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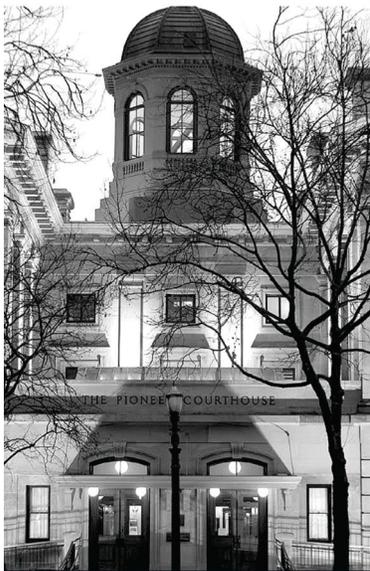
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THE 2021 POWER PLAN

HOSTED BY IDAHO

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

**HELD ON
OCTOBER 14, 2021
4:00 P.M.**



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1 **THE 2021 POWER PLAN**
2 **HOSTED BY IDAHO**
3 **VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING**
4 **HELD ON**
5 **OCTOBER 14, 2021**
6 **4:00 P.M.**

7
8 **CHAIR YOST:** Good afternoon, everyone. On
9 behalf of the Northwest Power and Conservation
10 Council, I'd like to call this public hearing to
11 order.

12 My name is Jim Yost and I'll be co-
13 chairing this hearing with Jeff Allen. We are the
14 members, council members from the state of Ohio.
15 And we welcome you to today's public hearing on the
16 Council's Draft 2021 Northwest Power Plan.

17 Today's meeting is being held via
18 GoToMeeting and by telephone conference line.
19 Anyone wishing to provide testimony should sign up
20 on the council's website for the Idaho hearing. And
21 you may sign up to provide testimony at any time
22 during this hearing.

23 As the first order of business, I will
24 read this statement about the hearing for the record
25 then I will review today's public hearing

1 procedures.

2 Under what is known as the Northwest Power
3 Act, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council is
4 required to develop a Regional Conservation and
5 Electric Power Plan and review that plan every five
6 years. The council is now engaged in its latest
7 Power Plan review and revision.

8 And as part of this process, we recently
9 released a Draft Power Plan for public review and
10 comment. The council is conducting this public
11 hearing to receive oral comments on its Draft Power
12 Plan.

13 This public hearing is being held
14 virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. The council
15 has had -- held several public meetings like this
16 one over the past couple of weeks. This hearing and
17 the testimony provided tonight is being recorded.
18 The transcript of this hearing will be circulated to
19 all councilmembers and placed in the administrative
20 record for the Power Plan.

21 In addition, the council is also accepting
22 written comments on the Draft Power Plan through
23 November 19th, 2021. Importantly, all oral and
24 written comments submitted on the Draft Power Plan
25 will be considered by the council as it makes its

1 decision on the final Power Plan.

2 For further information on the Draft 2021
3 Northwest Power Plan including the Draft Plan itself
4 as well as all of the supporting materials, please
5 visit the council's website at
6 www.northwestcouncil.org (sic), [www.nw.c-o-u-n-c-i-](http://www.nw.c-o-u-n-c-i-l.org)
7 [l.org](http://www.nw.c-o-u-n-c-i-l.org).

8 As a reminder, you may submit written
9 comments by using the provide comment link on the
10 webpage devoted to the Draft 2021 Power Plan or by
11 submitting comments to comments@northwestcouncil.org
12 (sic), c-o-m-m-e-n-t-s@n-w-c-o-u-n-c-i-l.o-r-g.

13 In addition, the council's code of conduct
14 can be found on our website. And we expect all
15 participants to review and abide by this code of
16 conduct throughout today's hearing.

17 This hearing will run for two hours until
18 the 6 p.m. Pacific Time, 7 p.m. Mountain Time.

19 Again, as a reminder, anyone wishing to
20 provide testimony, please sign up on the council's
21 website for the Idaho hearing. Once you sign up,
22 your name will appear on our list. You may sign up
23 at any time during the hearing to provide testimony.

24 Individuals will be able to track the
25 order of speakers on the GoToMeeting screen.

1 Before I conclude the hearing, I will confirm
2 whether there are any participants that have dialed
3 in by phone only and want to provide testimony.
4 Depending on the number of people signed up to
5 testify, we may need to establish time limits on
6 testimony, but hope that -- that will not be
7 necessary.

8 In a moment, I'll ask staff to provide a
9 brief overview of how we arrived at this point in
10 our process. But before the staff provides this
11 presentation, I would like to invite remarks from
12 fellow councilmembers present this evening starting
13 with Jeff Allen.

14 **MR. MADRON:** Mr. Allen, you're still
15 muted.

16 **CO-CHAIR ALLEN:** Thank you, appreciate
17 that, Chad.

18 Thanks, Jim, for that introduction. I
19 look forward to tonight. My computer screen tells
20 me there's 52 folks that have logged in. And after
21 hearing from the good folks of Montana, Washington,
22 and then Oregon, here we find ourselves at the Idaho
23 hearing. Appreciate the interest. Looking forward
24 to what everyone has to say. Thanks.

25 **CHAIR YOST:** Other councilmembers wish to

1 make a remark?

2 **MR. DEVLIN:** Councilmember Yost, Mr.
3 Chairman.

4 **CHAIR YOST:** Councilmember Richard Devlin,
5 Oregon.

6 **MR. DEVLIN:** Mr. Chairman, I do actually
7 want to indicate that I'm looking forward to the
8 testimony this evening and looking forward to
9 another successful hearing. Our first three had
10 been quite successful. And people have been
11 relative succinct and quite civil in their comments.

12 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you, Chairman Devlin.
13 Member Oshie from Washington, chairman of
14 the Power Committee.

15 **MR. OSHIE:** Thank you, Chair -- Chair
16 Yost.

17 I just wanted to convey from the state of
18 Washington my appreciation for those that are here
19 in this meeting today and will give their comments
20 to the council. As a member of the council, I think
21 I can also say that we all appreciate your time and
22 your interest in the work that we do. So thank you.
23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you, Chairman Oshie.
25 Any councilmember from Montana, if you

1 guys are finished eating your rib steak, you can
2 talk now.

3 Evidentially. I don't see anyone.

4 Okay. Let's see. Chad, would you mind
5 giving us the rules of the road on the process of
6 procedure tonight and then before we listen to Ben
7 on the -- on the Power Plan -- summary of the Power
8 Plan.

9 **MR. MADRON:** Sure, Member Yost.

10 Chad Madron from the council staff and I'm
11 helping run the webinar tonight. In a moment, I'm
12 going to put Ben's PowerPoint up, so he can go
13 through it.

14 But we will have this list that I'm
15 showing on the screen now of those who signed up to
16 testify and the order that they signed up. And this
17 will be the list that we'll be working through for
18 tonight.

19 When it is time for you to give testimony
20 and Member Yost or Member Allen calls you out, you
21 may turn your camera on, but it is not required,
22 otherwise, please keep your camera off.

23 If you've called in by phone only, please
24 be aware of your mute button on your phone. I will
25 unmute folks at various times, so if we need to call

1 to see if there's anyone who hasn't testified yet.
2 But we have had some ambient noise here and there,
3 so please aware if you called in by phone and we'll
4 mute you if we have to. But hopefully everybody
5 will keep track of their mute button where they need
6 to be.

7 With that, I will turn it over to Ben.
8 Let me go ahead and bring up your PowerPoint, Ben.
9 I've given you keyboard control, so that you can run
10 the PowerPoint. Just a moment. All right. There
11 you go.

12 **MR. KUJALA:** All right. Member Yost.

13 **CHAIR YOST:** Yes.

14 **MR. KUJALA:** Shall I proceed?

15 **CHAIR YOST:** Well, no, you know, I'd like
16 to introduce Ben Kujala who's director of the Power
17 Planning and who's guided us through with this Power
18 Plan. And he has a -- he's going to give a brief
19 review of the draft 2021 Northwest Power Plan.

20 The floor is yours, Ben.

21 **MR. KUJALA:** Thank you, Member Yost.

22 And welcome, everybody. It's my pleasure
23 to give you a little bit of an overview of what we
24 did in the 2021 Plan. And I will certainly tell you
25 at the end of the presentation how to find more

1 information about this Power Plan.

2 So, first of all, just a little bit of
3 background information. I'm sure many people on
4 this call already know a lot of this information,
5 but for the few who are maybe a little newer to the
6 council, please bear with me as I go through it.

7 Why do we have Regional Power Plans? In
8 the 1970s, there was some power planning mistakes
9 that led really to unneeded investment in power
10 plants that were not built. That cost Northwest
11 consumers millions of dollars. The failure in
12 planning prompted Congress to write the Northwest
13 Power Act which was approved in 1980. And it gives
14 the states a voice and decisions pertaining to the
15 federal power system to ensure adequate, efficient,
16 economical, and reliable power supply.

17 **MR. MADRON:** The Act authorizes the four
18 state council and directed the council to conduct
19 regional energy planning focusing on the cost
20 resources to meet future demand for power and
21 notably focused on conservation or energy
22 efficiency.

23 The Power Act directs the council to
24 review the Power Plan at least every five years.
25 And we are at this point in the process of going

1 through that review.

2 A little bit of background on our power
3 system in the Northwest. Most of our electricity
4 comes from hydroelectric generation. You can see
5 predominately that accounts for about 55 percent of
6 the installed capacity or the -- the total maximum
7 machines can produce. And in terms of the average
8 sort of or expected energy a little bit less than 50
9 percent.

10 Our system certainly still has a
11 substantial amount of thermal resources. They're
12 there for when the hydro is -- is not plentiful. So
13 we have natural gas and coal resources that generate
14 as part of our regional system as well. And you can
15 see that there is one nuclear plant that's included
16 in our energy mix and a substantial amount of wind
17 with a little bit less solar in our footprint.
18 And, of course, in Idaho there's probably a little
19 bit of a different breakout, but this covers the
20 four states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and
21 Montana.

22 One of the things that we have focused on
23 over our 40 years of being around, 40 plus years at
24 this point, is the conservation or energy efficiency
25 as a means to avoid needing to construct new

1 generating resources. By saving power, rather than
2 having to build new generation, you can avoid the
3 cost of constructing the resources at a cost that is
4 comparable or less than what have cost to construct
5 those resources.

6 But over the last 40 years, you can see
7 the region has saved 7,200 average megawatts. From
8 energy efficiency, it is by kind of comparison, our
9 second largest resource just behind the
10 hydroelectric system.

11 We as part of our -- our mission, our --
12 our statute have to forecast forward the amount of
13 electricity we expect to be needed over the next 20
14 years. And in this you can see one of our forecast
15 for the demand for electricity along with the
16 historic demand that we saw prior to that forecast.

17 What you might notice here is that there
18 is a large loss in electric demand around 2001
19 during the West Coast energy crisis. And right now
20 we are still just shy of the amount of power that we
21 used prior to that crisis. We expect during this
22 Power Plan we will likely go to at around that same
23 level, if not, a little bit higher or somewhat
24 depends on the economic outcomes if we have a very
25 low economic sort of situation over the next few

1 years. And that might stay just below, not below,
2 but overall we're expecting that we're just at the
3 threshold and actually seeing a load that is higher
4 than what we've historically seen.

5 The Draft 21 -- 2021 Power Plan puts forth
6 a resource strategy that balances a lot of
7 information that was seen by the council. This
8 balance strategy calls for between 750 and 1,000
9 average megawatts of energy efficiency. It calls
10 for at least 3,500 megawatts of new renewable
11 resources. And it calls for utilities to develop
12 low cost and frequently deployable demand response
13 monies available.

14 The expectation that this is done by 2027.
15 2027 is around the time where we would be working on
16 our next Power Plan. So this is a sort of period of
17 what we expect to see, really, before around the
18 time that we would get into the next planning
19 exercise.

20 The Power Plan looked a lot at emissions
21 from the power sector and from other cycles. And
22 what we do see and what we expect is that the
23 emissions from the electric sector will fall pretty
24 substantially over the 20-year forecast period.

25 However, when we look at the sectors of

1 the economy, with the growing population and the
2 growing demand, we expect to see more emissions
3 coming from transportation. And, ultimately, a lot
4 of our comparison is relative to 1990 levels, why
5 the electric sector will be below 1990 levels of
6 emissions. We expect the economy as whole,
7 actually, for our region will be above what we saw
8 in 1990 by the emissions that we estimated and it
9 will be captured in our analysis.

10 We have a lot more information. This is a
11 very short kind of tour through some of the
12 information that we had in the Draft Plan. If you
13 visit our website, we have a webpage dedicated to
14 the Power Plan and all the material that we used to
15 support our analysis. And you can get it at the
16 link below.

17 And, of course, we also just want to make
18 sure that everyone as we are within a public comment
19 period, so, of course, being here and providing
20 comment is part of that comment period. And thank
21 you to everyone who is going to provide comment.

22 We also have forms online where you can
23 fill in a comment and submit it to us in writing if
24 you would rather do it that way or you can send us
25 an email to comments@nwcouncil.org. I know you've

1 probably heard that a couple of times at this point,
2 but we just want to make sure everyone has every
3 possible way to comment that they can. So these are
4 the available ways that we have.

5 And with that, I'm done with my
6 presentation. And I will turn it back over to you
7 Member Yost. Thank you.

8 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you, Ben.

9 We are now prepared to begin this hearing.
10 And we'll take from a list that -- who signed up to
11 testify. And the first name on -- and the first
12 name on the screen is Will Hart. And he will be
13 followed by Dede Draper.

14 Will Hart, if you give your --

15 **MR. HART:** Yeah, can you hear me okay?

16 **CHAIR YOST:** Yes. Can you give your name,
17 full name, spell your last name and who you
18 represent?

19 **MR. HART:** Thank you, Member Yost. My
20 name is Will Hart, H-a-r-t. I'm the executive
21 director of the Idaho Consumer Owned Utilities
22 Association. Thank you for the opportunity to
23 testify this evening.

24 ICOUA represents 21 rural electric
25 cooperatives and municipal power companies across

1 the state of Idaho serving approximately 140,000
2 members across the state.

3 96 percent of the energy that we
4 distribute to our members comes from the Bonneville
5 Power Administration. So the power plant is very
6 important to us as -- as we're the ones that are
7 directly connected and providing electricity to so
8 many Idahoans across the state.

9 But appreciate this initial look at the
10 Draft Plan. And -- and really appreciate the -- the
11 council members recognizing the importance of the
12 existing hydroresources that we have. And -- and --
13 and recognizing concerns of the shifting too fast
14 too far into other resources and that much planning
15 needs to be done.

16 We're also pleased that the plan correctly
17 points out that -- that you as a council are not
18 tasked with directing or implementing political or
19 controversial policy goals such as removing parts of
20 that hydrosystem or even early retirement of coal
21 plants. That we're focusing our future with the
22 combination of our existing resources we could plan
23 for.

24 That being said, we are a bit concerned
25 about the -- the resource adequacy modeling in the

1 plan. We believe -- think that our -- our -- our
2 review of many other modeling and -- many other
3 models that are out there and many other reports
4 show that there is a greater need than what the
5 current plan draft has in it and recommend that the
6 chance it goes back and really digs into that
7 section and considers some of those other recourse
8 that are out there right now. And adequacy and the
9 liability is one of our biggest concerns.

10 We also think that it's important for the
11 council to dig into the transmission issue in a --
12 in a more substantive way. We're looking at putting
13 on another 3,500 megawatts of -- of wind and solar,
14 for example. We really got to figure out how that's
15 even going to be distributed throughout the system.

16 We have real challenges, especially
17 seasonally with the inner connections. And just the
18 time -- the time scale in order for permitting and
19 construction. We've all seen how long it's taken to
20 get moving on B2H and Boardman to Hemingway. So we
21 think that's an area where you guys (audio
22 distortion).

23 I would like to say that for years we
24 talked to you about the energy efficiency target and
25 how one-size-fits all approach doesn't work for

1 rural Idaho. And, so, we're really happy that the
2 target ranges that -- that you're using, we want to
3 make sure that methodology still fits the ability
4 for -- for my members to have flexibility to
5 implement what's best for their members and their
6 systems.

7 Again, you know, Raft River Electric in
8 Malta, Idaho is much different than the assistance
9 on the I-5 corridor. We want to do our part. We
10 have been successful in doing our part on energy
11 efficiency. We try to be able to have flexibility
12 to meet those target ranges.

13 Thanks again for the opportunity. On
14 behalf of my members, we will be submitting written
15 comments as well.

16 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you, Will.

17 Dede Draper, you're next. James Carkulis
18 will be following that.

19 **MS. DRAPER:** Hi. I've been banished to
20 another room here because dinner is going on in the
21 other room, but -- so my lighting is terrible.

22 Thank you for taking the time to do this
23 tonight. My name is Dede Draper. I am the
24 president of the board of Fall River Rural Electric
25 based in Eastern Idaho, Ashton which serves

1 territory in Eastern Idaho and then little bits of
2 Montana and Wyoming. We have 14,186 members and
3 18,684 meters.

4 I, basically, I just like what Will said
5 is most of my comment and I won't take your time.

6 Three points. First one, energy
7 efficiency is important. And it would be nice for
8 us to have the flexibility to do what we need to do
9 because our rural communities are so different than
10 other parts of the system, I-5 corridor and -- and
11 the larger communities.

12 Second point, I, too, am concerned about
13 the resource adequacy. I'd like to see that looked
14 at on a longer-term basis and -- and just revisited.

15 And that ties right into my third point
16 which is really my number one. Transmission is so
17 big for us over here and in so much of our
18 territories. And that needs to be tied together
19 certainly with, you know, new resources coming in.
20 And it's so difficult to get new transmission as you
21 all know better than I do.

22 So that's it. I appreciate you taking the
23 time tonight. And sorry you can't see me, but
24 that's okay too. Thank you.

25 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you, Dede.

1 Remind everybody that I need you to say
2 who you are, spell your last name, and who you
3 represent.

4 James Carkulis, you're on.

5 **MR. CARKULIS:** Good afternoon. Good
6 afternoon.

7 **CHAIR YOST:** Good afternoon.

8 **MR. CARKULIS:** Member council and
9 Councilmember Yost, thank you very much, the balance
10 of the -- of the members.

11 For the record, my name is James Carkulis,
12 C-a-r-k-u-l-i-s. I'm here today in Helena, Montana.
13 And I represent Cat Creek Energy and Water Company.

14 It came to our attention a couple of days
15 ago that you have been putting on these meetings.
16 And we wanted to weigh in on -- on two areas that we
17 think are fundamentally important as you consider
18 your next plan.

19 The first is -- is one and if I may I'll
20 quote from your three-page summary which says that
21 "The uncertain future has been a consistent focus
22 through all of the council's Power Plans." Up until
23 now, I would say that's correct. And I think the
24 council has been very fundamental in the last 4
25 years developing, I think, intuitive and innovative

1 and sound policy for the Northwest.

2 But that's all changed. And I'd like to
3 have the council somewhat reconsider that statement
4 in light of this. We have utilities and we have
5 states that are mandating a policy that is out on
6 this horizon, albeit, whether it's 2040, 2045, 2050.
7 And it goes by many monitors at the moment, but it's
8 all kind fundamentally the same, 100 percent
9 decarbonization, 100 percent clean energy grid, all
10 renewable grid, net zero or even absolute net zero.

11 And we all know what that says, but do we
12 all understand what that means yet? And -- and I
13 say that in all sincerity. I have yet to see a
14 model or a plan developed at what that horizon does
15 actually look like. We have LOCO of which you've
16 been involved with for four years. We've had a
17 fundamental change in some of the made up of
18 resources over these times including something that
19 we never thought of 30 years ago, energy efficiency
20 to -- to any large extent.

21 But we also have challenges that are so
22 fundamentally different than what we've been used
23 to, the replacement of fossil fuel generation with
24 variable renewable resources and other types of
25 generation storage.

1 We have this huge sort of walrus sitting
2 around in the form of going 100 percent to the
3 electric vehicle and on top of that, 100 percent
4 electric HVAC. But I haven't seen anyone yet take
5 that model and say what is that going to look like
6 in 2050. Because I think if we do that, we're going
7 to find that when we walk this backwards to now,
8 that the mix may be a lot different than we think
9 it's going to be.

10 And this incrementalism works so well for
11 the last 40 years, I'm not sure it's going to hold
12 the same purpose as we move forward to that horizon.
13 But we now know what the horizon is, something you
14 haven't known for the last 40 years.

15 So I would urge the council to at least
16 consider what that does look like and how best to
17 model it. And there's going to be, obviously, a lot
18 of variations on it. But maybe once -- once we
19 fundamentally understand what the scope and breath
20 of that is going to be, we can work our way
21 backwards to see what's actually going to be
22 necessary for what is fundamentally one of your
23 prime objectives which is to ensure the reliability
24 of that electric grid.

25 And -- and I don't know right now if the

1 fundamentals are in place to give that assurance as
2 we move forward. And, so, I just urge the council
3 to be able to consider that. And I think that would
4 -- that may help in some of your planning measures.

5 And on to us, and I -- I would like to put
6 a little bit of emphasis of your first speaker
7 speaking of -- of the hydro element and -- and your
8 planner taking a hard look at why hydro is so
9 important.

10 Hydro is one area in this -- in the west
11 where we can actually grow, if necessary.
12 Obviously, new dams are not going to happen, but you
13 have the advantage of pump storage hydro facilities.
14 And, you know, 95 to 97 percent of all the energy
15 storage in the United States currently is through
16 pump storage hydro, but for some reason it's not
17 given, I think, a real direction in most of the
18 power planning that's going on right now.

19 There's a snippet every so often of -- of
20 oh, well, we're going to try to integrate it a
21 little bit. But when we look at how we have
22 developed with this huge power plants over the years
23 and how they have affected the regional grid,
24 there's absolutely no reason that we can't continue
25 that while we're still manifesting more distributed

1 generation. And I think that pump storage hydro may
2 be one of those solutions that can be innovative,
3 but we don't have to wait for its invention. And I
4 think that's -- that's -- that's something we wanted
5 to bring up.

6 For example, Cat Creek Energy and Water
7 storage renewable power station is a 980 megawatt
8 overall project. It's trigrid. It contains wind
9 and solar and -- and solar floatable takes which
10 increase our evaporation loss by 55 percent. And we
11 -- we designed the project where we can essentially
12 say that we can provide every service of which a
13 utility is obligated to provide. And we design that
14 deliberately that way because we see what is going
15 to happen in the future and the need for that
16 resiliency, the need for that reliability.

17 And we've become a dual purpose. With our
18 off stream pumped energy, pumped storage project, we
19 also represent 43 percent of the new water storage
20 for the Boise Valley. We think that's inherently
21 important as we move forward with -- with the
22 regional planning as to how we could also augment
23 what we see as, you know, obviously this year in the
24 Boise Valley as -- as water shortages.

25 So, I just -- I wanted to put into place

1 that -- that fundamental thought of maybe reaching
2 out to that horizon and that Madam Zoe crystal ball
3 and taking a look at what really is Echo's makeup
4 feed and see if we're tracking through in order to
5 reach that.

6 We'll -- we'll submit written comments
7 also. But I wanted to -- I wanted to give a little
8 heads up as to where we would -- we would be
9 addressing.

10 So, thank you very kindly for -- for your
11 attention. And we appreciate the opportunity to
12 testify.

13 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you, James.

14 Chad Black is next and Steven Pfeiffer is
15 on the -- on the batter's box.

16 **MR. BLACK:** Thank you Chair Yost and the
17 other councilmembers. My name is Chad Black, B-l-a-
18 c-k. I'm the general manager for Raft River Rural
19 Electric Cooperative in Malta, Idaho. Raft River
20 Electric distributes electricity to 32,000 members
21 through 5,100 electric meters across 2,375 miles of
22 transmission and distribution lines in Southcentral
23 Idaho, Northwest Utah, and Northeast Nevada.

24 I also wish to thank the council for
25 allowing us the opportunity to provide comments.

1 Given the location of our system, we rely
2 heavily on radio transmission. That is at or near
3 capacity. The addition of all the talk about
4 resources in the future does not seem to adequately
5 address this issue. With these constraints, the
6 economics and the resources can be greatly impacted
7 by the transmission issues.

8 It is my concern these issues need to be
9 addressed before we are quick to remove reliable,
10 dispatchable resources without first considering the
11 transmission constraints. I do, however, understand
12 that council is not tasked with directing or
13 implementing the controversial policy goals.

14 As we plan for an uncertain future, the
15 implementation of an energy conservation program
16 that allows us the flexibility to implement measures
17 that are valuable and effective to our customers is
18 essential as we are unique in most regards.

19 I appreciate that council recognizes the
20 importance of the existing hydropower resource to
21 the region. The rapid shift to other renewable
22 resources are producing the dependence on the hydro
23 system will inevitably cause unfavorable outcomes to
24 the reliability of the Northwest power grid. Not
25 only that, it will cause unfavorable challenges to

1 managing the hydro resource fluctuation and flows
2 and spill that can negatively impact various fish
3 species and their migration patterns.

4 Resource adequacy should not take a
5 backseat. As the region continues to see increased
6 demands on electricity, especially with the
7 migration to electric vehicles in the transportation
8 sector with increased pressure to reduce greenhouse
9 gas, eliminating base-load thermal resource that are
10 dispatchable at the current rate being replaced with
11 intermittent resources like wind and solar will most
12 certainly cause an inadequacy at some point.

13 I believe the council is ultimately
14 responsible to share the findings to the best of
15 their ability as policymakers across the region use
16 those findings as a basis of many important
17 decisions they have to make.

18 Operators have recently witnessed what I
19 considered a near miss in adequate supply in the
20 region. The council does not have to resolve the
21 issues, but to ignore the cry for help is what the
22 council will be held accountable for. For this
23 reason, I would ask this portion of the plan be
24 extensively reviewed and possibly even removed before
25 the final plan is released.

1 I would like to echo again, quite frankly,
2 the need for reliability in, both, generation and
3 transmission resource is paramount. We cannot get
4 there with conservation alone. We cannot get there
5 with the addition of intermitted non-dispatchable
6 resources. We cannot get there without increased
7 transmission capacity. And we cannot get there by
8 ignoring the cries of people who operate our
9 Northwest electric system.

10 I wish to thank you all for your work and
11 effort on the Draft Plan. And thank you once again
12 for the opportunity to comment.

13 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you for those comments.

14 Steven -- Steven -- Steven Pfeiffer is
15 next with on deck is Robert McConnell.

16 Steven.

17 **MR PFEIFFER:** Thank -- thank you, Council
18 Yost. It's Steve Pfeiffer, P-f-e-i-f-f-e-r. I'm in
19 Boise. I'm a conservation associate at Idaho Rivers
20 United. Our mission is to protect and restore the
21 rivers of Idaho. And we've advocated for a wild
22 salmon recovery for the past 30 years.

23 Thank you for your time tonight and
24 opportunity to provide public comment on the Draft
25 Power Plan.

1 Firstly, I'd like to point out several
2 aspects of the plan that we support. Committing to
3 acquiring 3,500 megawatts of renewable energy is
4 commendable and a sign that the council understands
5 necessity and opportunities that go along with a
6 transition to clean energy generate.

7 On those same lines, this plan does a good
8 job integrating climate change scenarios into its
9 analysis and modeling for the first time. It
10 acknowledges the immediate share now impacts that
11 climate change is posing on everything from seasonal
12 demand and electricity to alterations in river flow
13 and precipitation.

14 That being said, the plan falls short in
15 several areas related to climate change and clean
16 energy. Energy efficiency goals along with a range
17 -- along the range rather than a firm number is
18 missing an opportunity to continually leading the
19 way in incorporating those power supply, something
20 that the Act back in 1980 prioritized.

21 The floor for energy efficiency should be
22 an additional 1,000 megawatts over the course of
23 this plan. Some in the Northwest is already on
24 track to achieve.

25 Secondly, a massive blind spot in this

1 plan is not incorporating clean energy storage
2 technology. Hydropower has been emphasized as the
3 region's battery in the plan, yet, the plan itself
4 admits water availability and river flow will
5 undergo drastic unpredictable shifts and timing due
6 to climate change. All the more reason to analyze
7 the potential of energy storage, particularly,
8 because projects involving this technology are
9 already underway across the region.

10 Finally, we are urging council to include
11 an analysis on changes to the hydropower system and
12 the regional electricity grid in a way to salmon and
13 steelhead recovery, particularly dealing with
14 breaching the four lower Snake River dams.

15 It is clear the comprehensive changes to a
16 broken hydro system are necessary biologically,
17 economically, and legally in order to effectuate or
18 cover Idaho's wild salmon and take the region out of
19 the endless cycle and device the recovery plan and
20 low fish numbers.

21 The Draft Plan incorporates the 2020 Fish
22 and Wildlife addendum which outline -- outlined the
23 regional goal for salmon or for Snake River salmon
24 recovery as a small return ratio of 2 to 6 percent
25 averaging 4 percent.

1 This goal will not be achieved in this
2 plan nor will ever be achieved if the status quo
3 surrounding the main stem Columbia Snake River dams
4 remains.

5 I'm looking forward that the Northwest
6 landscape, the council must not miss this
7 opportunity to include modeling around energy
8 replacement in the event of dam breach. Clean
9 energy goals will inherently not be led if salmon go
10 extinct, yet, the two can very much coexist. Dam
11 breaching is not only scientifically necessary for
12 recovery of abundant salmon, but very feasible with
13 the right investments and readily available in clean
14 energy replacement technology.

15 Just like climate change, the issue of
16 salmon going extinct is here and now. We will be
17 providing written comments. And thank you all for
18 your time. Have a good evening.

19 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you, Steven.

20 Let's see now time for Robert McConnell
21 and let's see Elle Caton Tindall be on deck.

22 Robert McConnell.

23 **MR. MADRON:** Member Yost, I don't see Mr.
24 McConnell connected through the traditions of the
25 meeting. I've unmuted all the call-in only callers

1 and no one has identified themselves. Mr.

2 McConnell, are you there?

3 **MALE SPEAKER:** Ed McConnell.

4 **MR. MADRON:** Okay. Yeah, that wasn't him.

5 So I guess we should just move on to the next
6 person.

7 **CHAIR YOST:** All right. We'll move to
8 Elle Caton Tindall and Stevie Gawryluk will be on
9 deck.

10 **MS. TINDALL:** Thank you. For the record,
11 my name is Elle Caton Tindall, C-a-t-o-n T-i-n-d-a-
12 l-l for that last name. I appreciate the
13 opportunity to testify today.

14 I would like to urge the council to
15 consider breaching the four lower Snake River dams
16 as a portion of their analysis in this 2021 Power
17 Plan.

18 I would like to echo Steven on a lot of
19 his points as far as not only the biological
20 necessity of this, but the intersection of this
21 opportunity.

22 Essentially, what I'd like to bring today
23 in my comment is thoughts about how we can create a
24 solution that works for multiple parties and also
25 relieves the greatest burden long-term on a Idaho

1 taxpayers.

2 The dams and their chief purposes, of
3 course, power generation and also accommodating
4 river freight transportation are now serious
5 financial issues in their rights, issues that have
6 cost taxpayers an incredible amount of money. We
7 need a crisis solution that peaks transportation
8 infrastructure into account, protecting the
9 livelihoods of Idahoans who currently rely of river
10 transport of greens and other goods, addresses our
11 power infrastructure and costs, help to move the
12 needle away from salmon and steelhead extinction and
13 lowers taxpayers' long-term cost.

14 The solution in which everyone wins has
15 already been proposed by Congressman Mike Simpson.
16 And it's congruent with what I'm suggesting for this
17 plan, a plan to breach all four lower Snake River
18 dams while leaving no one behind and drastically
19 cutting long-term taxpayer costs for Idahoans rather
20 than a scenario in which we continue to pay out of
21 pocket for the infrastructure of these dams and the
22 Dam-Oriented Salmon Recovery Plan which happens to
23 be a part of power bills and is the most expensive
24 species restoration effort in world's history.

25 In summation, again, I would urge the

1 council to take this into consideration. And please
2 incorporate a measure about breaching the four lower
3 Snake River dams. Thank you.

4 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you for the comments.

5 Josh Keeling is on deck. Stevie Gawryluk,
6 are you -- I might not be pronouncing that last name
7 right, but you're up.

8 **MS. GAWRYLUK:** Hello.

9 **MR. MADRON:** Stevie, are you connected?

10 **MS. GAWRYLUK:** It was just -- yes, I am.
11 Can you hear me?

12 **MR. MADRON:** We can. Yes, you were call-
13 in only, so I just unmuted you.

14 **MS. GAWRYLUK:** Okay. Thank you so much.

15 My name is Stevie Gawryluk. That's S-t-e-
16 v-i-e Gawryluk is G-a-w-r-y-l-u-k. I'm here today
17 as angler and a sportswoman. I'm a resident of Sun
18 Valley, Idaho. For those of you who don't know
19 where that is, it is an hour south of where the
20 Snake River Chinook and Sockeye salmon are born,
21 spawn, and die.

22 The river in which these fish initially
23 get their start in life is the Salmon River. Yet,
24 there are hardly any salmon left in this river that
25 the fish -- that the river is named after.

1 This year, a mere 43 Sockeye made it back,
2 43. That's 9 fewer fish than the number of people
3 who initially called into this call and far fewer
4 than are on this call right now.

5 I am here to ask you to please analyze
6 breaching the four lower Snake River dams. The
7 issues that Idaho is experiencing in regards to
8 salmon and steelhead is at a point where it is
9 nearly irreversible. The issue isn't new. This is
10 an issue that has been -- that has existed since the
11 dams were initially installed. And there is
12 scientific evidence that these dams are destroying
13 these fish population.

14 Yes, the salmon and steelhead population
15 declined is multi-faceted, but at the end of the
16 day, we know that smolts aren't making in through
17 the dam at the start of their life and adults that
18 are coming back from saltwater are struggling just
19 as much to get back to their spawning water.

20 There's hard data proving that the issues
21 that these dams are causing on fish population and
22 we need to examine this moving forward. If it is
23 not looked at, then you are turning a blind eye to
24 this problem. The salmon issue is an interstate
25 issue from the mountains of Idaho to the bay of

1 Alaska. These fish provide substance to soil,
2 plants, trees, predators, avian species, saltwater
3 species, and humans for literally thousands of
4 miles.

5 My state is feeling the impact
6 ecologically and economically because of the loss of
7 these fish. Please do not continue decimating these
8 species. They are so important to, both, man and
9 animals alike.

10 At the end of the day, examining the
11 breaching of these dams is the right thing to do.
12 So, please, do the right thing and analyze the
13 breaching of the four lower Snake River dams.

14 That's all I have to say and I thank you
15 for your time tonight.

16 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you, Stevie.

17 We have Aly Bean on deck and Josh Keeling
18 up now. Josh.

19 **MR. MADRON:** Josh, are you there? I had
20 to unmute some lines there. Josh Keeling, you're up
21 if you're unmuted. Maybe come back to him. I don't
22 see him connected.

23 **CHAIR YOST:** Josh, are you there?

24 **MR. MADRON:** Caller 11, we can hear your
25 personal conversations, please mute your phone.

1 Okay.

2 **CHAIR YOST:** We'll go to the next one, Aly
3 Bean.

4 **MR. MADRON:** They are connected.

5 **MS. BEAN:** Hi, this is Aly. I'm here.

6 **CHAIR YOST:** Okay. You're up.

7 **MS. BEAN:** Okay. Thank you, Member Yost,
8 and thank you councilmembers for taking public
9 comment.

10 My name is Alicia Bean, last name spelled
11 B-e-a-n. I live in Moscow, Idaho and I'm speaking
12 today on behalf of the Idaho Conservation League.

13 We'd like to share that we feel the Draft
14 Plan addresses a moment in which dramatic changes
15 are under way and energy policy markets a
16 technological innovation. And we applaud the
17 council's adoption of climate adjusted baselines for
18 both loads and resources.

19 This pioneering effort will help safely
20 chart our course through a future with increasing
21 stresses on the Northwest power system. We also
22 appreciate the appearance of new renewable resources
23 at scale now on center stage in a power plant for
24 the first time. However, our view is that the draft
25 plan does not provide a fully balanced role for

1 other resources especially energy efficiency and
2 flexible demand in storage. All of these will be
3 necessary for a diverse and robust power system and
4 make better use of our hydrosystem while helping
5 mitigate on our endangered salmon and steelhead.

6 We're concerned about maintaining and
7 expanding the delivery capacity for energy
8 efficiency, our second largest regional resource
9 because in addition to providing direct customer
10 benefits, it will make all other resource actions
11 easier. The diminished role of energy efficiency in
12 the draft plan, both overall and in its
13 recommendation to the Bonneville power
14 administration should, instead, be strengthened in
15 our opinion.

16 We also would like to see the need to
17 accelerate the development of other customer side
18 resources including flexible demand and storage.
19 These are essential compliments to the rapid buildup
20 of renewable resources. But like energy efficiency,
21 we understand that they will take time to bring to
22 maturity.

23 Our major overall concern, councilmembers,
24 is that the Draft Plan does not clearly chart the
25 pathways that will help the Northwest achieve a

1 clean energy grid at the earliest possible gate
2 while also improving reliability, keeping the
3 electricity bills affordable, and protecting
4 endangered fish.

5 It's the councils' responsibility through
6 the Power Plan to create this regional energy
7 resource strategy that ensures an adequate,
8 efficient, economical, and reliable power supply
9 while minimizing harms to fish and wildlife.

10 Breaching the lower Snake River dams has
11 been much discussed for years. And the council has
12 included dam breaching scenarios in past plans, yet,
13 in this plan it did not.

14 The purpose of the power plan is to take
15 the what if questions and answer them for the
16 benefit of our regional leaders, our utilities and
17 the public. In the ICL, we're concerned that the
18 council has neglected this question and, therefore,
19 is removing itself from the central role that's at
20 the nexus of energy planning and salmon recovery for
21 the region.

22 The 2021 Plan can be a starting point for
23 new collaborative region efforts to identify
24 comprehensive, balance, and secure decarbonization
25 paths forward. This will fully engage the council's

1 assets, your irreplaceable repository of data and
2 technical assessment, the range of experience in
3 insights of our councilmembers here and staff and
4 stakeholders.

5 We echo previous comments on the
6 importance to further modernizing the council's
7 modeling resources to better reflect the dynamic
8 nature of resources used in the region.

9 Guiding a pathway to a more reliable
10 clean, affordable, and equitable power system will
11 provide a climate resilient platform for our
12 Northwest economy, our daily life, and in line with
13 statutory obligations of the Northwest Power Act
14 adequately protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and
15 wildlife affected by the management and operation of
16 the federal hydropower system.

17 So thank you all for the opportunity to
18 testify, taking the time to listen to our comments.
19 At ICL, we will also be submitting written comments
20 for your review. Thank you very much.

21 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you for all those
22 comments.

23 Scott Levy, you're up, David Doeringfelds
24 you're up next. So Scott. Scott.

25 **MR. MADRON:** I see Scott connected, but he

1 has not unmuted yet.

2 **MR. LEVY:** There we go.

3 **MR. MADRON:** There we go. Hey, Scott, I
4 can hear you now.

5 **MR. LEVY:** Okay. And the camera is on, I
6 think. You have something on the screen there,
7 Chad?

8 **MR. MADRON:** Yes, we do. Yes.

9 **MR. LEVY:** Okay, great. Yeah, hi, there,
10 councilmembers. Thanks for the opportunity to
11 comment. My name is Scott Levy, L-e-v-y. I host a
12 website called bluefish.org, information advocate
13 trying to promote an open and honest dialog
14 concerning the plan of Idaho's wild salmon and
15 steelhead. So, what we do is we just try to get
16 information exposed, so that there can be an honest
17 and open dialog. So welcome everybody to this
18 important meeting.

19 It was quite interesting to see the word
20 lower Snake River dam did appear in the draft plan
21 because I was saying for months that it would not
22 be. So that was quite a surprise.

23 So let's go to the next section of the
24 draft which is three pages from the draft's end.
25 "The council does not need to analyze the effects of

1 the retirement of Snake River Power Plants to this
2 Power Plan." The council's draft is looking at the
3 retirement of coal plants that do not have
4 retirement dates. So then clever language from the
5 legal staff, well done to the legal staff, but that
6 is not accepted.

7 At the beginning of that paragraph in the
8 draft "In this plan period, numerous comments have
9 been submitted asking the council to analyze or
10 recommend the removal of the four federal dams on
11 the lower Snake River." I'm not asking for a
12 recommend. I am just asking for an analysis. And
13 I've been doing that ask every month for a long time
14 in public comment to the council.

15 Over the summer months, we have pointed
16 out that the reason for that ask is the dictates
17 section 839(b) (e) (3) (e) of the Northwest Power Act.
18 "The Power Plan you must perform an analysis of
19 reserve and reliability requirements and cost-
20 effective methods of providing reserves designed to
21 ensure adequate electric power at the lowest
22 probable cost."

23 Again, did the -- the legal staff not get
24 that part of the Power Plan? You are required to
25 have an analysis that shows the lowest probably

1 cost. Okay.

2 So, let's go over now to what's on your
3 screen there, the Columbia River System operations
4 environment impact statement Table 7-3, Chapter 7.
5 That the Power Plan draft is so excellently being
6 able to ignore with that language that we just
7 referred to.

8 Look at the line or M03 which is
9 essentially lower Snake River dam removable. Now,
10 let's remember that lower Snake dams represent about
11 10 percent of the power benefits. So when you see
12 these numbers across the M03 three that are less
13 than 10 percent, you are seeing that you will be
14 lowering electrical rates. So Table 7-3 of the CRSO
15 EIS.

16 You see capital cost go down 13 percent.
17 Operations and maintenance cost go down 16 percent.
18 And fish and wildlife costs can go down 29 percent.
19 Now, these are huge savings that are being
20 completely ignored in this upcoming Power Plan.

21 So let's look at into why the council is
22 doing this. Okay. Let's look back to a couple
23 years ago before the EIS came out. And the staff
24 concluded that quote and this is on your website and
25 to council and I'm just quoting from staff report.

1 "Producing just an estimate of replacement costs and
2 not a comprehensive estimate of removal is likely to
3 be taken out of context."

4 Okay. Well, we -- we now know that Snake
5 River embankments saves money. The EIS says that.
6 And it is my belief that the council is trying to
7 ignore that the EIS is saying that and that the
8 council is trying to make sure that nobody in the
9 public knows that the EIS says this.

10 So little fish, we're information
11 advocates. We trying to get information to the
12 public. We're trying to have informed discussion.
13 So this is just not tolerable to the public to have
14 this hiding of the truth. This is the CRSO EIS.
15 It's -- it's a record decision. It's a federal
16 document.

17 And I want cheaper power rates. Everybody
18 wants cheaper power rates all around the region. So
19 let's think for ourselves. Why is the council
20 avoiding this topic? It is very well put out in the
21 Power Act that you must analyze the lowest probable
22 cost. And here it is right in front of you.

23 Thanks for your time today.

24 **CHAIR YOST:** Interesting comments. Thank
25 you.

1 David Doeringsfeld you're up next --
2 you're up now. Chuck Roady, you're next.

3 **MR. DOERINGSFELD:** Okay. Thank you for
4 providing this opportunity to comment today. The
5 Plan correctly recognizes that under current
6 conditions, the Northwest is at an increased risk of
7 power shortages in certain times of the year.
8 Former BPA Administrator Steven Wright stated
9 recently that the resource inadequacy conditions of
10 2000, 2001 West Coast energy crisis remarkably
11 similar to what the Northwest faces today.

12 The council plan recognizes the important
13 role of the existing hydropower resources to the
14 region. It raises concerns about the risk of
15 shifting too fast and too much to wind and solar to
16 fill the gap of the electricity resource inadequacy.

17 In just the past two years, the reason --
18 region has experienced multiple events in which wind
19 and solar have fallen short to address the region's
20 needs and hydropower and nuclear have been ready to
21 ensure reliable dispatch of energy. For example, in
22 March 2019 during an extremely cold period when wind
23 wasn't blowing and the sun wasn't shining, the
24 hydrosystem in the Columbia generating station kept
25 heat generation for communities, hospital energy

1 without any means of transmitting it through the
2 system. The transmission capabilities are simply
3 not adequate and won't be for many years without
4 significant change to the current transmission
5 capabilities.

6 Randy Hardy, a former BPA administrator
7 and energy consultant recently stated that all or
8 most of the capacity cited in the East must be
9 transmitted to the load centers which are largely in
10 Seattle, Portland, and other areas of the west. And
11 increasing renewables makes it much more uncertain
12 to estimate what resources are needed and when they
13 are needed.

14 The Northwest should not be relying on
15 sources of electricity from other areas of the
16 country such as California which have had multiple
17 problems in the past several years balancing their
18 policy goals of 100 percent renewables with demand
19 in transmission. Randy Hardy emphasized that the no
20 new gas sediment originating from Washington and
21 Oregon state policies severely limits the Northwest
22 capacity options to dispatch for power.

23 The plan ignores study of the negative
24 impacts of wind and solar facilities on birds, fish,
25 and wildlife citing and downplays the technological

1 advances being made on cleaner natural gas and coal
2 development.

3 Thank you for this opportunity.

4 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you, David. Will
5 Charlton is on deck. Chuck Roady, you're up right
6 now.

7 **MR. ROADY:** Thank you. Is my audio okay?

8 **CHAIR YOST:** Sounds good to me.

9 **MR. ROADY:** Okay. I'm out in the woods in
10 North Idaho. My name is Chuck Roady, R-o-a-d-y. I
11 live in Bonners Ferry, the very northern tip of the
12 Panhandle. And I am representing myself. But a
13 little background, I'm the retired -- recently
14 retired vice president/general manager of Stoltze
15 Land and Lumber in Columbia Falls, Montana. And we
16 constructed a wood waste cogeneration power plant at
17 2013 coming online. So have a significant
18 experience in dealing with the power and the grid
19 and transmission.

20 I'll keep my comments very brief. I just
21 -- I want to support that we really need to maintain
22 our present hydro system and our current -- the
23 reliability of that has -- has been of value. And
24 there's just absolutely no question.

25 And a lot of -- some of the points brought

1 up earlier, I also think that council plan needs to
2 recognize the important role of the existing
3 hydropower resources to the region because it raises
4 the concern about the risk of shifting too fast and
5 too much to wind and solar to fill our void of the
6 needed electricity.

7 I feel this region has often experienced a
8 lot of really tough events, I know, specifically, in
9 Montana. In Idaho, when wind and solar have fallen
10 short when we have extremely cold periods and we
11 have extremely hot periods and the wind doesn't blow
12 or the sun doesn't shine that it's not reliable and
13 we end up balancing with other means. We've got to
14 be -- we need to be more incremental and more
15 disciplined in our inclusion of alternative and new
16 power sources. I can say that without doubt.

17 The other thing I wanted to mention, it
18 was touched on, the transmission capability right
19 now are simply not accurate and won't be for quite a
20 few years without some significant changes and
21 investment to our current transmission. I can speak
22 from experience that generating the power is only a
23 small part of the equation. The transmission of
24 power is a whole different task. And it requires
25 significant time, effort, and dollars in cost and

1 we're not there yet. And we need to do it fully, as
2 I think, disciplined and more incrementally.

3 I do think that the -- the plan correctly
4 points out to council is not tasked with directing
5 or implementing the controversial policy goals such
6 as removing the parts of the existing hydrosystem.
7 I just -- and I don't think the -- I think we need
8 to be using a lot of care of how quickly we retire a
9 lot of those coal plants. We've got to be more
10 disciplined than what we're doing.

11 I -- I -- in finishing, the council should
12 simply focus its resources on its statutory mandates
13 for reliable electricity and mitigate for fish and
14 wildlife under the Northwest Power Plan. And I
15 think the council needs to stick to that.

16 Thank you for considering my comments. I
17 appreciate your time and the hard work you guys are
18 doing. Thanks.

19 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you, Chuck.

20 Braden Jenson, you're on deck and Will
21 Charlton, you're up now.

22 **MR. CHARLTON:** Thank you, Chair Yost and
23 councilmembers. Will Charlton, Charlton spelled C-
24 h-a-r-l-t-o-n. I'm the president of Digester Doc.
25 Digester Doc is the largest independent laboratory

1 focused on anaerobic digestion in North America. We
2 work with clients to help them understand the amount
3 of energy that they can produce from their
4 facilities. We also provide consulting and
5 biological and biochemical stability in these
6 anaerobic digestion renewable assets.

7 Everything we do is based by science and
8 through science. And our offices are based in
9 Boise, Idaho. My purpose today is to just kind of
10 educate and inform of an overlooked resource in the
11 plan. EPA, USDA and other agencies have all
12 acknowledged this renewable resource and, yet, it
13 was not referenced in the plan.

14 Anaerobic digestion has, both, it -- it
15 stands as a unique renewable in that it can provide
16 both forms of energy availability, both, for -- as a
17 renewable natural gas for long-term energy storage
18 as well as electricity for immediate utilization.

19 The anaerobic digestion has a lot of
20 possibility in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington in
21 particular as these are leading agricultural states.
22 And these agricultural resources led to a lot of
23 growing opportunity in the anaerobic digestion
24 industry.

25 We are seeing a tremendous amount of

1 growth with dairy farms and agricultural
2 applications shifting to using anaerobic digestion.
3 Municipalities and commercial and industrial
4 applications also using anaerobic digestion. I
5 think integrating this clean renewable resource is
6 something that should be looked at and should be
7 referenced in the documents.

8 The heat and power resources from this
9 renewable resource can provide stable baseline
10 renewable power that can easily displace our current
11 coal and oil energy dependency while opening a
12 pathway for other peak renewables. As well as to
13 top that, it can be utilized with a lot of different
14 means including opening up the pathways. (Audio
15 distortion) --. Actually, if we work to include a
16 renewable resource in our plan from our state and
17 from our Northwest region. It's the kind of
18 informed education that this resource is there. It
19 is underutilized and it is underviewed. And we hope
20 that this is a consideration that will open the eyes
21 of the members and other people listening to this.

22 **MR. MADRON:** Well, you muted yourself, so
23 I assume your comments were completed.

24 **MR. CHARLTON:** I might have -- what did I
25 cut out a little early?

1 **MR. MADRON:** Yeah, you -- we haven't been
2 able to hear you for about 10 seconds. So if you
3 have any final comment.

4 **MR. CHARLTON:** Okay. I'm sorry. I am
5 speaking from home and unfortunately my family got
6 COVID, so I'm speaking from a less-than-ideal
7 position in the house.

8 My comments were just that this a
9 renewable resource --

10 **MR. MADRON:** Your connection is cutting in
11 and out.

12 **MR. CHARLTON:** The -- the state and in the
13 Northwest a lot of opportunity for growth. And I
14 believe that this is a --

15 **MR. MADRON:** Well, this is Chad. He just
16 went mute again. I believe we're having some
17 problems with the connection on your end. I think -
18 - encourage you to also submit written content --
19 written comment to -- but I think we captured most
20 of your comments for the transcript and the video.
21 You can certainly check them when they're both
22 available.

23 **CHAIR YOST:** Yeah, we'll encourage you to
24 submit written comments with the comments that you
25 presented today. Appreciate it if you would.

1 Next on -- next we'll hear from Braden
2 Jensen and Jane Fritz is on deck. Braden.

3 **MR. JENSEN:** Thank you, Chairman Yost.
4 Sure appreciate this chance to offer some comments.
5 And to the members of the council, my name is Braden
6 Jensen, last name J-e-n-s-e-n with the Idaho Farm
7 Bureau Federation.

8 The Idaho Farm Bureau represents more than
9 80,000 member families throughout the state of Ohio.
10 Our members come from every county in every corner
11 of the -- of the state. Largely, we represent much
12 of the agriculture industry. In the state we are a
13 general agriculture organization representing all
14 the commodities and grown and raised in the state of
15 Idaho.

16 Our members are users of the energy system
17 that we have in the Pacific Northwest. And we
18 recognize its value particularly when it comes to
19 its availability and reliability. And that's
20 exactly what our members depend on.

21 We're very appreciative of that -- the
22 work of the council. And we respect that a mission
23 and the purpose that it has in providing that
24 sustainable power system here.

25 We support many aspects of the draft plan.

1 And we do plan to issue some written comments to be
2 more specific. We largely agree with many of the
3 comments that have been made particularly from our
4 rural electricity providers as well. Again, many of
5 our members come from those rural areas of the state
6 and depend on the energy that is provided.

7 I just want to highlight again the
8 importance of transmission. So much attention is
9 given. Obviously, the power generation, the power
10 transmission is extremely important to make sure
11 that it is distributed out to all aspects. We also
12 want to highlight the importance and our members
13 recognize the importance of the very diverse
14 portfolio. But we also recognize and -- and support
15 strongly the backbone and the work horses of the
16 specific Northwest energy generation, largely, being
17 hydro there. We recognize its value and the
18 multiple uses that we and benefits that the region
19 receives from that.

20 Again, thank you for the opportunity to
21 provide comments. And -- and that's all I have to
22 say tonight. Thank you.

23 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you, Braden.

24 Jane Fritz, you're up.

25 **MS. FRITZ:** Hello. Can you hear me?

1 **CHAIR YOST:** We can.

2 **MS. FRITZ:** Oh, good. Chairman Yost,
3 thank you very much for this opportunity.

4 My name is Jane Fritz, F-r-i-t-z, the last
5 name. And I am a 42-year resident of North Idaho.
6 I live in Sandpoint. And I think I'm pretty sure in
7 1980 I testified on the North Power Council Plan --
8 that plan. I've also -- before I talk about my role
9 with the Idaho Mythweaver who I represent here, I've
10 -- I also was on the (inaudible) team as part of the
11 working group of wetlands and wildlife what was
12 Washington Water Power at the time and is now Avista
13 Corporation on the Clark Fork River dams.

14 So, I -- I don't know if -- if you can
15 hear me okay because I have kind of a tenuous
16 internet connection here at home.

17 So I -- I have swam in those waters
18 before. I also was interested in the woman's
19 comment about only 43 Sockeye making it back to the
20 Salmon River back to Red Fish Lake because I covered
21 Lonesome Larry when he was the last Sockeye, wild
22 Sockeye. I happen to be at the Sawtooth Hatchery
23 the day they caught him in the Red Fish Creek.

24 So salmon has been an issue. I --I'm a
25 writer, a freelance writer and independent radio

1 producer. And I've done many documentaries and many
2 radio stories, feature stories for public radio,
3 some on salmon, a lot on endangered species.

4 But today, why I decided to be part of
5 this, is looking at that whole picture of 40 years
6 involvement in the Northwest, looking at energy. I
7 live in a tiny house. I appreciate that the council
8 now has conservation in your name. It didn't used
9 to. And I think that's a really important thing. I
10 am extremely conservative in my use of energy. I
11 don't see that happening across Idaho very much.
12 Among my neighbors here in Sandpoint, it's become
13 extremely developed.

14 And, so, the three things I really wanted
15 to address, first, was that whole question of energy
16 conservation. I don't think people are making
17 enough sacrifices. We are living in tenuous times.
18 We have climate change facing us. And I don't think
19 we're individually doing enough and -- and maybe as
20 groups doing enough.

21 When I am around other people, I see so
22 much waste. And I think I don't know what the
23 council can actually do about that. But I do think
24 we need to all make more sacrifices in our energy
25 usage.

1 I also think that, you know, I do
2 understand the use of dams because of being on that
3 relicensing team for two-and-a-half years on my own
4 nickel. And it's very complex, the whole energy
5 system, the grid and -- and the dams on the Columbia
6 River and the Snake River and the whole entire
7 system. I think the first dam I ever commented on
8 was the Kootenay River, re-write dam, way back when.

9 I -- so, now, that brings me to who is the
10 Idaho Mythweaver. We're a non-profit organization
11 in Idaho, but we work in the arts and humanities.
12 Now, what that has to do with power planning is
13 interesting because we work with the tribes of Idaho
14 and have for 32 years.

15 Currently, we are working on two public
16 radio documentaries, one having to do with trees and
17 forests, the other one having to do with salmon.
18 And it's called People of the Salmon. And I bring
19 this up because culture -- cultural impacts and
20 having to do with the salmon in our state, in our
21 region, I spent the summer in Northeastern Oregon in
22 the Wallowa Mountains studying the nest versus work,
23 the tribal's fisheries work on bringing back Sockeye
24 salmon and to allow the lake. They've restored Coho
25 salmon into the Lostine River. And, so, for the

1 last year, I've had just this input of information
2 about salmon, about culture, what it means to
3 peoples who have lived with fish in our Northwest
4 region for -- since time immemorial.

5 I'm familiar with Congressman Simpson's
6 plan. I've studied it quite a bit. I'm interested
7 in the tribe support of that plan. I think it was
8 very bold of Congressman Simpson to study that for
9 three to four years and then come out. And I don't
10 understand why there isn't more support for it.

11 And I do think that the tribes Salmon and
12 Orca Summit really spoke to what does this mean to
13 lose salmon. It all seems to point to the lower
14 Snake River dams. And I know you haven't analyzed
15 that in your plan. And I think I don't understand
16 why. I know it's been studied for 30 years. I have
17 papers in my research here that in my own files they
18 go back that far. It's an issue -- I can't tell you
19 what it's like to be on a wild river like Lostine
20 River on the upper reaches and be walking along and
21 see a Chinook salmon swimming in six inches of water
22 trying to get up river and spawn. And, you know, it
23 just takes your breath away to see something like
24 that.

25 So, I guess what I'm asking is that in

1 addition to, you know, energy efficiency
2 conservation, that you also look at the excessive
3 growth of just the region and how are people
4 utilizing energy. And is there anything that can be
5 done to get them to sacrifice and stop wasting
6 energy.

7 I think we all have to sacrifice. But I
8 do think there is more at stake here than just our
9 comfort and our ability to turn a light on. It is
10 about the survival of the icon of the Pacific
11 Northwest.

12 The British Isles lost salmon. The
13 eastern part of our country lost salmon. And if I
14 think we're -- we're in that position right now to
15 make decisions on whether we're going to lose our
16 iconic salmon fishery in the Northwest.

17 I don't envy your positions. But I hope
18 you will consider culture. Our organization does
19 humanities projects. Most of our money comes from
20 humanity. But it's because we look at the history
21 of resources and human history. And we look at
22 cultural impacts and what does it mean to lose
23 salmon if you're a Nez Perce, or what does it mean
24 to lose sockeye if you're a Shoshone-Bannock.

25 So I really hope you will give some

1 consideration to analyzing the removal of the lower
2 Snake River dams.

3 And I thank you very much for listening to
4 my -- I may sound rambling a little bit, but I do
5 think I'm doing everything I can to live simply. I
6 have for 40 years. And I don't see a lot of other
7 people doing that however. And so I don't know what
8 the answer is, but I think we all need to make
9 sacrifices, so we can preserve culture, so we can
10 preserve our lifestyles as fast as we can, but
11 sacrificing certain things. And let's ensure that
12 we have a fishery for generations to come. And I
13 thank you very much for your time.

14 **CHAIR YOST:** Thank you, Jane.

15 Well, Chad, we've exhausted the list. Do
16 we have anybody else signed up or do we have anyone
17 on the phone?

18 **MR. MADRON:** We have a few people who are
19 phone only. I've unmuted the phones. If you have
20 not testified and are calling in by phone only and
21 wish to testify, please let me know right now.

22 Okay. If anyone else would like to sign up, I'll
23 make sure to put the sign-up link in the chat of
24 this meeting or you can visit the hearing website
25 which I'm showing on the screen right now.

1 I did confirm that Mr. Keeling could not
2 join us tonight, so you don't need to go back to him
3 either.

4 **CHAIR YOST:** Robert McConnell was not on -
5 - not -- didn't testify either. So is there anyone
6 -- is there anyone else that's ready to testify,
7 Chad?

8 **MR. MADRON:** No one that's signed up. But
9 feel free to -- if you have not testified yet,
10 unmute and let us know that you'd like to right now.

11 **MR. CANNANELA:** Hi, this is Dave
12 Cannanella. I'll just take a couple of minutes if
13 you got time for me.

14 **CHAIR YOST:** We have time. Spell your
15 last name and proceed.

16 **MR. CANNANELA:** Last name is Cannanella, C-
17 a-n-n-a-n-e-l-a. I'll try to keep it brief.

18 Congressman Simpson has put a roadmap on
19 the table that would get us out of this 40-year cul-
20 de-sac that we've been stuck in. And it be great if
21 the council would get on board supporting Simpson's
22 plan. The plan will be effective because it
23 includes the biological, social, cultural, economic,
24 and ecological requirements for having a successful
25 plan.

1 Congressman Simpson's plan, first of all,
2 meets the biological prerequisite for recovery of
3 salmon and that is restoration of the lower Snake
4 River by removal of the four lower Snake River dams.

5 Now we know from history that dam removal
6 or river restoration works. We've seen it in the
7 Elwha as a great example. We've seen it in the
8 Kennebec as a great example. But there are about
9 1500 examples in this country of dam removable that
10 is -- that has been successful on all terms;
11 ecological, economic, social, cultural, and
12 biological. So we know that there's a high
13 certainty of success.

14 I think and I thought for a long time that
15 Lewiston, the people of Lewiston are sitting on a
16 gold mine. And that gold mine is the lower -- the
17 free-flowing lower Snake. The dams were sold to the
18 American people with the promise that they would
19 bring prosperity.

20 Beyond this happening, those dams have
21 stolen the source of prosperity and that is
22 sustainable runs of salmon, steelhead, and lamprey.
23 These runs historically naturally supported Native
24 Americans, but also supported the livelihoods of
25 outfitters and guides, restaurant owners, motel and

1 hotel owners, gas stations and on and on and on.

2 We can maintain and upgrade the service
3 that the dams provide without the dams. And we can
4 add salmon back into our lives, into our cultures,
5 our economies and the ecology, everything from the
6 smallest features in the Stanley basin 900 miles
7 from the ocean to the Silvan resident killer whales.

8 And I think the time is right. And we
9 have a golden opportunity here to -- to use our
10 creativity and our energy to craft a plan that can
11 work for all of us where no one losses affordable
12 energy or a shipping of commodities from Lewiston or
13 irrigation water out of the lower Snake.

14 And so I urge you and everyone listening
15 that -- to try to put our best foot forward and get
16 behind the plan and craft something that will be
17 really great and it will also serve future
18 generations.

19 And I thank you for your time and your
20 efforts.

21 **CHAIR YOST:** Okay, Chad, anyone else?

22 **MR. MADRON:** No, Member Yost, no one else
23 is signed up right now.

24 **CHAIR YOST:** I think what we'll do is
25 recess for 20 minutes. We'll come back at about

1 6:40, 6:45 and see what happens. So, we're going to
2 be -- we're going to take a -- we're going to recess
3 this meeting for 20 minutes and come back at 6:45.

4 6:45 will be close enough.

5 **MR. MADRON:** Okay.

6 **CHAIR YOST:** We'll see if anyone else has
7 signed up.

8 **MR. MADRON:** The recording will continue,
9 so please mute your mics and turn off your cameras.

10 **(Recess taken.)**

11 **CHAIR YOST:** Chad, do we got any new
12 people signed up?

13 **MR. MADRON:** Member Yost, we do not have
14 anyone signed up at this time. If there's someone
15 who hasn't spoken up on the phone, please do so. I
16 guess we're good for right now.

17 **CHAIR YOST:** I guess we just sit it out
18 here and see if anybody chimes up and wants to
19 present then we will. And, if not, we'll close the
20 hearing promptly at 7 p.m. Mountain time.

21 **MR. MADRON:** Would you like to take
22 another recess or we can just kind of wait and see
23 what happens?

24 **CHAIR YOST:** Well, let's recess until
25 6:55.

1 **MR. MADRON:** Okay.

2 **CHAIR YOST:** Okay. We'll do that.

3 **(Recess taken.)**

4 **CHAIR YOST:** Chad, you've got a lot of
5 people signed up now?

6 **MR. MADRON:** I'm afraid not, no. We're
7 still --

8 **CHAIR YOST:** Well -- well, I guess, you
9 know, I sure appreciate folks listening in and
10 bearing with us. I thought we would have a few more
11 presenters. But I didn't limit the time, so that
12 everyone could kind of say what they wanted to say
13 in their presentations. But we still have a little
14 extra time.

15 Unfortunately, we've got to stay here
16 about another four or five minutes until 7 o'clock.
17 I have just a minute of closing that -- that will
18 take just a minute and then we'll close the hearing.

19 **MR. MADRON:** And we have also put up the
20 web address and showing what the comment on the
21 Draft Plan. If you would like to submit comments in
22 writing, it looks like it's available in several
23 places including on tonight's hearings page for
24 people. We heard a couple of times folks want to
25 follow up and submit written comments. So want to

1 make sure you can upload a PF or just type in Word
2 document or other things or you can just type right
3 in the box. And we've read a number of comments so
4 far. Public comment closes November 19th.

5 **CHAIR YOST:** I would like to recognize
6 that Councilmember Doug Grob from Montana has joined
7 us in the hearing process. And I would like to take
8 this time also to say that this concludes our public
9 hearing on the council's 2021 Northwest Power Plan.
10 Comments to submitted to the council on the Draft
11 Power Plan will be made available on the council's
12 website as soon as possible.

13 And on behalf of the council, I would like
14 to thank all of you for participating who
15 participated in tonight's hearing or today's
16 hearing. And please visit the council's website for
17 a schedule of additional hearings if -- if that's
18 what we do. And appreciate all of those who were
19 just listening in.

20 And this hearing is adjourned. Thank you.

21 **MR. MADRON:** Thank you. And thank you for
22 attending, everyone.

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

I, Carson Axtman, do hereby certify that I reported all proceedings adduced in the foregoing matter and that the foregoing transcript pages constitutes a full, true and accurate record of said proceedings to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am neither related to counsel or any party to the proceedings nor have any interest in the outcome of the proceedings.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of November, 2021.



Carson Axtman

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