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NORTHWEST POWER AND
CONSERVATION COUNCIL

SEVENTH POWER PLAN
PUBLIC HEARING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

TAKEN ON
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015
4:30 P.M.

RED LION DOWNTOWNER
1800 WEST FAIRVIEW AVENUE
BOISE, IDAHO 83702

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APPEARANCES

NORTHWEST POWER & CONSERVATION COUNCIL:

JIM YOST, Idaho Council Member

COUNCIL STAFF:

BEN KUJALA

STEVE CROW

CHAD MADRON

CHARLIE GRIST

MARK WALKER

KAREN DUNN

SHIRLEY LINDSTROM

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1 **NORTHWEST POWER AND**
2 **CONSERVATION COUNCIL**
3 **SEVENTH POWER PLAN**
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7 **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015**
8 **4:30 P.M.**

9
10 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** The appointed hour has
11 arrived for the beginning of the hearing. I'm Jim
12 Yost, one of the two members of the Idaho council
13 members. Bill Booth, the other member from Coeur
14 D'Alene, and he is unable to attend this meaning.

15 I want to welcome you to the -- I want to
16 welcome you to the public hearing held by the
17 Northwest Power and Conservation Council on the
18 Council's proposed Seventh Northwest Power Plan. The
19 Northwest Power Act directs the Council to develop a
20 regional conservation and electric power plan, and
21 to review that plan every five years. The Council
22 is now engaged in its latest five-year power plan
23 review. As part of the effort, the Council released
24 the draft revised power plan on October 20 for
25 public review and comment.

1 The Council will be accepting written
2 comment on the draft power plan until December 18.
3 The Council will also hold public hearings like this
4 one to receive oral comments on the draft plan in
5 all four of the northwest states over the next four
6 weeks.

7 If you would like to comment on the draft
8 power plan at this hearing, please sign up on the
9 sheet provided for that purpose in the back. You
10 may also leave written comments with us this
11 evening, if you desire.

12 Your comments tonight will be recorded,
13 placed in the Council's administrative record for
14 the power plan review, and most importantly,
15 considered carefully by the Council as it makes its
16 decision on the final power plan early in 2016. The
17 same is true for all written comments submitted to
18 the Council.

19 For those of you who intend to testify
20 this evening, your name will be called in the order
21 in which you signed up. Please begin your testimony
22 by stating your name and organization clearly for
23 the benefit of our court reporter, Sherry, and feel
24 free to summarize your testimony, if you like. Your
25 full written statement will be included in the

1 official record.

2 In the unlikely event that we have more
3 willing witnesses than available time, we might have
4 to consider establishing a time limit for each
5 witness, but we hope that won't be necessary this
6 evening.

7 We will leave the official record open for
8 a period of ten days following the hearing to enable
9 witnesses to submit additional written information,
10 including any material that might be requested by
11 the council members.

12 All public comments submitted to the
13 Council, including the oral testimony at tonight's
14 hearing, will be posted on the Council's website as
15 soon as possible.

16 For more information on the proposed
17 Seventh Power Plan, including the text of the draft
18 plan itself, please visit the Council's website at
19 www.nwcouncil.org. You may submit comments by using
20 the "provide comment" link on the webpage devoted to
21 the draft Seventh Power Plan.

22 Staff is available to discuss the plan and
23 answer questions about the plan this evening, and
24 could staff raise their hands so that the audience
25 can recognize you. So if you have any questions

1 during the meeting or at a break or after the
2 meeting, they will be happy to answer questions for
3 you.

4 We are going to be begin the meeting with
5 a very short presentation about the Seventh Power
6 Plan and Ben will provide that, and then we will
7 start with the testimony.

8 Thank you very much for attending.

9 **MR. KUJALA:** Hello. I am with the council
10 central staff, and I'm going to give you guys a
11 brief update on what the draft of Seventh Power Plan
12 is at this point.

13 So one of the key findings that we have in
14 this power plan and have had in previous power plans
15 is that the least cost strategies for developing
16 resources in this region rely on conservation demand
17 and response to need. Nearly all forecast growth is
18 in regional energy.

19 Here is our 20-year forecast verizon. You
20 can seen on the bottom, and this is our anticipated
21 resource development over that time frame. You can
22 see conservation, natural gas, solar, and wind. Of
23 these, conservation is by far the majority of the
24 resource that we see being developed.

25 For capacity, for that kind of highest

1 need, when you have electricity, we see the same
2 thing, that conservation serves most of that need as
3 well, and on top of that, we have some demand
4 response, natural gas. Wind and solar PV don't show
5 that very much because during the peak need tends to
6 be at night or in the winter when wind and solar
7 aren't necessarily supplying so much. They are
8 there, but it's a little bit hard to see.

9 One of the things that we do see is that
10 after we go out and we do a lot of energy
11 efficiency, that loads in the region actually are
12 declining on an expected basis. We see that, in
13 general, those would be going down. Of course,
14 that's because loads would normally be going up, but
15 the energy efficiency takes us into this decreasing
16 circle, and on top of that, federal codes and
17 standards fill in and make a big difference.

18 So between the codes and standards and
19 energy efficiency, the region sees, in general, flat
20 declining loads. We did a lot of examination of
21 carbon dioxide emissions in the plan. The region,
22 which is the four states in the northwest, Idaho,
23 Montana, Oregon, and Washington, average around 55
24 million metric tons from 2000 to 2012.

25 When we run our baseline case through all

1 the various water conditions and all the different
2 things that come out, and we don't have the
3 Centralia, Boardman, and North Valmy coal plants
4 retiring, we come up with a number that's around 45
5 million metric tons.

6 When you see those plants retiring, that
7 comes down to 34, if we explore 35 percent renewable
8 portfolio standard for all four states, and all
9 loads in those four states have to get down to 29.

10 The carbon risk, the social cost of
11 carbon, mid and high, are all putting some sort of
12 the cost on carbon. So you are actually dispatching
13 carbon with a price sensitivity.

14 The last one, the maximum carbon
15 reduction, is retiring a lot of high-carbon emission
16 plants and replacing them with very efficient
17 natural gas plants to reduce that down even further.
18 What we do see is under our existing policy to go to
19 the 35 percent RPS, it's a very expensive thing.

20 Thirty-four billion dollars needs to be
21 expended to get that reduction from 34 to 29. If
22 you look at our maximum reduction at 12 million
23 metric tons, it's actually only 20 billion dollars
24 to get down to that level.

25 The seven elements of our resource

1 strategy for the draft plan is to develop energy
2 efficiency, and in the draft plan, the targets are
3 shown here, 1,400; 3,100; 4,500, different time
4 frames for those; to expand use of demand/response;
5 to encourage development of renewable resources, and
6 especially encourage research into renewable
7 resources that can supply the winter peak capacity;
8 to continue to use existing natural gas.

9 In fact, you see some increase in the
10 usage of that in the retiring plants, and there is
11 some probability out there that we need some new
12 natural gas, especially in the end and in some of
13 the scenarios, and to continue to improve how we use
14 our existing resources with scheduling things like
15 that. And expand different alternative resources
16 through research into new energy efficiency and
17 renewables.

18 Of course, we will be monitoring
19 throughout the entire planning period to make sure
20 that we are keeping track of the situation on the
21 ground and adapting as it comes along.

22 That is our high-level summary of what we
23 have in the draft plan. At this point, I will turn
24 it back over to Jim.

25 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thanks, Ben. Okay.

1 Do we have a list? First one to testify
2 is Alyson Martin. I probably butchered that name. I
3 apologize.

4 **MS. MARTIN:** Mr. Yost, and the Northwest
5 Power and Conservation Council, thank you for giving
6 me an opportunity to speak. My name is Alyson Renee
7 Martin. I'm a licensed attorney in Idaho. I'm also
8 an Idaho native, and I have lived my entire baby-
9 boomer life here. I just retired a year or so ago
10 from the Idaho Attorney General's Office, and the
11 reason why is so that I can work on climate change
12 in Idaho.

13 I attended Al Gore's climate reality
14 project training in South Africa in 2014 and came
15 back and decided that the best thing I can do to
16 further the battle against climate change was to
17 organize a group of Idahoans. Our group is called
18 Doing What We Can. We are organized to combat
19 climate change.

20 After studying the literature on climate
21 change, We Are Doing What We Can have come to the
22 conclusion that we are in a climate crisis now and
23 that business as usual is not going to be an
24 appropriate way to solve problems. We are keeping
25 our eye on COP 21, meeting in Paris at the end of

1 the month.

2 The goal of that group of 196 nations is
3 to keep the rising temperature of the earth below
4 two degrees. It's already increased a degree during
5 my baby-boomer lifetime. The literature tells us
6 that if the temperature of the earth gets to two
7 degrees and above, life as we know it will not be
8 the same.

9 We are already witnessing climate change
10 in Idaho in many, many ways through four years of
11 drought temperatures in Boise, 10 to 15 degrees
12 above normal, forest fires, fish dying from hot
13 water, and so on and so forth. All you have to do
14 is look out the window and you can see it here in
15 Idaho.

16 So we believe that there is a huge
17 urgency. We urge the Council to, in its decision
18 making, take every step possible to recognize the
19 urgency of climate change, particularly to promote
20 sustainable and green energy at the expense of all
21 others.

22 I would assert that looking at the cost as
23 a defining factor in developing a plan is not
24 appropriate under the crises circumstances that we
25 face today. If it's about money and only about

1 money, then civilization is doomed.

2 I will be submitting written testimony
3 after I have had a chance to study the plan on
4 behalf of Doing What We Can. But I would urge the
5 Council to please factor in the urgency of climate
6 change in its decision making. Thank you.

7 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you.

8 Bert Bowler.

9 **MR. BOWLER:** My name is Bert Bowler, and I
10 represent Snake River Salmon Solutions here in
11 Boise, Idaho.

12 Councilman Yost, the Seventh Power Plan,
13 and the Council's fish and wildlife program are
14 inexplicably linked. The Power Act tasks the
15 Council with promulgating both a regional
16 conservation of an electric plan and a program to
17 protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife in
18 the Columbia basin.

19 Congress set forth in the Power Act a
20 substantive mandate for the fish and wildlife
21 program, including measures based on the best
22 available scientific knowledge. In the case of
23 anadromous fish, the program was to provide or
24 improve survival of such fish at hydroelectric
25 facilities located in the Columbia River system.

1 The best available scientific knowledge,
2 which is very robust, points to lower Snake River
3 Dam removal as its means to protect, mitigate, and
4 enhance anadromous fish in the Snake River Basin.

5 The Council's own subbasin plans and
6 NOAA's technical recovery team's population
7 viability assessments affirm that out-of-basin
8 effects the main stem Columbia and Snake River Dams
9 and reservoirs, limit recovery of Snake River
10 spring/summer chinook, steelhead, and sockeye. Also,
11 Lower Snake compensation is not being met in those
12 goals relative recovering hatchery fish.

13 The Council's fish and wildlife program,
14 going back to the mid 1990s, includes a set of
15 quantitative goals related to anadromous fish. One
16 such goal is to increase total adult salmon and
17 steelhead escapement at Bonneville Dam to an average
18 of 5 million by 2025. The average Bonneville
19 escapement for the last ten years is 1.4 million, a
20 long way from 5 million.

21 Another Council goal is to maintain a two
22 to six percent with an average four percent smolt-
23 to-adult return rate for listed Snake River Salmon.
24 The wild spring-summer chinook smolt-to-adult return
25 rate from 1994 to 2011 was only 0.9 percent, less

1 than one percent. Wild steelhead was 1.6 percent
2 between 1997 and 2010. Not even close to the four
3 percent average.

4 The four Lower Snake Dams and reservoirs
5 are known for impacting smolt survival, but the
6 trend now in adult conversion rates, since 2002, has
7 declined significantly. Adults that were
8 transported from the Snake as smolts did
9 consistently worse than those nontransported smolts.

10 Drought-induced low flows and elevated
11 water temperatures in the Columbia/Snake during the
12 2015 adult sockeye migration points to temperature
13 stressors, especially in the adult fish ladders. The
14 Lower Granite ladder was very problematic for
15 passing sockeye this summer.

16 The take-away message: Adult passage is
17 becoming more and more problematic with climate
18 change.

19 In conclusion, the Seventh Power Plan
20 should include a power evaluation of the FCRPS
21 without the four Lower Snake Dams, 31 federal dams
22 reduced to 27, while assuring the Pacific Northwest
23 has an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable
24 power supply as required under the Power Act.

25 A good start can be found in the Northwest

1 Energy Coalition's issued paper just rereleased,
2 titled "Restoring Wild Salmon Power System Costs and
3 Benefits of Lower Snake Dam Removal."

4 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

5 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you, Bert.

6 David Monsees.

7 **MR. MONSEES:** Mr. Yost, council members.

8 My name is David Monsees. I am with the Earth
9 Holder Sangha in Boise. We are a group that is
10 concerned with the disruption and suffering caused
11 by the climate crisis and what mankind is doing
12 about it.

13 I will not talk about a lot of the issues
14 that we are already all too familiar with. What I
15 choose to talk about is a relatively ignored issue,
16 and that's of the glacier and ice-shelf melt, its
17 impact on flooding of coastal areas, which will
18 cause serious civil disruption if it is not dealt
19 with properly.

20 Two of the world's senior glacier
21 specialists have estimated between themselves that
22 the glaciers are going, and they are speeding up,
23 and it will be 100 to 200 years before there are
24 none. The ice shelf in the Antarctic is also
25 expected to collapse, which will speed up flooding.

1 What they have both said is that CO2
2 emissions must be really taken under control much
3 faster than what we have planned, and they should be
4 done as quickly as possible. I think counting an
5 energy efficiency, while it is cost effective, if
6 you want to call it that, it is not adequate. We
7 have a lot of solar and wind, and methods are being
8 developed for storing energy. Look at the Tesla
9 battery for instance.

10 The importance of slowing the melt is that
11 governments and cities need time to be able to move
12 their populations inland in as less disruptive a
13 manner as possible. At the rate we are going, that
14 is not going to happen. I recommend that other
15 renewable methods basically be counted on and
16 mandated in higher proportion than what is in your
17 plan.

18 Thank you.

19 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you.

20 Casey Mattoon.

21 **MR. MATTOON:** Hi. How's it going? My
22 name is Casey Mattoon, and I'm the conservation
23 program coordinator at Sierra Club. I, first of
24 all, want to thank you for giving us this
25 opportunity. I think points of inflection where the

1 public is allowed to engage on energy issues are
2 really important, not only to reflect the values
3 that you see from constituents state wide, but also
4 looking at the constituency that we have in this
5 region.

6 I also want to thank you for giving me the
7 chance to testify on behalf of the more than 2,000
8 members statewide in Idaho. Many of whom couldn't
9 make it to this public hearing tonight. Our members
10 are encouraged by much of what we actually see in
11 the drafts of the Power Plan, and we support its
12 adoption.

13 We encourage the retention of a final plan
14 with stronger energy efficiency goals, the
15 prioritization of growing demand-response programs,
16 reduction of carbon pollution, and a strong vision
17 for developing the region's renewable energy
18 resources.

19 To put this into context, our members are
20 really concerned and agree with the President's
21 assertion that the climate change is the challenge
22 posing the greatest threat to future generations.

23 Recognizing the role electricity plays as
24 the single largest greenhouse gas emitting economic
25 sector, our members are adamant that region energy

1 planning seeks to address cost effective and swift
2 measures to reduce the sector's greenhouse gas
3 emissions.

4 **COURT REPORTER:** I'm sorry. Could you
5 slow down a little bit, please.

6 **MR. MATTOON:** Sorry about that. I get
7 into testimony mode and get going.

8 So our members also recognize that the
9 vast economic benefits that a carbon-free energy
10 system focused on renewable energy resources could
11 have for the state of Idaho. This is not only
12 investing in opportunities for the industry that
13 will create economic development statewide, but also
14 provides for jobs in manufacturing, installation,
15 and more.

16 Likewise, the diversification of our
17 energy system and supply reduces our vulnerability
18 to volatile pricing systems that are often
19 associated with fossil-fuel based production, which
20 is going to protect the consumer's long-term
21 financial interest.

22 Due to the urgency and need to address
23 climate crisis, our members have the following
24 recommendations for the final plan: The plan should
25 explicitly state that our region can satisfy 100

1 percent of new load growth with energy efficiency.

2 Right now, the plan is looking at 4,500 average
3 megawatts of new energy savings.

4 While this is an encouraging baseline, we
5 don't think it should be the ceiling. With the
6 consistent success of meeting energy-saving targets
7 over the last several plans, we believe that could
8 seek more aggressive energy savings.

9 Second, we coincide with the plan's
10 priority on demand-response measures to help meet
11 peak power needs, but we feel that the target should
12 be set specifically somewhere between 700 to 1,100
13 megawatts.

14 We believe that this is the most active
15 way to reduce our peak energy needs, which are a
16 little bit different than what we are focused on in
17 the presentation here in Idaho. They are actually
18 not in winter. They are during summer peak hours
19 where renewable energy systems are actually a
20 completely powerful way to meet that demand.

21 Third, the plan should overtly recommend
22 the avoidance of construction of new natural gas-
23 fired power plants. The plan outlines there is
24 actually almost no possibility that the region will
25 need new gas plants in the next ten years.

1 Therefore, their construction should be
2 strictly avoided, and this is because when we put
3 par and par between natural gas and coal, looking at
4 the methane emissions and leakages that come from
5 new gas generation, are actually on par with the
6 emissions that are coming from CO2, but just the
7 methane.

8 It's something that our members are really
9 concerned about, and considering the plan such that
10 it's not necessary, this should be something that
11 the plan takes on a more aggressive opinion on.

12 Fourth, the plan should push states to set
13 ambitious renewable energy goals to protect the
14 health of our citizens and our climate. By
15 providing no regional goals beyond state
16 requirements, the plan is shortsighted about the
17 potential carbon-free generation resources have to
18 influence future energy markets.

19 Emerging technologies are driving down
20 prices on already cost competitive renewable energy
21 resources. These energy resources are equipped to
22 play a large complementary role to demand-side
23 strategies specifically in Idaho.

24 So, to conclude my testimony, we are very
25 much supportive of the plan as is, but we believe

1 there are many adjustments that the plan could make
2 to have stronger positions on the things that not
3 only do Sierra Club members have specific concerns
4 about, but are things that are felt throughout the
5 state.

6 Being a conservation program coordinator,
7 I have the opportunity to not only act with our
8 membership base, but also reach out to the wider
9 constituency, and I know that one constituency that
10 is increasingly concerned by these things is our
11 religious populations. Specifically, the Catholic
12 church is having a lot of study groups beginning to
13 diverge into environmental messaging.

14 I know this is a large constituency within
15 Idaho that is very concerned with these same issues.
16 Thank you very much for your time this evening, and
17 we are encouraged by what we see.

18 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Casey, did you have some
19 of that written down?

20 **MR. MATTOON:** Yes. I will turn in my --

21 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thanks. Appreciate it.

22 I think the next one is Nicole Foster.

23 **MS. FOSTER:** Hello. My name is Nicole

24 Foster. I'm a senior on behalf of myself today.

25 I was born and raised here in Boise, Idaho and spent

1 my summers growing up in the mountains of Donnelly,
2 Idaho where my family has a cabin, and I have always
3 enjoyed Idaho's beauty, everything it has to offer.

4 I recently returned from China where I was
5 serving as a United States Peace Corps volunteer.
6 Despite the images of pollution and its horrendous
7 environmental record, Chinese people, especially
8 young people, care and are deeply concerned about
9 the health and future of their country.

10 Unfortunately, the platform for Chinese
11 citizens to express their concerns is much smaller
12 than in the U.S., and the Chinese government has yet
13 to make the necessary policy changes to represent
14 the views of its citizens.

15 My time in China allowed me to reflect
16 upon Idaho and what is being done here to combat
17 climate change and increasing energy demands. I am
18 fortunate enough to have grown up in a family and
19 community that not only takes advantage of Idaho's
20 mountain and wildlife, but actively works to ensure
21 its health. This parkland needs to reflect the
22 concerns of the Idahoans here today.

23 I have seen from my time in China
24 inadequate, inefficient environmental policies and
25 the impact this is having amongst the population and

1 the country, and ultimately, the rest of the world.
2 I know this is not a path that Idaho would like to
3 go down. Carbon reduction is to be the largest
4 indicator of success for this plan; therefore, I
5 support energy efficiencies that are both climate
6 and cost friendly.

7 Thank you for this opportunity.

8 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you, Nicole.
9 Pat Ford.

10 **MR. FORD:** Jim, thank you very much for
11 being here tonight to listen to us all talk, and
12 thanks to the members of the council staff who are
13 to listen to us all talk.

14 The first thing I want to say is I just
15 want to flag the role of citizens. That's all of
16 you. In the regionally good place we are at in
17 terms of what is not our only issue, but it's a big
18 issue, electricity supply and cost.

19 We are in pretty good shape in terms of
20 the future, the next 30 years. The reason, I think
21 the main reason is the citizen action and voice that
22 has occurred in this region over the last 30 years,
23 40 years now.

24 Institutions like the Council have had a
25 lot to do with it, but I think citizens have been

1 the main reason why it has occurred, and that's why
2 it's great to see so many people here tonight as
3 well. That leads me to Northwest Energy Coalition.
4 I think they have been the strongest, albeit not
5 only, force regionally in building that citizen
6 voice and in forming it.

7 That's why I support wholeheartedly NWECC's
8 much fuller and more detailed comments that will be
9 made or probably have been made and partly will be
10 made to the Council. Even without knowing all their
11 details, I know they are going to be solid, factual,
12 and thinking about the future in imaginative ways.

13 Specifically, I will just flag a couple of
14 their top points, which are also mine. They call it
15 a better vision for renewables. Maybe the way I put
16 it is that I think the Council should think about,
17 if it could, focus a bit more on what is likely for
18 citizens in this region to do, and that is to jump
19 much bigger into renewables than they are now,
20 particularly various kinds of solar.

21 I think that will happen. Citizens will
22 do it. And therefore, it makes sense for the
23 Council to incorporate that and think about that
24 more than just as what is a cost effective slice
25 that ought to be given to solar based upon past

1 trends, and so on and so forth.

2 Second, to include in your analysis the
3 coal plants that serve the region, even if they are
4 located outside the region, and to build a plan that
5 moves toward their shutdown, as has happened with
6 Centralia and the others, as promptly as possible
7 for reasons that other witnesses have talked about.

8 Third, is the demand-response goal in the
9 plan of 700 plus megawatts. I think that goal helps
10 drive the good things you want to get out of that
11 demand-response piece.

12 Then there is energy efficiency for low-
13 income people, linking that tighter so that we
14 really are delivering to those people at risk in
15 this region whose numbers are increasing, the kinds
16 of programs that can assist them for the rather
17 difficult lives and life choices that they sometimes
18 face.

19 Then finally, to analyze the least-cost
20 best-benefit paths to giving salmon, and by
21 extension river help, generally back some of the
22 river, another slice of hydro, than we have given so
23 far.

24 And you won't be surprised to know, I just
25 want to expand briefly on the latter one. Council

1 analysis, and I want to talk about analysis, not
2 really the Council's policy decisions. Council
3 analysis has become a trusted and useful product for
4 this region.

5 Not always right, but it's a marker, and
6 people can see it. They can debate it. They can
7 argue it. They can talk to council staff about it.
8 It's a big deal to inform a whole bunch of different
9 decisions by people in businesses and governments.

10 I think that we are at a place now where
11 the Council analysis' capability is best directed at
12 the intersections of electricity, water, salmon,
13 climate change, justice to native people, economic
14 justice and well-being, the intersections, not the
15 individual pipes, if you will.

16 And so I hope that the Council's analytic
17 capability, which I applaud and am happy to have,
18 should be turned as quickly as you can do it towards
19 those intersections. That's what this region is
20 going to need, is analysis of those intersections,
21 of our options, of the facts that should guide those
22 options.

23 You won't be surprised to know that I
24 think it's inevitable, that this region is going to
25 make further reductions in hydroelectricity in order

1 to give back some of the river to salmon. I just
2 think the science, the law, the treatise, the public
3 demand, and the new overlay of hot water and high
4 temperatures in the rivers, which are not just about
5 salmon, but about river health and people's health,
6 are going to take us there.

7 So I think Council analysis of those
8 options, how to do them in an optimum way for
9 energy, for rates, for fish, et cetera, is needed
10 and will be valuable. Not to say that's what you
11 are for, but to say if the region goes that way,
12 here is information to help us go that way.

13 This slice that I think salmon need can
14 come from one of five or six different places. Lower
15 Snake Dam removal, which I support, expand salmon
16 and steel in the Snake and Columbia Rivers, which I
17 support. Altered flows, measures connecting fish
18 passage above Grand Coulee.

19 Then a particular one now, I think, on the
20 list is Columbia and Snake River temperature
21 abatement for river and user health as well as for
22 salmon health. Most likely it will be a combination
23 of them, but I don't think you can get away from it.
24 So planning for that, optimizing the things you want
25 to get out of that so it's not an either/or kind of

1 choice, I think would be very useful from this
2 council.

3 Let me see. Maybe I will make one more
4 point and then I will stop. The -- right. We have
5 this energy surplus. To some extent, we have earned
6 it to some extent. We fell into it, but we have got
7 it, and it's a good thing to have. And I think we
8 need to use that good thing, use that opportunity it
9 provides us, to think about how we manage it, not
10 totally conserve it on the energy side, but to use
11 it creatively to assist re: Climate change; re:

12 Salmon; re: Justice. Think about those
13 things so that the energy surplus becomes a creative
14 tool that we are in part reducing by doing other
15 good things and in part conserving by continuing to
16 develop energy efficiency and renewables. I think
17 the energy surplus is a real opportunity for a
18 period 20, 30 years from now when we will not be
19 likely in the same favorable condition to have lots
20 of margin for these choices.

21 Thanks.

22 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you, Pat.

23 Julia Page.

24 **MS. PAGE:** Mr. Yost, thank you for holding
25 this hearing so we can all give our thoughts.

1 I feel I'm more like a citizen presenter
2 here, and I have a reaction to what I have seen in
3 the plan to the extent that I have looked at it. A
4 couple of things. I live here in Boise. I have
5 only been in Idaho about three years. Before that,
6 I was in Montana.

7 I was delighted to see the emphasis in the
8 plan on energy efficiency. I did a bunch of work in
9 Montana on energy efficiency. We made an effort to
10 -- the State of Montana did an analysis of the
11 physical plan in their schools, and what they found
12 was a lot of schools were built in the '50s. They
13 didn't have good insulation. When they looked at
14 kids in classrooms, the kids over by the window in
15 the winter were wearing coats.

16 It was cold, and other kinds of things
17 like that. Not a good learning environment. So we
18 tried to have a bill that would require the state to
19 take a comprehensive look when they are redoing
20 these schools so that when they made the energy
21 efficiency upgrades, they do it well. You don't
22 need a huge boiler the size of your old boiler if
23 you have insulated the walls and changed the windows
24 and used shading to your advantage.

25 So I know there is a great deal of energy

1 efficiency out there, and it takes work to find it.
2 It takes the kind of direction that you provide in
3 the plan. I really support that effort.

4 Also in Montana, I worked on issues of
5 coal, more coal development and coal export, and
6 that is something I don't want to see much of, and I
7 am especially appreciative of the talk of the
8 retirements of the coal plants that were mentioned
9 there, and the emphasis on renewables.

10 I think that is something that the plan
11 should emphasize even more, not be satisfied just
12 with the state goals as they are because the
13 renewables, it's a growing field, and it's an
14 exciting new field. Things are coming along that we
15 can take advantage of. So that's a reaction to
16 those several things.

17 I moved here three years ago. In that
18 time, I have now become more familiar with the issue
19 of salmon or the idea of salmon recovery, and
20 especially wild salmon to interior, the interior of
21 Idaho, for instance. I looked at the fish and
22 wildlife part of the plan, and I, you know, didn't
23 see much analysis there, I guess is what I'm saying.
24 So I went and I read the executive summary. Really,
25 all I read in that was how hard it was to

1 accommodate fish and fish passage.

2 And so I went to the plan and I didn't see
3 much more there. I went to some appendices, and I
4 didn't see what I was looking for, I guess you could
5 say. So I echo the sentiments that were expressed
6 here, that I would like to see damn removal
7 analyzed, look at what are the opportunities there.
8 We can take out coal plants because there is a very
9 clear gain for carbon emissions there.

10 What can we do in terms of the overall
11 picture of respecting the life of these fish and
12 their recovery, which is part of a very complex set
13 of requirements. I think the plan could do more and
14 make it more explicitly available in the plan so we
15 can find it.

16 Thank you very much.

17 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you.

18 Will Hart.

19 **MR. HART:** Thank you, Council Member Yost.
20 My name is Will Hart. I'm the executive director of
21 the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association. We
22 represent 22 public power utilities across the state
23 of Idaho. Our utilities serve over 130,000 members
24 providing power to schools, businesses, churches,
25 farms across the state of Idaho.

1 Ninety-six percent of the power we
2 purchase is provided by the Bonneville Power
3 Administration, and as BPA preference customers, the
4 Seventh Power Plan is of great importance to our
5 utilities and the members we serve.

6 We recognize the challenges facing the
7 Council in the drafting of the plan, and as an
8 association, have been actively participating in
9 council meetings across the northwest. Public
10 power, including our members, have paid billions of
11 dollars in our race for fish and wildlife mitigation
12 and have been on the forefront of energy efficiency
13 and conservation programs to much success.

14 Our hope is that through this process, the
15 Council will recognize our successes in the drafting
16 of the Seventh Power Plan. Several of our members
17 representing rural utilities and economies across
18 the state of Idaho are here tonight to testify, and
19 we appreciate that opportunity.

20 Thank you.

21 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you, Will.

22 Ken Miller.

23 **THE WITNESS:** Good afternoon, Jim. I'm
24 Ken Miller with the Snake River Alliance. We
25 appreciate you and the council staff being here for

1 the hearing today. I would like -- we will be
2 submitting more detailed comments in December, but I
3 would like to just touch on some of the points that
4 we are going to be raising.

5 The first won't come as a surprise. Energy
6 efficiency, of course, is bedrock of the power plan.
7 In the Sixth Power Plan, you all found that 85
8 percent of our load growth could be met primarily
9 with the efficiency, and we were gratified that this
10 plan says that essentially almost all of our new
11 growth can be met through efficiency.

12 The plan points out that the regional
13 loads were expected to grow by between 2200 and 4800
14 average megawatts. Casey mentioned the 4,500
15 average megawatt number. It's our position that --
16 and so does the draft. It's our position that the
17 4,500 average megawatts of new energy efficiency
18 should be considered a floor and a starting point as
19 the efficiency discussion moves forward.

20 The other really important stool in the
21 draft is demand/response. This was mentioned in the
22 Sixth Plan, but it's up front and center in the
23 Seventh Plan. You know from your work with Idaho
24 Power's planning group that demand/response is a big
25 issue here in Idaho, and it has a lot of potential

1 to reduce the peak problem, the capacity problems
2 that our utilities in the region are facing.

3 We believe that when you are looking at
4 the demand/response for the final plan, that we
5 should be looking at a number closer to 700
6 megawatts, again, at a minimum of new
7 demand/response, and perhaps closer to 1,000
8 megawatts of new demand/response.

9 We think that the benefits of energy
10 efficiency need to be better quantified than they
11 currently are in the draft. I think they can be
12 difficult sometimes to pinpoint, but there are a lot
13 of benefits, including externalities, that we think
14 should be considered when you are looking at energy
15 efficiency.

16 Likewise, we think that the cost of carbon
17 needs to be better addressed. We saw earlier about
18 the social cost of carbon and the potential for
19 social cost of carbon to bring dramatic decreases in
20 carbon emissions. And there was a time when social
21 cost of carbon was more an art than a science. Now,
22 it's kind of the other way around.

23 A lot more is known about the social cost
24 of carbon than has been. We are gratified that the
25 seventh draft gives a lot more attention to the

1 social cost of carbon.

2 The coal plants, the plan assumes that, as
3 we all do, that Boardman and Oregon and Centralia
4 and Washington have dates certain for their
5 retirement. It also talks about Moapa, Nevada and
6 the likelihood of its retirement. That is not -- we
7 don't have a date certain for that.

8 As you know, it's being negotiated between
9 Idaho Power and NV Energy, but the plan does sort of
10 look at the retirement of those three plants, and we
11 believe that be a baseline. We should assume that
12 those plants are going to be retired as we move
13 forward in power planning.

14 I think we heard from Pat, we also believe
15 we should be looking at other imported coal and
16 energy into the region beyond those three and see
17 how that should figure in as we move forward with
18 the projections in the Seventh Plan.

19 The energy and balance markets were not
20 really dealt with much because they are so new. Not
21 dealt with much in the Sixth Plan, but we do believe
22 they have a lot of potential, getting back to the
23 peak issues and the short-term planning for
24 utilities, that they can really help offset the need
25 for a new generation, in many cases, with very

1 short-term adjustments by utilities to makeup for
2 their peak demand and other challenges.

3 The third stool of the draft is market
4 purchases. We appreciate that market purchases are
5 viewed as, perhaps, even a more attractive
6 alternative than new gas plants. We don't support
7 new gas plants. We can see the need for,
8 eventually, as the draft does, for increasing output
9 from existing plants, but we see no need to build
10 existing -- at least at this point, to build new
11 natural gas generations in the region certainly
12 through the next ten years.

13 Two final things, and one is the issue of
14 electric vehicles. My friend, Reid Burkholder, is
15 not here today, but if he were here -- this was
16 discussed in the Sixth Plan to a degree. The
17 seventh draft gives a lot more attention to the
18 increasing electrification of our transportation.

19 And while it will definitely have impacts,
20 including the increased demand for electricity, we
21 believe that the benefits that EV penetration in our
22 residential and commercial transportation fleets
23 brings a lot of potential benefits from as they
24 integrate into the grid for storage purposes and
25 others. We think that the integration of more EVs

1 should be viewed as a plus and not as a negative or
2 not as a hurdle for the region.

3 Finally, the issue of low income, and Pat
4 mentioned this as well, issues. It's a key
5 component of the Northwest Energy Coalition's work.
6 It's one of the foundations of the work, and I think
7 for -- just because it's the right thing to do, we
8 should be addressing aggressive weatherization and
9 energy assistance programs for low and fixed income
10 utility customers. Not only because, as I said,
11 it's the right thing to do, but because it holds
12 huge potential energy savings.

13 We are talking about some of the most
14 inefficient residential structures in our region,
15 and I think if we devote even more attention -- and
16 the Community Action Partnership has filed comments
17 with the commission already, and we subscribe to
18 those, but I think there is a huge potential for
19 energy savings from low income and weatherization
20 and assistance programs.

21 I would like to -- I do have Bert's
22 written comments that I can give to the reporter.

23 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you, Ken.

24 I need another list. I got it. I would
25 guess this is Isabel Palmer or something like that.

1 MS. PALMER: Yes, you are right.

2 MS. LINDSTROM: Can I ask, can you hear in
3 the back?

4 MS. PALMER: Isabel Palmer. I'm
5 representing the College of Idaho, and I'm an
6 assistant utilities steward there, one of them, and
7 I'm also in public relations for Terra Club, which
8 is our sustainability club on campus.

9 I'm just reiterating some points I have
10 heard from some of the other speakers. I'm really
11 hoping that this plan will include a commitment to
12 reducing a huge reliance on coal-based energy. I
13 think we really need to address what our climate is
14 facing currently, and it's imperative that we do so
15 as soon as possible.

16 I'm someone who has lived in Idaho for 17
17 out of my 20 years, I am in love with Idaho and
18 everything that it has. I know that it's a huge
19 recreation state. Everybody enjoys our outdoors,
20 and the fires have really effected that. They have
21 been happening. They have been longer than they
22 have ever been before. That's a huge sign of how
23 climate change is affecting our state, among many
24 other areas.

25 So I really encourage the plan to include

1 using efficient energy because it's very
2 economically feasible, and it's important for all of
3 us as a state.

4 So thank you very much for this
5 opportunity.

6 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you.

7 Aaron Butler.

8 **MR. BUTLER:** Thank you, first of all, for
9 providing the opportunity for us all to speak to you
10 tonight. It's a pleasure to be a part of this
11 aspect of democracy. All I have ever done is voted
12 before.

13 Climate change is my number-one concern. I
14 hear that over and over again tonight. I have had a
15 chance to read part of the report. I'm going to
16 submit written comments once I have had a chance to
17 read more of it.

18 But I just think we all need to pause for
19 a minute and accept our responsibility, what we hold
20 right now for our generation and generations to
21 come. Like it's been said before, we are now in a
22 crisis. The conversation about if this is happening
23 or not happening, unfortunately was politicized
24 early on. We were questioning scientists here and
25 there, but we are at the point now where we don't

1 need the scientists anymore.

2 We can walk out our front doors. I went
3 on a hike this February with my kids, and they were
4 barefoot and no shirts in February here in Idaho.
5 We know this is happening.

6 We know what's causing it. It's carbon.
7 Natural gas is methane. It's carbon. It's 30 times
8 more heat trapping than CO2. I think we have -- the
9 latest I have read is we have about 50 years of coal
10 left to burn. We have about 50 years of oil left,
11 and we have about 120 years of gas. So we are going
12 to be faced with this decision at some point in the
13 future anyways. So I think we should make this
14 transition now.

15 I think it's clear what the region wants.
16 They want renewables. They are willing to back you
17 up and help you build it. Got a lot of people out
18 here looking for jobs. They will get out there;
19 they will get their hammers; they will get their
20 saws, and they will get it done.

21 I think we are -- I'm a teacher. I'm a
22 single-income family right now, so I have trouble
23 making ends meet, that is that. But if there was a
24 small rate hike to go to renewables, I would be more
25 than willing to accept that increase in my bill.

1 It's my moral obligation for generations to come.

2 I just want you to know that you have got
3 our support. If you are in a position where you are
4 starting to kind of believe, or I don't know what
5 your views are on climate change, but you have got a
6 huge community to back you up if you want to speak
7 up for us on that. I do appreciate the fact that
8 climate change is mentioned in the report.

9 The part I have read, it's focused on that
10 we are going to have to address lower runoffs, so
11 our hydroelectric energy is going to be impacted by
12 that. So I appreciate the acknowledgement of that,
13 but the bigger picture goes way beyond hydroelectric
14 power and salmon. It's us that we are talking
15 about.

16 I hope that you hear the comments tonight
17 and really take those to heart and develop a true,
18 true energy plan going forward, and just to
19 reiterate, we have your back. We will support you
20 as a community in terms of those efforts.

21 Thank you.

22 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Dave Hagen.

23 **MR. HAGEN:** Thank you, Council Member
24 Yost. First of all, my name is Dave Hagen. I'm
25 general manager of Clearwater Power Company located

1 in Lewiston, Idaho. Clearwater serves approximately
2 10,000 very rural customers in the northern area of
3 Idaho, the northeast corner of Oregon and along the
4 Washington border. In fact, some of our service
5 territory has some of the highest unemployment rates
6 in the state of Idaho, and one county in particular
7 had over 13 percent just a few years ago.

8 As I go on, first of all, I want to
9 commend the Council in allowing utilities to be more
10 involved with the Seventh Power Plan. I had the
11 opportunity to serve on the resource strategy
12 committee, which I found very helpful.

13 I was able to sit with the state holders
14 from all sides, listen to all sides. It was very
15 helpful for me to understand where everybody is
16 coming from. I also think this process was much
17 more open this time, so I commend the Council and
18 the staff on that. We will be submitting written
19 comments.

20 We also support -- Clearwater also
21 supports the comments of the Public Power Council,
22 Pacific Northwest Cooperative and also the Idaho
23 Consumer-Owned Utilities Association.

24 Just a couple quick comments on the plan
25 itself. As it relates to energy conservation, as

1 you know, the northwest has been the crown jewel of
2 energy conservation acquisition across the United
3 States. We have acquired more conservation than any
4 other region in the United States.

5 We feel that the target of 1,400 megawatts
6 within the first six years may be a little
7 aggressive, and it needs to be more of a band width
8 rather than one target. The simple reason why it's
9 very -- as you know, conservation comes in very
10 limpy. It ramps up. It backs off. So we think it
11 should be a range again.

12 The other thing I will let you know is
13 that while we acquire a lot of low-hanging fruit in
14 conservation, energy conservation, there are areas,
15 especially in rural Northern Idaho, that there are
16 still opportunities out there. So we need to make
17 sure we are getting those.

18 In regards to the demand/response, there
19 again, while that is starting to ramp up, and it is
20 going to be a good resource to meet the demand needs
21 in the northwest, 700 megawatts may be a little
22 aggressive in that regard. We need to be a little
23 flexible in trying to meet that need.

24 A lot of utilities now are implementing
25 prepaid programs. A lot of utilities have an

1 automated meter infrastructure, which allows us to
2 monitor usage and also gives our members more
3 information and make good decisions about their
4 energy use, and they are using that.

5 The other thing I want to make sure the
6 council looks at is when you look at the forecast
7 for natural gas prices, it may be helpful to look at
8 the current forecast. I believe the forecast that
9 was used was from July of 2014. Those prices have
10 come down.

11 Lastly, I just want to talk a little bit
12 about the challenges that we are facing back home
13 and our rate payers. Keep in mind who is paying the
14 bill at the end of the day. On the Council's plans,
15 whether it be fish and wildlife or the Power Plan
16 Conservation Program, demanded side management
17 programs and so forth.

18 For example, we just received our rate
19 increase from the Power Administration. Our rates,
20 our wholesale rates are going up approximately six
21 percent. That's a big hit for our customers back
22 home.

23 Just this last summer, we were hit with
24 \$450,000 in fire damage. Just this week, on
25 Tuesday, we had over a quarter million dollars in

1 damage due to a wind storm. Those customers, my
2 customers, our members who are paying the bill, have
3 to pickup that cost. So we are seeing rising costs
4 all the time.

5 We have not recovered in our area from the
6 recession. In fact, we have seen seven to eight
7 years of straight decline with the number of new
8 accounts going in in our area. Last year, we saw a
9 small uptake, but this year is going to be flat
10 again, so we are not able to spread our fixed costs
11 across a larger customer base.

12 As I think about what is happening out
13 there, the other issue we are facing back home is
14 how to deal with the rate structures, and making
15 more conservation, more energy efficiency. We have
16 to look at -- utilities have to look at how they are
17 dealing with the rate structure. That is another
18 hit for our members.

19 And lastly -- well, first of all, thank
20 you again for the opportunity to speak. I will be
21 submitting written comments.

22 The last thing I want to mention, I would
23 be remiss if I didn't mention it, but our customers
24 in the northwest, public power customers in the
25 northwest, have spent over 14 billion dollars on

1 fish and wildlife mitigation, and we are seeing
2 success. We are seeing success at the four Lower
3 Snake Dams. And what we believe is we can have fish
4 and dams at the same time.

5 Thank you.

6 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Paul Kreider.

7 **MR. KREIDER:** Thank you, Mr. Yost, for
8 having this event this evening for all of us to put
9 in some testimony tonight. I will be sending
10 written comments in to the power council by December
11 18 on behalf of Citizens Climate Lobby. I am a
12 member of Citizens Climate Lobby, the Idaho chapter.
13 We are a national organization working on climate
14 solutions.

15 Our key piece that we are advocating is
16 for national legislation to put a price on carbon
17 and return all fees collected on the price of carbon
18 back to households in the U.S. This will change the
19 economics of the power generation industry and
20 fossil-fuel industry, overall, moving us from
21 fossil-fuel based energy to pushing us more toward
22 renewable and sustainable energy.

23 I will be submitting more comments to the
24 power council on behalf of Citizens Climate Lobby by
25 the 18th, but I would like to reiterate a few points

1 that Casey Mattoon brought up. Reiterate and
2 emphasize a few points that we agree with that he
3 brought up tonight and put those on record tonight.

4 So first of all, I believe that the plan
5 should explicitly state that our region can satisfy
6 100 percent of new-load growth with energy
7 efficiency. Increased use of energy efficiency is
8 our cheapest and most climate friendly new resource.
9 The draft Seventh Plan calls for 4,500 average
10 megawatts in new energy savings over the next 20
11 years.

12 This is a good minimum goal; however, our
13 region has always met its energy-efficiency goals,
14 so please consider aiming for greater savings. Since
15 1980, energy efficiency measures have helped us
16 reduce our region's electricity bills and save about
17 3.5 billion every year. Energy efficiency is good
18 for our pocketbooks and the environment.

19 The second point I think we should be
20 pushing states to set more ambitious renewable
21 energy goals to help protect our health and our
22 climate. The draft, I believe, is shortsighted in
23 calling only for those renewables already required
24 by northwest states.

25 Several renewable resources are as cheap

1 now as new natural gas plants. They are at parody.
2 The council should study how emerging technologies
3 and other developments, such as improved markets,
4 can impact how clean renewables contribute to peak
5 power demands.

6 The Seventh Power Plan should call on
7 stage to use more renewable energy and speed up our
8 transition away from dirty coal and climate-
9 polluting gases. I believe that there is a huge
10 sense of urgency in front of us, the human race on
11 this planet. We are facing a climate crises. We
12 must have much more urgency in our plans, and not
13 just look at the economics, but look at health of
14 the people and health of the planet.

15 Thank you very much.

16 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Robin Butler.

17 **MS. BUTLER:** Thank you very much for
18 holding this hearing. It's a privilege to stand up
19 here and speak to you. I really appreciate the
20 Committee's willingness to hear the voice of the
21 citizens. I'm here tonight speaking as a
22 grandmother. In fact, my three grandchildren are
23 here with me. I think it's their first public
24 hearing. Okay. I'm not speaking only on behalf of
25 my grandchildren. I'm speaking on behalf of their

1 grandchildren.

2 If future generations are to have a future
3 on this planet, we must address the climate crises
4 now. We have got to get off of carbon-based fuels
5 immediately. I recently completed a four-week OSHA
6 class on climate change, and it was taught by two
7 professors at Boise State University. I learned an
8 awful lot, as you can imagine, in that course.

9 In the last class, somebody asked these
10 two professors -- I should say these professors
11 taught the class ten years ago and this was a repeat
12 of the class with all the new information. Somebody
13 asked the professors what is most surprising about
14 what has been happening over the past ten years.

15 They had two things to say. They said,
16 first of all, it's happening way faster than we ever
17 imagined it could. One of the professors said if
18 you had told me ten years ago we were going to be at
19 400 parts per million now, I would have thought you
20 were a nut case. Here we are, we are at 400 parts
21 per million and going up.

22 The other thing they said that really
23 surprised them is how very little has been done in
24 ten years.

25 We have got to act now. We are running

1 out of time. It's a crisis.

2 Thank you very much for your attention.

3 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Now I really do need
4 another list. We need to stretch our fingers for a
5 minute.

6 **(Brief recess.)**

7 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Edwina Allen.

8 **MS. ALLEN:** Councilman Yost, thank you for
9 the opportunity to testify here today. My name is
10 Edwina Allen, and I live at 2114 East Ridge Crest
11 Drive in Boise.

12 So I meet again with the Northwest Power
13 Conservation Council. Looking back in my file, the
14 first record I have of appearing before you is March
15 11, 1983. The comments I gave that day are still
16 relevant. The Northwest Power Planning Council is
17 to be commended for producing a plan that relies on
18 conservation and renewable resources.

19 Economically, we will gain because more
20 jobs will be created from conservation and renewable
21 energy projects rather than new power plant
22 construction.

23 Testifying in 1991, I commended you for
24 emphasizing energy efficiency as the best way to
25 meet new power demands and also urge you to adopt a

1 fish strategy of keeping salmon in the river, not in
2 barges. These same things are still true.

3 I strongly support the Seventh Power
4 Plan's position that energy efficiency is our best
5 way to meet new energy demands and that emphasis
6 should be placed on serving low-income families.

7 What is new today is a broad understanding
8 that climate change is a threat to our world. The
9 Seventh Power Plan is an opportunity to affect
10 significant reduction in the carbon dioxide
11 emissions that are driving climate change.

12 I applaud the Council's goals of achieving
13 4,500 average megawatts of new energy savings over
14 the next 20 years. More would be better. I concur
15 that no new natural gas power plants need to be
16 built. Energy efficiency is indeed the most climate
17 friendly new resource.

18 I, with great enthusiasm, support the
19 closure of coal-fired plants as a cost effective way
20 to reduce carbon emissions. If this loss capacity
21 cannot be met by efficiency, it should be met by
22 renewable, such as wind and solar, not by increased
23 use of natural gas.

24 Additionally, I urge you to include a
25 robust demand/response in the plan. The final

1 Seventh Plan should specify a 700 to 1100 megawatt
2 target. This is a straight-forward way to meet peak
3 demand and thus negate the need to develop new
4 general-rating facilities.

5 Now I wish to speak for the salmon. The
6 Council has a dual role, that of planning for energy
7 resources, but also needs for fish. Over the last
8 decade following the council's plans, the public has
9 spent vast sums of money on mitigation measures to
10 recover salmon while keeping the four Lower Snake
11 River Dams in place, all the while, while Snake
12 River salmon populations have declined dramatically.
13 Climate change is a growing reality further pushing
14 them toward extinction.

15 I strongly urge you to conduct the full
16 assessment of costs and benefits of retiring the
17 four Lower Snake Dams to help salmon recover versus
18 maintaining the dams for the limited benefit of a
19 minimum power generation and almost non-existent
20 barge transportation that they provide.

21 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

22 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Kevin Lewis.

23 **MR. LEWIS:** Good evening, Councilman Yost.

24 My name is Kevin Lewis. I'm the conservation
25 director with Idaho Rivers United. Thank you for

1 having this hearing. We appreciate it.

2 Idaho supports the increased use of energy
3 efficiency, which is our cheapest, surest, and most
4 climate-friendly resource we have. Avoiding the
5 construction of new natural gas-fired power plants
6 is a very good idea. Having greater reductions in
7 carbon emissions.

8 The Council needs to fully assess salmon
9 recovery costs. This includes an honest review of
10 the claimed benefits provided by the four Lower
11 Snake River dams. So the rest of my comments are
12 basically focused around the four Lower Snake River
13 dams.

14 The quantity and value of hydropower
15 produced by the Lower Snake River Dams is
16 overstated. While the name plate capacity of the
17 dams is 3,033 annual megawatts, the 12 year average,
18 that's 2004 to 2014, generation was 961 annual
19 megawatts, a third of nameplate capacity.

20 Of that average, 961 annual megawatts,
21 about one-third of that energy was generated during
22 the spring runoff season, when wholesale power
23 prices plummet to near zero due to the flood of
24 power and lack of demand.

25 Pacific Northwest has a total capacity,

1 generation capacity, of 28,900 annual megawatts, and
2 operates at about 84 percent at capacity. In other
3 words, we have a capacity surplus of about 16
4 percent. If the three percent that is provided by
5 the four Lower Snake Dams were to disappear, we
6 would be reducing our surplus capacity to 13
7 percent, and nobody's lights would go off.

8 The hydropower component is more fully
9 explained in a report commissioned by IRU and
10 completed by Rocky Mountain Econometrics. I have
11 copies of that to supply, hard copies of that.

12 Another new development is the claim that
13 hydropower is carbon free. While we have long known
14 that reservoirs and tropical climates are often high
15 emitters of CO2 and methane, new research is showing
16 that mid-latitude reservoirs can also be large
17 emitters of greenhouse gases.

18 For the record, I have a copy of a paper
19 that was published last year that documented a study
20 of a core project in Ohio, a reservoir in Ohio. A
21 warm reservoir, nutrient laden, slightly anoxic, and
22 they found it had substantial methane emission in
23 that reservoir.

24 This is kind of a new, growing sign. It
25 will be interesting when the testing comes to the

1 west. I suspect that the mid-Snake projects, Hell's
2 Canyon complex will probably prove to be very high
3 methane emitters, and who knows what happens
4 downstream.

5 Another front, when you look at Lower
6 Snake Dams, you have to look at both hydropower
7 component and navigation component, since the dams
8 were actually built to make Lewiston seaport.
9 Hydropower was added to the project to try to get a
10 good benefit-cost analysis.

11 So in a separate report produced by Rocky
12 Mountain Econometrics, it examines the economics of
13 the Lower Snake River navigation system. In short,
14 waterborne transportation in the Lower Snake is a
15 dismal failure. As a benefit cost ratio of 43 cents
16 gained for every dollar spent before you factor in
17 fish and wildlife mitigation, adding those
18 mitigation costs drives that ratio to 21 cents
19 returned for every dollar that we spend on it.

20 The tonnage that is shipped in the Lower
21 Snake is well below the core's own definition of
22 negligible. In fact, if the current shipping
23 doubled, it would still be classified as negligible.

24 In closing, the rate payers and the tax
25 payers can no longer afford to prop up the Lower

1 Snake River Dams. Viable and affordable
2 alternatives already exist to get goods to market
3 and meet our energy needs. From a purely economic
4 perspective, the Lower Snake River Dam is not
5 supportable. From an ecological perspective,
6 through the eyes of Idaho's wild salmon and
7 steelhead species, the our Lower Snake Dams are not
8 supportable.

9 Thank you.

10 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Michael Heckler.

11 **MR. HECKLER:** Good evening. I'm Michael
12 Heckler, a resident of Garden City. I appreciate
13 this opportunity to speak. I have a couple of
14 general comments and one substantive area of
15 concern.

16 To begin with, in the general comments, I
17 offer kudos to the document drafters. The size,
18 scope, and clarity of this draft plan suggests a
19 very high level of competency of the folks who
20 drafted it.

21 Similarly, to the Council, the Seventh
22 Plan's focus on low risk, cost effective and
23 scalable energy efficiency to address short-term
24 load growth is commendable. The draft reflects a
25 very robust effort to reduce wasteful or inefficient

1 actions throughout the electric-energy-user
2 community.

3 The folks who drafted this plan know so
4 much more on the relevant topics than I do that my
5 comments are made with some concern that I might be
6 missing something substantial.

7 That said, I think the current draft falls
8 unacceptably short in one area. The plan doesn't
9 appear to apply the same high standard for reducing
10 waste and inefficiency within the electric energy-
11 generated community as it applies to end users.

12 Specifically, I'm concerned about
13 recommending the building of more peak generation to
14 meet certain load conditions without first
15 establishing enhanced market mechanisms that could
16 better utilize the region's existing generation
17 resources. This concern is based on four
18 observations.

19 First, the plan explains how over time the
20 Northwest Power system has transitioned from
21 historic energy constrained to its current expected
22 future condition as capacity constrained.

23 Second, the plan explains that variable
24 energy production resources, such as wind, require
25 substantial within our balancing reserves, and all

1 of the system flexibility that is used within our
2 balancing, represent resources that are not
3 available to meet load-adequacy requirements.

4 Third, the plan further identifies three
5 factors which are most likely to significantly
6 influence future conditions and wholesale power
7 markets. Two of the factors are natural gas prices
8 and the possibilities of new greenhouse gas
9 regulations.

10 Fourth, the plan points out that as early
11 as 2021, the region might have unacceptable levels
12 of resource adequacy if faced with extreme winter
13 weather conditions during a very low runoff year.
14 Even if region-wide resources are sufficient, quote,
15 some individual utilities or areas may need
16 additional supply for capacity or wind integration
17 when transmission and power market access is
18 limited.

19 The plan goes on to say that in these
20 instances, the Seventh Power Plan's resource
21 strategy relies on new natural gas-fired generation
22 to provide energy capacity and ancillary services.
23 Increasing natural gas generation would appear to
24 increase the region's exposure to the two
25 substantial price risk factors.

1 Those being gas prices and potential C02
2 regulations. My concerns are not based on so much
3 incurring more gas and C02 risk as they are on your
4 priorities. You respond to this potential high-load
5 low-water resource shortfall by suggesting that some
6 utilities may need to build generation.

7 From my perspective, the plan doesn't take
8 an adequately active stance in supporting the
9 improvement of market structures to determine
10 whether existing generation could be adequate to
11 meet all regional needs if improved market
12 structures allowed those resources to be more
13 readily accessible to other utilities.

14 I would like to see this sequence
15 reversed. Expedite short, subhourly market
16 development first. Build more gas plants only if
17 there are still shortfalls. In fairness, the plan
18 does acknowledge the potential for improved markets
19 and operating procedures to reduce resources needed
20 for within our balancing variable output generators.

21 In Chapter 3, under the heading "Regional
22 Resource Utilization," the plan notes, quote, the
23 region should continue to improve system scheduling,
24 operating procedures across the region's balancing
25 authorities to maximize cost effectiveness and

1 minimize the need for new resources needed for the
2 integration of variable energy resource production.

3 Further, under Council Action Number 9,
4 the plan charges the Council to, quote, monitor
5 regional markets and marketing tools that impact the
6 dispatch of the powering system.

7 Merely monitoring strikes me as too
8 passive an action response. So I would like to
9 propose two specific changes to the current draft.

10 One, I propose that Council Action Number
11 9 be deleted in its entirety.

12 Two, I propose that a bullet be added
13 under Regional Strategy Action Item Number 3,
14 requiring expedited development of regional markets
15 and marketing tools that impact dispatch of the
16 power system.

17 I mentioned about my concern of suggesting
18 a plan when I'm not fully cognizant of the scope
19 that this covers. In this particular case, my
20 ignorance is substantial. I have heard anecdotally
21 that there are different views on how we should
22 implement regional subhourly markets.

23 My limited understanding is that there are
24 differences, that these differences often occur
25 between folks who are supporting Northwest Power

1 pool's approach versus a California ISO based market
2 efforts.

3 I don't know the politics the Council
4 faces on this matter, but if you will allow me an
5 analogy. It's reported that while implementing the
6 1979 economic reforms, the Chinese premiere was
7 confronted by parties with competing interests.
8 Supposedly, Deng Xiaoping told both parties, "It
9 doesn't matter what color the cat is, as long as it
10 catches mice."

11 There could very well be may more coal
12 retirements announced during the period of time of
13 this plan, that this plan covers. We can also see
14 substantive improvements of the cost effectiveness
15 of slower generation. Making sure we respond
16 properly to either of those events requires that we
17 know about the region's system flexibility.

18 Isn't it more important that we get
19 subhourly markets implemented soon so that we can
20 find out what improvements in resource allocation
21 are possible than whether those markets are
22 implemented on an NWPP or Cal-ISO based plan.

23 As I mentioned above, I'm ignorant on the
24 politics, but it seems to me we ought to get an EIM
25 cat out there to catch mice as soon as we can. I

1 hope political differences don't stop us from doing
2 that.

3 Thank you.

4 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you, Michael.

5 Louis Landers.

6 **MR. LANDRY:** Thank you. Louis Landry. I
7 live in Garden City. I really appreciate the
8 opportunity to be here tonight and have this kind of
9 -- as I understand it, it's within your purview to
10 really seek out public comment, and good job in
11 doing that.

12 I called over to your office a couple days
13 ago because I was really uninformed about what the
14 mandate responsibilities of the Council is. I got a
15 call back this morning, and I really appreciated it.
16 It was very kind on a busy day to have a call back
17 about that.

18 Then when I came over and I picked up this
19 handout, "Why We Have A Regional Power Plan," it was
20 incredibly eye opening about the four nuclear plants
21 that would have been built and the disaster that
22 that would have meant in terms of cost overruns and
23 saw the kind of bond indebtedness, the failure of a
24 bond that the BPA has had to pickup. So obviously,
25 you have a very worthy mandate that congress

1 recognizes, and it's really important for us.

2 The two major issues, in my estimation of
3 what we face right now on the planet, obviously, is
4 power and water. You are in the thick of it. These
5 issues relate, obviously, to Homeland Security,
6 sustainability, quality of life.

7 I want to note that I support the comments
8 that have come in from the Snake River Alliance from
9 Ken, Mike's comments. I really defer to the smart
10 people who have really dug into the plan and rely a
11 lot on their analysis because I have known of their
12 work and the integrity of their work.

13 As a householder, the issues of energy
14 efficiency and energy conservation I have had a
15 little bit of experience. I built a house six years
16 ago. Not being an expert in the field, but aware
17 that there was a lot going on. I got some help with
18 a team, built a house that has just a couple things
19 that are kind of important. I had a location that
20 had some passive solar capacity, built it with a
21 concrete floor that was insulated to act as thermal
22 storage.

23 I looked around and found out about these
24 Douglas heat pumps, and because I have a lot of
25 allergies, not having air pushed through ducts,

1 pushing through all of the dust, but also not having
2 all of the wasted energy going through the ducts. I
3 have been really pleased. Plus, in the design just
4 little simple things, like using night cooling and
5 not having to put on the air conditioner, rarely
6 using it. Just a few features that have made a very
7 livable environment.

8 But my concern is that as we look 20 years
9 out, that we are really lagging in the kind of
10 initiatives that we need to have for the
11 residential-built environment, what we can do there
12 very simply and cost effectively, certainly, on new-
13 house construction. I don't know what your role is
14 in that. I mean, we can talk about energy
15 efficiency and demand reductions, et cetera.

16 I don't know if there is any kind of lead
17 that you can do to spur the states on in that, but
18 it would be certainly welcome. I think we can get a
19 lot of good return from that.

20 The building community tends to be pretty
21 conservative, and for good reason. It's in a market
22 place, sometimes it's tough to stick your neck out
23 there, but I think some of the models that could
24 help us achieve some of those goals, at least in the
25 built environment residentially, could be very

1 important.

2 Last thing I want to end with, hearing
3 about cats and cats catching mice irrespective of
4 their color, I was over at the library today and I
5 saw a bumper sticker and it said, "If evolution is
6 outlawed, only outlaws will evolve." So it's been
7 on my mind today.

8 What I remember is a hearing in Florida
9 where one of their high officials in their energy
10 department wasn't allowed to speak before a house
11 committee about climate change because the words
12 were outlawed. I appreciate that you can speak
13 about these issues, that we can face one of the most
14 critical issues of our time, and that can't be
15 outlawed, and have a meaningful discussion.

16 Thank you.

17 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you.

18 Shelley Brode.

19 **MS. BRODE:** Brock.

20 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Yep. Could be. C and K
21 are there.

22 **MS. BROCK:** I don't have a lot prepared
23 here, but I heard about this meeting kind of last
24 minute and felt like I had to be here. I live at
25 8770 West Chaparral Road in Eagle. I have been an

1 Eagle resident about four decades, and I'm also a
2 member of Citizens Allied for Integrity and
3 Accountability. We are a citizens-based group that
4 is actively fighting the drilling and fracking for
5 natural gas that is ramping up across this valley
6 right now.

7 I agree with the other speakers who got up
8 here and stated that we need to get -- we
9 desperately need to get away from fossil fuels. The
10 jury is in. We know what this causes to our
11 environment and to the planet. I have kids and
12 grandkids, and like the one gal said, I want to do
13 this for my great-grandchildren, for future
14 generations here.

15 You folks are officials. You took an
16 oath, I assume, to protect the health, safety, and
17 welfare of all the people in this state and across
18 the Treasure Valley, and I respect you for that. I
19 pray, literally pray that you will listen to the
20 people that are talking here today.

21 Natural gas may burn a little cleaner than
22 coal, although, it seems like the jury is out on
23 that too. The one thing nobody did talk about is
24 the extreme extraction techniques that are needed.
25 This is basically a predatory industry, in my

1 opinion. Over three dozens states across the nation
2 have been drilled and fracked for natural gas and
3 oil.

4 I just attended a conference in Denver,
5 Colorado about six weeks ago where over 200
6 activists were there, that all shared their stories
7 and their testimonies about the decimation this has
8 caused to their property rights, their civil rights,
9 their water, their air. There are just so many
10 different aspects to this that I don't think the
11 Council is aware of.

12 Unfortunately, over the last eight or nine
13 years, I think that certain entities, perhaps I
14 should say, have done whatever they can to
15 essentially stomp on alternative energy in this
16 state. Solar and wind, I'm praying that you guys
17 will start going that direction aggressively because
18 that really is our only hope to save this.

19 With oil and gas -- and we will talk
20 mostly about liquid natural gas, which is worth the
21 same money as oil, and that is what they are after
22 here, although, they are getting oil too -- they are
23 doing -- well, right now over in Fruitland, you
24 folks probably -- sorry.

25 I'm kind of losing my voice. You probably

1 have heard about the forced spooling that they are
2 attempting to do over there. Dozens of families
3 over there are being forced to allow drilling under
4 their homes. People who are aggressively fighting
5 it, we are fighting through legal challenges on
6 their behalf. We don't believe that anyone should
7 be forced to do this kind of thing. It is a
8 horrible threat to our water aquifers, as many of
9 you know, to our surface water, to the air.

10 It is -- it puts people in default of
11 their mortgages. The vast majority of people, if
12 they allow this activity on their property, whether
13 they are forced spool or they sign a lease or like
14 thousands of acres in Ada County and actually tens
15 of thousands of acres across the Treasure Valley,
16 including several thousand in Eagle and Star, where
17 I live, I live in Eagle, are split estates. On
18 split-estate land, that means the state owns the
19 mineral rights as per a law that passed in 1923.

20 In the last year and a half, Texas-based
21 Alta Mesa has leased those, sought out those tracts
22 of lands, leased those minerals from the state and
23 now can go there, and because we are split estates,
24 we cannot stop them from drilling on our property.
25 We are going to try, but we can't by law. It's an

1 egregious violation of our property rights.

2 People need to know about this. This is -
3 - we are a sacrifice zone. We are becoming a
4 sacrifice zone like these other 30 states that have
5 had this activity. It's easy to flip a switch in
6 your house, and you get gas, and you get heat, and
7 you can cook and stuff, but somewhere somebody
8 sacrificed for you to have that. We don't want to
9 become the next sacrifice zone here. We are
10 fighting really hard to stop this.

11 Remember that millions of gallons of water
12 come out of our drinking aquifers and our surface
13 water, our rivers and creeks. The Boise, Payette,
14 and Snake Rivers have large stretches of them that
15 have already been leased to the industry all the way
16 from the middle of Star to the Oregon border from
17 Black Canyon Reservoir to the Oregon border from
18 Homedale and the Snake to the Oregon border. All
19 that has been leased to this industry. I shudder to
20 think what is going to happen if they get to start
21 drilling on all that stuff.

22 I don't know who is going to decide what
23 an acceptable level of benzene for our kids to
24 breathe is when they start flaring all these wells.
25 Benzene and all the other chemicals that come off

1 the flaring are a documented cause of all kinds of
2 health problems all over this nation, from asthma to
3 cancers. A documented cause. The proof is there.

4 We are likely going to have methane in our
5 water faucets. That has happened too in many states
6 where this has happened. They have already applied
7 for at least two injection wells. They are a
8 documented cause of ungodly earthquake activity in
9 many states. You heard about what has been going on
10 in Oklahoma, what's happening in Denver, several
11 other states too wherever they do these injection
12 wells, and waste water ponds and all the leaking
13 that comes -- leaking and spills and illegal
14 dumping.

15 It's just a nasty industry. They operate
16 off shoestring budgets here, and the companies that
17 are here want it leased, and I won't name who, are
18 in pretty serious financial trouble right now. They
19 have a very low rating, and you have got to ask
20 yourself if it's right for them to go in and lease
21 this property from these people and put them at risk
22 by putting wells on their land when they probably
23 are not going to be using the greatest care and
24 spending the money that they need to to at least
25 attempt to be safe.

1 They fight us tooth and nail against
2 baseline water testing and baseline air testing.
3 There is only one reason that they would be doing
4 that. We need to keep that in mind. You really
5 need to think about that when we talk about going to
6 these natural-gas plants.

7 There is a price to pay for that, and it
8 is heavy. We beg you guys to think about that. I
9 have a printout here that I would like to share with
10 you, and you can share it with all of the other
11 council people. Really, I just pray that you will
12 take all these factors into your consideration in
13 moving forward.

14 Thank you.

15 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Justin, I will put an X
16 here, and you can testify now.

17 **MR. HAYES:** Thank you, Jim, for looking
18 out for me. I appreciate it. I'm Justin Hayes. I'm
19 program director with the Idaho Conservation League.
20 I would like to speak briefly this evening on behalf
21 of the 25,000 supporters that we have across the
22 state.

23 I would like to compliment Council and the
24 staff for putting together an excellent plan, and
25 generally, we are very supportive of it. We will be

1 submitting more extensive written comments before
2 that deadline.

3 But tonight, I would like to take a brief
4 moment to encourage council staff and council
5 members to think more aggressively about energy
6 conservation. I think that the goals that are set
7 out in the plan are allottable, but I really think
8 that should be seen as a floor and not a ceiling for
9 the Northwest efforts. The Northwest has been a
10 leader in the nation with seeking out and
11 implementing energy efficiency, and I think they
12 have a great track record, and there is a reason to
13 believe that we can be more successful going
14 forward.

15 I would also like to encourage the Council
16 to think more about increasing the goals for
17 demand/response. I think there is a lot of
18 opportunities there, and I know that our
19 organization and our members are very excited when
20 Idaho Power talks to us about the Coal Credit
21 Program for our air conditioners. I think more
22 marketing on that can result in even greater
23 benefits for the region.

24 I think that one of the most significant
25 aspects of Council's plan, from our perspective, is

1 proposals that will meet our energy needs going
2 forward, even with the shutdown of three coal-fired
3 power plants in the region.

4 I think that is very significant. I hope
5 that becomes a firm target with firmer dates. Ken
6 did an excellent job discussing that in his
7 testimony, so I will not feed on that, but it is a
8 significant thing for Idaho and Northwest going
9 forward.

10 I would also like to touch briefly on the
11 changes that our hydro system is likely to be facing
12 in years to come that I don't think were fully
13 captured in the plan. Climate change is changing
14 the amount of water that is coming, the snow pack,
15 the timing. The flows in our rivers is changing.
16 It's likely there is going to be an increase -- or
17 sorry. Decrease in power coming off hydro system in
18 the future.

19 I think Council needs to figure out how to
20 address that through deploying additional
21 renewables, and ensuring that renewables that are
22 deployed are integrated into the system well. It's
23 also likely that hydro system is going to be changed
24 significantly in the future as a result of salmon
25 recovery measures, whether the dams are removed or

1 significantly reoperated. It's hard to say.

2 We support damn removal. At a minimum, we
3 are going to see additional spill. So it's likely
4 that the hydro system is going to be behaving a
5 little differently than the Council envisions in
6 this planning. I think that any demands that can't
7 be met through efficiencies, need to be addressed
8 through renewables.

9 With that, I will stop and just say once
10 again, we appreciate the opportunity to testify
11 today. We really appreciate the staff being here,
12 and the thoughtfulness the plan outlines, and we
13 will be submitting more thorough written comments in
14 the future.

15 Thank you.

16 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you.

17 Jo Elg.

18 **MS. ELG:** Good evening, Mr. Yost. My name
19 is Jo Elg. I'm the general manager of United
20 Electric Co-Op in Heyburn, Idaho. I want to thank
21 you for the opportunity to be here this evening.
22 United Electric will provide detailed written
23 comments, but there are a couple items that I would
24 like to comment on this evening.

25 First, a little bit of background. United

1 Electric Co-Op is headquartered in Heyburn, Idaho. We
2 serve portions of Minidoka and Cassia Counties. We
3 are a public-preference customer of the Bonneville
4 Power Administration, and we rely on the generation
5 assets of the Federal Columbia River Power System as
6 a primary source of our power supply.

7 Our retail load is 32 and a half average
8 megawatts with a summer system peak of 60 megawatts.
9 Since 2009, we have had several large loads that
10 have developed in our area, and another large
11 industrial load just opened the doors this fall.
12 United Electric continues to experience an annual
13 average load growth of about 1.25 percent, and in
14 2016, our forecast load is expected to be five
15 average megawatts above our BPA tier-one allocation.

16 So my comments this evening will focus on
17 two areas. One, is the conservation target, and the
18 second one is natural gas price assumptions.

19 United Electric and the Northwest Public
20 and Cooperative Power communities are committed to
21 provide reliable, efficient electricity to the
22 consumers and the members of our utilities at the
23 lowest possible cost. Energy efficiency is an
24 important part of that effort, and BPA and its
25 preference customers have demonstrated a strong

1 commitment to achieving cost-effective conservation.

2 United Electric has achieved over 2.5
3 million kilowatt hours of cost-effective
4 conservation in the last BPA rate period. Although
5 conservation has many benefits, the cost, the
6 timing, and the magnitude of the acquisition are
7 important considerations, just as they are with any
8 resource, and these factors will vary depending on
9 the specific economic conditions and the resource
10 situation of the specific utility.

11 It is concerning to us that the Council
12 moved from a range to a specific target for
13 conservation acquisition and then became even more
14 prescriptive with two-year milestones. A specific
15 target does not reflect the unpredictable nature of
16 conservation acquisition nor does it take into
17 account the inherent uncertainty in the forecasting
18 process despite the number of modeling runs.

19 The draft's Seventh Power Plan asks
20 Bonneville to assess its current energy efficiency
21 implementation model, and states that Bonneville
22 should commission a study as part of this process.
23 While we agree that this should be part of
24 Bonneville's due diligence, it should be Bonneville
25 and its customers that make the determination

1 whether a commission study is cost effective or not.

2 The natural gas price assumptions and the
3 draft's Seventh Power Plan are significantly
4 outdated, and they trend high compared to current
5 data. The settlement prices at Henry Hub are used
6 as benchmarks for the entire North American Natural
7 Gas market, and according to the Energy Information
8 Administration, the 2013 average gas price per
9 million BTU at Henry Hub was \$3.73. The EIA's
10 short-term energy outlook, which was released in
11 October of 2015, projects the average Henry Hub
12 natural gas price at \$2.69 per million BTU in 2015.
13 Their forecast is \$3.00 per million BTU in 2016.

14 High natural gas prices places a
15 significant bias in the modeling inputs, and
16 consequently, the modeling outcomes. For example,
17 lower gas prices affect conservation acquisition.
18 This needs to be recognized and addressed in the
19 final recommendations.

20 I would like to thank you for your time
21 this evening. Appreciate the opportunity to
22 comment.

23 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you.

24 I don't have anyone else signed up to
25 testify or comment, but if we have time and if

1 anybody -- Tom, you want to come up and talk? Some
2 of you, I don't know. Well, I know you can do an X
3 because I seen your signature before.

4 **MR. STUART:** Jim, thanks for the chance to
5 comment tonight, and thanks to the Council and the
6 staff that are making time for this. We appreciate
7 you.

8 I'm Tom Stuart. I have been active in
9 regional salmon recovery and energy issues for a
10 couple of decades. I'm on the board of Idaho Rivers
11 United and the Save the Wild Salmon Coalition.

12 Jim, I'm sure you recall I last addressed
13 the Council months ago in the fish and wild
14 amendment process, my appeal then and now is that
15 the Council has not yet done enough in main stem
16 Snake-Columbia policy and action to recover the
17 salmon stocks, especially some that are relevant To
18 Idaho.

19 The equitable treatment of fish and energy
20 is still a losery I'm afraid. You know and other
21 Idaho folks know that Idaho salmon, Snake River
22 Basin Salmon cannot be saved by habitat work in
23 Idaho or they can't be saved in hatcheries.

24 The limited factor, of course, is down-
25 river survival. This must be addressed. Talking

1 here about the cumulative impact of the eight FCRPS
2 projects rather than rate survivals that we normally
3 see quoted. The rate survivals that the corps and
4 Bonneville uses often are in that 93 to the 96
5 percent range.

6 What that ignores is the cumulative
7 survival from lower dam to the highest damn to
8 Bonneville, the lowest. Steve Pettit reminds us
9 that juvenile spring chinook this year between Lower
10 Granite and Bonneville survived at only 36 percent
11 rate cumulatively, and steelhead survival was even
12 worse.

13 So we don't have the problems solved yet.
14 I realize this isn't entirely Council's charter, but
15 it is partly the Council's charter. I think your
16 power plan needs to accommodate for those realities.

17 This year's hot water disaster, especially
18 for sockeye, I think it's worthy to note, as you
19 know, it killed something close to 99 percent of the
20 adult sockeye that passed Bonneville Dam headed for
21 Idaho. Makes the point in spades about the
22 inadequate policy enactment in the Columbia Snake
23 main stem.

24 I note with recent studies coming out of
25 the fish hatchery center, the four Lower Snake

1 Reservoirs added something like six to eight degrees
2 Fahrenheit to the water temperature this year, which
3 in a warming climate, is potentially lethal. In
4 2015, it certainly was.

5 So bottom line, I think our -- the power
6 plan has -- I salute and applaud some of the aspects
7 of it. The negatives come in the fish and wildlife
8 area. The equitable treatment of salmon energy, I
9 don't believe can occur until the hydro system
10 configuration and operations are much more
11 dramatically adjusted and altered. Others have
12 mentioned this.

13 The last time I addressed the Council, I
14 urged you to include an aggressive spill test in the
15 fish and wildlife amendment process. That didn't
16 occur for obvious reasons, but with the climate
17 warming with 2015 and the recent history, I'm no
18 longer even sure the spill will be enough, but we
19 have to be way more aggressive.

20 The Seventh Plan, despite a lot of
21 progress in energy areas, I think still gives salmon
22 the short end of the stick, and I am not happy with
23 that.

24 The pluses, the Council, I think,
25 correctly calls for energy load growth being met

1 with continued efficiency improvements. I really
2 applaud that. I think we can probably be more
3 aggressive, as others have said. The Rocky Mountain
4 Econometrics study reports 4,600 average megawatts
5 of surplus. Others have talked about that.

6 Energy Coalition study talks about
7 replacing Lower Snake Dam energy, if we need to at
8 all, at a negligible cost above the current cost of
9 maintaining those projects.

10 I'm glad to see the proposed elimination
11 of some of the old obsolete coal plants that
12 certainly need to go for so many reasons that others
13 have already spoken to.

14 I think, as others have said, the major
15 shortfall is the Seventh Plan fails to prepare the
16 region adequately for the further lost generation in
17 hydropower. Primarily, what happens with Lower
18 Snake River dams, which I agree with Pat and others
19 here, is inevitable. I think those projects are
20 economically unsustainable, and new studies are
21 making that even more clear.

22 I thank the Council, and perhaps you, Jim,
23 are uniquely positioned, uniquely capable, and
24 perhaps even obligated to provide more leadership
25 and direction here.

1 I think in the fish and wildlife world,
2 the Council has often deferred to Bonneville Power.
3 With all due respect to John Williams, who I know is
4 here, I'm not confident we will find solutions to
5 our energy fish and wildlife balance with Bonneville
6 in the lead. I trust the Council to articulate and
7 implement a better vision for equitable treatments.

8 I also point out the opportunity has never
9 been better. We know more now than ever what salmon
10 need to recover, especially what Idaho salmon need.
11 We have all power surplus. We are going to have one
12 for a long time to come, so we do have a window of
13 opportunity. We have studies verifying that energy
14 from the Lower Snake Dams perhaps needs not be
15 replaced at all. If you think it does need to be
16 replaced, we can do it at negligible cost or perhaps
17 even a lower cost.

18 So I would like the Council to become more
19 of a conservation council, and perhaps with more
20 analysis and more forward-looking creativity in that
21 regard, especially for Idaho salmon, which I know is
22 your charter, and a bit less, perhaps, as an energy
23 council that is devoted too often, I think, to
24 maintaining a status quo that is more costly than it
25 needs to be for repairs and certainly more lethal

1 than it needs to be for fish and wildlife resources
2 and salmon.

3 Thanks again for the chance to comment,
4 Jim. Appreciate the work you do.

5 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thanks.

6 I don't have any others that have signed
7 up, but I'm wanting to -- we have got time. You can
8 come on up and state your name and who you are
9 representing, and we will listen.

10 **MS. FAUCI:** My name is Joanie Fauci. I
11 had come in right at the same time as him, so my
12 name is probably right near there, but I didn't
13 check it or anything. I didn't know I was suppose
14 to do that. Joan Fauci. Thank you, Mr. Yost, for
15 allowing us to testify tonight.

16 I have not read the plan. I'm not overly
17 knowledgeable on these issues, but I do have a lot
18 of concern about your energy projects for the
19 future. I hope that the plan, as it moves forward
20 from draft, will increase -- mention increased
21 dependency on clean power sources. Solar has a lot
22 of potential in this area.

23 I personally feel that a lot of our energy
24 use in the summer is during the hot, sunny days, and
25 there is a lot of sunshine. For all the air

1 conditioners that need to have plenty of power
2 during those demand times in the summer.

3 Wind power, I think there are more and
4 more efficient designs of wind turbines coming out
5 these days. There are smaller and smaller ones. We
6 don't have to have these mega farms. People are
7 putting them on homes and back yards in windy
8 places, and they are not too obtrusive to everybody
9 else.

10 I hope the plan will decrease dependency
11 on dirty power sources. I would like to see not
12 just those three coal plants retired, but all of the
13 ones in the region retired. They are extremely
14 expensive. I was really happy last year when Idaho
15 Power denied -- or the PC denied Idaho Power's
16 spending all that money to upgrade the one plant
17 over, I believe it was in Montana, but it might have
18 been Wyoming, somewhere east.

19 Also, I don't think that I saw in the
20 flyer tonight that there is something about some
21 kind of little nuclear plants, some modular things,
22 but I don't think we should talk or plan or think
23 anything related to nuclear power until there is
24 some kind of safe storage or disposal solution for
25 the waste. Hopefully, there is no nuclear plans.

1 I don't think any new additional gas
2 plants should be necessary. If we can continue our
3 energy efficiency that we have been doing in the
4 region, I don't see why we would need any additional
5 gas plants, and if we needed more power supplies, we
6 can do more solar and wind, so that should be good.
7 And with no new gas plants, hopefully that will help
8 to prevent or slow the fracking industry down, which
9 is real scary, just like nuclear.

10 I would also like to see us take down
11 especially those four Lower Snake Dams. There is
12 way more knowledgeable testimony here tonight. I
13 don't speak anywhere close to their expertise on
14 that, but I would like to see them go away.

15 We do know electric vehicles are coming
16 more and more. Lots more people are going to buy
17 them. I want one myself. A lot of people are
18 probably going to charge them up at night, so that
19 maybe we don't have the supply of solar power. So
20 maybe in the plans somewhere we can get some
21 research dollars geared toward storage or battery
22 capacity for the night stuff for things for energy
23 efficiency.

24 Maybe we can come up with some other -- I
25 don't know what goes in these plans. I have to

1 apologize that I'm not that knowledgeable there, but
2 if we can have some different incentives, maybe if
3 people were to charge their vehicles on a hot sunny
4 day versus at night, they would get a discount on
5 some things like that.

6 And I also see us, because of the solar
7 and wind and it getting smaller and people are able
8 to put them on their houses and their yards. And I
9 see some cities, I have heard of cities doing this
10 across the country, they are putting them on city
11 buildings, solar panels and stuff.

12 We can have a distributed energy supply so
13 maybe we don't need all these huge power
14 transmission lines that we are putting in this whole
15 new thing that is going across our states. If we
16 had a lot more distributed power, the need for those
17 big transmission lines could be reduced some as
18 well.

19 Another thing, hopefully, the plan is not
20 totally based upon cost, but I know you have to have
21 some cost stuff in there, and again, I apologize for
22 not reading it, but hopefully you can include some
23 healthcare costs in there because all the bad health
24 effects from dirty power should be taken into
25 account, and that's something I think should be

1 considered in there as well.

2 So just in closing, I hope the plan can be
3 stronger along all these issues I just mentioned.

4 Thank you for your time.

5 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you.

6 **MR. WARDWELL:** My name is Ed Wardwell.

7 Sorry I didn't mark down that I wanted to speak, but
8 thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Yost, and I want
9 -- I'm not going to spend a lot of time. I got here
10 late because I was baby-sitting my grandkids. That
11 is really why I'm here, as many others are, for the
12 future.

13 But I would like to commend the Council on
14 the work on the efficiency of the goals, and I would
15 like you to continue to have a specific goal. Since
16 you have been a leader in this country in the
17 northwest, I saw that it was double what the rest of
18 the country is doing. I would like you to continue
19 that far-reaching goal and even be more assertive
20 and not to come up with a range.

21 When you have a goal to do something good,
22 you don't say maybe halfway and maybe we might go
23 all the way, you know. They didn't say that when
24 they went to the moon, we might go halfway. No. We
25 will go all the way to the moon.

1 Anyway, climate change is the number one
2 issue, and we should do as much as we can do about
3 that. I applaud your efforts at this point. With
4 the efficiency that has been accomplished and will
5 be accomplished, we certainly have the surplus power
6 to get rid of those four dams and bring back the
7 salmon for my grandkids.

8 The other thing that the previous speaker
9 just spoke of is the only thing that I would like to
10 add to, and say that there really should be a cost
11 factor for every pound, ton of carbon produced. That
12 should be calculated into all of the costs that are
13 out there that are currently not being assessed.
14 When they talk about costs of these electrical
15 generators, they don't mention or they don't add in
16 the health cost, the social cost, the environmental
17 cost.

18 I have got National Geographic, you know,
19 a nonpartisan, talks about all the damages we are
20 doing to our agriculture, to wildlife, extra costs,
21 and huge storms that are happening across this
22 country, around the world, and none of those costs
23 are added in when they should be.

24 So I think Council would be wise to get
25 some economists to add the specific costs to every

1 pound and ton of carbon, and then put that into the
2 formula, and we will see that it's just far too
3 expensive to continue the way that we are going with
4 the fossil fuels, whether it be gas or coal.

5 Thank you very much.

6 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you, Ed.

7 Next? There is no one else signed up that
8 I have. Anyone --

9 We are going to take a break. We will -- I
10 won't close this hearing until 7:00 o'clock. If you
11 change your mind, let me know, and we will take a
12 break here for a little bit, if no one else signs
13 up. If somebody signs up, we will go ahead and come
14 back from recess and hear the testimony, but we
15 won't close until 7:00. Thank you.

16 **(Brief recess.)**

17 **MR. MADRON:** Remind me what your name is.

18 **MR. SLAGER:** My name is Devin Slager. I
19 have been an Idaho resident for about ten years. I
20 actually work with a conservation group on the west
21 coast which is concerned about Orca, the southern
22 resident Orca along the cost of Oregon and
23 Washington, and they are dependent upon healthy
24 salmon runs.

25 But before we get to that, what we should

1 do is give credit where credit is due. And
2 Bonneville has actually crossed the 5,000 megawatt
3 mark in terms of installing wind farms into its
4 balancing authority, which is quite an
5 accomplishment when you consider only, I guess it's
6 less than ten years, and almost started from
7 scratch.

8 Now, I know their latest publication, they
9 want to hook up in the next ten years, they want to
10 hook up another three to 4,000 megawatts, which
11 means they need a lot more storage to beef up their
12 balancing authority. So Elliott needs to find some
13 money.

14 Maybe the Second Northwest Power Council
15 might be able to help Elliott with the
16 recommendation to invest in pump tighter power
17 storage to create that capacity within the balancing
18 authority, but it might cost five billion dollars,
19 so if there is a creative way the Council could help
20 Bonneville, that is something, Jim, you, and I
21 guess, Phil Rockefeller, and Bill Booth could think
22 about.

23 The reason it's important also is that
24 wind farms need that balancing authority in order to
25 be built and hooked up. I know Governor Otter has

1 worked on this for about five years and did get some
2 research money, which was spent on HDR, for about a
3 million dollars. They put together a nice report
4 that said, heck, if we could have some more
5 balancing authority, we could build more wind farms
6 here in Idaho and put people to work here in Idaho.

7 So maybe you could kind of approach it
8 from that angle, that if we could get 2,000
9 megawatts of pumped storage for Bonneville, get the
10 funding for it, that Idaho would get some priority
11 within the authority to build some wind farms here
12 in the state.

13 Why that is important, I think, is the ten
14 years' time that that would take to be built, that
15 additional power could easily replace the lower four
16 Snake River Dams, and Bonneville and all the
17 agencies would have new assets in effect to replace
18 those four dams, which are not really money makers
19 at this point.

20 So it would be good long-term thinking and
21 planning, maybe, to have something in the plan that
22 would say we would like to be able to help
23 Bonneville with pump hydropower storage, and as
24 future planning, to not only produce more renewable
25 energy, but perhaps as a plan to replace dams at

1 some point ten years out in the future.

2 Without dams, of course, salmon can do
3 better and Orca can do better in the Pacific. There
4 are lots of beneficiaries here. We are not trying
5 to penalize anyone, but we want to plan to replace
6 old assets with new assets and hopefully do better
7 on the conservation front.

8 So that's all I have to say, Jim.

9 **COUNCILMAN YOST:** Thank you, Devin.

10 We have no one else wanting to visit or
11 talk. The appointed hour is approaching, so we will
12 close the hearing. Thank you very much.

13 **(Whereupon the hearing concluded at 6:57**
14 **p.m.)**

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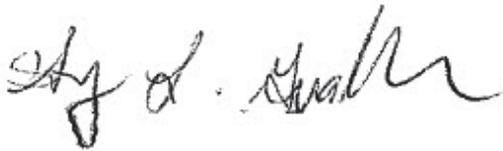
25

1 CERTIFICATE

2
3 I, Sherry L. Graham, do hereby certify that
4 I reported all proceedings adduced in the foregoing matter
5 and that the foregoing transcript pages constitutes a
6 full, true and accurate record of said proceedings to the
7 best of my ability.

8
9 I further certify that I am neither related
10 to counsel or any party to the proceedings nor have any
11 interest in the outcome of the proceedings.

12
13 IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my
14 hand this 4th day of December, 2015.

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19 _____
20 Sherry L. Graham
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