

Update

What's Happening With the Sixth Power Plan

July 2008

As the Northwest Power and Conservation Council cranks out analyses for the Sixth Power Plan, utility interest in the process has surged. I was pleased so many members of the utility community turned out to participate in the Generating Resources Advisory Committee meeting this month and engage on system planning issues. The more this happens, the closer we get to achieving a key PNUCC objective: making sure the plan reflects what the power industry thinks, and helps the public better understand the real energy picture.

- **Gas Works Heating Up:** PNUCC's board has authorized a study of the future natural gas needs of electric utilities, including base load and peaking needs, as well as the role of natural gas in wind integration. And this month the Council re-chartered its Natural Gas Advisory Committee, with the first meeting set for August 15. This is an opportunity for PNUCC members to shed their light on future prices and volatility.
- **Steering Wheel for Resource Adequacy:** The Resource Adequacy Forum steering committee decided this month, after a meeting well attended by utilities, that Council staff should prepare a report for the region on their recent adequacy assessment for 2011 and 2013 – highlighting the significant changes from last year's assessment. Since resource adequacy is the cornerstone of the power plan, this study provides a preview of a minimum reliability threshold the Plan will be based on. I expect the final Plan will reflect acquiring firm power supply to a higher level of reliability than this minimum. Stayed tuned....
- **A Plug for Plug-in Studies:** The Council's analysis of the impact of plug-in electric cars on the power system is a work in progress, but early results show how much widespread use of electric cars could reduce CO₂ emissions. It looks like changes in the transportation sector might offer a huge payoff in carbon reduction. Kudos for the Council for sizing this up.
- **Eyes on the Prize:** While it's easy to get caught up in all the new analyses, PNUCC wants to make sure the Council doesn't lose sight of what critical questions the plan should answer. One of our members told me the plan "should put the spotlight on how the cost of power is going to change as a result of new social policies," such as those aimed at carbon dioxide reduction. Good idea. What do you think?

I'd like to hear your opinion (it's as easy as replying to this email) on the most valuable contributions the Sixth Power Plan could bring to your utility, company or the region. We might even make a **Top Ten Things PNUCC Wants in the Plan** list and discuss it at our next board meeting. But in the meantime, we'll keep tracking the forums, work groups, and data conclaves and keep you posted. Please call if you have any questions or just want to talk.

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

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