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January 6, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Council Members**
FROM: **Jennifer Light, Director of Power Planning**
SUBJECT: **Power Plan Update**

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Jennifer Light

Summary: The Power Division is preparing the Council's Ninth Regional Power Plan. Since this is a long process with many interconnected components, staff plan a standing item at Council meetings to provide members with an update on the status of work to date and highlight the next steps.

At the January meeting, staff will cover a variety of topics as the Council prepares for reviewing results of the scenario modeling. These include:

- **Update on scenario modeling:** Staff will present the final market study results, updates on the needs assessment results, and an update on the timeline for regional resource optimization results.
- **Reminder of legal elements from the Power Act:** In [January of 2025](#), staff presented on the Power Act requirements for power planning. At this meeting, staff will briefly review these requirements in preparation for drafting the power plan.
- **Proposed table of contents and power plan structure:** Staff will walk through the proposed table of contents in order to seek feedback and refine in advance of developing draft materials.

The staff will also cover other status updates to the overall Ninth Power Plan timeline.

Relevance: Under the Northwest Power Act, the Council is required to review its power plan no less frequently than once every five years. The Council initiated its review of the power plan in February 2025, with a goal of developing a final power plan by November 2026.

Workplan: B. Development of Ninth Power Plan