

# Update

## What's Happening With the Sixth Power Plan

August 2009

At its meeting in Spokane, the Council decided, on a 4-4 vote, not to release the draft of its 6<sup>th</sup> Power Plan until more work can be done on key issues and high-level messages. Council members from Oregon and Washington favored getting the draft out the door so the public could comment on it, while Council members from Idaho and Montana felt the document wasn't yet ready for prime time.

I think this is a good development. The news articles about the Plan that came out in the last few days were a good reminder that unless the Plan is carefully worded and clear in its intent, it can be misconstrued. Council chair Bill Booth called the articles "premature" and said it was clear to him the Plan needs additional work.

I expect the Council to meet later this month to try to reach agreement on several issues, such as how the plan addresses conservation in the out years and what conservation programs will mean to consumers in terms of costs. I think the Council's vision statement will be rewritten, the dam removal discussion clarified, and there will be more of an effort to shed light on the effect of carbon scenarios on customers' pocketbooks.

Given the changes in the Plan that have already been made as a result of our ongoing discussions with Council members and staff over the past year, I'm expecting the draft Plan will be a pretty good product overall.

Here's what PNUCC will do when the draft Plan does come out.

- **Full Analysis.** Working with our System Planning Committee, our review of the Plan will focus on major issues. We will be looking for technical accuracy, a realistic picture of the world utilities face, and whether the document communicates clearly. A list of issues can be found at the [Draft Plan – Issues for Comment](#) link on the PNUCC website (Current Topics/Council Sixth Power Plan).
- **Telling our Story.** Our Communication Committee is taking the lead on getting the word out. Through press releases and talking points they will ensure that the media and our members know what we think about the draft. In addition to our formal written comments, we will coordinate testimony from our members at the public hearings the Council will hold around the region.

It has been a long haul to get to this point. I expect we will see the fruits of our labor in the draft when it is released. The 6<sup>th</sup> Power Plan is shaping up to add value to our industry. Please give me a call if you have questions or ideas.

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

*Dick Adams, Executive Director*

*PNUCC*

*503.294.1268 phone*

*dick@pnucc.org*