

Update

What's Happening With the Sixth Power Plan

July 2009

The Council looks set to release the draft of its Sixth Power Plan in August. While the details aren't yet available, it appears Council members and staff are making efforts to align parts of the plan with comments they have received.

The proposal to change the conservation target to a range and add a mid-point check-in to evaluate achievements and barriers is one example. Another is Council members' insistence that BPA add some flexibility to its conservation programs to meet the needs of small and rural utilities.

The Council also intends to explain in the draft how its regional resource adequacy assessment differs from a needs assessment based on firm loads and resources. I want to be sure this key distinction and its implications are clear in the draft. And if not, I want us all to offer suggestions to help communicate it effectively to the public, policymakers and the media. Other topics on our watch list:

- **The Vision.** We haven't heard much from Council members about what staff has proposed for a vision in the plan. I think the vision needs to emphasize reliability and how the Council sees the region meeting future energy and capacity needs.
- **Coal.** Coal is controversial, and some organizations are asking the Council to advocate phasing out coal generation. Our System Planning Committee raised questions about how coal operations have been modeled, and I plan to continue our conversation with Council staff.
- **Carbon Costs.** Lots of talk, but where the Council will come down on this issue isn't clear at all. I will be looking for a well articulated explanation of how different carbon policies and costs impact the resource portfolio in the draft Plan.
- **Consumer Impacts.** Still one missing piece is a straightforward presentation on what the plan's provisions will mean for consumers taking into account all anticipated costs of meeting future power needs. PNUCC will likely have a lot to offer in meeting this communications challenge, once we see what the draft has to say.

Thanks for all your efforts to get our ideas onto the airwaves. I'll be in touch about what's next and how we all share our thoughts with the Council once the draft Plan is released.



Dick Adams, PNUCC Executive Director

503.294.1268

dick@pnucc.org