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April 2, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Power Committee Members

FROM: Charlie Black, Power Division Director

SUBJECT: Potential change in status of the Resource Adequacy Forum

The discussion on April 9th is to inform the power committee of several developments with respect to the Pacific Northwest Resource Adequacy Forum (Forum). The first proposal is to develop a charter for the Forum. The second proposal is to consider reconvening the Forum as an advisory committee to the Council.

The Forum was created in 2005 by the Council and the Bonneville Power Administration as an ad-hoc committee tasked with developing an adequacy standard for the Pacific Northwest power supply and to annually assess the adequacy of that supply. As an ad-hoc committee, the Forum had no charter or bylaws and worked solely on a consensus basis. Forum meetings have always been open to the public but the region's utility planners and representatives from interested parties have been the primary participants. With seven years of experience and a rigorous peer-review of its methodology to draw upon, the Forum is better positioned to consistently make annual adequacy assessments and to assist the Council in the development of its power plans.

More recently the question has arisen whether the Forum is structured in a manner that best serves the Council's and the region's needs. The Forum's steering committee co-chairs Tom Karier and Steve Oliver, after review by the Council's legal division, agree that the Forum could benefit from having a charter that sets forth, among other things, the Forum's objectives, scope of work and authority. Given the nature of the Forum's work and its role in the Council's power plans, it may also make sense to charter the Forum as a Council advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Doing so will better define the relationship of the Forum to the Council's power planning obligations and will help in promoting wider and more consistent participation in the region.

If the Power Committee is in agreement, Council staff can draft a proposed charter for the Resource Adequacy Forum and bring it before the Power Committee and full Council for discussion at the next Council meeting.