

Potential New Power Plan Resource Strategies Advisory Committee

Consultations with Regional Stakeholders

Report to Power Committee

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Discussion at Power Committee Meeting February 2013

- **Five power plan technical advisory groups have been refreshed in preparation for the Seventh Power Plan**
 - Committee charters reviewed and updated
 - Committee members appointed
- **Discussed potential new resource strategies advisory committee**
 - Linkages among issues, meaning
 - Quantitative and qualitative considerations
- **Power Committee approved conducting stakeholder consultations**



Stakeholder Consultation Process

- Meetings with broad range of stakeholders
 - 16 completed (14 in-person, two by phone)
 - Four remaining
- Handout e-mailed before meetings
 - Background (e.g., Power Act requirements, existing advisory committees)
 - Gap identification
 - Concept for new advisory committee
 - Six questions



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1: Stakeholder Participation in Council Power Plans

- Technical advisory committees
 - Overall positive feedback
 - Participation useful for several purposes
- Comment letters, appearance at Council meetings
- Some stakeholders unclear about how their input is incorporated



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2: Stakeholder Engagement on Power Plan Resource Strategy Development

- Resource strategy development seen by some as a 'black box'
 - Interested in how Council has weighed analytical results and other input
 - Would like to see more specifics about how power plan conclusions are derived and adopted
 - Would like to be more aware during the process, to avoid being surprised at the end
- Interest in a more open, transparent process for addressing the big picture



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3: Role of Advisory Committee on Policy Matters

- Broad recognition that Council Members have ultimate decision-making authority, including weighing policy considerations
- Also broad recognition that stakeholders can help inform and assist the Council in its policy deliberations
 - Factor in practical considerations
 - Help identify alternatives
- Wide agreement that involving stakeholders can increase their trust, ownership and support for Council policy choices and overall plan results



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4: Perceived Usefulness of a Resource Strategies Advisory Committee

- **Virtually universal support and encouragement**
- **Tempering comments that ultimate usefulness will depend on how the committee is established and functions**
 - Use Committee Members' time efficiently (e.g., hold a limited number of meetings at key stages)
 - Set clear boundaries about the committee's role (i.e., reviewing and advising)
 - Close the loop with the committee at the end of the process (explain how their input was considered)



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5: Getting Balanced Involvement from a Broad Range of Stakeholders

- **Majority of stakeholders recommend appointing a manageable number of representatives (12 to 20)**
 - Include balanced range of perspectives
 - Seek individuals who can represent their type of organization, beyond just their specific entity
 - Promote collaborative, give-and-take discussions rather than positional posturing
- **Small minority suggests a broader, 'big tent' approach**



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6: Getting Input without Impinging on Council Authority for Policy Decisions

- **Not considered a risk, especially if the committee is made up of a balanced range of stakeholders**
 - Committee unlikely to take extreme, unbalanced positions



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Potential Next Steps

- **Power Committee direction on whether to move forward**
- **If agreement to proceed**
 - Develop charter for the committee
 - Decide on number of committee members
 - Identify candidate members
- **Prepare proposal for Power Committee and Council consideration**



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