Short Introduction to the New RTF Guidelines
Topics

- Why does the RTF need Guidelines?
- How were they developed
- Scope and intent of the Guidelines
- Four savings estimation methods
- RTF responsibilities under the Guidelines
- Feedback Loops
- Policy Issues in Guidelines
RTF Develops Savings Estimates and Methods that Utilities & Regulators Can Rely On

- Increasing Need for Reliable Estimates of Savings
- Provides Centralized & Unbiased Technical Review
  - Energy Savings Data & Assumptions
  - Cost-Effectiveness Methodology & Assumptions
  - Standard Protocols & Guidelines for Savings Estimation
- Builds on Empirical Data & Historic Experience
- Provides Peer Review in an Open Public Forum
  - Vetting Claims, Identifying Uncertainties
  - Keeping Up with Changes
  - Establish Standards of Proof
RTF Plays a Pivotal Role in the Council’s 6th Power Plan by Measuring the Savings
Development of the RTF *Guidelines*?

- RTF operated for 10 years transparently but its “rule book” evolved with experience.
- *Guidelines* development began in the fall of 2010 to codify 10 years of experience.
- Scope of *Guidelines* grew to encompass all the RTF methods for estimating savings.
- Developed over 8 months of intensive engagement by the full RTF (utilities, regulators, staff and consultants).
- Now forwarding *Guidelines* to be examined by the Power Council and the RTF Policy Advisory Committee.
“..describe how the RTF ... selects, develops and maintains approved methods for estimating savings from the delivery of energy efficiency measures.”

“Four savings estimation methods ... unit energy savings (UES), standard protocol, custom protocol and program impact evaluation.”

“..intention that each method will produce savings estimates of comparable reliability ..” at the lowest reasonable cost
Four Savings Estimation Methods

- **Unit Energy Savings (UES)**
  - Average savings per unit delivered
  - Stable mean & variance of savings (CFL delivered by retail sales)

- **Standard Protocol**
  - Prescriptive methods to calculate variable savings
  - Development of “Simplest Reliable Estimation Method”

- **Custom Protocol**
  - Site-specific data collection and analysis

- **Program Impact Evaluation**
  - Used for everything else
  - Typically utility contracted third-party evaluation of program
Two RTF’s Responsibilities Under the Guidelines

1. **RTF Approval**
   - Unit Energy Savings (savings/unit, specs & sunset date)
   - Standard Protocols (site-specific calculators, specs & sunset)

2. **RTF Advice**
   - Custom Protocols: Guidelines provide guidance on good practices and documentation standards
   - Program Impact Evaluation: Guidelines provide guidance on good practices and peer review of research designs
Feedback Loops

- Utility program impact evaluation
  - Provide data for developing & improving UES & Standard Protocols
- RTF-Approved UES & Standard Protocols
  - Reduce need/cost of utility program impact evaluations
- Combined efforts improve estimates of future conservation potential
Why Council Input in Guidelines?

- Guidelines set forth the process, data quality, and reliability standards used by the RTF
- Standards rely on research & evaluation conducted outside the RTF
  - Utilities, Bonneville, the Energy Trust of Oregon, NEEA, and others
- Implementation of the Guidelines will likely require increased regional investments in research and program impact evaluation
  - Significant financial and resource implications for utilities, Bonneville, the Energy Trust of Oregon, NEEA, and regulators, as well as the RTF itself
- Seek advice from its RTF Policy Advisory Committee on the Guidelines, their application, and implications
  - Four policy issues identified during formulation of Guidelines
RTF-Identified Issues

1. Regional Savings Reporting Standards
   - Whether there should be regional reporting standards
   - If so, should the RTF be charged with their development

2. RTF Role in Research Funding
   - Who will fund & conduct the primary research required by the RTF to support the quality standards?
   - What role should the RTF play in identifying, developing, coordinating, and managing regional research?

3. RTF Review of Impact Evaluation
   - Should the RTF be called on to review others’ impact evaluations?

4. Process for Addressing Measures found out of Compliance with the Guidelines
   - Is the process and timeline for bringing measures into compliance appropriate?