



Council's Sixth Power Plan

PNUCC Scope of Work

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council is developing its sixth regional Power Plan as required by the Northwest Power Act. The work on the new Plan has begun and the Council hopes to publish it in mid 2009.

This Plan is important to PNUCC members for several reasons. It provides a regional vehicle for communicating to policy makers and the public, the electric power industry's state of affairs and future challenges. It provides an independent view on a variety of topics including the region's power system adequacy and the potential for additional energy savings and generating resources. This Plan will also include a methodology that defines Washington utilities' conservation requirements. And, if BPA decides to acquire major resources, their acquisitions will be reviewed in light of this regional Power Plan.

The following overview describes the plan for PNUCC engaging in the development of the Council's Sixth Power Plan.

Approach

The Council's approach for developing the Plan includes: a tremendous amount of staff analysis, issue papers, technical advisory committees, and monthly briefings at their Power Four and full Council meetings. Given the plethora of topics and opportunities to actively participate, PNUCC will focus on highest priority issues and rely heavily on PNUCC members' staff. The PNUCC Board of Directors will provide the overall direction and strategy for achieving the goals of this effort. They will look to the PNUCC staff to coordinate this work and bring major issues to the Board for discussion and policy development. It is proposed that the staffs of PNUCC membership actively participate in various Council committees. The Board may consider the use of consultants as issues arise over the course of the next year.

Goals

- PNUCC members and the Council share a common view on the basics of the current Northwest power system and the future challenges.
- The sixth regional Power Plan describes the state of the Northwest power system and the future we face to maintain an adequate and affordable power supply.
- The detailed and complex issues associated with the power industry are well understood by customers, elected officials and policy makers.

Major Issues

The Power Plan will address many topics and issues. The PNUCC coordinated effort will identify and focus only on the highest priority topics including:

- **Climate change** policies and their effect on the power industry (state RPS, carbon footprint, ‘what if’ scenario analysis, impact of policies on electric load)
- **Conservation** and other demand-side resources (potential amount and price, barriers, roles, cost-effectiveness, methodology)
- The amount and characteristics of **wind energy** (potential amounts and prices, integration, capacity value)
- **Other generating resources** (potential amounts and prices of tidal, geothermal, biomass, wave, small hydropower)
- **Meeting peak demands** (assessing our needs winter and summer)
- The **criterion for acquiring resources** (how it relates to their adequacy standard)
- **Future power costs** that customers may face will be highlighted
- The role of the **Northwest hydropower** system

Roles and Responsibilities

In order to meet our goals for this effort, it is anticipated that a combined effort of the PNUCC Board of Directors, members’ staffs and PNUCC staff will be required. The main roles and responsibilities are outlined below.

Board of Directors

- Develops and oversees the strategy for implementing this scope of work
- Provides overall direction on priority issues
- Develops consensus points-of-view
- Communicates policy issues with Council members and other policy makers

Member Staffs

- Participates in a variety of Council forums
- Identifies key issues for Board and members’ consideration
- Provides individual and PNUCC consensus points-of-view on the topics

PNUCC Staff

- Provides project coordination
- Identifies key issues for Board and members’ consideration
- Drafts formal comments on relevant issues – as directed by Board
- Participates in select Council work groups

PNUCC System Planning Committee (new ad hoc group)

- Provides review and input on ‘system planning’ aspects of Plan (e.g. resource acquisition standard)
- Identifies additional ‘system’ analysis that is needed (e.g. carbon footprint follow up)
- Participants have expertise in resource planning and other power related areas

PNUCC Communication Team (new ad hoc group)

- Develops approach and messages for communicating relevant power industry issues to policy leaders, elected officials and customers
- Participants have working knowledge of their company’s public message goals and objectives