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August 31, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Patty O'Toole

SUBJECT: Update on schedule and steps to development of FY 2007-2009 Fish and Wildlife Program project funding recommendations

The plan for the September Council meeting is for the Council to agree on and release for public review and comment a set of draft fish and wildlife project funding recommendations for Fiscal Years 2007-09. The Fish and Wildlife Committee will be meeting on August 31 and again on September 12 to arrive at recommendations to forward to the Council for consideration.

The purpose of this memorandum is to update you on events and to explain what will be coming to you later and when -- what will undoubtedly be a voluminous set of decision materials for this agenda item.

Steps and schedule

The Fish and Wildlife Committee is meeting today, to discuss the Basinwide and Mainstem/Multi-Province projects in an attempt to reach tentative Committee recommendations for the two categories. All members should already have a packet of materials for that meeting.

The ISRP final report on project proposals is due to be released later this evening. We will circulate the report to the members as soon as it is available. By sometime next week, the Council should also be receiving province recommendations from Washington, and possibly updated recommendations from Idaho and Oregon reflecting the latest developments on capital from Bonneville.

Next week, the central and state staff will work together to organize and synthesize all of this information and develop proposed draft funding recommendations for the provinces, including project and budget tables and a list of any outstanding issues from the ISRP report or elsewhere for the Committee and Council to consider in working through the provinces. The staff will also take the results of the August 31 Committee meeting and organize and display the recommendations for projects in the Basinwide and Mainstem/Multi-province categories, and

highlight any issues that remain with those two categories. And the staff will revise the description and proposed resolution of any programmatic policy issues that will accompany the project funding recommendations.

We will make any and all of this information available to the members as soon next week as the staff is able to. That is likely to be toward the end of the week.

The purpose of the Committee meeting on September 12 will then be to finalize the draft Basinwide and Mainstem/Multi-Province recommendations; to work through the provinces and develop the Committee's project funding recommendations for each one; and to decide on a statement and draft resolution or recommendation for each broader policy or programmatic issue the Council needs to consider as part of the FY07-09 project funding recommendations.

Once the Committee and then the Council decide on its draft funding recommendations, the plan is to release these draft recommendations for public review as soon after the Astoria meeting as we can, probably on Friday, September 15. The Council will take public comment on the draft recommendations for a brief period, to Friday, October 6. The Council then plans to make its final project funding recommendations for FY07-09 at its October meeting.

The decision document

Staff is developing a decision memorandum that will describe the process, all the proposed project funding recommendations, and the issues that the Council needs to resolve on the way to making its draft funding recommendations to Bonneville. The document will be based on and incorporate the critical parts of what has been called the "rolling issue memorandum," although reorganized into a decision memorandum focused on the projects, with an updated set of key issues. Once the Council decides on its final project funding recommendations, this will be revised into the Council's formal decision document for transmission to Bonneville.

Section 1 of the decision document will describe the legal framework for the Council's project review and recommendations and the process the Council has followed to date for the FY07-09 review. It will also describe Bonneville's funding commitment for the 2007-2009 rate period and the Council's funding allocation targets and principles leading into the review.

Section 2 will describe the fish and wildlife projects proposed and recommended, organized first by province; followed by the Basinwide research, monitoring and evaluation and coordination; and finishing with the Mainstem/Multi-province projects grouped into one final set. This part of the memorandum will consist of the project/budget tables and a list of any issues with each grouping that the Council needs to resolve on the way to deciding on its project funding recommendations.

Section 3 will be a brief discussion of a number of broader policy and programmatic issues, along with proposed resolutions for those issues that will underlie or affect this set of project funding recommendations.

Section 4 will contain the formal determinations and findings that the Council needs to make to address certain requirements of Section 4(h)(10)(D) of the Northwest Power Act.

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