



## **Northwest Power and Conservation Council Meeting Notes December 10, 2019 Portland, Oregon**

The entire, one-day December Council Meeting was devoted to moving forward on the Council’s Addendum to the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program. Members voted to delay Part 1 of the Addendum for six months to discuss goals and objectives with stakeholders, and reviewed changes to Part 2 of the Addendum.

Members Jennifer Anders, Richard Devlin, Guy Norman, Ted Ferrioli, Bo Downen and Patrick Oshie attended. Members Jim Yost and Jeffery Allen joined by phone. The next Council Meeting will be held January 14 and 15 in Portland.

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### **The Agenda**

#### **Fish and Wildlife Program Addendum**

##### [Part 1 gets a six-month delay](#)

The Council voted unanimously to delay approving Part 1 of the 2020 Addendum to the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program with edits scheduled for final approval in July 2020.

Patty O’Toole, Fish and Wildlife Division acting director, said that during this past year’s public comment period, the Council received comments from some of the state fish and wildlife agencies and tribes asking the Council not to adopt Part 1. Instead, they requested a delay to work with the Council to determine the most appropriate goals, objectives and program indicators.

O'Toole explained that understanding program performance will be an important determinant in future funding. She said stakeholders want to collaborate on how the Council and others will assess, report and use program performance information over time. Some of the specific areas include salmon and steelhead, lamprey, resident fish, sturgeon and wildlife.

Member Downen observed the program already has been through an exhaustive process, and that it feels strange to reopen it. John Shurts, general counsel for the Council, replied that recommended changes through this process require more public review and comment.

### Part 2 edits reviewed --final action scheduled for January meeting

The Council spent the remainder of the Meeting reviewing recommended changes to Part 2 of the Addendum. They discussed edits to sections related to climate change, mitigation in blocked areas, ocean impacts, the estuary, the mainstem and predator management.

There was a lengthy discussion among Council Members on a proposed 5% change to budget triggering mechanism, with some suggesting a 5% trigger is too much micromanagement by the Council. In spite of concerns over BPA's budget, O'Toole said there were numerous comments encouraging the Council weigh in and ensure its Fish and Wildlife Program stays intact.

Member Devlin said the idea isn't to micromanage BPA or what they'll fund. The idea is to develop a Fish and Wildlife Program, and it needs review. Member Norman said the most important part is ensuring communication, coordination and an opportunity for the Council to weigh in, regardless of a specified percentage.

Peter Cogswell, BPA's Intergovernmental Affairs and Regional Relations director, said the agency is committed to more than a handshake agreement, but they would prefer finding a way to work together without a specific budget trigger.

After incorporating the edits, staff will present a new draft of Part 2 for a full Council vote at the January meeting.



## Power Committee Briefs

The committee was briefed by Gillian Charles on pumped storage: its costs and its potential fit in the region’s resource mix. In the 7<sup>th</sup> *Power Plan* pumped storage was discussed qualitatively. In the *2021 Power Plan* the Council, with help of the Generating Resources Advisory Committee, has developed a reference plant that can be included in modeled scenarios. Today there are various pumped storage projects that have been proposed in the Northwest, and a few have received their FERC permit.

	Pumped Storage
Configuration & Technology	400 MW, 8hr, Variable Speed Pump, Closed-loop System
Capacity (MW)	400
Energy (MWh)	3,200
Round Trip Efficiency	80%
Financial Sponsor	IOU
Economic Life (years)	50
Overnight Capital Cost (\$/kW)	\$2,300/kW
Fixed O&M Cost (\$/kW-yr)	\$14/kw-yr
Earliest Commercial Online Date	2025
Development Time	4 years
Construction Time	5 years
Potential	4,000 MW (equiv. 10 reference plants); staggered availability and development time over planning period

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THE 2021 NORTHWEST POWER PLAN

Charles noted one benefit of pumped storage over battery storage is the ability to provide energy for a longer period of time.

For example, the draft reference plant for the *2021 Plan* has a capacity of 400 MW with 3,200 MWh of storage – this allows the plant to provide its full output for 8 hours.

Massoud Jourabchi, economic analysis manager, gave a presentation on the state of the electric utilities. The Northwest’s population growth has been faster than the nation as a whole, plus, the region’s economy is improving faster than the national average. However, utility loads are staying flat, with most annual variations due to weather.