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November 10, 2015

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Council members**

**FROM: Tom Eckman, Sandra Hirotsu**

**SUBJECT: Comments received on the Draft 7<sup>th</sup> Power Plan**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Presenter: Tom Eckman

Summary As of November 9, 2015, the Council has received nearly 30 comments on the draft power plan via the Council's website or through communications with Council staff. All comments received have been made available for Council members to review.

To date, many of the commenters have called on the Council to increase or expand the use of renewable energy in the regional plan. Some call on the Council to set a renewable resource target (i.e. 100% by 2035 or 80% by 2050); others call for subsidies on wind and solar resources while others say to consider the success of other regions such as Vermont and Germany to provide a stronger vision of renewable energy and energy storage in the region. Many comments encourage the Council to continue or increase the plan's emphasis on clean energy and energy efficiency to help combat climate change and environmental pollution. Comments also call for the plan to cut carbon as much as possible by getting away from coal and oil while others call for encouraging as much energy efficiency as possible and keeping demand response as a high priority in the plan. Still other comments call on the Council to set a goal of zero carbon emissions irrespective of any cost estimates.

Some of the technical comments received to date include a call for inclusion of capacity targets in the plan and a recommendation to use different stream flow data for the plan's climate change analysis.

By the time of this November Council meeting, the Council will have received additional comments in writing and orally. Plus the Council will have had public hearings by then in Kalispell, Missoula, Pasco and Spokane. We will supplement what is here during the meeting with a brief summary of any other topics and themes raised in additional comments.

**Relevance** Comments provide valuable feedback on the power system issues important to the region and can also serve to vet the technical analysis underlying the draft plan. As the Council works to shape the final power plan in preparation for adoption in 2016, the Council considers and relies on comments received on the draft to call attention to issues that have not yet been addressed in the plan as well as issues which may require additional analysis or discussion.

**Work Plan:** Develop Seventh Power Plan

**Background:** The Council released the draft Seventh Power Plan for public comment on October 20, 2015. The comment period remains open through December 18, 2015. Public hearings to receive oral comment on the draft plan are being held in Kalispell, Missoula, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Seattle, Boise, Portland and Eugene during the public comment period. Council members and staff are also meeting with a variety of individuals and groups interested in the draft power plan issues during this period of public comment.

**More Info:** Available on the Council's website at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/energy/powerplan/7/home/>