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November 29, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Power Committee

FROM: Jeff King

SUBJECT: Status Report for Northwest Wind Integration Action Plan

The fourth meeting of the Technical Work Group (TWG) is scheduled for December 4 and 5. The focus will be on wrapping up the work needed to support the January report to the Policy Steering Committee.

The January report will contain a discussion regarding the role of wind in the power system, primarily as a fuel displacement resource with relatively little capacity value. Included will be a discussion of regulation, load following and transmission - the key elements of wind integration, a review of factors affecting the cost of wind power, and a forecast of wind development in the Northwest.

The report will contain preliminary conclusions regarding the ability of the existing regulation, load-following and transmission resources to accommodate anticipated near-term wind development.

Among the actions to be called for in the report will be:

- Development of improved wind data, including a fully-drafted proposal for a 2007 "mesoscale" regional wind resource assessment.
- Development of markets or other means to better share existing system regulation and load-following capability.
- An assessment of the benefits of a cooperative regional wind forecasting system and the design of such a system.
- An assessment of the capacity value of wind for system reliability.
- An assessment of the integration benefits of more geographically diverse wind development.
- An assessment of the cost of extending transmission to more diverse wind resource areas.
- Assessment of options for expanding system regulation, load-following and shaping capability.
- An assessment of the tradeoffs between integration costs and the transmission needed to achieve geographic diversity.
- An assessment of means of maximizing the economic and environmental fuel displacement value of wind.

Finally, the report will propose a mechanism for accomplishing these actions.