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**NORTHWEST POWER AND
CONSERVATION COUNCIL**



**PUBLIC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2009**

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APPEARANCES :

NORTHWEST POWER AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL:

- TOM KARIER, Chair, Washington
- W. BILL BOOTH, Chair, Idaho
- JOAN M. DUKES, Chair, Oregon
- JOHN FAZIO, Senior System Analyst

AUDIENCE SPEAKERS:

- DAN PETERSON, Pend Oreille Public Utility District
and Public Power Council
- LARRY LA BOLLE, Avista
- KIM DRURY, Northwest Energy Coalition
- KEITH MILLIGAN, Sierra Club
- SAM MACE, Washington Trout Unlimited
- ASIA HEGE, Gonzaga Student
- JOHN OSBORN, Sierra Club
- JERRY WHITE, Spokane Falls Trout Unlimited
- KRIS MIKKELSEN, Inland Power

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PUBLIC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

The above-entitled Public Meeting was held at
Red Lion Inn at the Park, West 303 North River Drive,
Spokane, Washington, on Tuesday, September 15, 2009,
commencing at 5:32 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING**SEPTEMBER 15, 2009****5:32 PM**

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5 **MR. KARIER:** Hello, everyone. I am Tom Karier. I
6 am also a member of the Northwest Power and Conservation
7 Council. And we'll be having public comments, as is stated
8 in our advertisements, on the Sixth Power Plan.

9 And I'd like to introduce the other people at the
10 table here. We have two other council members, Joan Dukes
11 from Oregon, welcome, and Bill Booth from Idaho, who is also
12 chair of the council. And Bill will start out with a
13 description what we're doing.

14 **MR. BOOTH:** Thanks, Tom. And I'd just like to
15 echo the thanks for the participation tonight.

16 I do have an opening statement that I need to read
17 regarding this public hearing on the draft power plan.

18 Welcome to a public hearing held by the Northwest
19 Power and Conservation Council on the Council's proposed
20 Sixth Northwest Power Plan.

21 The Northwest Power Act directs the Council to
22 develop a regional conservation and electric power plan and
23 to review that plan every five years.

24 The Council is now engaged in its latest five-
25 year power plan review. As part of this effort, the Council

1 released a draft revised power plan on September 3rd for
2 public review and comment. The Council will be taking
3 written comment on the draft power plan until November 6.
4 The Council will also hold public hearings like this one on
5 the draft plan in all four northwest states over the next
6 six weeks.

7 If you would like to comment at this hearing,
8 please sign in on the sheet that was provided for that
9 purpose. You may also leave written comments with us this
10 evening if you desire. Your comments will be recorded,
11 placed in the Council's administrative record for the power
12 plan review, and most importantly considered carefully by
13 the Council as it makes its decisions on the final power
14 plan later this year.

15 For more information on the proposed Sixth Power
16 Plan, including the text of the draft plan, please visit the
17 Council's Web site at www.nwcouncil.org. You may submit
18 comments by using the "How to Comment" link on the Web page
19 devoted to the draft power plan. Thank you.

20 **MR. KARIER:** Thanks, Bill. And we're going to
21 move pretty quickly to the comments, but before we do that,
22 we thought we'd give you a brief outline of what is in the
23 power plan. As Bill mentioned, it is posted on our Web
24 site, but we've brought in John Fazio from our Portland
25 office, who is going to just describe it with a brief

1 PowerPoint. So, John.

2 **MR. FAZIO:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Karier.

3 You can go to the next slide. Thanks.

4 Since about two years ago, the Council has
5 directed its staff to meet with advisory committees,
6 utility, utilities and other interested parties, in the
7 region and outside of the region, to put together the data
8 and the information required to develop its Sixth Plan.

9 During that process, we assessed forecasting
10 methodology for electricity demand. We have also looked at
11 existing and new types of resources to meet new demand, and
12 we have taken all of that information, and we have run that
13 information through analytical models, and we've looked at
14 many, many different potential future conditions, and, in
15 the end, we have come up with a strategy, a resource
16 strategy that is low cost, relative to other plans, and it
17 also minimizes the risk of high price fluctuations from year
18 to year.

19 Of course, the goal of the Sixth Plan is to
20 provide that resource strategy to assure the region of an
21 adequate, efficient, economic and reliable power supply,
22 while, at the same time, supporting the implementation of a
23 fish and wildlife program, another document that the Council
24 produces.

25 What I am going to tell you in the next five

1 minutes or less is just a snapshot of what the power plan
2 contains. I should emphasize that the power plan itself,
3 all the chapters and the appendices, have a wealth of
4 information that describes, in great detail, all of the
5 information, all of the processes that we went through to
6 come up with a strategy.

7 The Key Findings. What we discovered, in looking
8 at all different kinds of potential futures, is that
9 conservation ends up being a big winner. On average, it can
10 produce -- it can provide nearly 85 percent of the demand
11 growth projected for the region. It also avoid risks of
12 volatile fuel prices, and it avoids the potential penalties
13 associated with carbon emissions. It contributes not only
14 to annual energy needs, but it also provides peaking needs
15 as well. And it can create local jobs and help the local
16 economy.

17 The next slide.

18 Renewable Generation. Of course in three of the
19 four northwest states, legislation has been passed that
20 requires that some portion of a new resource be renewable,
21 and wind seems to be the most cost competitive, renewable
22 resource that is being used for that purpose. But in our
23 analysis, we have also discovered that additional wind is
24 also cost competitive with other generating technologies,
25 and it also avoids the risks of volatile fuel prices and

1 potential carbon penalties.

2 The problem with wind, of course, is that its
3 variable output gives the power systems challenges. And we
4 are working with utilities and others to try to work that
5 out. But it is cost effective.

6 However, conservation and wind and other renewals
7 may not be the only resources that we may need in the region
8 over the next 20 years.

9 I should emphasize that the Council is looking at
10 this strategy from a regional point of view, and it
11 understands that individual utilities don't look like the
12 region, and individual utilities will have their own special
13 needs and may or may not require different types of
14 resources. And what the Council is doing with the plan is,
15 it is providing a strategy, or, if you will, sort of a
16 supply curve of resources that we feel are cost effective
17 and that will promote low cost and low risk to the region.

18 It does appear that natural gas-fired generation
19 will be needed at some point for near-term generation needs,
20 perhaps to back up variable wind resources like wind or for
21 other reasons, such as shortage of transmission, et cetera.
22 Gas does carry a fuel price risk, but it has lower carbon
23 emissions than coal.

24 And there are other resources -- go ahead and go
25 to the next one. There other resources that we looked at.

1 We looked at every resource. We looked at tidal power, wave
2 power, nuclear power. We looked at all kind of geothermal
3 power and all sorts of resources, and we actually put
4 together an assessment of their costs, their
5 characteristics, lead time, unit size, et cetera, et cetera,
6 and all of that information went into the decisions that the
7 Council looked at.

8 The key findings for carbon risk are that, one,
9 the fact is that about 20 percent of the region's
10 electricity comes from coal generation, but those coal
11 plants emit about 85 percent of the electricity systems' CO2
12 emissions. In order to reduce carbon emissions from that
13 sector, the electricity sector, there really is no way
14 except to limit the dispatch of coal generation. And that's
15 what the conservation and the wind will do, and, to some
16 degree, the natural gas.

17 And we can achieve the goals set forth by the
18 states and also by the Western Initiative to reduce carbon
19 emissions with the strategy that is laid out in this Sixth
20 Power Plan.

21 The five-year action plan, in a snapshot, is to
22 develop 1200 average megawatts for the region as a whole of
23 conservation by 2014 and to assess that periodically, the
24 progress; to develop renewable generation as required by
25 state legislation, and to look at further development of

1 renewables if they are cost effective.

2 We also need to be careful to make sure that if we
3 develop a lot of wind, that it can be integrated seamlessly
4 and without causing other problems, either under generation
5 or over generation, and looking at smart grid types of
6 capabilities or other infrastructures can help with that.
7 And a lot of that work is going on right now.

8 And so we also -- the Council also in its plan
9 asks for more research and demonstration of promising new
10 technologies to improve efficiency, demand response, and of
11 course generation also.

12 And that's a snapshot of the power plan.

13 And do we have time for questions or --

14 **MR. KARIER:** Sure. Are there any questions? Okay.
15 Not seeing any. Thanks, John.

16 And I would like to introduce some of our other
17 staff that are here, mostly so that once we are finished
18 here, if you have questions for any of us, we'd be glad to
19 talk to you afterwards. But we have Stacy Gordon from our
20 office here in Spokane; Kathy McElroy who is in the back
21 there, and, let's see, Mark Walker over here from our
22 Portland office, and Bill Hanford. And I think that's --
23 that covers our -- the staff here.

24 So with that, I think we'll start off with the
25 list, and if anybody who signed up and did not say that they

1 wanted to speak but changed their mind, at the end I'll open
2 it up for anyone else that wants to talk.

3 So we'll start out with Dan Peterson.

4 Welcome, Dan. And if you want to sit up here and
5 just state your name, and if you are representing somebody,
6 that would be great.

7 **MR. PETERSON:** My name is Dan Peterson. I'm one
8 of three elected, locally elected commissioners at Ponderay
9 Public Utility District, and also a member of the executive
10 committee of the Public Power Council.

11 I'm going to be very brief, just give you a broad
12 outline of three kudos and three concerns. The Public Power
13 Council will be obviously submitting comments with much
14 detail than I am going to take time to give now.

15 Three kudos. Number one, great job generally
16 overall on the plan. It's reasonable. It's flexible. It's
17 thoughtful. Appreciate what you've done.

18 Kudo number two, that I already mentioned, is
19 flexibility. It recognizes the importance of individual
20 utilities having flexibility to meet what's needed in our
21 futures. We really appreciate that.

22 Third kudo, great discussion of hydro. Ponderay
23 PUD operates one of those facilities on the Ponderay River,
24 the Box Canyon Dam project. You recognize clearly that
25 hydro is one of those resources that does not emit carbon.

1 It's so important to preserve because of that. It also
2 provides that base generation to back up renewables like
3 wind. And we appreciate the good discussion of hydro that
4 the plan has.

5 Three concerns. While we really do appreciate the
6 range built into the conservation targets, we continue to
7 argue that an appropriate floor for that range would be
8 1,000 rather than 1,100. We believe that still presents an
9 aggressive goal, but one that more realistically
10 incorporates some of the uncertainties that we face in the
11 future, in regard especially to technologies for
12 conservation.

13 The second concern, fish and wildlife costs we
14 believe are greater than stated in the plan. Very
15 particularly, the value of lost generation is -- really
16 needs to be valued at market, not at the Bonneville's PF
17 rate. We think some attention to accuracy on that would be
18 helpful.

19 Finally, third concern, the analytics need to be
20 really carefully reviewed just as the policy has been. And
21 we hope that you will give, as members of the Council,
22 careful attention to making sure those analytic appendices
23 are properly reviewed and analyzed. It's so important
24 because they back up what you conclude policywise. We're
25 obviously going to be examining them closely, and we'll

1 offer more detailed comments when we understand what's
2 there.

3 Again, thank you so very much for the opportunity
4 to comment, and look forward to a great final plan when it's
5 out.

6 **MR. KARIER:** Okay. Thank you, Dan.

7 Larry La Bolle.

8 **MR, LA BOLLE:** Do you want to back up?

9 **MR. KARIER:** Yeah, just a minute.

10 Would you mind taking questions, Dan?

11 **MR. PETERSON:** We'll, I'm going to plead, as a
12 locally-elected official, great ignorance, but I'll field
13 some questions.

14 **MR. KARIER:** Member Dukes.

15 **MS. DUKES:** I was wondering if you could elaborate
16 on the uncertainties you mentioned as it relates to
17 conservation at the local level.

18 **MR. KARIER:** Dan, if you can come up.

19 **MR. PETERSON:** Sorry.

20 **MS. DUKES:** I don't mean to pin you down. It
21 sounded like you knew.

22 **MR. PETERSON:** I studied rhetoric. No.

23 I was referring to technological assumptions that
24 we make over the coming years that are going to be available
25 or not. I was simply referring to the fact that in some

1 cases, as we look forward to technologies developing, there
2 is uncertainty. And so I was -- we're arguing that that
3 thousand megawatt lower floor for that range better
4 incorporates that uncertainty and technology.

5 **MS. DUKES:** Okay.

6 **MR. FAZIO:** Thanks.

7 **MR. PETERSON:** Thank you.

8 **MR. KARIER:** Larry, thanks for your patience.

9 **MR. LA BOLLE:** Good evening. I'm Larry La Bolle,
10 and I am employed by Avista here in Spokane. And I am older
11 than Dan, so I have notes and glasses. I guess he had
12 glasses, too.

13 We really appreciate the opportunity, not only to
14 comment tonight, but to have been involved with Council
15 staff, and even to have an opportunity to visit with members
16 through the course of the development of this plan. And
17 from an Avista perspective, but I think from a larger, kind
18 of, amalgam of utilities' perspectives, it's been a great
19 collaborative effort, and really I think is kind of getting
20 us to the place where we want to be as we together in
21 developing a plan that tends to merge how individual
22 utilities see the future and have to plan for the future,
23 and how the Council takes on its over arching objective of
24 developing a plan from a regional perspective.

25 I also just immediately disqualify myself and

1 apologize that Clint Kalich, our resource plan manager, is
2 not here to speak to you tonight. He's bogged down in Boise
3 taking care of some kind of regulatory business down there.
4 So I'll do my very best.

5 I want to represent comments both from a Pacific
6 Northwest utilities conference committee perspective, as
7 well as an Avista perspective. They will kind of be
8 interwoven, but generally at a very high level.

9 Of course each organization, including Avista, is
10 going to follow up with detailed comments on the plan within
11 the reporting period.

12 So, again, I'll start off with kudos just like Dan
13 did. We think the plan is very well developed. We think
14 the plan does a great job of describing the Northwest power
15 system, and more particularly in describing some of the
16 challenges we face as we all move forward, from both a
17 utility perspective and from a regional perspective.

18 We think the scenarios depicted in the plan
19 capture an effective range of future carbon restrictions
20 that we might see or carbon legislation that we might see.
21 And so it tends to band some of the future scenarios pretty
22 effectively, as far as how power system and new resources
23 might be developed.

24 We think the plan provides a realistic assessment
25 of the kind of power costs that we're going to see in the

1 future. And this is really important, and it hits home here
2 in town, as you go from rate increase to rate increase, and
3 then you tell folks that really these are going to continue
4 almost nonstop as we redevelop and reinvest in the power
5 system, from both transmission and generation perspectives.

6 It is really helpful to have a plan that is
7 regionally respected and we think depicts pretty effectively
8 what future power costs are going to look like. So it helps
9 us explain our message.

10 The plan presents goods availability and cost
11 information on different types of generating resources, and
12 particularly for resources like wind. We think the type of
13 resource, the availability of the resource, the
14 characteristics of the resource are pretty darn effectively
15 captured in this plan.

16 It provides reasonable estimates to the amounts of
17 prices -- oh, I already got that one.

18 It helps policy makers and consumers understand
19 the need for transmission investment. All across Idaho, in
20 particular, where I live, but up in these states as well, it
21 is getting to be more and more difficult all the time to
22 develop new transmission infrastructure. And so we think the
23 plan a nice job of helping people understand why
24 transmission investment is going to be a big part of our
25 future.

1 And then finally, and this really the most
2 important piece. If I leave one message with you, it's this
3 one. We believe the plan does a very nice job of
4 qualitatively, and now beginning to quantitatively describe
5 the capacity issues that the region is facing.

6 And this really represents, I think, the
7 confluence where everybody came together in the best way to
8 talk about how capacity issues are going to be a driving
9 need for the region graphically.

10 So from a Northwest utility perspective, from
11 Avista's perspective, we think that we made great gains in
12 working with Terry and his staff in trying to better
13 understand collectively how capacity issues are going to be
14 driving our needs as we go forward.

15 Now just for a minute about some changes that we
16 might like to see. And this is out of the peanut comment.
17 Maybe a better statement of the needs. Many more clarity
18 around the statement of needs for resources going forward.
19 How the Northwest system meets adequacy and reliability
20 under future forecasts, it's all in there, but just maybe a
21 condensed and a more definitive description of how we meet
22 reliability as we move forward under different forecasts.

23 An approach described -- maybe I'll back up a
24 little bit. We've talked about how we made good progress in
25 looking at capacity needs for the Northwest, more from a

1 qualitative perspective. The utility perspective is that
2 maybe we can use this as a foundation for building more
3 quantitative, longer-term assessments of how we measure
4 capacity and evaluate capacity needs and how we meet those
5 needs going forward.

6 There was some interest in the peanut group for
7 another way to depict power costs in the plan, in addition
8 to the depiction that's already in there. And that is maybe
9 to look at just power costs themselves and to index all of
10 those power costs to a base year. So that was just one
11 suggestion. It wouldn't supplant a method that's already
12 used to describe costs, because rate impacts of power costs
13 into the future are also an important element people want to
14 see.

15 And we might want to depict the impacts associated
16 with meeting levels of carbon reduction, say that the states
17 of Oregon, Washington and Montana have signed on to. So
18 maybe take that one scenario and then say, if this is the
19 regional goal, what does the power system look like in light
20 of achieving that one goal.

21 Now, that may be a little bit in conflict with
22 what we know may be coming down the pipe with respect to
23 federal legislation. And I'm not sure how Western Climate
24 Initiative and federal legislative initiatives are going to
25 mesh, but that might be useful for folks to see.

1 And finally, we like the discussion about the
2 uncertainty related to achieving the conservation targets.
3 We think the conservation targets are robust. Avista, as you
4 know, is very interested and has been, I think, a great
5 performer in implementing conservation. But we like the
6 uncertainty discussion because there is such a huge reliance
7 on that going forward. We think that helps people
8 understand some of the challenges, as well as some of the
9 certainties related to capturing conservation. And it's
10 like Dan said, from a technical perspective and from a human
11 behavior perspective and from the (inaudible) perspective.

12 Those list of interests are pretty vaguely
13 defined. And, again, you'll see those in much more clarity
14 of specificity when folks comment.

15 But we really do want to say, real clearly and
16 very sincerely, this is a great power plan. Our staff
17 appreciates very much having the ability to work with Terry
18 and his staff, others in this room, as well as Council
19 members, in trying to figure what this plan should look
20 like.

21 We feel that this plan advances the interests of
22 every utility in the region in helping to explain not only
23 what system requirements look like from a regional
24 perspective going forward, but what some of the issues are
25 that individual utilities have to wrestle with, because, as

1 has been said, they are different.

2 And so we want to give hat's off to the Council
3 for what we think is a great plan. We look forward to its
4 completion.

5 **MR. KARIER:** Okay. Any questions? Seeing none.
6 Thanks, Larry.

7 **MR. LA BOLLE:** Thank you.

8 **MR. KARIER:** Next up is Kim Drury. Welcome, Kim.

9 **MS. DRURY:** Thank you. My name is Kim Drury, and
10 I'm here with -- from the Northwest Energy Coalition. The
11 Energy Coalition in an alliance with about 110 different
12 organizations from throughout the region of environmental,
13 civic organizations, and progressive utilities. We have
14 worked for clean and affordable energy for almost 30 years
15 now.

16 And I am here today, too, to talk about a number
17 of kudos. And I would also like to, first of all,
18 acknowledge my deep respect and admiration for the previous
19 two commenters who have had time to already thoroughly
20 review the documents. We are still combing through it. It
21 is an amazing amount of work that it represents. And so we
22 will be submitting our full detailed comments within the
23 reporting period as well.

24 But kudos to the staff for an amazing amount of
25 work. It's well -- it reads well. The documentation is

1 thorough. And it's always nice to know that we can really
2 rely on the accuracy and the thoroughness of it. And also
3 thank you for being here tonight, because I know there's a
4 lot of hearings planned.

5 As I said, we haven't completed all of our
6 comments. I'm going to focus on the conservation targets
7 here in my comments tonight. And I would just like -- I
8 think the best way to state our view of it is just to quote
9 from the overview that the plan includes.

10 **I think in the second paragraph of the plan overview, I'm**
11 **quoting here, it says, "Across hundreds of possible futures**
12 **considered in the development of the**

13 Sixth Plan, one conclusion was constant: The most cost
14 effective and least risky resource for the region is
15 improved efficiency of electricity." And that's exactly
16 what our view is, and we are very pleased to see how
17 strongly this plan relies on energy efficiency to meet the
18 growing demand for energy.

19 I would like to point out a discrepancy, however,
20 in the PowerPoint that was presented just a few minutes ago.
21 Because, in fact, if you look to the summary of the Sixth
22 Plan overview from your Web site that I just got off earlier
23 today, it doesn't say 85 percent; in fact it says, "The Plan
24 finds enough conservation to be available and cost effective
25 to meet the low growth of the region for the next 20 years."

1 We're thrilled to see that, and that's exactly
2 what we would especially like to emphasize in how pleased we
3 are with this plan, because of is our position. Energy
4 efficiency has delivered enormous benefits to the region for
5 the past years. We are saving in \$1.6 billion per year
6 thanks to energy efficiency. And obviously it is the
7 fastest and cheapest way to address our climate goal. So we
8 are very pleased to see that.

9 A year ago we did two studies at the Northwest
10 Energy Coalition; one we contracted with a consultant to do,
11 one we did in house. We thought we would be in a position
12 of having to once again argue for increased energy
13 efficiency, to document and tell the stories, so we put
14 together two different studies, one called the Power of
15 Efficiency, one called Bright Future, to document how
16 valuable energy efficiency -- how much energy efficiency
17 there is and all the different benefits.

18 And so to be here tonight and to say, you guys are
19 even ahead and what we thought was possible to think of the
20 next ten years of low growth; and here you're saying we can
21 meet 20 years of low growth through energy efficiency, so
22 that's fantastic.

23 There's two items that we would very much like to
24 suggest need some improvement. One are the conservation
25 targets. The plan identifies -- it sets a target of 1,200

1 megawatts per year on average for the next five years, the
2 action plan, but it says that there is cost-effective
3 conservation available at 1,450 average megawatts. We would
4 strongly encourage you to return to the higher target.
5 Without doing that, we are leaving cost-effective energy
6 conservation on the table. The analysis shows that that,
7 over the long run, would cost a huge amount to the region in
8 lost savings we can't afford to lose.

9 I think the other point is that if the 20-year
10 target is relying on the 1,450, the higher five-year target,
11 the best way to get there is to start by trying to achieve
12 1,450. If we start with a lower target and we do the mid-
13 course correction that you're suggesting in the plan, and we
14 find we're running short, the curve is going to be much
15 steeper to try to catch up and meet the 20-year plan, the
16 20-year target.

17 So, it seems to make sense economically and
18 strategically and programmatically to start with a higher
19 target, and we would encourage you to do that.

20 It allows you to achieve -- to phase out the coal
21 or dispatch coal differently, as was referred to, in order
22 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

23 I think the second suggestion that we would like
24 to make -- and I think this is the strongest point that you
25 will hear from the Coalition over the coming weeks -- is

1 that while you're acknowledging the need to reduce carbon,
2 there is no specific plan for doing that. And we would like
3 to have a path plan, chart the course for how the region is
4 going to reduce its emissions, how is the region going to
5 meet the climate targets that are set by the governors and
6 the legislatures in three states and that was presented in
7 the Western Climate Initiative. Those plans are based on
8 science. It is already now out of date because it looks to
9 be -- the target should even be higher.

10 The power plan, the Sixth Power Plan is the most
11 comprehensive and the most influential energy plan in the
12 region. And the fact that it doesn't have a specific path
13 for how the region is going to meet these regional climate
14 targets seems like a major lost opportunity.

15 We are not suggesting that the Council has the
16 authority to regulate coal plants or to turn them off or to
17 order them to be shut down. What we are suggesting is that
18 the Power Council has the responsibility and the duty to lay
19 out the plan for how we are going to reach the climate
20 targets already adopted, set in policy in three states, and
21 that we recognize is coming from the federal government in
22 the very near future.

23 Thank you.

24 **MR. KARIER:** Any questions? Okay. Thanks, Kim.

25 And Keith Milligan. Welcome, Keith.

1 **MR. MILLIGAN:** My name is Keith Milligan.

2 First let me thank you for this opportunity to
3 address the Council and inviting the general public and
4 others in the industry to make their comments today.

5 I am simply a concerned citizen, not representing
6 anyone but my three-year-old grandson's grandchildren. And
7 what I would like to see incorporated into the plan, if
8 possible, after some careful consideration by you folks that
9 are in the know and the experts in the field, is to perhaps
10 consider reducing or actually phasing out completely coal
11 power over the next ten years.

12 According to your own plan, or at least the
13 overview -- I admit I did not read the whole plan -- but in
14 the overview, I just, you know, got a summary of, it looks
15 like that would be something feasible and certainly would
16 allow my three-year-old grandson's grandchildren to breathe
17 clean air.

18 So that's the only comment I have, and if you have
19 any questions, I'm happy to answer them.

20 **MR. KARIER:** Thank you, Keith.

21 Sam Mace. Welcome, Sam.

22 **MS. MACE:** Hello, there. I am representing today
23 the Washington Trout Unlimited Council, of which I am the
24 incoming conservation vice president for 2010. And I also am
25 the Inland Northwest Director for the Save the Wild Salmon

1 Coalition as well. But my comments tonight are on behalf of
2 the Washington Trout Unlimited.

3 And we appreciate the opportunity to comment on
4 this Draft Sixth Power Plan, and we are really encouraged to
5 see that this draft plan really focusing on the
6 opportunities that efficiency and conservation in renewables
7 have in terms of meeting our future energy needs. We are
8 encouraged to see that it's not looking at new coal plants
9 or other energy of that sort that would have significant
10 impacts on carbon emissions, and we are encouraged by that
11 because climate change is one of the greatest threats facing
12 our native trout and salmon, steelhead, and other cold water
13 fisheries.

14 We also echo the comments made earlier by
15 Northwest Energy Coalition that we would like to see a more
16 aggressive approach there in terms of not just stabilizing
17 emissions, but looking at how we can reduce carbon over the
18 long term and move away from coal and focus on energy
19 efficiency, conservation renewables and those sort of energy
20 sources for our energy needs.

21 And my comments here are quick tonight.

22 I would like to also focus on the obligation of
23 the Power Council and the region to balance the needs of
24 fish and power and their role that this plan can play in
25 that. And we were very encouraged to see, in the analysis,

1 that the Council actually looked at what would be needed in
2 terms of if the four lower state river dams were removed,
3 how much power would need to be replaced in terms of that.
4 And I think the numbers were somewhere between 575 megawatts
5 and 750 megawatts, which are really pretty close in the
6 ballpark of the Bright Futures Report which was recently put
7 out by the Northwest Energy Coalition, Save the Wild Salmon
8 Coalition and Sierra Club.

9 And we would encourage that that analysis be
10 included in the final plan, because it's important that this
11 plan look at all contingencies into the future. And of
12 course the Washington Council TU strongly supports removal
13 of the four lower Snake River dams and has for a long time.
14 We believe the science says that that's what our fish need
15 in the Snake River basin to be restored. But regardless of
16 whether you support dam removal or you don't support dam
17 removal, it only makes common sense to look at all those
18 options.

19 And we still don't have quite yet a plan in place
20 for restoring our salmon. Of course the Obama
21 Administration announced one today. It still needs to be
22 reviewed by a judge, and we are seeing increasing calls in
23 the region from people like Senator Crapo of Idaho, Jeff
24 Merkley in Oregon of saying, "You know what, we need to be
25 looking at all these options and having stakeholders'

1 discussions."

2 So the question of the future of those four dams
3 remains on the table. And so we are encouraged to see that
4 analysis in the Council's draft plan, and we'd like to see
5 that included in the final plan in case that those dams are
6 removed.

7 Anyway, those are my comments. Thanks.

8 **MR. KARIER:** Thanks, Sam.

9 Next Asia Hege. Welcome.

10 **MS. HEGE:** Hello. I am a Gonzaga student, but I
11 am originally from Montana. I just want to share a few
12 thoughts.

13 **MR. KARIER:** Would you state your name for the
14 record.

15 **MS. HEGE:** Yes. Asia Hege.

16 **MR. KARIER:** I got it right. Thanks.

17 **MS. HEGE:** Yes. Good job.

18 I would like to urge the Council to adopt a Sixth
19 Power Plan that meets the needs of wild salmon and
20 steelhead. Under the Northwest Power Act, the Council is
21 directed to balance the needs of fish and power.

22 And the Council has completed analysis that
23 support what conservation and fishing groups have been
24 saying for years, that we can in fact meet our region's
25 energy needs without the four lower Snake River dams.

1 Fishery experts have long pointed to the removal
2 of these four dams as a critical component for effective
3 salmon recovery. And according to the Council's analysis,
4 as Sam briefly touched on, only 575 to 750 megawatts of
5 energy is required to replace what is produced by the four
6 lower dams. We can make this up through efficiency and
7 renewables, and I encourage the Council to include this
8 analysis in their Sixth Plan.

9 I am also encouraged to see that the draft's plan
10 is looking towards efficiency in renewable energy rather
11 than new coal. But I also urge the Council to go further
12 and support a plan that calls for phasing out existing dirty
13 coal and includes a plan for meeting emissions and
14 reductions goals. The plan has an aim to stabilize global
15 warming emissions but not reduce them. And as a Spokane
16 citizen and someone from the Northwest, we'd like to see
17 this go a little bit further.

18 Thank you.

19 **MR. KARIER:** Thank you.

20 Let's see. Next is John Osborn. Welcome, John.

21 **MR. OSBORN:** My name is John Osborn. I'm a
22 physician here in Spokane at the Veterans Administration
23 Hospital, but my comments are not those of the VA. I also
24 chair the Sierra Club's Upper Columbia River Group.

25 First of all, I want to thank you all for being

1 here to take public comments, and to thank you for the
2 opportunity to provide input.

3 As I think about the Columbia River ecosystem, it
4 seems like we are caught, both by our history as well as our
5 future. We are caught by a series of historic forces, one
6 which was dam building that has profoundly influenced this -
7 - the Columbia River ecosystem, this great river of life.

8 It is -- and if you go back to August 12th, when
9 Lewis and Clark first stepped into -- out of the United
10 States and into the Columbia River watershed, and one might
11 ask, and it was a place where people lived in dynamic
12 equilibrium with the landscape. And in 200 short years,
13 really the blink of an eye, profound changes have occurred
14 to this river, and perhaps the most profound was the era of
15 dam building.

16 Various dates can be arbitrarily selected for the
17 onset of that. I prefer 1933 with the construction of the
18 start of Bonneville and Grand Coulee, but whatever date is
19 selected, it is clear that the era of dam building has
20 profoundly influenced this great river of life.

21 The past we've inherited, the future that we are
22 living is a period not only of population growth, as
23 reflected in the plan, but also a degree of climate change.

24 You know, if you look at the work of the CIG or
25 even you just Google climate change and glaciers and start

1 looking at the Columbia River watershed glaciers, typically
2 the Columbia ice fields and look at the changes that are
3 underway now and that will likely accelerate into the
4 future, it's clear that we're living in a period of change
5 and that will likely accelerate.

6 So, we are in this period of where we're caught
7 both between our history and our future. It is within that
8 context that this draft plan is brought forward.

9 I am an internist. I'm not an expert in energy.
10 The things that I would like to say, and really echo some of
11 the comments that have been made already; one is, that I
12 applaud no new fossil fuel power plants. I think that the
13 concern about the need to phase out coal has already been
14 articulated. It would be helpful to have a clear
15 articulation of that with a strategy by the end of this plan
16 in 2020 with a strategy in place for how to phase out coal.

17 And I think from economic costs, which are often
18 such a driver for natural resources policy in the Columbia
19 River ecosystem, that we need to also make sure we have a
20 good handle on what the costs are likely to be of carbon-
21 based energy.

22 Moving on to fish. You know, this great river of
23 life, it's great to go back and look at the images of Salivo
24 (phonetic) and Kettle Falls and just the great richness of
25 our salmon culture, and also rich here. The salmon were

1 once so rich below in the Spokane River below our house. It
2 was, you know, it was a place of hawks (phonetic). And
3 that's gone. But it's not gone every place in the Columbia
4 River ecosystem.

5 I think that the issue of energy production co-
6 equal with fish has already been raised here tonight. I
7 think Sam Mace with Trout Unlimited has referenced the need
8 for the plan to account for the contingency of removing the
9 four lower Snake River dams, and I would simply echo that;
10 that, you know, there is, if nothing else, a certain level
11 of uncertainty about what will happen with those dams, and
12 that any plan for energy over in the next 20 years needs to
13 take into account contingencies to replace that power.

14 And finally conservation. I think that I would
15 like to echo the commendation of others presenting here
16 tonight about this plan recognizing the importance of
17 conservation. The needs to set higher targets, and in
18 effect that, you know, more is better.

19 There is an effective remedy here in place. We
20 need to use it and use more of that therapy to -- in the
21 next ten years of managing this ecosystem in the communities
22 that depend on the energy produced here.

23 Thank you.

24 **MR. KARIER:** Thank you, John.

25 I have two more people on my list. The next is

1 Jerry White. Welcome.

2 **MR. WHITE:** Thank you. My name is Jerry White.
3 I'm a resident of Spokane, Washington. I'm employed by Save
4 our Wild Salmon as well, but I am also conservation chair of
5 the Spokane Falls Trout Unlimited Chapter, and as such, you
6 know, my comments will obviously strongly echo those prior,
7 and it may seem slightly redundant, but they certainly do
8 represent the members of our local chapter here in Eastern
9 Washington.

10 I also would like to start by thanking you for the
11 opportunity to comment. I think this energy plan is
12 extraordinarily important and has very important
13 implications for the cold water fisheries in our region in
14 the next 20 years.

15 Spokane Falls Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit
16 organization. We're concerned with resident and native
17 trout and steelhead and salmon populations in our region,
18 and that's a primary focus of our organization. Our chapter
19 does go clear down to southeastern Washington down to the
20 lower Snake River, below Whitman County.

21 The Spokane Falls Chapter feels like that, you
22 know, though we haven't -- we also have not digested the
23 entire document, we do feel that the power plan is a step in
24 the right direction in several ways.

25 The draft plan is seeking to stabilize global

1 warming by reducing carbon emissions in the region, and this
2 is very, very important for cold water fish populations.
3 Earlier this year, we had Chinook salmon, adult Chinook
4 salmon actually die due to the superheated water in the
5 Grand Ronde River. This is increasingly correlated with
6 global warming and is very alarming.

7 Many of these species are already compromised by
8 myriad environmental insults, and so reducing global carbon
9 emissions is extremely important. Reduced snow packs and
10 reduced amounts of cold water is damaging these populations.

11 We applaud the Council for proposing that the
12 region meet Northwest energy demands with 5,800 annual
13 megawatts of new energy efficiency and 1,800 annual
14 megawatts of new renewable energy. We feel that the Council
15 should retain these in the final plan, as they are both
16 affordable and we feel they are attainable.

17 Having said this, we would also like to call
18 attention to several aspects of the plan that we feel
19 deserve inclusion. We would like to see that the draft plan
20 include the analysis and planning to remove the four lower
21 Snake River dams in southeast Washington state, respectively
22 the Ice Harbor Dam, Lower Monumental Dam, Little Goose Dam,
23 and the Lower Granite Dam.

24 These four hydroelectric projects pose an imminent
25 and grave danger to the four stocks of salmon and steelhead

1 that are extraordinarily vulnerable to extinction right now.

2 Additionally, the Power Council's analysis shows
3 that these projects can be replaced, again, as others have
4 noted, with between 575 and 750 annual megawatts of power.
5 Such power is readily available, we feel, through
6 conservation and efficiency and renewable energy. So we
7 strongly recommend that this analysis stay in the final
8 Power Plan so the region has contingency plans to pull these
9 populations of fish back from the brink.

10 We call on the Council to go beyond stabilizing
11 global greenhouse gas emissions and actually plan for
12 reducing them, and that coal be replaced with energy
13 efficiency and renewable sources of energy, such as wind and
14 solar.

15 Spokane Falls Trout Unlimited also feels that
16 given the exploding technology and gains in effective
17 transmission, electrical transmission, the goal of saving
18 1,200 annual megawatts in the five-year action plan is too
19 low. Setting higher energy conservation goals will save the
20 region money and to actually create jobs as well. And
21 finally, these kinds of conservation goals are going to be
22 good for cold water fish populations.

23 Again, I like to thank you for the opportunity to
24 comment on the plan, and certainly planning for a power
25 future where cold water fisheries are maintained and

1 enhanced should be an essential aspect of the finalized
2 power plan.

3 **MR. KARIER:** Thanks, Jerry.

4 Kris Mikkelsen. Welcome, Kris.

5 **MS. MIKKELSEN:** Hello. I'm Kris Mikkelsen. I'm
6 the CEO of Inland Power and Light Company, and I also would
7 like to thank you for providing an opportunity right here in
8 Spokane to comment on Council's plan.

9 Congratulations on publishing a very comprehensive
10 and complex draft plan. The plan's scope and importance
11 cannot be overstated.

12 Maybe just a quick background on Inland. Inland
13 is a nonprofit electric cooperative serving approximately
14 38,000 members in 13 counties in Eastern Washington and
15 Northern Idaho.

16 Inland's service territory is largely rural with
17 system density of just over five customers per mile, and we
18 are subject to Washington State's Energy Independence Act,
19 more commonly known as Initiative 937.

20 The Draft Sixth Plan is a useful document for
21 assessing many regional conservation power and supply
22 issues. It's clear that a great deal of thought and effort
23 has gone into the preparation of the draft plan. Council
24 members and staff are to be complimented on your efforts.

25 Inland doesn't have the resources to review all

1 aspects of this complex plan, and of course the draft plan
2 has only been available for a relatively brief time since
3 its publication in early September. Nonetheless, we would
4 like to offer a few preliminary observations and comments.
5 We will also be working with the Public Power Council and
6 Northwest requirement utilities on a more detailed review of
7 the draft plan and some more additional and detailed
8 comments.

9 First, the draft plan very appropriately focuses
10 on conservation and energy efficiency as the first resource
11 of choice. While many details are yet to be worked out,
12 Inland views energy efficiency as the primary means to
13 lessen the impacts of more costly generating resources.

14 With BPA's implementation of tier grades starting
15 in 2012, Inland's core business model will be to develop and
16 acquire all cost effective and reliable conservation
17 available in its service territory.

18 In this manner, Inland will be able to hold down
19 retail rate increases and provide its members with higher
20 and improved levels of service.

21 In Inland's service territory, the challenges will
22 be many, but Inland is preparing to significantly expand its
23 energy efficiency efforts.

24 This last weekend, we moved, after 59 years at a
25 location in downtown Spokane to a new LEED Gold. We hope to

1 be certified as LEED Gold's building out on the west plains.

2 As we tried to anticipate for the future space
3 requirements within the building, we have added a
4 significant amount of space for future expansion. Most of
5 that space is in the conservation wing of our new building.

6 In addition, I should note that Inland is
7 partnering with regional utilities and others on a smart
8 grid grant application to the Department of Energy. We are
9 hopeful that this effort will provide useful information and
10 improve our understanding of how to best implement better
11 and smarter use of electric energy and related facilities.

12 We commend the draft plan for recognizing that
13 rural and/or smaller utilities will face a different set of
14 circumstances and challenges when acquiring energy
15 efficiency. We look forward to working with Bonneville and
16 others on this item and of Council's action plan.

17 We support the approach outlined in the draft plan
18 of conducting periodic reviews of the level of conservation
19 being achieved by all interests. The draft plan lays out
20 what looks like aggressive targets to the first five years,
21 including about one quarter, as we understand it, from
22 relatively new measures, programs or markets for
23 conservation.

24 Ongoing review of what actually is and can be
25 accomplished is very important. Some measures may simply

1 not be able to deliver the assumed amount of savings in the
2 time frame indicated in the draft plan.

3 We understand there is some reluctance to
4 disaggregate the 1,100 to 1,400 average megawatt five- year
5 target range between actions focused on utility programs,
6 market transformation, and codes and standards.

7 While we acknowledge that all players have a
8 general responsibility to support the advance of energy
9 efficiency, we would encourage the Council to elaborate on
10 how it sees the 1,100 to 1,400 average megawatt target being
11 generally divided among the approaches to achieving such
12 target.

13 Inland fully supports reasonable and prudent
14 expenditures for items in the draft plan that would allow
15 all interests to clearly understand the achievable level and
16 long-term sustainability of energy efficiency.

17 As noted in the action plan, much of the Draft
18 Sixth Plan assessment of what can be achieved is based on
19 research and demonstration program results from the early
20 '80s. It is critical that we develop current data based on
21 what happens in the real world with real electric consumers
22 over extended periods of time and circumstances.

23 We appreciate the Council including standard CFL
24 savings in the first two years of the draft plan.

25 Inland recently completed a survey of its members'

1 housing stock and existing energy efficiency measures. It's
2 clear that there is still much opportunity to capture
3 savings via additional standard CFLs, while at the same time
4 offering a varied set of other energy efficiency measures.

5 Inland greatly appreciates that the draft plan
6 recognizes the tremendous value of the existing federal
7 hydro system, both in terms of providing carbon-free energy
8 and permitting the integration of variable output resources
9 like wind. As we all look to the future, it is very
10 important to preserve and enhance the renewable resources
11 that we already have.

12 As noted in the draft plan, recent resource
13 development has been dominated by wind and natural gas-fired
14 plants. Inland is supportive of reasonable efforts to
15 facilitate the development of other small scale and more
16 diversified resources as well. This would include a whole
17 range of project types, including biomass, geothermal, hydro
18 efficiency improvements, and new hydroelectric projects.

19 Inland is supportive of prudent actions that are
20 effective in producing increased numbers of threatened or
21 endangered salmon and steelhead impacted by the federal
22 hydro system.

23 While we have not spent much time reviewing the
24 details of the draft plan regarding fish and wildlife
25 actions, it is our understanding that the draft plan is

1 using the PF rate to value the lost generation associated
2 with fish actions. Clearly, the market value of the lost
3 generation is the more appropriate value indicated. When
4 the 2010 preference rate goes into effect shortly, Inland
5 estimates that this rate will be about 35 percent higher
6 than it would otherwise be without fish and wildlife
7 impacts.

8 Even for a relatively small or mid sized utility
9 like Inland, our members are spending millions each year on
10 fish and wildlife recovery.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to offer these
12 preliminary comments. Inland is supportive of the Council's
13 effort to help the region, BPA, and individual utilities
14 with ensuring an environmentally sound, cost effective, and
15 reliable future power system.

16 Thank you.

17 **MR. KARIER:** Thanks, Kris.

18 Rosemarie Bisiar. I can't tell whether you wanted
19 to sign up to speak. You don't. Okay.

20 Anyone else? We have exhausted the list. Is
21 there anyone else here who would like to speak tonight? All
22 right. I'm not seeing anyone.

23 Just a reminder of what the Council plans to do
24 with this information. First of all, thanks to all of you
25 for these thoughtful comments. This is very helpful. We

1 have taken this down word for word, and we will make that
2 transcript available to all the other council members and
3 staff of the Council. We will also look forward to any
4 written comments that you will submit before November 6th.
5 And the Council will deliberate and take all of this into
6 account, and we will work on using that information to draft
7 a final Sixth Power Plan, and we will hopefully complete
8 that sometime at the end of this year or the beginning of
9 next year.

10 So, again, thank you for your time, taking this
11 time on a Tuesday evening to talk to us. And I think we're
12 adjourned.

13 **(Proceedings adjourned at 6:32 p.m.)**

1 CERTIFICATE

2
3 I, Marilyn J. Broyles, do hereby certify that pursuant
4 to the Rules of Civil Procedure, the witness named
5 herein appeared before me at the time and place set
6 forth in the caption herein; that at the said time
7 and place, I reported in stenotype all testimony
8 adduced and other oral proceedings had in the
9 foregoing matter; and that the foregoing transcript
10 pages constitute a full, true and correct record of
11 such testimony adduced and oral proceeding had and
12 of the whole thereof.

13
14 IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
15 18th day of September, 2009.

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23 /Signed April 21, 2010
24 Marilyn J. Broyles Commission Expiration
25

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