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October 1, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Power Committee

FROM: Terry Morlan

SUBJECT: Update on Comments on CO₂ Footprint Paper

The Council released a paper entitled "Carbon Dioxide Footprint of the Northwest Power System" for public comment at the September Council meeting. The close of comments on the paper is the Friday after the October Council meeting, October 19, 2007. There will be opportunity for public comment at the October Council meeting in Missoula.

In the Power Committee meeting, staff will summarize any comments that we have gotten by that time, understanding that additional comments will likely be received during and after the meeting.

We have received some unofficial comments, which the Power Committee may want to discuss. They relate to the fact that the draft paper documented the difficulty of reducing future CO₂ emissions from the power system to 2005 levels, much less reducing them to 1990 levels or below, but said little about actions that could help achieve such goals. The staff suggests that a limited amount of additional information be added to the paper to address this challenge.

The paper made clear that current RPS goals will not be sufficient and that some existing coal plants would have to be displaced, or their CO₂ output mitigated to achieve 1990 levels. We could provide qualitative discussion and perhaps some quantification of actions that could be taken to achieve various levels of CO₂ reduction in the power sector. In addition, we could add a short description of other sources of CO₂ production in the region besides the power system and the types of policies that might affect them. For example, electric vehicles have been proposed as one solution to the transportation sector CO₂ emissions, but what are the tradeoffs between emissions from power production and vehicle emissions? Are there policies that will encourage reductions in all sectors in the most effective way? Though the answers to these questions are beyond the scope of the CO₂ Footprint paper, we could initiate their discussion in this paper and identify topics for fuller consideration in the Council's next power plan.

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