



Northwest Power and Conservation Council Meeting Notes March 17, 2020 Portland, Oregon

Held on St. Patrick’s Day, the Council Meeting was a truncated, virtual gathering. Concerns over the coronavirus prompted the postponement of most agenda items and the Members called in to Portland headquarters, where Chair Richard Devlin was joined via webinar by Members Jennifer Anders, Ted Ferrioli, Jeffery Allen, Bo Downen, Guy Norman, Patrick Oshie and Jim Yost. Power Division director Ben Kujala continued the prior month’s presentation of the Council’s *2021 Power Plan* analytical process and the Council took action in the process to complete their 2020 Addendum to the *Fish and Wildlife Program*.

The next meeting also will be a webinar, scheduled for April 14 and 15.

In This Issue

Previewing 2021 Power Plan Analytics	1
Another Step Toward a 2020 Addendum for F & W Program	2
Power Committee Briefs	2

The Agenda

Previewing 2021 Power Plan Analytics

Rounding up data from around the entire region, and outside the Northwest, is the Herculean task underway by the Council’s Power Division staff. To build the *2021 Power Plan*, staff is looking at resources throughout the entire WECC, including generation, plant retirements, state policies and future resource development. Plus, according to Power Division director Ben Kujala, they are looking at the Western Electric Grid, the Eastern Interconnection and Texas to give them a sense of the transmission system for importing and exporting power. Kujala picked up where he left off last month drilling deeper into his ongoing presentation of the building blocks for the *2021 Plan*.

Developing demand response supply curves – Kujala defined demand response: a change in electric usage by a customer in response to a power provider’s request; often driven by an agreement, sometimes financial, or tariff between parties. He followed on with details of how the supply curves are developed starting with estimates of the region’s technical potential and how that potential is adjusted to reflect what is achievable and the cost of obtaining it.

Forecasting electricity prices – The wholesale price forecast is updated for each *Power Plan*. Kujala noted price forecasts feed into analysis done to help estimate market impacts, to inform regional resource adequacy requirements calculations and to estimate and compare the risk of different resource strategy options.

Estimating system adequacy requirement – One directive in the *NW Power Planning Act* is to assure the Council develops a plan that ensures the Pacific Northwest of an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply, Kujala said. He described the methodology being used to define how different types of new resources will contribute toward resource adequacy as established by the 5% loss-of-load probability (LOLP) yardstick.

Power Committee chair Pat Oshie asked if the LOLP standard is used elsewhere. Kujala said the LOLP concept has been around a long time, but there's no standard in the US. The Northwest's reliance on hydro for a huge portion of its generation pool makes it unique in North America. He said a LOLP of 5% was the measure settled upon in late 2000. It has been used by multiple utilities in the region, as well as by the Resource Adequacy Advisory Committee.

Expect more on the power planning analytic components in the next few months.

Another Step Toward a 2020 Addendum for F & W Program

Council members voted to adopt into the Fish & Wildlife Program the findings on recommendation and responses to comments for Part II of the 2020 Program Addendum. According to John Shurts, general counsel, this document meets a requirement of the *NW Power Planning Act* and provides a broader explanation of how inputs and issues are addressed as the 2020 Addendum is completed.

Power Committee Briefs

Possible timeline shift

Member Oshie told the Council that they may have to reconsider the timeline for delivering the draft *2021 Power Plan* due to the coronavirus. The objective is to get it out on time, but he wants that possibility on the table.

Energy efficiency supply curves examined

Staff is looking at energy efficiency supply curves for the *2021 Power Plan*, including the draft conclusions for each element of energy efficiency supply availability. The current estimates are different than what is in *Seventh Power Plan*.

Demand response supply curves discussed

Staff presented the demand response supply curves for the *2021 Power Plan*, which will be made available for the Regional Portfolio Model. Staff looked at 20 demand response products in three categories: residential direct load control, non-residential direct load control and priced-based demand response, which are time-of-use rates or peak-pricing rates.