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April 30, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Charlie Black, Power Planning Division Director

SUBJECT: Update on Power-Related activity in the State Legislatures

State staff will provide a high-level briefing on 2013 legislative activity that may affect power planning or implementation of the Council's power plan.

Brian Dekiep, Montana's Energy Analyst, will discuss SB106 that expands the resources eligible to earn renewable energy credits in Montana; SB 327 that exempts competitive electric suppliers with four or fewer small customers from the requirements of the Montana renewable portfolio standard (RPS); SB 164 that exempts public utilities serving 50 or fewer Montana customers from the Montana RPS; SJ6 a resolution requiring a study of the impacts of Montana's RPS; and SB31 and SB45 that would include new incremental hydroelectric generation as an eligible renewable resource.

Leann Bleakney, Oregon's Energy Policy Analyst, will discuss the status of SB 692 which sets minimum efficiency standards on several products, including battery chargers, televisions and automatic ice cube machines and SB 242 which creates a process by which the Oregon Public Utility Commission can conduct a study on greenhouse gas emissions.

Howard Schwartz, Washington's Senior Energy Policy Analyst, will discuss the status of SB 5802 the governor's climate bill; HB 1154 allowing biodigesters and landfill gas collection systems to receive renewable energy credits; SB 5297 amending criteria as to when utilities can buy coal-transition power for purposes of meeting Washington's RPS; and SB 5400 allowing utilities to use renewable resources located outside the Pacific Northwest to meet the RPS.

There was no legislation passed in Idaho this year that will have an impact on the Council's planning process.

Bills that passed the 2013 Washington State legislature and might have an impact on the power plan

	Summary	Possible Effect on Power Plan	Comments/notes
SB 5802 (Governor's Climate Bill)	Independent consultant, agreed to by bipartisan executive-legislative committee, will recommend cost-effective greenhouse gas reduction strategies after reviewing all current policies.	Could recommend that WA do more or less in pursuing conservation and renewable energy.	If partisan and ideological differences continue, they could influence the analysis.
HB 1154	Allows biodigesters and landfill gas collection systems to separate the non-power attributes associated with the generation of renewable energy into renewable energy credits (RECs) and other types of carbon reduction credits, offsets, or similar tradable commodities.	If it succeeds as intended, there will be a little more renewable energy from biomass and a little less from wind.	Biomass is baseload and can help to integrate wind.

Bills that passed the 2013 Washington State legislature and might have an impact on the power plan

	Summary	Possible Effect on Power Plan	Comments/notes
SB 5297	Amends criteria that define when a utility can use the no-load-growth cost cap for the RPS to allow utilities to buy "coal-transition power."	If a utility that otherwise didn't claim the no-load growth cost cap, claims it, there would be a little less wind added.	May not be used at all.
SB 5400	Allows utilities that serve customers in Washington but also serve customers in other states to use their own renewable resources located outside of the PNW to meet the WA RPS.	The bill applies only to PacifiCorp. It is likely to result in a little less wind built in the PNW, but the total amount of wind serving PNW loads will remain the same.	
Bills that didn't pass	Would have made major and minor changes to I-937.	Would have allowed more hydro and less wind.	Will be back in 2014.