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November 8, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Ben Kujala and Jennifer Light

SUBJECT: Redeveloped Regional Technical Forum Website

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Ben Kujala and Jennifer Light

Summary: The website is the RTF's main tool for ensuring public access to its analysis and results, which are widely used resources through the region and beyond. The Council recently underwent a redevelopment and redesign of the RTF website. Staff will provide an overview of the recent Regional Technical Forum (RTF) website redevelopment and show the results of this effort.

Relevance: The RTF is an advisory committee to the Council that develops energy savings estimates used in energy efficiency programs and Power Planning development. As with all Council work, RTF materials are available to the public.

Workplan: A.1.4 Continue to lead the Regional Technical Forum and engage in the development and approval of measure savings estimates and protocols.

Background: The Council has been considering a redesign of its existing websites. After exploring some options, the Council decided to start by redeveloping the RTF website. The RTF website was significantly outdated, having not been updated during the last Council web redesign effort. The decision to

start with the RTF website allowed for quickly bringing it into current web standards, while also serving as a potential pilot for broader web redevelopment.

Through a competitive bid process, the Council selected OMBU for this project. A team of Power Division, IT, and Public Affairs staff worked with OMBU to build a new website that provided continued access to RTF work products, enabled greater engagement with stakeholders, and improved and streamlined the maintenance requirements for Council staff.

Staff are very happy with the results of this effort. The redevelopment process was smooth. OMBU quickly grasped many of the RTF needs and adaptively managed as new requirements were identified. The resulting website is a significant improvement to the past, both visually and functionally. Added functionality will streamline maintenance required to ensure that RTF analysis is up to date. Staff also see the potential to leverage many of the features to enhance communication with various stakeholders.

More Info: Visit the RTF website at <http://rtf.nwcouncil.org>.