

**Northwest Power and Conservation Council  
Generating Resources Advisory Committee  
December 2, 2020**

Gillian Charles, NWPCC, began the meeting at 9:30. Chad Madron, NWPCC, reviewed the best way to engage with the Go-to-Webinar platform. Charles called for introductions.

**2021 Power Plan Work Schedule**

Fred Heutte, NW Energy Coalition, asked if staff anticipates any changes to the schedule [Slide 3] after the upcoming Power Committee meeting. Charles answered no.

**Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: How does it fit in the 2021 Plan?**

**Gillian Charles, NWPCC**

*Charles walked through a brief presentation setting the stage for why we are discussing DEI and the 2021 Power Plan and walked through potential next steps for the discussion including a System Integration Forum. Charles noted how DEI considerations fit within the Act and examples of DEI considerations in prior Council work.*

**Discussion**

Greg Cullen, Energy NW, stated that the location of an energy plant can present a DEI challenge. He noted that aggressive renewable targets are mostly driven by west side load and desires while optimal wind, solar and storage locations are on the east side. Cullen said he is hearing that eastern Washington residents are voicing land-use concerns about the massive amounts of acreage required to site power plants that will predominately serve west-side load.

Heutte pointed to NW Energy Coalition's six- or seven-years' worth of DEI work. He called DEI efforts complex, difficult, necessary, rewarding and ongoing. Heutte said personally it comes down to two basic tenets: acknowledgement that the hydro system has been built on broken treaties and stolen lands, and action.

Heutte called for intentionality around inclusion going forward. He noted the Council's legal obligation to plan for everybody in the Northwest and approved of the Council's commitment to explore DEI in the Advisory Committees.

Heutte noted that least cost is not always most equitable and used pre-weatherization building repair as example. He noted that building repair is not least cost but it does provide better value. Heutte then addressed fire risk in impacted rural communities, saying that necessary, additional hardening will raise costs.

Heutte then stressed that the same DEI lens must be applied to electric vehicle charging infrastructure to avoid further underserving already underserved areas.

Heutte concluded by saying the electric system has to serve everybody and discussed how the Federal hydro system was originally designed to serve underserved communities (aside from native tribes and communities.) He thought this was important as a climate-stressed world has examples for success and thanked the Council for undertaking this work. Charles thanked him for the thoughtful comments, particularly that acknowledgment can then lead to action.

Max Greene, Renewable NW, said he has been engaging in this effort for some time and found that to meaningfully incorporate DEI principals you have to seek out and raise up voices beyond the usual people in the room. Greene thought that Washington's CETA work provides a good example because explicit equity provisions brings a broader set of comments and feedback from community-based organizations.

Greene called it important that these voices also have the potential to drive outcomes. He thought the Council might do this by thinking about how the power system could evolve if it reflected the priorities of underserved communities and community-based organizations.

Charles said she runs up against organizations that don't have the resources, staff or time to send someone to an Advisory Committee. Charles pledged to do better and asked for ideas about groups and/or people missing from the table that she can reach out to.

Rick Williams, PSU, pointed to the school's new master's degree program in Emergency Management and Community Resilience which looks at these same considerations. He wrote the following in the questions bar: Resource adequacy scenarios analyzed by the Council inform policy, decision-making, and, of particular interest today, equity and the "equitable distribution of energy benefits."

Williams continued, the Council considers climate change scenarios, but climate change-induced wildfires that have, and will, affect the region have not been analyzed, nor have other disaster scenarios (including the Magnitude 9 Subduction Zone Cascadia Event). These scenarios are categorized as High Consequence - Low Frequency scenarios and can result in extended outages of the bulk electric system including disrupting imports of power and resource adequacy. Extended outages of the bulk electric system can be most severe for those without alternatives (such as rooftop solar, storage, and backup generation) including low-income citizens and vulnerable communities.

Williams noted that the National Academies and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) distinguish "reliability events" from these High Consequence - Low Frequency scenario "resilience events". The Northwest Power Act, as written, provides flexibility to raise climate change and equity considerations. The Act, as written, does not preclude analysis of High Consequence - Low Frequency scenarios and the associated socioeconomic impacts that affect the GRAC and multiple advisory committees.

Charles thanked William's for his comments.

Cullen addressed Heutte's comments, saying his organization is also wondering if least-cost is the best option. He noted that when addressing climate change and carbon there's a "pay me now or pay me later" concept where you pay a bit more now to avoid catastrophic costs later. Cullen thought that this ran against least-cost guidance and should be considered in modeling.

Cullen agreed that loss of load events impact underserved communities harder and thought that should also be included in modeling. He then addressed EV charging infrastructure saying it is economically challenging to put charging infrastructure in places that are not likely to be filled with early adopters. He pointed to Washington State grant programs that attempt to incentivize this task and make the business case work.

Tom Kaiserski, Montana, recommended Montana's Consumer Counsel, an organization that represents consumer interest, as a strong voice when it comes to power planning and a potential source for insight. He also thought Montana DEQ might have some EV infrastructure planning data that could be helpful.

Ian McGetrick, Idaho Power, said his utility is thinking and talking about this and is glad that 2020 has brought DEI to the top of mind. He said they have done a fair job historically in thinking about how resource and IRP planning effects diverse communities but is trying to do better. McGetrick said they are in the listening and learning stage of the process and thought it will be very relevant as they go through the IRP process.

John Goroski, Flathead Electric, said the majority of their power comes from BPA and they strongly support net metering and more EVs. Goroski also spoke of the impact this has on lower income populations which is causing them to slowly implement a demand charge to more fairly and equitably spread the costs.

Goroski then said they have a Time-of-Day demand charge for residential in an attempt to shift EV charging and other usage away from the peak. He said there are options for conservation but there isn't much to do on the generation side aside from getting members to pay their fair share.

Mike Hoffman, PNNL, complimented members on their thoughtful responses to a complicated issue. He echoed concerns about the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, fires and climate change saying, from his personal perspective, he thought it would be great if they were included in discussions.

Williams asserted that the Council work is based in law, regulations and analyzed value streams and must go beyond opinion and good ideas. He pointed to definitions in public law on energy resilience under Title X for the Department of Defense and offered to send the citation. Williams thought there may be an issue in valuing energy resilience and also wondered if least cost/least risk is the best way to look at the issue.

Williams pointed to DOE/PNNL work called Beyond LCOE and the Electric Power Research Institute's recently commissioned Value of Resilience Interest Group as evidence of interest in this topic. Williams acknowledged that this is not an easy subject but pointed to public law and stakeholders bound by law to explore the issue.

Charles thanked the committee members for the discussion and asked for further comments and feedback be emailed to her and ended at 11:00.

**Attendees via Go-to-Webinar**

Gillian Charles	NWPCC
Chad Madron	NWPCC
Hazel Aragon	CEC
Tanya Barham	Community Energy Labs
Glen Best	Inland Power
Dhruv Bhatnagar	PNNL
Leann Bleakney	NWPCC
Ian Bledsoe	Clatskanie PUD
Aaron Bush	PPC
Chris Colbert	Nuscale Power
Greg Cullen	Energy NW
Jeff Feinberg	Snohomish PUD
Liz Gill	CEC
Andrea Goodwin	NWPCC
John Goroski	Flathead Electric
Max Greene	Renewable NW
Fred Heutte	NW Energy Coalition
Mike Hoffman	PNNL
Tina Jayaweera	NWPCC
Massoud Jourabchi	NWPCC
Tom Kaiserski	Montana
Torsten Kieper	BPA
Ian McGetrick	Idaho Power
Clark Mclsaac	Snohomish PUD
Tim Nies	Energy NW
Greg Nothstein	WA Dept of Commerce
Elizabeth Osborne	NWPCC
Patrick Oshie	NWPCC
Kyle Petrocine	EnergyTrust
Annika Roberts	NWPCC
Sashwat Roy	Renewable NW
Bill Saporito	Umatilla Electric
Adam Schultz	ODOE
Landon Snyder	Snohomish PUD
Megan Stratman	NRU NW

Danielle Szigeti	Tacoma Power
Angela Tanghetti	CEC
Alyssa Tavares	CEC
Henry Tilghman	Tilghman Associates
Tyler Tobin	PSE
James Vanden Bos	BPA
Rick Williams	PSU
Jim Woodward	WA UTC
Brian Dekiep	NWPCC
Alaine Ginocchio	Western Energy Board
Julia Prochnik	JAS Energies
Bryan Neff	CEC
Jen Kelly	N Wasco PUD