

PUBLIC COMMENTERS (Continued)

Liz Melville

Ed Parents

Erica Tuell

Morgan Zehrung

Linda Carroll

Ruben Glasow

Morgan Zehrung

Heather Nicholson

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARING
NINTH NORTHWEST POWER PLAN
HELD ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026
4:00 P.M.

KC GOLDEN: Thank you all for coming. This is the hearing on the Ninth Northwest Power Plan, just so you're in the right place.

The -- I'll introduce I think some folks around the room in just a minute, but why don't we do some obligatories real quick. I have a little -- little statement to read about what's going on here tonight, and -- and then we'll get a little bit more informal.

I would like to call this public hearing to order. My name is KC Golden. I am one of the Washington members of the Power Council, and I'd like to welcome you to today's public hearing.

Anyone wishing to provide public comment should sign up on the list provided, bonus points for good penmanship. When the time comes to hear your comments, I'll call people up to testify in the order in which you signed up.

As the first order of business, I have a statement to make for the administrative record about this public

1 hearing.

2 The Northwest Power Act of 1980 directs the
3 Council to develop a regional conservation and electric
4 generation power plan, and to review that power plan every
5 five years. Council's current plan is its eighth plan, also
6 referred to as the 2021 Power Plan.

7 Council is now engaged in its latest five-year
8 power plan review. Council released the Draft Ninth
9 Northwest Power Plan in mid-August for public review and
10 comment.

11 For more information, including the text of the
12 Draft Plan and technical appendices, please visit the
13 Council's website at nwcouncil.org. We will be accepting
14 comments on the Draft Ninth Plan through October 16th of
15 this year.

16 The act also requires the Council to hold public
17 hearings in every state represented by the Council -- Idaho,
18 Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The full schedule of
19 hearings can be found online, and you'll be happy to know
20 there's another hearing going on in Coeur d'Alene tonight,
21 so this is the most geographically represented part of the
22 Northwest for our public hearings.

23 I'd like to encourage anyone who's interested in
24 commenting to please sign up on one of the sheets located
25 around the room. We have a court reporter in attendance to

1 record your comments. The transcript of the hearing will be
2 circulated to all Council members and staff and will be
3 included in the administrative record for the Power Plan
4 review. You can also leave written comments with a staff
5 member today, and if you do have written comments, please do
6 leave a copy if you have it, or submit comments online.
7 Instructions for submitting comments online can be found on
8 the Council's website.

9 And just make a note that when you come up, it
10 would be super helpful if you'd say and spell your whole
11 name for the court reporter.

12 All comments received will be carefully considered
13 by the Council in making its final decision to approve the
14 Ninth Northwest Power Plan. Counsel expects to make a final
15 decision on the plan at the end of this year or early in
16 2027.

17 I would like to introduce -- the Council's got the
18 A Team here. We have the chair of the Council, Mike Milburn
19 from Montana, joining us. Long drive.

20 Several other Council members are in -- are in --
21 at the Coeur d'Alene hearing.

22 I believe we have my Washington partner Les Purce
23 there up on -- on top of the stack there on the screen, the
24 other Washington Council member, and we have a terrific
25 group of staff here today.

1 You'll hear from Jen Light, our Power Planning
2 director, in just a minute.

3 Elizabeth Osborne is our Washington State senior
4 policy person on energy stuff.

5 We have from the Power Team here, Christian
6 Douglass sitting in front. Yeah, raise your hand.

7 Tomas Morrissey in back.

8 Dor Hirsh Bar Gai.

9 Kim Buzdygon, our Public Affairs Director in the
10 back.

11 And John Shurts keeping us legal over in the
12 corner.

13 Extremely knowledgeable group of folks, principal
14 authors of the power plan that you'll be commenting on --
15 the Draft Power Plan that you'll be commenting on, and I
16 expect we'll probably get some time in the room for some
17 informal conversation too.

18 So why don't we begin, Jen, with our presentation
19 before we invite people up to share their thoughts with us.

20 JENNIFER LIGHT: Great. Thank you, Member Golden.
21 Welcome. Thanks so much for joining us today, or
22 this evening, or whatever it is, I don't know.

23 Well, I've got a very short presentation as you
24 settle in, and for folks who do want to give testimony,
25 there are a couple sign-in sheets. Tomas is holding one in

1 the back to make it easier for those coming in, and there's
2 one up here in the front.

3 Chad, if you can go to the next slide, please.

4 So as Member Golden noted, who the Power Council
5 is. We were formed out of the Northwest Power Act of 1980
6 and we represent the four states of Oregon, Washington,
7 Idaho, and Montana, and we are here to put forward a draft,
8 a final power plan eventually, but a power plan of Council,
9 a Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, and we do
10 all of this work in the public. This public hearing is a
11 big part of that process.

12 There is a very strong connection to the
13 Bonneville Power Administration as part of this plan. They
14 are to acquire resources as the administrator determines
15 consistent with the Council's power plan, and so this is a
16 very important stage for them as well.

17 If we can go to the next slide, please.

18 Just a very quick hit on the Council's Fish and
19 Wildlife program. The Council adopted its most recent Fish
20 and Wildlife program in June of this year, and that program
21 covers a lot of different things, but one of the priorities
22 in the program was to keep water flowing during times that
23 are critical for fish migration while also making sure that
24 we can meet our power needs, and so really trying to wrestle
25 with that balance is something the Council did, and then

1 that program becomes the basis for the -- the Draft Ninth
2 Power Plan that we'll be talking about today.

3 Next slide, please.

4 So the power plan, what do we do. We need to put
5 forward this plan approximately every five years, and in it
6 we need to put forward a scheme for new resources to meet
7 the region's needs to ensure an adequate, efficient,
8 economical, and reliable power supply. That's coming right
9 from the Power Act and kind of the core to what we're trying
10 to do.

11 So how do we do a power plan at a very, very high
12 level. We basically say what can the system provide today,
13 how much electricity might we need in the future. We look
14 20 years out into the future, and then what's the least
15 cost, least risk way to meet that. And in doing so, we do
16 have to be mindful of what's compatible and integrates well
17 into the existing system, and also environmental quality and
18 other factors that the Council deems important at the time.

19 If we can go to the next slide, please.

20 So the Draft Ninth Power Plan, a few key take-
21 aways. The first is, I think, worth highlighting, the load
22 growth that we are seeing and experiencing in the region, as
23 well as the uncertainty around that load growth. This is
24 driven by data centers, electrification, people just moving
25 around the region into different parts of the region.

1 And we have over the next 20 years an estimate of
2 loads growing between 50 and 100 percent, so pretty
3 significant potential load growth. Also pretty significant
4 uncertainty, and that theme of uncertainty is something else
5 you'll see through the power plan, the Draft Plan; not just
6 on how we deal with the uncertainty of future loads, but the
7 uncertainty of future weather and how that affects --
8 impacts the hydro system, how that impacts other resources
9 like wind and solar.

10 Also uncertainty around future gas prices and gas
11 price volatility, resource availability, all sorts of things
12 we're kind of grappling with, and we get to a strategy that
13 is a portfolio of resources, I'll show it on an upcoming
14 slide, where collectively they are going to try to meet the
15 needs that we have for the future. No one resource is going
16 to meet our future needs. We do need a suite of resources
17 to get there.

18 And so where we are, we have this Draft Plan on
19 the streets as Member Golden mentioned. Public comment
20 until October 16th, and we're really looking to hear from
21 everybody around the region, what are their thoughts, where
22 can we improve on this plan as we move towards that final
23 plan.

24 Next slide, please.

25 So here is just a very quick slide hitting the

1 core piece, which is the proposed resource strategy,
2 focusing on the next six years. It's a combination of
3 demand side resources like energy efficiency, conservation,
4 demand response, as well as large supply side resources,
5 renewables, storage, and natural gas.

6 Those demand side resources are really critical to
7 help meet load growth and also defer some of the need for
8 the larger generating resources and transmission. And the
9 supply side resources, the wind and solar complemented with
10 battery can really help the region meet both energy and
11 capacity needs while also meeting clean goals that are out
12 there. And the natural gas is playing a critical role to
13 ensure that we're meeting energy needs, particularly in
14 years with low water. That was something that we see being
15 a good role for the system.

16 All of that is supplemented by a range of
17 additional recommendations around how we think about
18 permitting, transportation, data center integration, all
19 sorts of other aspects that are critical to keeping the
20 lights on and doing the strategy. There's recommendations
21 that kind of sit around that.

22 Next slide, please.

23 In addition to the regional strategy, we also have
24 very specific recommendations to Bonneville. Again
25 Bonneville, as an entity, must acquire resources that the

1 administrator determines are consistent with the Council's
2 plan, and so we do put some time into thinking about, of
3 that regional pie, which part makes sense for Bonneville.

4 Core to it is Bonneville acquiring its share of
5 the conservation, supporting its utilities, and getting the
6 other demand side resources, the demand response, the
7 conservation or demand voltage regulation resources. And
8 then if Bonneville needs additional power, particularly
9 energy beyond that conservation, then it should look to
10 renewables. And if it needs additional capacity, to look at
11 the cost effectiveness between storage and natural gas.

12 That's really how we saw those different resources
13 playing out in the portfolio. There are some additional
14 recommendations to Bonneville as well to help support the
15 regional and meeting some of those other needs around
16 transportation and whatnot.

17 Next slide, please.

18 So beyond the resource strategy, I already
19 mentioned that we speak to many considerations beyond what
20 new resources are needed, but it is worth noting that the
21 Council itself does not have a direct role in -- in kind of
22 guiding or enforcing some of these actions. So we're not
23 the transmission planning or development agency for the
24 region. We don't do permitting or siting of new resources.
25 We need to think about those and we can certainly provide

1 very strong recommendations to help get those done, but we
2 aren't the transmission planner, the developer, and whatnot.

3 It's also worth noting that the Council does not
4 set electricity rates nor does the Council make any decision
5 around resource retirements or decisions around the existing
6 system. We can certainly make recommendations of how to
7 integrate new resources into the system, and that's really
8 the focus of the work.

9 Next slide.

10 So that's my short spiel. I wanted to make sure
11 there's plenty of time for all the public comment. I do
12 have a few logistics before we get there. Again, please do
13 use the sign-in sheets if you want to give testimony. For
14 anyone online that would like to not just listen in but also
15 give testimony, please do email your full name to the
16 meeting organizer and we'll get you in the queue as well.

17 For those, if you need the restroom at any point,
18 the bathrooms are around the corner, I believe. I haven't
19 yet been, but that's where I saw the signs. If you have any
20 questions, Member Golden already pointed out the staff. We
21 are here to help answer your questions, so please don't
22 hesitate. We're all wearing our little nametags in case you
23 forget some of our faces.

24 Please be courteous. I know that it's hard to
25 come up here and give public testimony. Be courteous to

1 folks in the room. We're grateful to have you here. Thanks
2 for being here. Please keep it brief and on topic. We'll
3 have about three minutes per person, and if we have
4 additional time and you needed to say more, we can circle
5 back at the end for sure.

6 If you'd note that your comments are in the
7 official record. And if you did bring written comments, if
8 you can please share them with Christian Douglass here.
9 He'll make sure that we can get them in the record. It's
10 just really helpful for us, and if it's in something where
11 we ultimately just need to take a picture and hand it back
12 to you, we can do that as well.

13 And you can also submit comments online. If we
14 could go to the next slide, you can see that whole QR code,
15 that's great. There is a link to our page, also a portal
16 where you can submit comments as well. I think there's also
17 some forms where you can submit some written comments if
18 you'd like.

19 And with that, that is it for me, Mr. Chair, and
20 I'll let you go from here. Thank you.

21 KC GOLDEN: Thanks so much, Jen. Let me just
22 underscore one thing that Jen said, which is on behalf of
23 the whole Council team, a big warm thanks for sharing your
24 time and sharing your thoughts with us.

25 This is a somewhat formal process, but the

1 formalities are mostly behind us now, and we really want to
2 hear what you have to say. The Council, we talk about doing
3 a power plan and the Fish and Wildlife program as our two
4 big work products, but the history that led to the Council
5 and the legislation that created the Council also have a
6 very strong emphasis on public accountability and
7 participation, more than you'll see in most public laws
8 about public planning processes, and there's a reason for
9 that.

10 The Council was created at a time when specific
11 mistakes were made, in part because the decision making
12 table was too small and the people who were asked to pay for
13 the consequences of the decision weren't read in on the
14 decision making process, and so that's part of what we're --
15 what we're here to change. So your participation here is
16 really a pillar of what we do. As you can see, we've got an
17 impressive array of certified smart people here helping to
18 develop the plan.

19 It is a technical process, and to the extent that
20 you feel able to comment on the technical merits of this or
21 that part of the plan, that's great, but if you've got
22 something to say that's just about your values and what we
23 ought to be thinking about, that's fine too. We definitely
24 want to hear that, so please be comfortable sharing the
25 truth as you see it with us when you come up.

1 I am going to read from the list. The list has a
2 few people who signed up but didn't indicate they want to
3 testify. I'm going to call the people who did, and then
4 we'll circle back and see if anyone else is further
5 inspired.

6 And the time clock is right back here so you can
7 keep track of your own time. We will remind you if we need
8 to, but please do stay on time. And then if we have more
9 time we'll be able to talk some more after everybody gets a
10 chance.

11 And the first person up is Thomas Soeldner. Am I
12 saying that right?

13 THOMAS SOELDNER: You got it.

14 KC GOLDEN: Sildner, Seldner.

15 THOMAS SOELDNER: Soeldner.

16 KC GOLDEN: Great. The mic is right here.

17 THOMAS SOELDNER: I thought so.

18 KC GOLDEN: Not an obvious spelling, so everyone
19 please do be sure to spell your name.

20 THOMAS SOELDNER: I gave the spelling.

21 My name is Thomas Soeldner. I live in Valley
22 Ford. I'm an Inland Power and Light ratepayer and a Sierra
23 Club member. I care about affordable, reliable, clean
24 energy and a system that supports it. It is part of my
25 wider concern for humanity's relationship to earth's

1 ecosystem.

2 I hope that it's -- that is also your concern,
3 because it should be a significant element in your decision
4 making. 32 years ago Vaclav Havel, a statesman, then
5 president of the Czech Republic, faulted modern science for
6 failing, quote, to connect with the most intrinsic nature of
7 reality and with the natural human experiment.

8 He said modern anthropocentrism is fatally flawed
9 and has lost all integrity because it does not anchor us in
10 where we have come from and where we belong, that is in the
11 cosmos, and therefore in our natural world. Humanity is
12 derivative, not primary or final in earth's evolutionary
13 process.

14 Designing systems in which humanity is the
15 ultimate object of our concern is bound to fail, and in the
16 end is detrimental to the very ones it's meant to serve.
17 Life's legions must be considered if humans are to continue
18 to be a viable species on the earth.

19 And finally, only a plan and system that considers
20 and strives for the health of the biosphere and as many of
21 its members as possible will succeed in benefiting our human
22 place in it. Therefore, I urge you to vigorously do more to
23 prioritize the regional salmon and steelhead recovery
24 proposed in the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative.
25 Adopt strong conservation targets. Increase your pursuit of

1 new clean energy resources, and encourage region-wide
2 collaboration.

3 Press the stodgy BPA to focus on acquiring
4 renewable resources, expanding transmission capacity, and
5 supporting regional utilities and implementing demand
6 response programs, and modernizing energy conservation,
7 especially for service to rural communities.

8 But most of all, I ask that in this important work
9 of yours to consider yourself involved in moral reflection,
10 and in that reflection, if you've not already done so,
11 please consider shifting your starting point for reflection
12 from our human ego and narrowly focused human benefits to
13 the ecosphere and to all the species with which we share it.

14 Thank you very much.

15 KC GOLDEN: Thank you very much, Thomas. Good to
16 have Vaclav Havel on the record too.

17 Jeff Mergler is next, and he'll be followed by
18 Kelly Haugh.

19 JEFF MERGLER: Good evening. I'll spell my name.
20 Any name is Jeff Mergler, J-E-F-F, M-E-R-G-L-E-R. I'm a
21 retired resident of Spokane, actively working on building
22 guardrails around data center development in Spokane County.
23 The explosive growth of data centers will directly impact
24 our energy landscape.

25 These facilities require massive continuous

1 amounts of power, drive the need for new transmission and
2 generation infrastructure, but a critical question is who's
3 going to pay for all this. Right now everyday citizens are
4 facing a severe affordability crisis.

5 In Spokane, many people are having serious trouble
6 just keeping up with their Avista bills. I recently
7 attended a meeting of the Washington Utilities and
8 Transportation Commission where I spoke and I heard
9 firsthand story after heart-wrenching story, how seniors and
10 working families are struggling to make impossible choices
11 between heating their homes, buying groceries, or buying
12 other necessities.

13 It is unjust to ask residential customers to
14 subsidize the electrical demands and infrastructure build-
15 outs required by highly profitable tech corporations. As
16 you finalize the Ninth Power Plan, I ask that this Council
17 prioritize, and I realize this may not be your direct
18 mission, but I ask that you advocate for and prioritize
19 protecting the region's residents by advocating for robust
20 large load tariffs across the region.

21 If a data center requires new transmission lines,
22 upgraded substations, or forces utilities to acquire new,
23 more expensive generation resources, the cost of that growth
24 must be borne exclusively by the entity creating the demand.
25 This builds a firewall around residential ratepayers so they

1 are shielded from the CapEx and market volatility driven by
2 this industry.

3 If data centers want to utilize our region's
4 energy grid, they must pay the true, unsubsidized cost of
5 their massive footprint.

6 Thank you for your time and the opportunity to
7 speak, and I understand this may not be your direct mission
8 but I hope you will take it with the spirit that it's
9 intended and maybe you can speak to it in your plan. Thank
10 you.

11 KC GOLDEN: Thank you, Jeff.

12 And Kelly Haugh is next. She'll be followed by
13 Andy, is it Barth, from Inland Power? Sorry. Thanks.

14 Welcome, Kelly.

15 KELLY HAUGH: Thank you. Thank you Chair Milburn
16 and members of the Council for the opportunity to provide
17 comments here tonight. I am Kelly Haugh, manager of
18 Community Relations for Big Bend Electric Cooperative. Big
19 Bend Electric is a nonprofit, consumer-owned electric
20 facility providing power to over 11,000 meters in Adams and
21 Franklin Counties.

22 As a BPA conservation program participant, we have
23 significant concerns regarding the dual conservation program
24 proposal included in the Draft Plan, one being the dual
25 target structure adds cost and complexity without increasing

1 energy savings. Implementing two separate conservation
2 targets would require a full re-design of regional program
3 infrastructure, significant increases in administrative
4 burden for utilities, contractors, and trade allies.

5 It would require additional staffing and multi-
6 year procurement processes to support bifurcated programs.
7 These changes would cost millions of dollars and would slow
8 conservation acquisition during the transition at a time
9 when the region needs more resources, not fewer. Most
10 importantly, the dual target structure does not increase
11 total conservation potential. It simply makes existing
12 potential harder and more expensive to acquire.

13 Number two, programs already deliver conservation
14 where it is most cost effective. Current program
15 performance already reflects the geographic distribution the
16 Council is seeking. Between 20 -- 2022 and '25, BPA
17 acquired 92 percent of its cost effective savings from the
18 West Side, nearly identical to the Draft Plan's proposed 90
19 percent.

20 East Side customers in Idaho and Montana currently
21 receive 10 percent of energy efficiency incentive funds,
22 which is already aligned with the Council's proposed shift.

23 Number three, why would you alter programs that
24 are already effective? The Draft Plan itself states, and I
25 quote, as of the end of 2024 the region has achieved over

1 8000 average megawatts of conservation. For scale, 8000
2 average megawatts is enough energy to provide continuous
3 power to seven cities the size of Seattle, end quote.

4 In conclusion, given the significant cost,
5 complexity, and risk associated with the dual target
6 proposal, and the lack of meaningful benefit, I respectfully
7 ask the Council to reject the dual target conservation
8 proposal and maintain a single regional conservation target,
9 avoid imposing millions in unnecessary administrative and IT
10 costs on Washington ratepayers, and support a unified,
11 regionally aligned, conservation framework that continues to
12 deliver reliable, cost effective savings.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and we
14 look forward to your response.

15 KC GOLDEN: Thanks for coming out Kelly,
16 appreciate it.

17 Andy Barth, who will be followed by Craig Hill.

18 Welcome, Andy.

19 ANDY BARTH: Well, good evening, everyone. Thank
20 you so much for the opportunity to testify this evening. My
21 name is Andy Barth, and I am the vice president of
22 government affairs and public affairs, Inland Power and
23 Light.

24 Much like Big Bend, whom we just heard from, we
25 are a not-for-profit electric cooperative, and we serve 13

1 counties in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. Inland
2 is concerned about both the scale of the proposed
3 conservation targets and the practicality of the
4 geographically split target structure.

5 I'd like to focus on what our concerns are and
6 what they mean for our ratepayers. First, we strongly
7 support a single regional conservation target. BPA has
8 repeatedly demonstrated that the proposed geographic split
9 would increase costs without producing additional
10 conservation savings, and BPA public power utilities and
11 many other stakeholders who fund and implement these
12 programs have expressed broad support for a single target,
13 and we encourage the Council to give significant weight to
14 that consensus.

15 Second, we are concerned about non-attainment
16 risk. For Inland, this goes beyond resource adequacy. As a
17 Washington utility, our conservation performance directly
18 effects compliance with our clean energy implementation plan
19 under the Clean Energy Transformation Act. If targets are
20 set at levels that are not realistically achievable, the
21 consequences extend beyond planning assumptions and create
22 real compliance risks.

23 Third, Inland's service territory highlights a
24 significant flaw in the proposed two-target structure. The
25 Council's own analysis suggests that Eastern Washington

1 shares many of the same conservation characteristics as
2 Idaho and Eastern Oregon, yet Inland is grouped with Western
3 Washington and subject to higher cost effectiveness
4 thresholds.

5 In effect, a state boundary rather than actually
6 conservation value determines the target applied to our
7 members. A single regional target would eliminate that
8 mismatch and better align implementation with underlying
9 data.

10 Finally, achieving significantly higher
11 conservation targets would likely require greater investment
12 in commercial and industrial programs despite uncertainty
13 around future industrial growth in our service territory.
14 That creates a risk of stranded program investments and
15 shifts resources away from the rural residential members who
16 make up the vast majority of our electric cooperative.

17 For these reasons, Inland supports the single
18 regional conservation target proposed by BPA and others. We
19 believe it is the most practical, equitable, and data driven
20 approach for the region.

21 Thank you for your consideration.

22 KC GOLDEN: Thanks so much, Andy.

23 And is Craig Hill with us? Hi, Craig. I think
24 you testified on the Fish and Wildlife program, didn't you?
25 Yeah, right here.

1 CRAIG HILL: Before I begin, I'm going to be
2 submitting my testimony online as well because I'm going to
3 be saying some stuff in the Spokane Salish language. I
4 don't expect our reporter to be able to type out Spokane
5 Salish. But to begin, my name is Craig Hill, C-R-A-I-G, H-
6 I-L-L. I am a Spokane Tribal -- I'm a Spokane citizen,
7 ratepayer of Avista, and a Spokane Tribal member.

8 (In Salish).

9 So hello, and good day everyone. My Indian name
10 is (in Salish). I'm a Spokane Tribal citizen. I speak and
11 teach my language for a living. My mother is Margo Hill,
12 her mother is Phyllis Winn, and her mother is Ida Peone-
13 Boyd, and then her mother, my great great grandmother, is CP
14 Sadie Boyd.

15 It's a tradition within our Tribe to introduce
16 ourselves by our ancestors just so people know who we are.
17 I also call upon my ancestors just to show that I'm
18 representing them today. If my (in Salish), my great great
19 grandmother CP was here today, she loves doing these -- she
20 was famous for having a sharp tongue and cussing out
21 representatives like yourselves about power. So I'm a
22 little more gracious because I was raised around powerful
23 women, but I'll get with it.

24 I would like to see that the plan more strongly
25 pursues renewable resources and transmission services in

1 order to transmit those renewable resources. I would like
2 to see a load management forum for high capacity electricity
3 users such as data centers.

4 I would like to see the BPA also pursuing more
5 renewable energy sources and transmission services as well.
6 I would like to see that we start replacing the energy used
7 by the Snake River dams in order to free up the river for
8 our salmon, and I think that's all the time I have. So (in
9 Salish), thank you. In my language we don't say good-bye,
10 so I'll just say see you later.

11 (In Salish). Thank you.

12 KC GOLDEN: See you later. Thank you.

13 And Tanya Riordan is up next, and Paige Kenney
14 will be after that.

15 TANYA RIORDAN: Good evening, Council members.
16 Thank you for being here in Spokane. My name is Tanya
17 Riordan. I live here in Spokane. I'm a ratepayer of Avista
18 utilities. I'm also the policy and advocacy director for
19 Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition.

20 I'm talking today as a ratepayer though, and as a
21 ratepayer I care about having an affordable and reliable
22 clean energy system that also supports healthy rivers, clean
23 water, and abundant fish populations. The Ninth Power Plan,
24 as you know, is consequential for our region's future and
25 should chart a course towards meaningful salmon and

1 steelhead recovery while also protecting our rivers and
2 focusing on the development of new clean energy, including
3 the expansion of conservation and demand response programs
4 to meet the enormous future energy needs we have.

5 Climate change, including continued drought, low
6 snowpack, and ongoing and persistent El Nino conditions over
7 the next few years, including the growing energy demand, are
8 putting unbearable pressure on our rivers and also severely
9 constraining our hydropower system and generation.

10 I'm not sure if you know, but a two-mile section
11 of the Spokane River was dry for nearly five years just
12 recently. The Lower Snake River reservoirs are severely
13 overheated and toxic. We simply have to change the way the
14 hydropower system operates to support healthy rivers,
15 waters, fish, and also advance a more modern and reliable
16 electricity system. If we do that, it's a win-win for all
17 of us. If we don't do that, it's a lose-lose for all of us.

18 We must more robustly incorporate key priorities
19 into the Ninth Power Plan to make the necessary progress,
20 and to lead the region on this vision of a win-win. In the
21 final plan, I urge you to much more robustly pursue new
22 clean energy resources to meet future needs, and remove the
23 barriers to necessary transmission connections across the
24 four states.

25 Embed the West Tech planning process in this Ninth

1 Power Plan. Use the experts and the resources available,
2 and the tools that they know can be put into place to expand
3 our transmission system. Request BPA to prepare for and
4 acquire significant more renewable resources and also lead
5 the region in expanding the transmission capacity in order
6 to integrate them into the grid.

7 BPA has not upgraded transmissions since the 1980s
8 in our region. They've neglected that. It's time that we
9 put significant pressure on them to upgrade the transmission
10 system and put these renewables online, the ones that exist
11 now and are ready, and the ones that we need in the future.

12 We also would like to see you create a load
13 management forum as others have said. We need to maximize
14 future flexibility and avoid further strains on the river
15 systems from data centers or other large scale energy users.
16 This load management forum can provide the regional
17 expertise, planning, and identifying how best to -- to work
18 with those large loads.

19 Also adopt strong conservation targets and
20 encourage region-wide collaboration to meet those goals.
21 Don't split the conservation targets. We've already heard
22 from others in strong opposition from utilities around why
23 that's not beneficial to our region, and including
24 ratepayers in rural communities.

25 We also want BPA to help utilities implement much

1 more robust demand response programs, and modernize energy
2 conservation delivery, especially to address serving rural
3 communities. These measures are necessary and very do-able,
4 and would greatly benefit the health of our rivers and
5 waters, salmon and steelhead recovery, and ensure we have
6 both a reliable and affordable energy system.

7 We can make a win-win. Thank you.

8 KC GOLDEN: Thanks so much, Tanya.

9 And next up is Paige Kenney.

10 PAIGE KENNEY: I'll be very brief. I don't even
11 have anything written down. I have very concrete asks. One
12 is I would like to see the dams, the three dams on the Lower
13 Snake removed, and the other one is I would like to see the
14 proposed forum for growth load -- growth load management to
15 prevent what I perceive as predatory businesses that are
16 data centers. Like so many people, I am very opposed to
17 that.

18 I just wanted to add one more thought. When --
19 when the United States began to build these dams during the
20 New Deal, that was a very visionary approach economically,
21 and with -- rivers were catching fire when I was a child,
22 the rivers around, you know, different industrial cities.
23 That was a historical point where we needed vision, and then
24 the EPA was created, and there was vision there.

25 And I think this is a point where, in time, a

1 historical moment when you really need to be visionary, not
2 too "small C" conservative about addressing climate change
3 and the death of the salmon and steelhead which really
4 represents a huge loss of, like, habitat richness upstream.

5 I really would like to see some vision at this
6 point. I think that's the most important thing. I don't
7 have all of the little facts and details, but, you know, as
8 an ordinary citizen, a ratepayer to both Avista and to
9 Inland Power, I just wanted to make that known. Thank you.

10 KC GOLDEN: Thank you, Paige. At the risk of not
11 being visionary, would you just spell your name for our
12 court reporter? Thanks so much.

13 PAIGE KENNEY: P-A-I-G-E, K-E-N-N-E-Y

14 KC GOLDEN: And then we have -- Tim's going to
15 have to help me with his last name. Is it "Vee-all"?

16 TIMOTHY VIAL: "Vial."

17 KC GOLDEN: "Vial." After that will be Achilles
18 Basil.

19 ACHILLES BASIL: That's me, I'm not speaking. I
20 didn't know if I was supposed to write no --

21 KC GOLDEN: Oh, you didn't, sorry, my bad.

22 ACHILLES BASIL: Okay, no worries.

23 KC GOLDEN: Thanks.

24 ACHILLES BASIL: You pronounced that great though.

25 TIMOTHY VIAL: My name is Timothy Viall. My list

1 name is spelled Victor India Alpha Lima Lima. I am a nurse.
2 I am an Army Veteran, and I'm a resident of Spokane Valley,
3 and I pay for both Avista and Modern Electric.

4 I am not highly technical by my background, but I
5 have a few points that I'd like to share with y'all. The
6 biggest thing that I am worried about moving forward in this
7 region and in power and our resources in general, is the
8 idea of preserving our commons. For too long we have done
9 practices which look good right now, but ultimately lead to
10 destruction environmentally.

11 The second thing I'd like to talk about is
12 encouraging a load growth management forum, so that way
13 local citizens and people who are going to be affected
14 actually have a voice.

15 I'd also like to point out in general that data
16 centers are temporary, extractive, and a railroad that must
17 be rebuilt every five years. So with large public works
18 projects historically, with the railroads for instance, they
19 caused a lot of damage to people, communities, Indian
20 tribes, et cetera. After the railroad was built, it still
21 existed.

22 With a data center, what you're looking at is
23 replacing the internal components every five years. So the
24 company, after building the data center, requiring the
25 taxpayer to increase the electrical grid, can then walk away

1 at any time. So I would like to see strong measures in
2 place to ensure that we're not going to be paying for these
3 things long after the companies are gone or long after the
4 chips are useless.

5 Renewables, expanded connection to future and
6 current renewable resources has to be a priority, and has
7 been reiterated by people far wiser than me today. Respect
8 of local communities, tribes, and life that is already in
9 this region. This has to be the priority. I have been all
10 over the U.S. and I have traveled internationally, and when
11 I tell people about my home, the way I describe it is it's
12 like in Lord of the Rings when people go to meet the elves.
13 It is a beautiful region. There are mountains here. There
14 are rivers. There are plenty of places to take the family.

15 Me and my family, we go to Mount Spokane. We go
16 to local rivers and lakes. We have a great time. I do not
17 want to see that change. I want my daughter and her
18 daughter to have the ability to go out and do things 50, 60,
19 70 years from now.

20 All companies and profit-making industries must be
21 subordinate to the goal of clean energy and sustainable
22 efforts. This is not a matter of profit anymore, it's a
23 matter of life. And if we continue to allow corporations
24 and people who are making money to affect the health of our
25 children, well, we're going to run into some problems very

1 rapidly.

2 I'm a realist and I understand that people need to
3 make money, that the future advances. I'm not asking us to
4 go back to the dark age, but I really want us to be thinking
5 about the future generations when we make these plans.

6 The last point I'd like to make is long after the
7 corporations are gone, the people who profit from them are
8 gone, our children's children will deal with the effects of
9 this plan and other plans like it.

10 Thank you so much for your time.

11 KC GOLDEN: Thanks so much, Tim.

12 And next up will be Linda Carroll followed by
13 Gabriel -- put my glasses on -- Kennedy-Gibbens. Kennedy.

14 LINDA CARROLL: Good evening, Chair. Good
15 evening, Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to
16 speak. My name is Linda Carroll and I have an unusual and
17 perhaps -- perhaps unique perspective in that I remember the
18 Snake River before the dams were built. I hope that it
19 would be evident that I was a child at the time.

20 So why was I so aware of this? Because my father
21 was a science teacher. He taught science at Rogers High
22 School for 30 years, and his family had a long association
23 with Native cultures.

24 And so he was very aware of what the Native
25 peoples were saying about the damage that this would do to

1 the fish friends, and also the scientists could begin to see
2 some of the bad effects in addition to the good effects that
3 were anticipated. In the meanwhile we've had enormous
4 compounding bad effects, climate change, the growing -- the
5 heat during the summer and all the rest of it, but we also
6 have had many new ways that we can mitigate and actually
7 remove some of these problems.

8 So I urge you in meeting the obligation to
9 coordinate Fish and Wildlife response to power availability,
10 to consider both the sort of older means, which is to say
11 conservation, the cheapest and least damaging form of energy
12 is the one you don't use, unit of energy is the one you
13 don't use. But also to encourage and even mandate the
14 increase of new clean energy sources and also with BPA to
15 mandate, to the extent that you can, their undertaking of
16 increasing the transmission system because the clean power
17 is ready to go. What it needs is transmission.

18 And a number of people have also mentioned things
19 like the load management forum, et cetera. Studies have
20 shown that these necessary measures are do-able and will
21 result in meaningful progress towards salmon and steelhead
22 recovery which in my mind should be really the absolute top
23 priority, as well as ensuring a reliable, affordable energy
24 system which will be a win-win for all of us.

25 They will also allow us to honor our obligations

1 to uphold Tribal treaties. If effective measures for saving
2 our Native salmon and steelhead populations are not put in
3 place now or in the extremely near future, they are very
4 much at risk for extinction. I don't want that on my
5 conscience, and I hope that no one else does, but we can
6 still get it right for fish and people by modernizing our
7 power system.

8 Thank you.

9 KC GOLDEN: Thank you, Linda.

10 And Gabriel. Next up after that will be Liz
11 Melville.

12 GABRIEL KENNEDY-GIBBENS: Good evening Chair and
13 Council members. My name is Gabriel Kennedy-Gibbens.
14 Pardon the bad handwriting up there. And thank you for
15 being here in Spokane, for holding this hearing. I look
16 forward to seeing how you will address the public's
17 concerns.

18 So I just graduated from the University of
19 Washington with an honors degree in environmental science.
20 However, I was born right here in Spokane and I'm thrilled
21 to be back home now. In college I always found it odd that
22 hydropower is technically considered a clean electricity
23 source. Truly clean power would not jeopardize and subject
24 an already endangered species to further harm, wouldn't you
25 agree?

1 Now, of course I am not supportive of any new
2 forms of power that are generated by burning fossil fuels.
3 Remember, natural gas is anything but natural. But, despite
4 a dam not releasing CO2 emissions, as we all know dams back
5 up water, unnaturally heating that water. Dams also block
6 vital sediment flow as well as salmon migration.

7 As we've seen recently on the Elwha River and also
8 on the Klamath, removing dams is a science-tested solution
9 to revitalize entire ecosystems, and it's been amazing to
10 watch both plant and wildlife populations just bounce back
11 after humans give a little helping hand by removing those
12 dams. Nature remembers and nature returns.

13 We have the technology to provide cheap, clean
14 electricity through the development of wind and solar as
15 well as battery storage projects. On Saturday I was able to
16 visit firsthand the Lower Snake River dams. I was able to
17 look at that water, and the stagnant water, it was
18 deafening.

19 As the United States' energy demand continues to
20 rise and increase, it's essential to completely replace our
21 reliance on hydropower from the Lower Snake and Columbia
22 River dams, and instead to pursue electricity that is truly
23 clean, both for people and for fish.

24 Thank you.

25 KC GOLDEN: Thanks, Gabriel.

1 And Liz Melville. Welcome.

2 LIZ MELVILLE: Thank you. My name is Liz
3 Melville, L-I-Z, M-E-L-V-I-L-L-E, and I first want to just
4 thank you all for this welcoming environment. I've been
5 going to a lot of County and meetings about data centers and
6 it has been far from this, so I really do appreciate the
7 environment you've created here.

8 I am no expert on energy. I am a concerned
9 citizen that really just loves the woods and the birds and
10 wild spaces, and I love my children, and really want them to
11 have a place that, you know, where they still can enjoy
12 walking in the forest and hearing the birds and -- and
13 fishing for salmon. So your role here, and of course
14 everything's interconnected, and energy and how we use our
15 energy is, you know, every -- it matters. It matters on --
16 for the future of all of our children.

17 I really, for purposes of this, really advocate
18 for clean energy and for creating transmission systems so
19 that they can connect to the grid. I think it's really
20 important that we push for there to be as much clean energy
21 as possible to avoid using gas and other, you know, climate
22 -- other things that create carbon and put us more into a
23 climate crisis.

24 And I also think, just thinking in terms of money,
25 to remember that it's not -- we all feel tight with our

1 money today, and yet the cost of using gas and oil, and just
2 having free rein on using as much power as possible with the
3 data centers, it has such a cost. It has such a long term
4 cost for the whole world, our children, but the birds and
5 the salmon, and you know, all -- and the forest.

6 So please please think in terms like Paige said,
7 be visionaries and think and protect what you can for our
8 future. And I don't know that it relates -- how it relates
9 here that much, but also just if there's ways to put in
10 guardrails to prevent power hoarders from the -- that
11 doesn't benefit the people or the planet from taking all of
12 our resources, please put those in any way you can.

13 Thank you.

14 KC GOLDEN: Thanks so much, Liz.

15 I can't tell for sure whether Ed Parents has
16 signed up to testify.

17 Would you like to? Yes, please.

18 Welcome, Ed.

19 ED PARENTS: Here we go. Council, thank you and
20 your staff for being here and listening to us. This is not
21 my first time speaking before this -- this body. In fact, I
22 was testifying about Northwest Energy issues before the
23 Council existed. In the mid -- in the late '70s I was among
24 the first to ever get inside of the Washington Public Power
25 Supply's strong (phonetic) for remitters.

1 There was a barely public meeting in the
2 conference room of the mezzanine of the Ridpath Hotel here
3 in Spokane. In the room people like Don Hodel, former head
4 of the Bonneville Power Administration; Vince Slatt, former
5 head of the Inland Power and Light; Bruce McFadden, Kaiser
6 Aluminum; Wendell Satre, chair of what was to become Avista
7 Corporation today.

8 Leaders of large energy consumers and producers,
9 they were putting the final stamp of approval on a
10 misguided, miscalculated plan for the region's energy
11 future, known at the time by an ill-fated acronym, WHOOPS.
12 WPPS was spoken of as WHOOPS. People caught on to that
13 pretty quickly. They became aware of a new vocabulary
14 because they were being talked about, nine full-scale
15 nuclear power plants. We learned about public and private
16 utilities, BPA, the Corps of Engineers.

17 We also learned about R-values, weatherization,
18 building codes, ASHRAE 90-75, and Skidmore Owings and
19 Merrill, a far more accurate vision of the region's future
20 energy needs. The public utilities bailed first. Cheney
21 City Light was the first to go. Tom Trulove would
22 eventually occupy one of those chairs in the first iteration
23 of the Power Council, led the way on that.

24 WPPS lived up to its nickname eventually. The
25 largest municipal bond failure in history, 22 billion

1 dollars, and out of those ashes there arose the Northwest
2 Power Planning Council. I've got to give you credit where
3 credit is due. The lights still turn on. The refrigerator
4 keeps my Diet Pepsi cold, and for that I am very happy.

5 Amongst other points, Centralia is gone. They
6 didn't build any new nukes. Avista never built its coal-
7 fired plant in Creston. Coal strip will eventually die a
8 peaceful death. Fear mongering from the utilities and
9 direct service industries, that without their nine nuclear
10 plants, we were all going to freeze to death in the dark.
11 Didn't happen.

12 Now the fish. It takes every ounce of self-
13 control to refrain from rear-ending every vehicle I see with
14 a bumper sticker that says fish and dams can co-exist. They
15 cannot. I have yet to meet a fish who swims up to a dam and
16 says, oh, here's my buddy, the dam. Maybe we can play games
17 together today.

18 If fish and dams could co-exist, there would be
19 fish in Redfish Lake. They would have hatched there, swam
20 the mighty Snake and Columbia. They would have swam in the
21 ocean, returned to fulfill their destiny, and that's not
22 happening. So overall I give the Ninth Generation Plan a B-
23 minus, better than average, still room for improvement as
24 you all know.

25 You've got a lot of smart people in the room. You

1 hit that nail on the head, and it would be a shame to have
2 some really sharp minds presiding over the conscious
3 extinction of any more of God's creatures.

4 Thank you for your time.

5 KC GOLDEN: Thanks so much, Ed. Would you just
6 stop by the court reporter for a spelling of your name?

7 ED PARENTS: I can do that.

8 KC GOLDEN: Thanks for the history.

9 I think -- I don't have anybody else signed in the
10 room.

11 One more. Okay. Good.

12 Erica.

13 ED PARENTS: It's Parents, P-A-R-E-N-T-S, like mom
14 and dad.

15 KC GOLDEN: Tuell?

16 ERICA TUELL: Hi.

17 KC GOLDEN: Yes.

18 ERICA TUELL: Sorry.

19 KC GOLDEN: Welcome.

20 ERICA TUELL: Getting a work call. Okay. Sorry.
21 Hi, hi, thank you.

22 My name is Erica, and I'm a Spokane citizen, and a
23 ratepayer of Spokane. I have a home here. I am a salmon
24 and orca advocate with Save Our Wild Salmon, and I'm a lover
25 of our rivers and oceans, and all things water.

1 The environmental health has never been more
2 important to me. As someone who is currently chronically
3 ill because of an environmental illness, I know personally
4 that ensuring policies that are centering the health of our
5 ecosystem at all levels is more vital than ever before.

6 I'm afraid if we do not consider the health of our
7 land and species, that humans will continue to get more and
8 more sick. I am a community social worker and I'm acutely
9 aware of the connection with health, our environment, and
10 affordability. I believe we can accomplish all of these if
11 we plan ahead.

12 So I -- the Ninth Power Plan is consequential for
13 our region's future and should chart a course towards
14 meaningful salmon and steelhead recovery, and development of
15 new clean energy sources to meet future demand. In the
16 plan, I urge you to more robustly prioritize regional salmon
17 recovery goals and implementation of the Columbia Basin
18 restorative initiative, new clean energy, and expanded
19 transmission capacity, and additional conservation and
20 demand response programs.

21 The power plan source strategy can replace the 700
22 milliwatt produced annually from the four Lower Snake River
23 dams. The Council should provide technical support and
24 modeling in partnership with Washington State to ensure
25 operate Lower Snake River dam's energy replacement into our

1 region's future power plans.

2 We know they only are producing 4 percent of
3 energy, and we know those dams do need to go eventually for
4 the salmon to recover. And salmon is a, you know, a
5 keystone species of this region. We used to have tons of
6 salmon in Spokane. We were just down at the Snake River
7 this weekend and it's not a healthy river. It needs to --
8 it needs to have a free flowing river.

9 And so I hope we can robustly pursue new clean
10 resources to meet future needs and remove barriers to
11 necessary transmission connections across the four states.
12 I hope that we request BPA to prepare for and acquire
13 renewable resources and lead the region in expanding
14 transmission capacity in order to integrate them into the
15 grid.

16 And I have more things on here, but my time's up,
17 so thank you for your time.

18 KC GOLDEN: Thank you so much, Erica.

19 Oh, Erica?

20 ERICA TUELL: Mm-hmm?

21 KC GOLDEN: Sorry. Could you just spell your name
22 for the court reporter?

23 ERICA TUELL: Oh. E-R-I-C-A. Tuell, T-U-E-L-L.

24 KC GOLDEN: And I think we have an eye test for
25 someone online, Morgan.

1 Morgan, can you hear us okay?

2 MORGAN: Yeah. Can you hear me?

3 KC GOLDEN: Yeah, you're on.

4 MORGAN: Okay, perfect. Thank you for holding
5 this hearing. I --

6 KC GOLDEN: Spell your name for the court
7 reporter, Morgan.

8 MORGAN ZEHRUNG: Yeah, it's Morgan Zehrung, M-O-R-
9 G-A-N, Z-E-H-R-U-N-G. I would attend the Seattle version,
10 but we have our -- I'm a member of WASEIA, the Washington
11 Solar Energy Industries Association, and we're a member
12 group of about 70, mostly contractors and some manufacturers
13 and suppliers in the area. We book some solar policy, again
14 a lot of contractors in there so we're developing a lot of
15 these clean energy systems, but I'm here mostly as a
16 citizen.

17 I'm a -- first, I'm a conservationist, that's
18 what got me into the industry. I love the outdoors, spend
19 time in nature, hiker, grew up on the Port Madison
20 Reservation, Suquamish, and also a contractor. I've been
21 doing this for 20 years now.

22 And a couple things I would like to speak to are
23 the consumer generation that's available. It's still
24 untapped in the state where homeowners and businesses can
25 put solar energy on existing infrastructure. A major

1 opportunity there that I see that is coming up in the
2 Southwest in places like Hawaii is carports and parking
3 lots.

4 We have enough parking lots I believe to cover as
5 much solar generation as is needed in the state, and I would
6 love to see that happen in those areas rather than out in
7 farmable land or otherwise intruding on wildlife.

8 It also -- having consumer-owned solar reduces the
9 O&M cost for utilities, puts the power where the power is
10 needed. We also see -- we're also seeing a very symbiotic
11 relationship with the current dams and the solar harvest
12 occurring in the summer, allowing water resources to be
13 maintained in the dams, while we still have dams.

14 Yeah, and I think that's it. Overall I look
15 forward to seeing the Ninth Power Plan, and hopefully that
16 our industry can play a big part in that. Thank you.

17 KC GOLDEN: Thanks for joining us, Morgan. We'll
18 count on it.

19 I believe -- has anyone else signed up? Okay.
20 I'm going to say thank you all for staying. Thank you for
21 being citizens and stakeholders and active, and sharing your
22 views and listening to your neighbor's views.

23 If I -- we do have some more time. We will stay
24 here still 6:00. I'm going to say if -- we can take some
25 time after everybody's done to informally have discussions.

1 It is the formal public comment period, so if there's
2 anything that's kind of relevant to the plan or if you're
3 providing any advice on the plan, we'll jot a note and that
4 will become part of the formal record and informal
5 discussions.

6 But I guess I'll just take a minute, since we have
7 the time and we're all here, if anyone -- I think was it
8 Erica or others had a few more words, maybe another two
9 minutes for anybody who'd like to participate, or we can go
10 straight to hanging out in the room.

11 Yes. And this is Linda, right?

12 LINDA CARROLL: Yeah, Linda Carroll.

13 Hi, this is Linda Carroll again. I just had one
14 more thought, which is that the dams are old and they need a
15 lot of service to stay up. And so the expense of bringing
16 them down, I think or, you know, the situation bringing them
17 down could be usefully compared to the expense of keeping
18 them up, because they're of, you know, they've reached a
19 point where they're -- they really, you know, they're not
20 very functional anymore. I just thought that was something
21 that hadn't been said yet.

22 KC GOLDEN: Thanks, Linda.

23 Anyone else? Okay. Well, I certainly invite
24 folks to stick around on staff. I'm not sure if -- Mike, do
25 you have -- are you going to be around for a bit?

1 MIKE MILBURN: No, I'm good. I'll stay.

2 KC GOLDEN: Okay. Great. Great.

3 And we'll have -- we will -- I guess we'll close
4 the meeting.

5 ELIZABETH OSBORNE: No, we're just adjourning
6 until there's any more comments.

7 KC GOLDEN: That's what I mean. That's what I
8 mean, yeah, so that's --

9 JENNIFER LIGHT: Just pausing.

10 KC GOLDEN: That's the meeting. We are pausing
11 the meeting and the formal record and all that, but we'd
12 love to talk to you if you have questions or thoughts for
13 us. Thanks.

14 (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)

15 KC GOLDEN: Oh, one in the room and then a few
16 more people online, and then we'll take a break again unless
17 someone else signs up in the meantime. So let's hear from
18 Ruben Glasgow, if we can.

19 Ruben, thanks for joining us, and please spell
20 your name for the court reporter.

21 RUBEN GLASOW: Good evening. Thank you for
22 letting me come up and speak. Sorry I didn't sign up
23 earlier. My stage fright got the best of me. My name is
24 Ruben Glasow. I am a parent. I am a community organizer,
25 and I'm a ratepayer through Avista here in Spokane.

1 I live spitting distance from the Spokane River
2 and this year my daughter is going to be turning 2 this
3 winter, and I was really excited to be able to take her out
4 and have her experience all the things that I love about
5 Spokane's natural areas. I was unable to do that, both in
6 part of the fires that struck our community, but also
7 because large stretches of our river were dry for the second
8 year in a row.

9 I know that that is not our energy output's fault
10 in its entirety, from climate change to low snowpack, I know
11 all the data going into this, and while I don't have the
12 intelligence necessary to be able to understand fully what
13 you do, I do know that we are at a very pivotal moment for
14 both our local ecosystem, but for the next generations that
15 come after us.

16 We know that what we are doing now is not working,
17 and we know that because our river is dry, our fish are
18 gone. Habitats are actively crumbling all over our state
19 and across our region. We have an opportunity to set new
20 guidelines in place and to truly be visionaries, as other
21 people have said earlier tonight, and ensure that while we
22 don't have a perfect solution, we can make large strides
23 towards healing what we have harmed.

24 And I think it's important to remember that we did
25 cause this harm through our energy consumption choices,

1 through prioritizing profit over ecological response. This
2 committee, to my understanding are the people who set the
3 guidelines and who say, you need to live up to this standard
4 at least or you cannot go past this, in terms of harm.

5 You are the people who have the moral imperative
6 to set those guidelines, and I would encourage you to take a
7 minute and think back to your own childhoods, to think back
8 to when you were little and experiencing the rivers for the
9 first times.

10 My child is not going to have that unless
11 something changes dramatically and drastically. I will not
12 be able to continue to afford paying my light bill unless
13 something changes dramatically and drastically, and I am not
14 the only young parent in this region to experience that.

15 Thank you for your time and for being so open
16 about this. Good evening.

17 KC GOLDEN: Thanks so much, Ruben, appreciate you
18 coming.

19 And I think we're going to turn online to Morgan.
20 Welcome back.

21 MORGAN ZEHRUNG: Yeah, thank you. I just wanted
22 to speak to the rooftop solar data, and I believe that our
23 group WASEIA will be submitting some written comments too,
24 so those will be following up I believe in the coming weeks.

25 But some things that popped out while we were

1 looking over that, I just wanted to bring up, were -- I'll
2 start where it could go. So California for instance, which
3 is a much larger market than us, about 25 percent of their
4 power is got through solar, and at times over 50 percent of
5 their peak usage is used or is through solar with storage,
6 and so that's just a lot of consumer-owned batteries
7 discharging to the utility grip to help cover peak demand.
8 That's some place that we see Washington getting to in the
9 coming decade.

10 Now going back to the rooftop solar data. We saw
11 costs roughly 150 to 200 percent higher than they really are
12 for the residential and small commercial solar systems. The
13 production was roughly 60 percent of what an average solar
14 system was, and then the average array size that a
15 residential system has was -- it's actually about 20 percent
16 larger than what the study has.

17 And so we're working on compiling data for that,
18 because it seems to be that the residential and commercial
19 solar is being undervalued in that setting, and so we would
20 just like to provide some documentation and data to get that
21 caught up to where we're currently at in the industry.

22 And yeah, that's all I have. Thank you.

23 KC GOLDEN: That's great, yeah. Please do provide
24 that information.

25 Anyone else in the room with more words? Okay. I

1 think we're good for now. We will stand paused again for a
2 while, and if anyone else wants to sign up, please do.

3 (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)

4 KC GOLDEN: Okay everyone, we are back with one
5 more comment online. Heather Nicholson is --

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Mr. Chair, I can't hear you. I
7 think your mic is muted.

8 KC GOLDEN: Sorry about that. We are back with
9 one more comment online.

10 Heather Nicholson, welcome, and if you could spell
11 your name for the court reporter.

12 HEATHER NICHOLSON: Hi, thanks. I assume I'm
13 audible because I see my --

14 KC GOLDEN: Yes, you are.

15 HEATHER NICHOLSON: -- name on the screen. Okay.

16 Heather Nicholson, H-E-A-T-H-E-R, N-I-C-H-O-L-S-O-
17 N. All right. Well, thank you so much for conducting this
18 meeting and being here for the public to speak. I have
19 submitted comments in the past, I'm thinking back to the
20 issue paper that was given out by the Power Division prior
21 to the onset of the new power plan, and in that I submitted
22 a comment.

23 In that, I -- one of my biggest concerns is the
24 Southern Resident killer whales, and they are, as most
25 everyone knows, dwindling out. Their trajectory is over the

1 cliff, end of story, unless there is a dramatic shift, a
2 real shift in our human behavior and the choices we make.
3 That's just where it's going.

4 And of course we all know they are very dependent
5 on the salmon in the Northwest, particularly the Chinook,
6 and I, you know, NOAA, there was I think a 2008 paper and it
7 was referenced in a 2020 white paper I believe by a handful
8 of scientists, and it pointed out that the Snake River
9 Chinook was the biggest change in the Southern Resident's
10 diet by orders of magnitude.

11 And I think it just feels like that point is -- is
12 receding. It's not as prevalent in our minds these days of
13 just how important it is. We've reduced boat noise.
14 There's a lot of awareness in other ways to help the
15 Southern Residents, but we really cannot forget the
16 magnitude of importance of the Snake River salmon, which
17 themselves are blinking out.

18 So, you know, in the issue paper comment I made, I
19 had previously inquired with the Power Division staff, who I
20 have immense respect for, in regards to when I started
21 seeing a data center mode popping up, and the answer was,
22 you know, we have to accommodate it because there's policy.
23 There's a lot of policy comes from the Feds, got to get it
24 in there, accommodate it.

25 And what really stands out to me is we have policy

1 for the salmon. We don't have abundant salmon, but we've
2 got abundant policy, you know, from municipal, state,
3 federal, got a lot of policy already for the salmon and for
4 the Southern Residents, and that policy has been around for
5 a long time. It's been decades now.

6 And so along comes this policy for tech load, and
7 that's the premise for accommodating it. And I don't think
8 that's fair. I think that if you're going to accommodate
9 policy, well that has to be inclusive of policy for the
10 salmon and the Southern Residents, or have public discussion
11 about it, or, you know, put your -- talk -- let's talk about
12 priorities and say, can we -- can we have both? Well, how
13 much of one do we have, how much of the other, right, just
14 to accommodate the tech load policy and say that's why we're
15 doing it. But we have policy for the Southern Residents but
16 we're not going to look at breaching the Snake River dams.

17 That's -- it sort of makes it come across as it's
18 not so much about the policy, it's about what has the most
19 influence on the political body. So no offense to anybody,
20 but it just doesn't feel like a legitimate approach.

21 And then secondly, as I've written to Members
22 Purce and KC Golden who are my Washington State
23 representatives on the Council, we don't know -- there's no
24 detailed accounting of what this tech load is for, and so I
25 think all taken together, something's just not right. It

1 doesn't add up.

2 We all know that there's a lot of pushback now for
3 data centers and references to WPPS and so forth, and I
4 think it's really time to -- I mean, I know the time is
5 nigh. The power plant is getting wrapped up soon, and I
6 think we're on the -- on a dangerous ledge, and I think a
7 lot of people feel that.

8 There's a lot of headlines about the dangers of
9 AI, and now's the time to really step back and reevaluate
10 this. I know I've stepped up. I've had conversations with
11 the Council, with staff. I've put in my comments, and I
12 would love to hear back from Members Purce and Golden
13 regarding what is this data center load for, does anyone
14 know.

15 I've reached out to my state representative, they
16 don't know. Nobody knows. That's alarming. There's no
17 transparency on what this is for. And, you know, this is
18 why I -- I commend Council staff so much as they're so
19 transparent. They're so good at the analyses that they do
20 and incorporating as much data as they can, and sharing that
21 data. And we just don't have that for data centers, and
22 we've got a policy for the salmon and the Southern
23 Residents.

24 So I'd really like to see equanimity in that
25 policy, and that's about all I can think of in my ramble for

1 the time being, but thank you so much.

2 KC GOLDEN: Thanks for sharing that with us,
3 Heather. Thanks for coming on.

4 HEATHER NICHOLSON: Thank you.

5 KC GOLDEN: Anyone else signed up? If not, we
6 will resume pausing.

7 (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)

8 KC GOLDEN: I am unpausing this hearing of the
9 Northwest Power and Conservation Council on our Ninth Power
10 Plan so that I may conclude this hearing on the Ninth Power
11 Plan. Thank you.

12 (WHEREUPON, the Public Hearing concluded at 5:57
13 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I, Consuelo Maria Grumich, do hereby certify that I reported all proceedings adduced in the foregoing matter and that the foregoing transcript pages constitutes a full, true and accurate record of said proceedings to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am neither related to counsel or any party to the proceedings nor have any interest in the outcome of the proceedings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of September, 2026.

Consuelo Maria Grumich, CER No. 1170

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