Advisory Committees

The Council’s advisory committees provide forums for discussion and important information used in developing the power plans.

Members include a wide range of stakeholders from utilities, consumer groups, environmental groups, tribes, government agencies, and energy organizations. They are an opportunity for regional interests to work with Council staff and discuss aspects of the plan as it is developed. All advisory committee meetings are open to the public.

Go to the Council’s energy site and use the left navigation pane to explore each committee’s webpage: http://www.nwcouncil.org/energy/

Resource Strategies Advisory Committee
Reviews the methods, key assumptions, and other major analytical inputs used in developing the resource plan

Generating Resources Advisory Committee
Evaluates the cost, characteristics, and environmental impacts of generating resources and technologies

Demand Forecast Advisory Committee
Reviews the methods, demand forecasting tools, input assumptions and forecast results, used in developing the Council’s demand forecasts

Natural Gas Advisory Committee
Reviews the Council’s fuel price forecasting assumptions and models for natural gas, oil, and coal

System Analysis Advisory Committee
Reviews the Council’s computer models and provides advice on their development

Resource Adequacy Advisory Committee
Defines and assesses power supply adequacy and related issues

Analysis Areas of Focus and Tools

- Narratives/Issues Discussion
- Symposia
- Assumptions, Forecasts, and Other Inputs (with Advisory Committee Review)
- Market/Industry Analysis (AURORA/Other)
  - Utility Business Model
  - Energy Efficiency Implementation
  - Differences Among Utilities
- Resource Adequacy - (Genesys)
  - Capacity
  - Energy
- System Integration and Balancing (Metric/Model)
- Strategic Risk Analysis (Redeveloped RPM)
- Test Policy Propositions (Scenarios)

The Council is committed to actively engaging all interested parties in the Seventh Power Plan process, and we welcome your comments and questions.

Key Contacts:
- Charlie Black - Power Planning Director
- Mark Walker - Public Affairs Director
- Chad Madron - Project Specialist

nw council.org

Updated 05/20/2014

Updated 05/20/2014

Seventh Power Plan

Development of the Seventh Power Plan begins in earnest in 2014. Most of the advisory committees have held kick off meetings in the last few months, and work to develop various forecasts, related research, analytical tools, and project planning is underway.

Engaging the public and stakeholders in the development of the plan is a Council priority. In addition to the advisory committee work, staff has presented energy primers and process overviews at Council meetings to prepare members and the public on key issues. We have also held symposiums on plan-related topics such as carbon emissions and California’s energy markets, with more planned in the months ahead.

A draft schedule has been developed and work during 2014 will include: develop an environmental methodology, extensive public engagement to interested parties, framing issues for analysis, and continued work on forecasts, assumptions and inputs. In early 2015, system modeling will ramp up. We expect to release the draft plan for public comment in late summer 2015. We expect the final version to be adopted by the Council near the end of 2015.

Three major items are affecting the plan’s schedule:
- Redeveloping the regional portfolio model - including working with our selected vendor to complete the project by the beginning of 2015
- Development of updated environmental methodology
- Additional time to complete the fish and wildlife program.

Updated 05/20/2014
Seventh Plan Timeline

All dates are DRAFT

High level overview of key deliverables

Engagement Throughout Plan Process:
- Power Committee and Council Meetings
- Advisory committee meetings
- Symposia
- Other Discussions with Regional Interests
- Council Website as Communication Vehicle

*Quarters are by Calendar Year

2013
- RFP Issued

2015
- Draft Plan Approved by Council
- Final Plan Adopted
- Needs Assessment for Energy Capacity and Flexibility Complete
- Q3 2015 Draft Plan Approved by Council
- Q4 2015 RPM Model Ready For Use

2014
- Vendor Selected – Contract Approved
- Conceptual Definition of Scenarios/Strategies (RPM/Genesys)
- Environmental Methodology Approved for use in Analysis
- Working Version Available for User Testing
- RFP Issued
- Q3 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program Adopted
- Demand/Price Forecasts and Conservation Supply Curves Updated
- Q3-4 2014 Draft Plan & Revise

Q1 2015
- Final Plan Adopted