

**Phil Rockefeller**  
Chair  
Washington

**Tom Karier**  
Washington

**Henry Lorenzen**  
Oregon

**Bill Bradbury**  
Oregon



## Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

**W. Bill Booth**  
Vice Chair  
Idaho

**James Yost**  
Idaho

**Pat Smith**  
Montana

**Jennifer Anders**  
Montana

December 8, 2015

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Council members**

**FROM: Tom Eckman, Power Division Director, Sandra Hirotsu, Senior Counsel**

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

### **BACKGROUND:**

**Presenter:** Tom Eckman and Sandra Hirotsu

**Summary** As of December 7, 2015, the Council has received nearly 165 comments on the draft power plan via the Council's website or through communications with Council members or staff. This summary primarily reflects the new comments that have come in since last month's Council meeting where staff provided a summary of comments. All comments received have been made available for Council members to review. The comment period is open through December 18, 2015.

Since the Council meeting last month, comments have continued to come in calling on the Council to increase the amount of renewable resource generation called for by the plan and seeking inclusion of ways to incentivize renewable resource development. Many commenters feel the draft plan undervalues renewable resources where they understand some renewables are equivalent in cost to new natural gas plants. Other commenters find the draft does not give sufficient value to renewable resources in terms of any contribution renewables can make towards meeting peak demand. Still others call on the Council to include a 50% renewable portfolio standard scenario in the final plan.

The Council continues to receive many comments supportive of the energy efficiency goals in the draft plan. The Council is also continuing to receive many comments supportive of making the energy efficiency goal a floor rather than a ceiling. Others continue to call for inclusion in the plan of a savings range rather than a specific savings target.

Many comments support finding a way for the region to cut carbon as much as possible and to get away from burning any fossil fuels such as coal and oil. Many of those comments also want the plan to avoid calling for the building of new natural gas plants, relying instead on energy efficiency, demand response and renewables to meet all future electricity demand. Other comments emphasize that any reliance on natural gas as a more cost-effective resource than coal is risky given the volatility of natural gas prices and potential fuel price spikes due to regulations and legal battles being waged around the country.

The Council is continuing to receive many comments calling for an update to the Sixth Plan's analysis of the cost of replacing the energy produced by the four lower Snake River dams. Many comments also call for the inclusion of a cost/benefit analysis of maintaining and removing the four lower Snake River dams and replacing the energy lost with only carbon-free salmon-friendly resources.

**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.

**Workplan:** 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. To date, public hearings on the draft plan have been held in Kalispell, Missoula, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Seattle and Boise. Public hearings will be held in Portland on December 15<sup>th</sup> and Eugene on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Council members and staff, throughout the public comment period, are 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>