

Bill Bradbury
Chair
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James A. Yost
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Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Jennifer Anders
Vice Chair
Montana

Pat Smith
Montana

Tom Karier
Washington

Phil Rockefeller
Washington

September 3, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Tom Eckman

SUBJECT: Release of Draft Issue Paper on Proposed High Level Indicators for Power

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Tom Eckman

Summary: Staff will present a set of High Level Indicators (HLIs) that are designed to serve as metrics against which progress on the Council's Power Plan and the purposes of the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act can be measured

Relevance: The development and tracking of HLIs for the Council's Power Plan would permit both the Council and interested parties to assess overall progress towards the Plan's Implementation and the Act's goals and purposes.

Workplan: Not in Power Division 2014 Work Plan

Background: In 2009 the Council approved three high-level indicators to be used to monitor the progress of the Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. These indicators are to be used to report to Congress and the Northwest's governors. The Council's Power Plan is its primary responsibility under the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act. Development of a parallel set of HLIs is needed to assess progress on the implementation of that Plan.

More Info: Staff presented a draft set of High Level Indicators to the Power Committee at its August meeting. Staff revised the proposed HLIs based on Power Committee and

comments from interested parties at that meeting. Staff is recommending that the Council release an issue paper for public comment on a revised proposal at the September Council meeting.

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September 3, 2014

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Tom Eckman, Power Division Director

SUBJECT: Approve Release of Issue Paper on Proposed High Level Indicators for Power

PROPOSED ACTION: Staff proposes that the Council release for a public comment period the attached issue paper on Proposed High Level Indicators for Power

SIGNIFICANCE: The development and tracking of HLIs for the Council's Power Plan would permit both the Council and interested parties to assess overall progress towards the Plan's Implementation and the Act's goals and purposes.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

There are no known budgetary or economic impacts to releasing the issue paper for public comment.

BACKGROUND

In 2009 the Council approved three high-level indicators to be used to monitor the progress of the Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. These indicators are to be used to report to Congress and the Northwest's governors. The Council's Power Plan is its primary responsibility under the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act. Development of a parallel set of HLIs is needed to assess progress on the implementation of that Plan.

ANALYSIS

The draft issue paper proposes a set of High Level Indicators for Power that are based on the purposes of the Act and experience with tracking implementation of the major recommendations in the Council's power plans. Staff presented an initial set of proposed High Level Indicators to the Power Committee at its August meeting. The issue paper proposes a revised set of metrics based on comments received from the Power Committee members.

ALTERNATIVES

The Council could elect not to release an issue paper for public comment for the high level indicators. The Council could decide on high level indicators and include in the draft Seventh Power Plan without prior public input. It could then accept comments on the proposed metrics when the draft Plan is out for public comment (tentatively scheduled for Fall 2015). Staff does not recommend this approach as the High Level Indicator metrics are largely independent of the Plan development process and could benefit from public discussion.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft issue paper

Cover memo

See also: presentation to Power Committee in Power packet

TABLES, GRAPHS, CHARTS, FIGURES, OTHER GRAPHICS

See Issue Paper