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October 6, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Council Members**

FROM: **Jennifer Light, Director of Power Planning**

SUBJECT: **Ninth Power Plan Update**

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Jennifer Light

Summary: The Council is currently in the public comment period on the draft Ninth Power Plan. At this meeting, staff will provide an update on the overall public comment process, which ends on October 16. Staff will also walk through the proposed plan for working through comments together at the November Council meeting, as we transition towards finalizing the Ninth Plan.

Relevance: The Council released the draft Ninth Power Plan for public comment in August of 2026, and the public comment period closes October 16. During this period, the Council is seeking comments on all aspects of the draft Plan. The Council will work through these comments starting at the November meeting, in Portland, and aims to finalize the plan for adoption and release by the end of 2026 or early 2027.

Workplan: B. Development of the Ninth Power Plan



Power Plan Update

October 15, 2026

Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

Public Comment Process to Date

- Held 8 public hearings across the region
  - Around 250 individuals attended the hearings, with approximately 85 providing comment
  - Provided opportunity to engage with individuals on the draft Plan
- Received around 540 comments to date, and more continue to come in
- The comments are covering a range of issues, providing a lot of information for us to consider in the coming months

Public Hearings

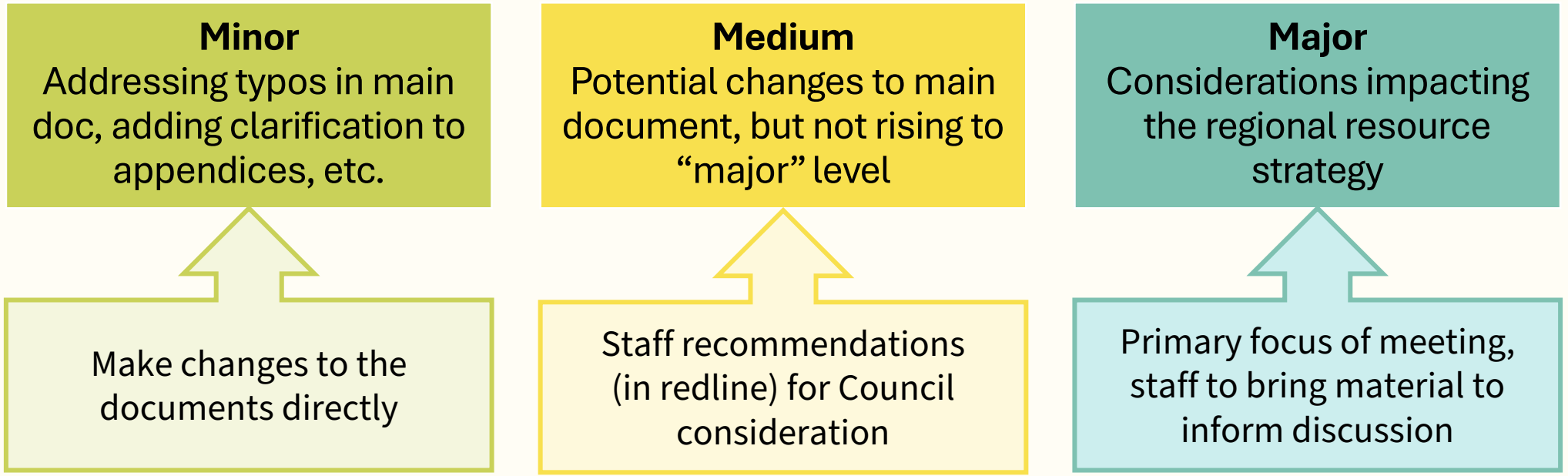
Date	Location
September 9	Portland, OR
September 14	Spokane, WA
September 14	Coeur d'Alene, ID
September 29	The Dalles
October 1	Webinar
October 5	Missoula, MT
October 6	Idaho Falls, ID
October 7	Seattle, WA

What Comes After Public Comment Closes

- Council and staff to spend time with these comments and continue working with the region as we develop this plan
  - This plan comes at a critical time given the forecasted load growth at levels not seen for many years
  - It is clear from the comments that the region appreciates this significance
  - We are also identifying elements of the analysis that warrant more discussion
  - This also means asking the region to continue to lean in during this next stretch
- Anticipate holding more advisory committee meetings to explore some topics in preparation for the November Council meeting – stay tuned for more information

What to Expect at November Meeting

- We will spend time in November discussing public comments, additional engagement with advisory committees, and staff recommendations for Plan refinement
- Staff plan to group the comments into one of the following buckets:



After November…

- Staff anticipate spending much of the time in November discussing potential paths forward for the regional resource strategy
- Depending on this conversation, we may want more time with advisory committees and likely will continue to engage in conversations with entities throughout the region
- The Council also has extra meeting time in early December that we will use to make progress



Photo by Alexander Milo on Unsplash

Discussion?