JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Power System Analyst

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) is an interstate compact agency formed by the states of Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Idaho under the Northwest Power Act of 1980. Under the Act, the Council develops, with broad public participation, a regional conservation and electrical generation power plan, and a protection and mitigation program for fish and wildlife affected by the hydropower facilities on the Columbia River. The Power Plan (link to energy webpage) and Fish and Wildlife Programs (link to F&W webpage) are largely implemented by agencies of the federal government, especially the Bonneville Power Administration. The Council consists of eight members. The governors of the four states appoint two members to serve on the Council. The members are supported by the central office staff based in Portland, Oregon and several staff located in each state office.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) has an opening in its Power Planning Division for a Power System Analyst. An individual with additional skills and experience may be hired as a Senior Power System Analyst with job duties commensurate with experience. The position reports to the Manager of Planning and Analysis. This person will be part of the Planning Analytics team responsible for maintaining, running and developing power system models including a production cost model, AURORA, a portfolio model and a power system adequacy model, GENESYS. Data and analytical results from these models are used by the Council in the development and implementation of its Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Plan. These models are also used to analyze other related regional power issues, and all data and analytical results are generally available for use by other interested parties.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Be trained in and become capable of running the various power system models at the Council to support the Power Division’s work
- Be trained in and eventually conduct scenario analyses using one or more of the power system models
• Work with Power Division staff to translate new concepts related to power planning into the Council’s modeling framework
• Present results from modeling to both Council Members and other interested parties in a clear and concise manner
• Assist in data management for models employed by the Council and support staff in tracking resource and transmission build projections across the western interconnection
• Assist in communicating information about concepts related to power system and modelling of those systems to a broad public audience in various formats including blog posts on the Council’s website
• Assist in implementing the recommendations and other items in the Council’s Power Plan
• Respond to inquiries from the public related to Council power plans and analyses

Essential Skills and Qualifications (minimum requirements):
• Demonstrated ability and desire to learn on the job, be a member of a dynamic workgroup and collaborate closely with colleagues in development of methodologies and technical solutions.
• Ability to communicate technical information to policy makers and other interested parties clearly and concisely in written and oral presentations
• Bachelor’s degree or higher in mathematics, economics, engineering, computer science, and/or other physical sciences. Extensive industry experience may substitute for a degree.
• At least two years of experience in the power utility business or a related field
• Knowledge of programming at an intermediate level in at least one programming language
• Proficiency in all MS Office applications, primarily Excel, Word and PowerPoint, and familiarity with cloud-based tools (similar to BOX or Smartsheet)
• Ability to work in the central office (Portland, OR) a minimum of two days per week when the central office officially re-opens to all staff. The date of official staff re-opening has not yet been set given the ongoing pandemic.
• Ability to travel to meetings outside the Portland area, as needed, when the central staff resumes travelling.

Desired Skills and Qualifications for Senior Power System Analyst:
• Possess all Essential Skills and Qualifications (minimum requirements) listed above
• Knowledge of programming at an advanced level in multiple programming languages and the ability to quickly learn to read or write in new programming languages as needed
• Detailed knowledge of the power system economics in general, and specifically associated with natural gas and other fuel fundamentals, transmission planning and northwest hydropower operations
• Several years of experience frequently presenting to the public and to executives
• Five or more years of experience in the power utility business or a related field.
• Understanding of financial analysis used in utility resource acquisition decisions, and specifically experience with utility resource planning, acquisition, operations and/or transmission
• Project management experience
• Graduate degree preferred

Please note, given the ongoing pandemic, the hiring process will be conducted virtually.

Start date is flexible, though preferably in early 2022.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest, resume, brief writing sample and references by November 19th, 2021. All application materials must be submitted electronically as a single pdf to shirotsu@nwcouncil.org.

The Council provides a competitive structure of compensation and benefits. Salary range and benefits information available upon request to shirotsu@nwcouncil.org.

The Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Council does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, genetic information, or military or veteran status.