



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Meeting Notes
April 9-10, 2019
Portland, Oregon

As the region continues to address new carbon restrictions and goals, Northwest Energy’s Brad Sawatzke made a case for the virtues of clean nuclear power, which provides 20 percent of the nation’s electricity. In addition, Portland General Electric’s Elysia Treanor shared her utility’s study on what measures need to be taken to achieve its decarbonization goals by 2050. The remainder of the meeting examined a variety of fish and wildlife issues.

The Council welcomed Washington’s new Council Member, Patrick Oshie, who was appointed by Washington Governor Jay Inslee. Council Vice-Chair Richard Devlin led the Portland meeting and was joined by Council Members Guy Norman, Ted Ferrioli, Jeffery Allen, Jim Yost and Tim Baker. Council Chair Jennifer Anders joined by phone.

The next Council Meeting will be May 7 and 8 in Boise, Idaho.

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The Agenda

Oshie appointed to Council by Washington Governor Inslee

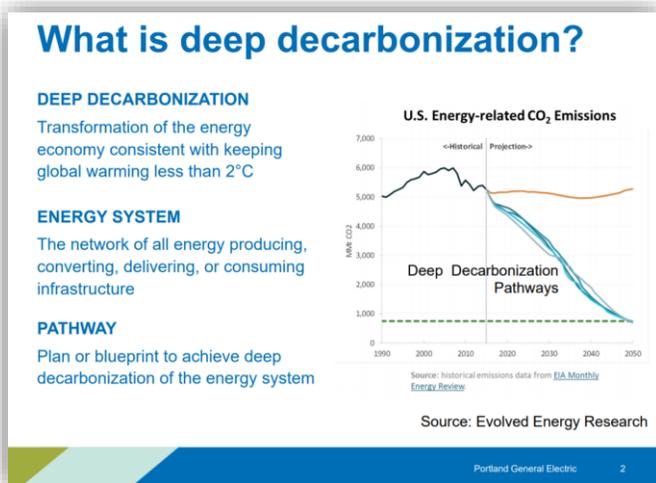
Patrick Oshie is the Council’s newest member, appointed this month by Washington Governor Jay Inslee. Oshie is a business and energy attorney from Zillah, Washington. He has a wealth of experience with Northwest power and fish issues. He is a former member of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (2001-2013) and former counsel for Western Electricity Coordinating Council. He represented the Yakima Nation and other clients in the 1990s on fisheries issues.

Oshie replaces Tom Karier, who retired from the Council after serving for 20 years. Oshie earned a law degree from University of Washington in 1980, and a Bachelor's Degree from Western Washington State College in 1977.

Portland General Electric reveals formula for meeting decarbonization goals

Portland General Electric's environmental policy manager, Elysia Treanor, joined the Council to share the results of the Evolved Energy Research study. PGE learned that meeting its carbon reductions is feasible, but getting there still needs to be charted out as energy providers strategize what steps need to be taken to achieve new mandates.

Treanor said PGE is interested in decarbonization because there's a citywide, statewide and nationwide interest in reducing greenhouse gases (GHG). And PGE recently joined with 2,500 others in continuing a pledge to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.



The study, commissioned to inform PGE's integrated resource plan, looked at ways to achieve an 80 percent reduction in carbon emissions in PGE's service territory by 2050. Meeting the target is possible with transformative changes in how electricity is used, produced and delivered and it would require timely planning and coordination to reduce implementation barriers to achieve reduction of all types of energy usage.

Treanor said there needs to be success across all three pillars –energy efficiency, electricity decarbonization and electrification. And electrification of the transportation sector would play a critical role in achieving GHG reduction targets, primarily of light-duty vehicles.

As electricity use grows, electric generation must be increasingly carbon-free. By 2050, most energy generation would come from variable renewables, like wind and solar, and electricity providers would need new capability to efficiently integrate it. Treanor added it is expected there would be a large buildout of Northwest wind, Montana wind and utility-scale solar. There would be some hydro and thermal for balancing and the study assumes a buildout of battery storage, along with flexible charging of vehicles to help with peak hours usage.

How will it be paid for? By customers. Treanor said that upfront technology costs need to be paid, but by 2050, consumers will be saving money. People will be paying more for their electric bill, but less at the pump. Overall, their savings would be about \$35 a month.

Member Devlin agrees that with the region's base of hydro and its commitment to renewables, we should be able to get to 80 percent. But transportation could be the hardest to achieve, he said. Emissions are growing. If the goal is 50,000 electric vehicles by 2020, how do you get to it?

"I don't know," Treanor replied. "This study is policy neutral. It just says what's needed by a certain date. Now it's up to us to figure out how to get to that point."

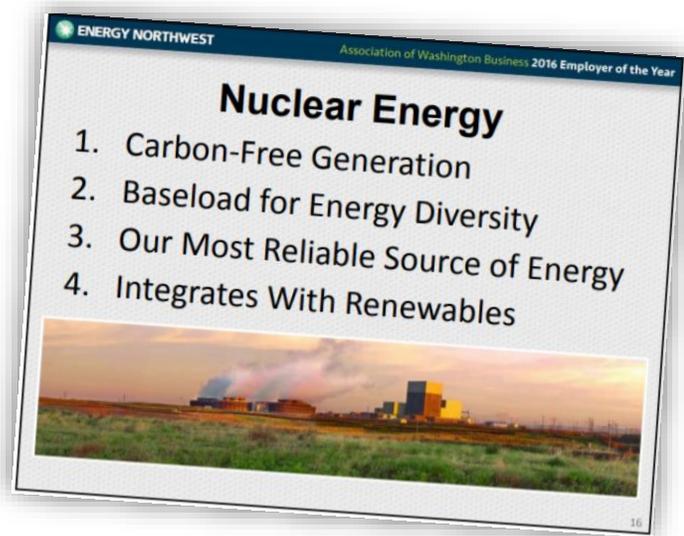
Sawatzke pounds the pulpit for clean nuclear power

Energy Northwest CEO Brad Sawatzke joined the Council to share the virtues of Columbia Generating Station (CGS), which is the third-largest generator in Washington, after Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams – and a carbon-free baseload resource.

He referred to the Washington's legislation to be carbon free by 2045 and anticipates its passage. It strengthens their position as a company, he said. "We believe in renewables," he said, "but if you're anchoring a transmission system, you need baseload generation. CGS is a baseload anchor with an output of 1,207 MW."

In addition, CGS prevents a fossil fuel replacement equivalent of about 4.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere, which is about same amount of carbon released by approximately 778,000 cars each year. Nationwide, nuclear makes up 56 percent of the carbon-free electricity. Not only does CGS integrate well with renewables, if you remove the federal subsidies, the cost is comparable, he said.

In addition to CGS, Energy Northwest is operating of a couple of hydro plants and is building a 5 MW solar project and a 1 MW electric battery. It is also expanding electric vehicle infrastructure working with public utilities to put in charging stations through the *Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Transportation Alliance (EVITA)* program.



WSFW seeks program funding for eulachon

Laura Heironimus, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), appeared before the Council to brief members on the importance of eulachon, also known as smelt, in the ecosystem. An anadromous species, eulachon and is among the first fish to migrate into the river to spawn. They are eaten by hake, humpback whales, white sturgeon, seals and sea lions, chinook smolts and seagulls.

After populations began to decline in the mid-1990s, eulachon was listed as a threatened species under ESA in 2010. The Eulachon Technical Recovery and Implementation Team is comprised of tribal partners, Washington and Oregon fish and wildlife agencies, and NOAA. Heironimus said the Fish and Wildlife Program is not currently funding any eulachon work. The WDFW recommends:

- Updating the Fish and Wildlife Program measures and language to reflect NOAA’s eulachon recovery plan;
- Include eulachon spawning stock biomass as the first high-level indicator for this species, and fund annual monitoring of eulachon spawning stock biomass; and
- Adding eulachon in the emerging program priorities and address critical uncertainties/questions for this species.

Council Briefs

Council pushes back on proposed DOE rule changes

The Council voted to approve comments regarding the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) proposal to revise the “Process Rule,” which is its approach to establishing new or revised energy efficiency standards for consumer appliances. The Council has long been a player in the efficiency standards-setting process and they are used in the Council’s Power Plan.

In addition, the Council opposes DOE’s proposal to revise its definition of General Service Lamps and believes it would have a large impact on the savings that can be realized through this measure.

Crystal Ball becomes BPA’s Fish and Wildlife Executive Manager

Crystal Ball is BPA’s new Fish and Wildlife executive manager, responsible for overseeing the planning, development and administration of the agency’s fish and wildlife program. Preferring collaboration over litigation, she pointed to the recent Flexible Spill and Power Agreement as an ideal result of interests working together. With over 20 years of public policy and communication experience, Ball has a thorough understanding of the Federal Columbia River Power System and the opportunities and challenges facing it. She replaces Bryan Mercier who left Bonneville last year.