

# Update

## What's Happening With the Sixth Power Plan

April 2008

The region's Sixth Power Plan figures prominently on the PNUCC agenda for 2008. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council staff is already tuning up computer models and running preliminary analyses for the plan. PNUCC intends to bring you periodic updates about things that may affect your utility or company. We don't propose to drag you into the weeds on issues or describe the nuts and bolts of computer models, but there are aspects of plan development that will interest you. We'll bring you the highlights and signal any calls to action as the process moves along. The Council is on track to publish a Plan by the middle of next year. Please stay tuned and we'll help you stay in the know.

- **Early-Bird Resource Assessment:** Council staff has laid out a preliminary resource assessment, with the caveat that the computer run was for practice. That said, it's interesting to see what's going on with these early looks. The good news is the analysis reflects climate change initiatives and state Renewable Portfolio Standards and the load forecast looks similar to PNUCC's. But we'll be interested to see what adequacy standard the analysis uses to signal the need "to acquire" resources, whether any gas-fired turbines show up (there's no mention of them yet), and what refinements, if any, are made in the amount of conservation and wind that is "forced" into the model. At this point, half the 6,000 MWh in expected load growth over 20 years is met with conservation, which is similar to the last 20 years. And wind, conservation, and other RPS resource additions carry the region to 2023. Seem reasonable? The Council will be working on data updates over the next several months. If anything here strikes a dissonant chord, see the next item and join the GRAC.
- **GRAC Looks for Volunteers:** At its April meeting, the Council chartered a Generating Resources Advisory Committee for the Sixth Plan. The Council is looking for about 20 "industry experts" to review planning data and assumptions for accuracy and reasonableness as the plan takes shape. Staffers Jeff King and Maury Galbraith, chair and co-chair, will meet periodically with reps from BPA, utilities, state agencies, resource developers, and public interest groups starting in May. PNUCC won't be staffing these meetings, so if you have experts to spare for the effort, contact Jeff at [jking@nwcouncil.org](mailto:jking@nwcouncil.org) or 503-222-5161. We'd like to see good PNUCC participation to help assure our goal that the Sixth Plan accurately "describes the state of the Northwest Power system and the future we face to maintain an adequate and affordable power supply."
- **Carbon Brainteaser:** What's a marginal CO<sub>2</sub> production rate? Council staff has worked up an analysis of emissions avoided when energy efficiency takes the place of carbon-producing resources. This is a piece of the calculation for overall cost-effectiveness of measures like conservation. The details of the analysis are too dense to go through here. But valuing conservation is one of PNUCC's "elite eight"

issues for the Sixth Plan. Suffice it to say, it's a good thing there are computers to determine the marginal resource brought on line to meet demand in every hour over a 20-year period and to make assumptions about CO<sub>2</sub> emission prices.

That's it for this update. Call me with any questions -- we'll bring you more in May.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted.

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