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**THE 2021 POWER PLAN
HOSTED BY WASHINGTON**

**VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
PUBLIC MEETING BY REMOTE VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HELD ON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021
5:00 P.M.**

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021
5:00 P.M.

MR. MADRON: Hello and welcome to our second public hearing on the Draft Power Plan. My name is Chad Madron. I'm on staff here at the council. And I will be the man behind the scenes tonight helping make sure that the correct names are shown, helping with audio and visual.

We will be showing the list of speakers on the screen. I'll go ahead and put that in now. They're in order, in general, of when people signed up. You can see when you're coming up. As someone speaks I'll check the box in the background and their name will go down to the already testified area at the bottom.

When you testify, you're welcome to have your camera on, otherwise we ask that folks leave their cameras off unless they're actively testifying.

If you called in by phone, I see a few

1 people called in by phone only. Please be aware of
2 your phone and mute yourself if needed via your
3 phone's controls. We've had a few problems with that.
4 We wouldn't want to hear your dog barking or anything
5 like that.

6 So, with that, I will turn it over to Member
7 Oshie for the official welcome and so on. Thank you.

8 **CHAIR OSHIE:** All right. Thank you, Chad.
9 And I'd like to thank everyone whose participated in
10 this hearing tonight and time and -- and your interest
11 in the work of the council. And I'd like to thank
12 staff whose work makes this -- makes our work possible
13 as a council member from the state of Washington.

14 My name is Pat Oshie. I'm calling this
15 meeting to order. And I'm co-chairing this meeting
16 tonight or this afternoon with my fellow member from
17 Washington, Guy Norman.

18 I would like to welcome all of you to
19 today's public hearing on the council's Draft 2021
20 Northwest Power Plan. Today's hearing is being held
21 via GoToMeeting and by telephone conference which Chad
22 has already mentioned.

23 Anyone wishing to provide testimony should
24 sign up on the council's website for the Washington
25 State hearing. And you may sign up to provide

1 testimony at any time during this hearing.

2 As the first order of business, I've been
3 asked to read a statement about the hearing for this -
4 - for the record. And then I will review today's
5 public hearing procedures.

6 Under what is known as the Northwest Power
7 Act, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council is
8 required to develop a Regional Conservation and
9 Electric Power Plan and review that plan every five
10 years. The council is now engaged in its latest Power
11 Plan review and the revision.

12 And as part of this process, we recently
13 released the Draft Power Plan for public review and
14 comment. The council is conducting this public
15 hearing to receive oral comments on its Draft Power
16 Plan.

17 This public hearing is being held virtually
18 due to the ongoing pandemic. This hearing and the
19 testimony provided tonight will be recorded. The
20 transcript of this hearing will be circulated to all
21 councilmembers and placed in the administrative record
22 for the Power Plan.

23 The council will hold additional public
24 hearings like this one over the next several weeks.
25 In addition, the council is also accepting written

1 comments on the Draft Power Plan through November
2 19th, 2021. I'll repeat that.

3 We are accepting written comments through
4 November 19th, 2021. Importantly, all oral and
5 written comments submitted on the Draft Power Plan
6 will be considered by the council as it makes its
7 decision on the final Power Plan.

8 For more information on the Draft '21
9 Northwest Power Plan including the Draft Plan itself
10 and all of the supporting materials, please visit the
11 council's website at [www.northwest -- n-w-c-o-u-n-c-i-](http://www.northwest-n-w-c-o-u-n-c-i-l.org)
12 [l, northwestcouncil.org](http://www.northwestcouncil.org). [sic]. I'll repeat that,
13 www.nwcouncil.org.

14 As a brief reminder, you may submit written
15 comments by using the provide comment link that's on
16 the website devoted to the Draft 2021 Power Plan or by
17 submitting comments@nwcouncil.org.

18 And at this point, I would like to welcome
19 our fellow council members who have joined this
20 meeting as well. We have Member Douglas Grob, the
21 state of Montana. We also have Member Richard Devlin
22 from the state of Oregon. I'm looking to see if here
23 we have others as well. It looks like we have Member
24 Jeff Allen from the great state of Idaho. And I
25 believe that covers the waterfront or members who are

1 also participating.

2 **MR. MADRON:** Member -- Member Oshie, this is
3 Chad.

4 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Yes, Chad.

5 **MR. MADRON:** Member Yost and Member Milburn
6 are also here.

7 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Oh. Welcome, I didn't see
8 your faces. I guess the cameras are off. So, Mr.
9 Michael Milburn from the state of Montana and Jim
10 Yost, again, from the great state of Idaho.

11 So, with that, I'm going to -- there is -- I
12 just wanted to notify everyone and I think this is
13 part of also the record that this meeting will be
14 conducted consistent with the council's code of
15 conduct which and it can be found on our website. And
16 we expect all participants to review and abide by this
17 code of conduct throughout today's hearing.

18 The process for this hearing, I'll walk
19 through that right now is quite straightforward. The
20 hearing is scheduled to run for two hours until the 7
21 p.m. Pacific Time and 8 p.m. Mountain Time.

22 Again, as a reminder, anyone wishing to
23 provide public testimony, please sign up on the
24 council's website for the Washington hearing. Once
25 you sign up, your name will be -- appear on our list.

1 You may say -- you may sign up at any time during the
2 hearing to provide testimony.

3 Individuals will be able to track the order
4 of speakers on the GoToMeeting screen. Before I
5 conclude the hearing and that will be at 7 p.m., I
6 will confirm whether there are any participants that
7 have dialed in by phone that may want to provide
8 testimony. Depending on the number of persons signed
9 up to testify, we may need to establish time limits,
10 but hopeful -- hopefully, that will not be necessary.

11 And from what I see of the people that have
12 signed up, I don't think we really need to have a
13 limit at this point, but we may -- we may proceed to
14 do that as this -- if -- if more people do sign up.

15 **MR. MADRON:** Chair Oshie, I --

16 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Yes.

17 **MR. MADRON:** I want to mention that there
18 are five folks connected only by phone. They may have
19 -- they may have already signed up and be visible on
20 the screen. There's no way for me to know until we
21 call on them. So, we can turn to that at the end or
22 we can check with them, however you want to go about
23 it.

24 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Chad, let's check with them
25 just to check in and we'll see if there's anyone

1 interested, we can get them -- that way we can do it
2 in an orderly fashion.

3 **MR. MADRON:** Sure. So if there's somebody
4 only called in by phone and you have not already
5 signed up via our website, please let me know and I
6 can add your name to the list to be called on. Speak
7 up now, I have unmuted you.

8 **MS. NG:** Hello, this is Pamela Ng. I just
9 signed up an hour ago and I don't know if I'm on the
10 list.

11 **MR. MADRON:** Pamela, you are on the list.
12 You're 14th on the list and we'll call you at that
13 time.

14 **MS. NG:** Great. Thank you very much.

15 **MR. MADRON:** Sure. Is there anyone else --

16 **MS. NG:** Well, what if I -- what if I need
17 to leave early before you call me?

18 **MR. MADRON:** Member Oshie?

19 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Well, if you -- please let us
20 know and we'll see if can get you in. We -- it's --
21 it's -- we really value your comments, Ms. Ng, and --
22 and so be sure to let us know if you have to -- if you
23 know you have to leave early, so we can -- so we can
24 move you up the testimony ladder so to speak.

25 **MS. NG:** All right. Thank you very much.

1 **CHAIR OSHIE:** You're very welcome.

2 **MR. MADRON:** Is there anyone else who was
3 not signed up yet who wants to speak up? Okay, great.

4 **CHAIR OSHIE:** So, in a moment I'm going to
5 ask staff to make a presentation and a brief overview
6 of how we arrived at this point in the process.

7 But before staff provides his presentation
8 to be done by Mr. Ben Kujala, I'd like to invite any
9 comments from other members either that are also in --
10 in attendance tonight. So, members, anyone like to
11 speak up at this point or just proceed with Ben's
12 presentation?

13 **MR. NORMAN:** Thank you, Member Oshie. This
14 is Guy Norman. I just want to thank everybody for
15 attending the hearing tonight, taking time to do that.
16 And I certainly look forward to hearing the
17 perspectives from those that are signed up to speak
18 recognizing the importance of this Power Plan to the
19 citizens of Washington and the Northwest. And
20 certainly look forward to the input, I think it's
21 really important. Thank you.

22 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Thank you, Guy.

23 All right. With that, Ben, please proceed.

24 **MR. KUJALA:** Thank you, Member Oshie. Let
25 me go ahead and just give a brief overview of the 2021

1 Northwest Power Plan.

2 So, just to start out why we have a regional
3 Power Plan and why we exist. Power planning,
4 basically, mistakes in the 1970s led to unneeded
5 investments in power plants that were not built. So
6 costing the Northwest customers millions of dollars,
7 it really prompted Congress to write the Northwest
8 Power Act which was approved in 1980.

9 And it gives the states a voice in decisions
10 pertaining to the federal power system to assure an
11 adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power
12 supply.

13 The Act authorized the four state to council
14 and direct the council to conduct regional energy
15 planning focused on these cost resources to meet
16 future demand for power and note we focused on energy
17 efficiency.

18 The Power Act directs the council to review
19 the Power Plan every five years and that is why we are
20 here.

21 The 2021 Plan responds to some things that
22 are different than maybe what we've seen in our
23 previous plans. State, municipalities, and utilities
24 adopted clean energy and departmentization goals. And
25 those really come in -- into play and become more

1 common in the last five or six years.

2 Many power plants that are fueled by coal
3 are no longer economical or efficient and retire over
4 the next decade. Many of those retirements are
5 scheduled dates that are out there and in the coming
6 years. And we certainly have seen some of the
7 retirements happen up to this point, had plans within
8 our region.

9 Electricity generation is shifting away from
10 fossil fuels to more renewable-based generation as we
11 seek these technologies are taking a bigger and bigger
12 part of the energy generation in our region.

13 And really that's been driven by, both, kind
14 of the requirements of policy, but also the decreasing
15 cost for these technologies. Solar and wind are
16 becoming less expensive. And the cost of the dispatch
17 of them is driving down wholesale prices, particularly
18 in the middle of the day when we see a lot of soar in
19 the market.

20 But relying on this increasingly variable-
21 output generation, does bring some risk with it. The
22 power supply will remain adequate and reliable if we
23 implement these recommendations, although, certainly,
24 we just looked over a large range of potential things.
25 And the recommendation in this plan is a balanced

1 approach to the future power supply.

2 Just to give a general sense of where we in
3 the Northwest get our energy from. Predominately, our
4 electricity comes from hydroelectric generation. Our
5 energy in the name, sorry, the capacity of the
6 hydrosystem accounts for about 55 percent of the
7 actual energy generated is slightly under that. And
8 it changes from one year to the next.

9 After hydroelectric, certainly we still have
10 thermo system where you have generation coming from
11 natural gas and cogeneration. And then in addition to
12 the thermal system, there are renewables like wind and
13 solar and there is the nuclear plant as well. So,
14 still hydro is a huge part of our system.

15 But, in addition to what generates
16 electricity, there's the energy that we've saved by
17 energy efficiency over the years. And the region has
18 saved over 7,200 average megawatts from energy
19 efficiency since the start of the council. And this
20 is a massive resource that is not part of our
21 generation, but is power that we did not need to build
22 plants to meet by going out and saving energy.

23 In the next 20 years, we do anticipate we
24 will see an increase in the demand for electricity.
25 We expect that it will climb, although we look at a

1 range of potential outcomes and there are some
2 potentials where it would be more flat. But,
3 generally, we see the electric demand climbing above
4 our previous peak which was prior to the 2001 energy
5 crisis.

6 The resource strategy set forth in the Power
7 Plan is to look at getting a combined set of
8 resources. 700 -- between 750 and 1,000 average
9 megawatts of energy efficiency, at least 3,500
10 megawatts of renewable resources, and as available,
11 any low cost and frequently deployable demand
12 response. All of this is something that we would
13 expecting built by 2027 which is around the time that
14 we will be looking at the next power plant.

15 While we did see a substantial reduction in
16 the emissions that we expect going into the future
17 from the electric sector, one thing to note about the
18 forecast that we see in at least our expected kind of
19 baseline cases is that the emissions for the region,
20 while the electric sector does have a substantial call
21 for emissions, we see that there's a substantial
22 growth in the emissions coming from the transportation
23 sector and anticipate that even giving the projections
24 that we have put into the power plant, the emissions
25 in the region maintain at a level above what was in

1 1990. And there's a lot voice to bring that down.

2 So there are some scenarios where we looked
3 at our aggressive reductions in emissions by
4 converting transportation, but, overall, it should be
5 the -- the forecast that we have in the resource
6 strategy have over the next five years looks at a
7 future where we are headed towards a lower emissions
8 from the electric sector, but, certainly, the region
9 as a whole continues to have some emissions that are
10 the higher level.

11 So, we have collected a lot of material. We
12 have the Power Plan documents that we wrote. We have
13 a bunch of online material that supports that
14 document. And it's all available from our website and
15 at the link here. And we are, of course, in public
16 comment as has already been said. So, we are very
17 interested and looking forward to hearing from you.
18 With that, I will turn it back over to Member Oshie.

19 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Thank you, Mr. Kujula.

20 Just a reminder to the people that are
21 participating. Please mute your phone or your -- or
22 your laptop or PC while -- when you're not speaking
23 because we can hear some things going on in the
24 background in -- at your -- at someone's location.

25 So, at any rate, so we're going to begin now

1 to take public testimony from those who have signed
2 up. I'm going to be starting from the beginning, of
3 course. You'll see the list up there.

4 And when we walk through -- as I call your
5 name and you begin to -- your testimony, I'd like you
6 to very clearly and for the record state your name and
7 state and -- your full name, excuse me, and to spell
8 your name, particularly your last name, for the court
9 reporter.

10 Just so everyone knows, this is being --
11 this meeting is being recorded. We also have a court
12 reporter to take the verbatim testimony of everyone
13 who's participating this afternoon.

14 Right now with the number of people that we
15 have signed up, everyone can have five minutes. If,
16 again, if we have more participants, we'll scale that
17 back to three and a half or in that area. We want to
18 hear everyone's testimony and, so, we're going to try
19 to make sure that we are -- we can bring everybody to
20 the podium and allow you to share your views with the
21 council.

22 Again, you may also submit a full statement
23 and any additional information or comments in writing
24 to comments@ -- @n-w-c-o-u-n-c-i-l.org,
25 northwestcouncil.org [sic] noting that you attended

1 and testified during the Washington hearing.

2 And with that, ladies and gentlemen, I'm
3 going to call as our first participant and our first
4 witness, if you will, giving testimony Mr. Glenn
5 Blackmon.

6 **MR. BLACKMON:** Thank you, Councilmember
7 Oshie, and councilmembers. My name is Glenn Blackmon,
8 B-l-a-c-k-m-o-n. I'm manager of the Energy Policy
9 Office at the Washington Department of Commerce.

10 I want to start by thanking the council and
11 staff for the tremendous amount of work that is
12 reflected in the Draft Plan. We especially appreciate
13 the council's work assessing the impacts of climate
14 change, improving its ability to model the rapidly
15 changing western power mark system in its initial
16 efforts to incorporate environmental justice and
17 equity into power planning and resource decisions.

18 We also have some concerns that we hope to
19 see addressed in the final plan and in the action
20 plan. The one that I want to focus on today is the
21 lack of consistency of the Draft Plan with the energy
22 and climate policies in Washington.

23 It's often hard to see our state's energy
24 and climate policies reflected in the draft plan.
25 This may be because of the extended time that's been

1 required to have developed the 2021 Plan with data in
2 the plan frozen 18 months ago.

3 The Draft Plan reflects a 100 percent clean
4 electricity law enacted in 2019. But in the last 18
5 months, Washington has published an economywide energy
6 strategy for achieving a state's greenhouse gas
7 emission limits, enacted deeper reductions in
8 emissions limits, enacted a low carbon fuel standard
9 and enacted an economywide emissions cap and invest
10 program.

11 We understand the challenge of incorporating
12 the impacts of these laws into the analytical work.
13 But we suggest that the final plan at least
14 acknowledges these developments and provide an
15 assessment of how the 2021 Power Plan aligns or
16 doesn't align with Washington law and policy.

17 I do see some reflection of Washington law
18 and policy in the pathways to decarbonization scenario
19 and the related partial decarb analysis. The pathways
20 to decarb scenario appears to reject deep carbon --
21 decarbonization is unfeasible. That's a conclusion
22 that we think is neither adequately explained nor
23 reconciled with several deep decarbs studies that
24 conclude otherwise. We think the final plan should
25 provide a comparison of the council's decarbonization

1 analysis to those more comprehensive studies.

2 Nonetheless, even in the limited decarb
3 analysis, we find that it suggests that the council's
4 draft resource strategy is inconsistent with the deep
5 reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that Washington
6 law requires. We also note that the Draft Plan
7 acknowledges that the council's cost effective in the
8 standard for energy efficiency is likely not the
9 appropriate test for jurisdictions with deep
10 decarbonization requirements.

11 The partial analysis shows that this energy
12 use shifts from fossil fuels to clean electricity and
13 clean fuels. The region will need much more in
14 renewable resource development, more energy efficiency
15 acquisition, and more demand response acquisition than
16 what is called for in the Draft Plan resource
17 strategy.

18 Renewable resource additions were roughly
19 double what's proposed in the draft strategy as would
20 the amount of energy efficiency required. Demand
21 response resources have almost no role in the draft
22 strategy, but the decarb analysis indicates the need
23 for more than 2,000 megawatts of demand response
24 resources.

25 In other words, the draft resource strategy

1 would put the region on a path that leaves electric
2 utilities in Washington insufficiently equipped with
3 the clean electricity resources that will be required
4 as the transportation and building sector shift from
5 fossil fuels to electricity and clean fuels.

6 We believe this deficiency should be
7 addressed in two ways. First, council should give
8 more weight to the decarb analysis in developing the
9 final resource strategy and adopt substantially higher
10 targets for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and
11 demand response resources.

12 Second, when the council develops the action
13 plan for 2022 to 2027, the actions should include
14 improving its ability to analyze the electric power
15 system within an overall energy system that is
16 shifting from fossil fuels to clean electricity. The
17 action plan should also call for developing more
18 appropriate methodologies to evaluate energy
19 efficiency and demand response resources with economy
20 wide decarbonization requirements incorporated.

21 We look forward to providing further
22 comments in writing in November. And we look forward
23 to working with the council and its development of its
24 final strategy and action plan. Thank you.

25 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Thank you, Mr. Blackmon. All

1 right. Our second speaker this afternoon is Mike is
2 it Shapley, Shapley?

3 **MR. MADRON:** Member Oshie, I do not see Mr.
4 Shapley currently connected. I've unmuted all the
5 phone lines.

6 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Okay. Why don't we move to
7 the -- move to the next speaker, Chad.

8 **MR. MADRON:** Okay. We'll keep an eye on it
9 and hopefully he'll turn up.

10 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Okay. Our next speaker is
11 Robert Vadas.

12 **MR. VADAS:** Can you hear me?

13 **MR. MADRON:** Yes, sir, we can.

14 **CHAIR OSHIE:** And, yeah, and if you can --

15 **MR. VADAS:** Okay.

16 **CHAIR OSHIE:** -- again, just state your
17 name, spell your last name, and please state the
18 organization that you may be affiliated with.

19 **MR. VADAS:** My name is Robert Vadas, V as in
20 Victor, a-d-a-s and I'm just here to represent myself
21 as an independent environmental scientist.

22 I -- my main concern kind of rifts off the
23 first speaker, but the -- or the responder. But,
24 anyway, one of the -- as -- as electric cars become
25 more important in the region which they undoubtedly

1 are going to, you know, there's going to be a -- a big
2 demand on energy that way.

3 And I know there's at least one in I think
4 it's in Eugene, Oregon now they have solar powered
5 electric car charges. Because right now like it --
6 like I -- like I'm in the system of pungent sound
7 energy who are still using coal.

8 And I know a lot of people who are driving
9 electric cars think that they're being totally eco,
10 but a lot of that energy is coming from dams, the
11 hydropower which, of course, has a lot of fish impacts
12 and -- and still from coal and other forms of fossil
13 fuels.

14 I think if we're going to have a progressive
15 electric card infrastructure, we need -- we do need
16 solar powered or I don't know if it's possible to have
17 wind power. But, in any case, we need alternate
18 energy to be powering the electric car charges. And
19 that's my comment.

20 **CHAIR OSHIE:** All right. Thank you, Mr.
21 Vadas. So our next speaker is Mr. Keith Kueny.

22 **MR. MADRON:** Unmuted the phones again. Are
23 you there? I guess he's not connected either right
24 now.

25 **CHAIR OSHIE:** All right. So, Chad, we'll

1 just move him down the list and we'll -- we'll return
2 if we need to.

3 So our next speaker is Brian Grunkemeyer.
4 So, Mr. Grunkemeyer, would you please if you're
5 available, please begin your testimony with your name,
6 spell your last name and the organization that you are
7 maybe affiliated with.

8 **MR. GRUNKEMEYER:** Thank you, Commissioner.
9 My name is Brian Grunkemeyer, G-r-u-n-k-e-m-e-y-e-r.
10 I am the founder and CEO of FlexCharging, an electric
11 vehicle demand flexibility aggregator.

12 We shift EB charging to the best time of day
13 for the utility to save carbon emissions and money.
14 We're based in Redmond, Washington and we are doing
15 business with utilities in Utah, California, and
16 Australia.

17 So when I glanced at the plan, I was a
18 little bit confused by the modest amounts of demand
19 response in the plan. I actually do think demand
20 response should decline, but it needs to be replaced
21 with demand flexibility. BR might callable only six
22 times per year during emergencies.

23 We think utilities should get people to
24 shift load to the best time of day every day by
25 default without any of the automated parts of -- of

1 demand response. If you've already made that
2 conceptual leap, great. But I didn't get that from my
3 reading of the plan today.

4 I believe there's substantial potential for
5 demand flexibility in the northwest using electric
6 vehicles and smart hot water heaters. But to make
7 this easier to ramp up, we actually need some market
8 innovation on the business side. Aggregation is hard
9 especially with the way that many of the RFPs are
10 structured.

11 With some utility programs, you need to pay
12 all of the customers to sign up before you can even
13 bid on a project to a utility. That risks a lot of
14 capital for an unpredictable amount of time.

15 In California, Marin Clean Energy now MCE,
16 I've created a demand flex market to make this easier.
17 Demand flexibility providers get a reasonably well
18 understood incentive if you perform. And there are no
19 penalties for missed projections. So this pivoted the
20 entire B to B sales process from a multi-year process
21 down to something that only took 10 days.

22 And we then needed to focus on the B to C
23 aspects. We could then bring customers into this
24 program as our marketing efforts allowed. And this
25 was a great modeling for implementing a program

1 without taken enormous financial risk or an
2 aggregated. Business model innovation like this is
3 necessary to help get the right things done.

4 Lastly, on the resource adequacy side, I
5 strongly recommend that you ask questions of your
6 staff about transmission capacity during wildfires.
7 Be creative. At the level of what you'd see in a
8 disaster movie, say that wildfires take up both of our
9 cross-cascade transmission lines for two weeks during
10 a summer heatwave, can keep the lights on in Western
11 Washington with the six gas plants we've got on this
12 side of the mountains and with imports from the I-5
13 corridor? Maybe.

14 If a fire destroys The Dalles in Oregon,
15 does all of Oregon and California lose power? I don't
16 know. I think these questions are worth asking. And
17 I'm sure that Montana and Idaho have similar
18 transmission bottlenecks in certain areas.

19 I'm not saying these are high probability
20 scenarios, but ask your talented staff to model the
21 truly extreme events that last for a week or two,
22 maybe not wires alternatives are sufficient, but if we
23 need a new transmission start building now. Thank
24 you.

25 **CHAIR OSHIE:** All right. Thank you, Mr.

1 Grunkemeyer. Our next speaker this afternoon is Mr.
2 Tony Usibelli. So, Mr. Usibelli, go ahead and -- and
3 state your name and spell your last name and state the
4 organization that you may be affiliated with.

5 **MR. USIBELLI:** Good afternoon, Commissioner
6 Oshie and -- and other members of the council. My
7 name is Tony Usibelli. That's spelled U-s-i-b-e-l-l-
8 i. I'm speaking here this afternoon as a private
9 citizen who has been involved in energy program and
10 energy policy work since actually before the adoption
11 of the Power Act in 1980.

12 I want to echo one of the comments that was
13 made earlier certainly praising the council for its
14 continuing quality of its overall analysis of the
15 region electricity system. And, in particular, wanted
16 to note that it's encouraging that the council
17 continues to improve and expand on its analysis of the
18 impacts of climate change on both, the demand and on
19 the supply side.

20 It is also heartening to see the council
21 more explicitly recognizing issues around equity
22 within our system. As many of you are probably
23 familiar, issues of social justice and equity have
24 become significantly more important in our decisions
25 around our energy system.

1 And it is encouraged that the council has at
2 least begun to work in that area. I look forward to
3 the council continuing to do significantly more work
4 in that area, both, in recognition within the plan and
5 as you move forward with the implementation aspects of
6 it.

7 And I would also in the accommodation side,
8 I would also praise the council for their discussion
9 around research and development. I think we all know
10 that the rate of change within our electricity system,
11 both, on demand technologies and on supply
12 technologies is probably accelerating. And it is
13 encouraging to see the council continuing to call for
14 additional engagement in that area.

15 I'd like to conclude, though, a little bit
16 with some things that I think that the plan could be
17 improved on. The plan clearly lays out that we are in
18 an era of major transformation, a new paradigm driven
19 by low carbon and, particularly, no carbon supply and
20 energy systems on the one hand, and likely the massive
21 electrification of our entire economy.

22 And the plan further goes on to acknowledge
23 that that represents new sets of risks and new types
24 of uncertainty. I believe that council recognizes
25 that, but could do more in adoption of a final plan in

1 ways that would help to more effectively mitigate
2 those risks and uncertainties on both the demand side
3 and the supply side.

4 I would note one area in particular related
5 to policy. And that is I would like to see the
6 council take a careful look at the currently proposed
7 funding and legislation in Congress related to
8 infrastructure. It seems reasonably likely that one
9 or both of the massive multi-trillion dollar
10 infrastructure investment bills will pass, perhaps,
11 prior to even the final comment period on the draft.

12 And I believe that council should take a
13 careful look at the implications of those for
14 infrastructure and energy and climate development in
15 the Northwest. They have the possibility of really
16 transforming our energy and climate systems on a
17 scale. Comparable to that, we -- we saw resulting
18 from the New Deal. And our region certainly has a
19 long history of reaping the benefits of those
20 investments in the New Deal.

21 And, finally, as has also been mentioned
22 earlier, I would strongly urge the council to take a
23 much sharper pencil to its analysis and the goals that
24 it has set forward in the areas of, both, energy
25 efficiency and demand response. I won't echo comments

1 made by some previous commenters here.

2 But I would note that, both, energy
3 efficiency and demand management really present
4 additional ability for our energy system to be more
5 resilient. In particular, I think you may undervalue
6 the benefits of newly insulated homes and businesses,
7 retrofits, and more aggressive codes in equipment
8 standards that would allow many of our structures and
9 -- and differences to periods of supply disruption at
10 relative low costs.

11 I think there could be more potential in the
12 area of demand response to beyond just conservation
13 production and time and use rates. And I would echo
14 the comments made by Brian who was prior to the
15 related to the potential risks of transmission
16 constraints that may limit some of the supply options
17 that you laid forth. With that, I'll conclude my
18 comments. Thank you.

19 **CHAIR OSHIE:** All right. Thank you, Mr.
20 Usibelli. All right. Our next -- next speaker is Mr.
21 Richard is it Voget or Voget?

22 **MR. VOGET:** It's Voget. Can you hear me?

23 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Yes, sir. Can you please
24 state -- spell your last name for the court reporter
25 and identify the organization that you may be

1 associated with.

2 **MR. VOGET:** Richard Voget, that's V as in
3 Victor, o-g-e-t. I live in Seattle. Organizations
4 I'm affiliated with are the Sierra Club and the Green
5 Team at Keystone Church where we're fighting climate
6 change as much as we can.

7 The science is clear, climate change is real
8 and failure to fully address a problem is to knowingly
9 inflict death, harm, and destruction. Your role
10 should be to decarbonize power as rapidly as possible.

11 Although the draft plan includes a pathways
12 to decarbonization scenario, the recommendations were
13 not incorporated into the action plan or resource
14 strategy. The pathways to decarbonization scenario as
15 a more balanced resource strategy including
16 substantially more energy efficiency, demand response,
17 storage, and additional renewable energy.

18 I saw that climate change models were
19 incorporated into your analysis. But as climate
20 change was only used to show how higher temperatures
21 would affect hydropower and increased peak demand, you
22 missed a key effect of climate change, namely, the
23 influx of climate refugees.

24 With demand increasing due to population
25 growth, this is not the time to have the Draft Plan

1 adopt a diminished role for energy efficiency in the
2 region during the action plan period. More people
3 using less energy per person means the utilities can
4 still manage the power supply.

5 Energy efficiency programs are popular with
6 customers, provide significant employment and local
7 economic benefits and are critical to implementing
8 climate policy. Reducing BPA's share of the regional
9 target from 42 percent to 36 percent is unfair to
10 customers of small rural utilities since many rural
11 areas rely on BPA's program as their only source of
12 funding for energy efficiency.

13 This report adopts a range for energy
14 efficiency. The low end of the range cuts the energy
15 efficiency target in half from the seventh plan. The
16 top end of the range, though lower than the seventh
17 plan, still maintains a trajectory of energy
18 efficiency program budgets.

19 What can't be allowed to happen is you adopt
20 the low end of the range and then reduce funding for
21 energy efficiency. Funding should be increased to
22 match increased population growth and certainly not
23 decreased.

24 Another short coming of the plan is it does
25 not include any energy storage despite the fact that

1 renewables and storage systems are already under
2 development in the region. And that concludes my
3 remarks. Thank you for letting me speak.

4 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Certainly. Thank you, Mr.
5 Voget. Our next speaker will be Mr. Steinke.

6 **MR. STEINKE:** Good evening, everyone. Can
7 you hear me?

8 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Yes, sir. So, if you could
9 please spell your last name for the -- the court
10 reporter for the record and -- and then any
11 affiliation you have with an organization that you may
12 be representing.

13 **MR. STEINKE:** My last name is Steinke, S-t-
14 e-i-n-k-e. And let me know if I need to reorient my
15 mic, so you can hear it well.

16 I'm a retired physics teacher representing
17 Climate Action of Southwest Washington and a very
18 active member in the Sierra Club and Washington
19 Environmental Council Washington Conservation Voters
20 and Columbia River Keeping.

21 Ever since the oil embargos and the nuclear
22 debates of the 70s, it has seemed to me that utilities
23 and owners of commercial properties have been and
24 still are blind to energy waste. The same commercial
25 properties I saw back then with perimeter lights on

1 all day every day still leave them on all day and
2 every day even during a heatwave and even when the
3 pipeline in British Columbia breaks.

4 I urge you to model a more complete rollout
5 of energy efficiency. The low-hanging fruit keeps
6 growing back because new construction and because the
7 owners of commercial properties have no incentive to
8 invest in energy efficiency when they build because
9 they won't be paying the bills.

10 And even if they wanted to borrow for
11 conservation measures later on, the loan obligation
12 stays with them even when they sell the building which
13 then becomes a financial barrier to conservation.

14 Energy efficiency makes everything else
15 easier. For 50 years, I've pointed out energy waste
16 and commercial properties to my wife. She always says
17 "Don't tell me, I can't do anything about it." Even
18 though some utility commissioners tout energy
19 conservation, when I ask them to provide examples of
20 energy waste, they can't provide an answer because
21 they don't see energy waste even when it's right in
22 front of them. It's like I need to take them on a
23 tour around town.

24 I notice abundant energy waste even in
25 Seattle and Portland. Managers of commercial

1 properties have no incentive to turn off the light
2 switch.

3 Regarding electric vehicles, change happens
4 more slowly than we think it should and then it
5 happens more quickly than we thought it could. Your
6 five-year plan needs to recognize that the transition
7 to electric vehicles will be much more aggressive
8 after 2026, but we need to get ready now. Tesla plans
9 to be a merchant generator in Texas.

10 It plans to aggregate the energy stored in
11 batteries during off-peak hours. And allows willing
12 owners to resell the energy to the market when demand
13 is high. Make a model of that opportunity.

14 Utilities need to invest in energy waste.
15 Need to make inventories of energy waste in that
16 commercial sector. The more we invest in energy
17 efficiency, the easier everything will be.

18 I urge you to model a more ambitious plan
19 for our efficiency and recommend ways to finance it
20 such as a commercial property assessed for clean
21 energy and resilience also known as CPACER.

22 And we'll have more written comments, but
23 I've added some right now since we have a little bit
24 more time.

25 I -- I echo what Brian Grunkemeyer said

1 about flex charging . If you don't have that or
2 something like it, a commercial property owner might
3 have to install a transformer and plugs, live plugs,
4 to charge every car in his parking lot all at once.
5 But some of them don't need it all at once, then flex
6 charging allows them to distribute that demand.

7 And I noticed there was inconsistency in
8 your report about the need for electrification. On
9 one hand you said that -- that the high fuel cell,
10 hydrogen for fuel cells could require that you double
11 the BPA power system. But then on the other hand you
12 say electric vehicles and hydrogen for electric
13 vehicle transmission, those two combined would, I
14 think, at most 900 megawatts which is not consistent
15 with what BPA produces.

16 And I urge you to -- to also match the city
17 and the state goals on reducing emission. And the
18 City of Vancouver is committed to reaching the state
19 goals on -- on emissions reduction or exceed them.

20 And integrate the pathway to decarbonization
21 within your planning, put more time into demand
22 response and distributed energy resources. And you
23 didn't put a value on resilience. Distributed energy
24 resources may cost more to install, but they save
25 money on transportation and they provide resilience

1 which could be modeled in your planning.

2 So thank you very much. And my wife Alona
3 is right here with me to testify. And she represents
4 other organization.

5 **CHAIR OSHIE:** All right. Thank you, Mr.
6 Steinke. So, Alona, if you would like to state your
7 name for the record, spell your last name. I know it
8 seems repetitive, but we'll do it that way. And then
9 any affiliation you have or organization that you
10 represent this afternoon. So please go ahead.

11 **MS. STEINKE:** Good evening. Thank you. My
12 name is Alona Steinke, A-l-o-n-a S-t-e-i-n-k-e. I'm a
13 registered nurse retired after a 43-year career. I'm
14 a member of, both, Washington and Oregon Physicians
15 for Social Responsibility and also active in the
16 Sierra Club.

17 I'm commenting because the combustion of
18 anything has significant adverse effects on public
19 health. I urge you to adopt a more ambitious plan for
20 renewable energy.

21 The cost of solar is falling so fast that
22 the international energy agency can't keep up. The
23 price that they forecast for 2040 was reached last
24 year.

25 According to Wright's Law, the cost of a new

1 technology drops a fixed percentage every time the
2 number installed is double. For solar panels, the
3 fixed dropped is between 30 and 40 percent. With EV
4 batteries, the drop is 18 percent.

5 A week ago, the state building code council
6 voted to move forward to public comment a proposal to
7 require heat pumps whenever a building permit is
8 needed. That would reduce adverse health impacts and
9 bring in increased demand for electric energy. I
10 don't believe that your forecast take that into
11 account.

12 The forecast for renewable energy are not
13 much better than what the utilities and private
14 industry are already planning to do. A more ambitious
15 plan for conservation and renewables is necessary to
16 provide for heat pumps and EVs as well as for the
17 likelihood that the dams on the lower Snake River will
18 be removed.

19 More conservation and more renewables means
20 less gas will be burned which means healthier air.
21 Fossil gas in buildings is now the fastest growing
22 source of carbon pollution in the state emitting
23 hazardous pollutants, both, indoors and outdoors.

24 House Bill 1091, the Clean Fuel Plan, has
25 been quantified into the RCWs and rule making has

1 begun. We need to be ready. We need a more ambition
2 plan. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

3 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Thank you very much. All
4 right. Our next speaker is Heather Nicholson.

5 **MS. NICHOLSON:** Good evening. Am I audible
6 to everyone?

7 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Yes. Yes.

8 **MS. NICHOLSON:** Oh, thank you.

9 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Please -- please spell your
10 last name and any organizations you may be affiliated
11 with. Others may want to mute.

12 **MS. NICHOLSON:** Sure, think. Okay. I am
13 Heather Nicholson, N-i-c-h-o-l-s-o-n. So, good
14 evening. And to begin I'd like to thank everyone for
15 all of the hard work that's gone into power planning
16 and for communicating all of that work. I'll express
17 my concerns, but I -- I just also wanted to extend my
18 appreciation during a very dynamic time.

19 So, sorry, I should have mentioned. I'm a
20 Washington State resident and rate payer. That's the
21 basis that I'm submitting my comment on this evening.

22 So as a rate payer, I can't feel confident
23 about whether the power system we're getting is
24 economical when the costs involved in producing
25 hydropower are omitted from the planning process. I

1 don't see how it's possible to achieve a least cost
2 system without that component. As a rate payer, this
3 is very perplexing and of great concern to me.

4 And as everyone knows, Snake River wild
5 salmon and steelhead and the southern resident killer
6 whales who rely on the salmon are imperil. These
7 species must be restored immediately. And everyone
8 wants it done. The region is in a crisis mode over --
9 over it.

10 Breaching the lower Snake River dams will
11 eliminate the adverse effects that are jeopardizing
12 the fish. And with the core ocean conditions from
13 climate change affecting the fish, it's imperative to
14 provide the best possible river conditions for the
15 fish to protect them and to restore them.

16 So, given this reality, it's -- it's quite
17 hard to imagine that the Northwest Power Act actually
18 prohibits the council from analyzing the retirement of
19 the lower Snake River dams as it says in the Draft
20 Plan. These fish -- these species are a blink away
21 from extinction. So if the Act really doesn't
22 provision for protecting these species under the
23 current circumstances, then something needs to be
24 revisited before work on this plan continues.

25 And with the extensive work that staff is

1 doing and has done on the path to decarbonization,
2 modeling outcomes without including the methane
3 emissions of hydro rents counter to regional and
4 broader efforts and the hard work on the part of many.

5 I don't feel that it's in the best interest
6 of the public and efforts to deal with climate change
7 to exclude the -- the greenhouse gas emissions caused
8 by the -- the hydropower reservoirs. This methane
9 really has to be included in the 2021 Power Plan. So
10 I'll conclude with -- with those concerns this
11 evening. And thank you very much to all and to all
12 your hard work. Thank you.

13 **MR. MADRON:** Member Oshie, you are muted.
14 You are muted right now.

15 **CHAIR OSHIE:** There we go. I was trying to
16 -- the echo was -- I didn't know if it was coming from
17 me or not so.

18 **MR. MADRON:** No, it was from a different
19 line. As I was hunting it, they figured it out and
20 muted before I could. So the race is always on. I
21 think we're okay now.

22 So next speaker Mr. Jim Waddell. Mr.
23 Waddell, if you could spell your last name for the
24 record and state any affiliation you may have with an
25 organization.

1 **MR. WADDELL:** Thank you, Member Oshie. My
2 name is Jim Waddell, W-a-d-d-e-l-l. I am a retired --
3 I'm a civil engineer retired from the US Army Corps of
4 Engineers. And I was a deputy district engineer in
5 Walla Walla.

6 I was in charge of operating the Snake River
7 dams, McNary Rorschach dams for several years. I
8 also was the lead on a \$33 million feasibility study
9 in the EIS to look into the efficiency of the
10 economics and biological aspects of keeping the Snake
11 River dams enrichments. So I have a deep background
12 in the cost and operation and the impacts of those
13 dams.

14 I'm also a public utility commissioner
15 currently in the state of Washington, but I'm not
16 representing that in any way or capacity in my
17 comments. These are my individual comments.

18 I'm also the founder of Dam Sense, an
19 organization that was created to, basically,
20 articulate and present government data that reflects
21 on the economics and biological conditions of the
22 lower Snake River dams.

23 So, I'd like to start with, basically,
24 pointing out, I think, you guys have developed a
25 really powerful and incredible model. Millions of

1 rate payer dollars have been spent in the development
2 of this model.

3 In the two years of pressing the buttons on
4 that model and every data, you've looked carefully at
5 a whole bunch of scenarios. You've analyzed the --
6 the cost and benefits or the cost, basically, of the
7 early retirement of coal plants.

8 You've looked at energy efficiency in great
9 depth and so forth. But you've avoided one of the
10 most important things that you said in your opening
11 slides that's in the Power Act is that the federal
12 hydrosystem is supposed to also be economical.

13 Now, we don't -- you can't know that if you
14 haven't analyzed the cost of each of the dams in the
15 system and understand which ones are producing and
16 which cost per megawatt hour and so forth. Without
17 that information, we really don't know whether the --
18 the system is economical and so forth.

19 We also, based on my experience and all the
20 recent documentation, you're not -- you're not willing
21 to address the early retirement of the Snake River
22 dams. That's no different than looking at the early
23 retirement of coal plants.

24 They didn't -- the coal industry didn't call
25 you up and say, would you please model early

1 retirements no more than the corp has, you know, said
2 the same thing about the lower Snake dams, but you did
3 it.

4 So I would just like to, you know, point out
5 that this is a necessary ingredient because its rate
6 payers and -- and customers ebonical power go into the
7 negotiations of the 2028 contracts, we basically have
8 nothing but this plan.

9 And -- and while I've been a big defender of
10 your among my colleagues, I still am, you know,
11 sitting here providing these comments and say we -- we
12 wholly and adequate in terms of our economic
13 understanding of the hydrosystem as we march into
14 these -- this period of negotiations and commitments
15 that we, our rate payers and utilities must make
16 regarding BPA's cost and their ability to deliver
17 power versus other forms of power.

18 And, so, you know, I honestly believe that
19 the Power Plan should have been the instrument
20 particular at this point, critical point in history,
21 as we move forward with these contracts to have some
22 document that, basically, we can rely on to, you know,
23 the full effect of the hydrosystem and renewables and
24 -- and the early retirement of fossil fuels. So
25 thanks for allowing me to make these comments.

1 **CHAIR OSHIE:** All right. Thank you, Mr.
2 Waddell. Our next speaker is Skip Dise, Dise.

3 **MR. DISE:** Hi. Yes, thank you very much for
4 the opportunity to speak. My name is Skip Dise-, D-i-
5 s-e. I'm the vice president of product management at
6 Clean Power Research. We are a software and
7 technology provider to the energy industry and we're
8 located in Kirkland, Washington.

9 In my role at Clean Power Research, I work
10 directly with over 60 US-based electric utilities and
11 over 200 multi-national energy developers and
12 owner/operators.

13 I wanted to share to this council and to
14 this plan that through this work, I've learned
15 firsthand the economic and technological benefits that
16 distributed energy resources or DERs can bring to this
17 current energy transition and overall process of
18 creating modernization. So, these for definition sake
19 would include assets like distributed solar, storage,
20 like vehicles, their associated charging
21 infrastructure and building electrification.

22 From what I seen in the plan, I want to
23 recommend that stakeholders and authors more strongly
24 consider and include the value that the DERs have and
25 the associated innovation that they are leaning on the

1 distribution system and all of those benefits that can
2 be brought to our region.

3 First, we know that the commercial demand
4 for these technologies is going to just continue to
5 grow. And that means that the relative capacity of
6 DERs and -- and the energy that they provide to the
7 grid will only increase year over year.

8 Second, the role that DERs have on -- on
9 being a non-wires alternative in support of great
10 resiliency and reality is well known. So, as a result
11 of both this expected growth and well-known ability to
12 provide value at all levels of the grid, I recommend
13 careful consideration at this time in stage of DER
14 development. And the result will be that we are
15 ensuring the path that our Northwest Region takes is
16 as efficient economical and equitable as possible.

17 Also, given the relative -- relatively low-
18 level of regional deployment of DERs in our Northwest
19 Region, this gives the plan authors as well as other
20 stakeholders the opportunity to provide input and --
21 and learn directly from other regions of the country
22 that have successfully demonstrated transitions to
23 higher DER penetrations. Thank you very much for the
24 opportunity to provide comment.

25 **CHAIR OSHIE:** All right. Thank you. Our

1 next speaker this evening is Bill Will. Mr. Will, are
2 you available?

3 **MR. WILL:** Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?
4 I think I'm unmuted.

5 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Yes, sir. So if you could
6 just spell your last name for the record and any
7 identifying -- any affiliation you have for your
8 testimony tonight, please.

9 **MR. WILL:** Will, W-i-l-l, I'm representing
10 Washington Solar Energy Industries Association. I
11 have a couple of brief comments. I'll echo some of
12 the -- first of all, I'd like to thank the council for
13 the many months of work that went into this process
14 and appreciate the opportunity to provide some input.

15 I'd echo some of the comments that we've
16 heard earlier with a couple of the concerns with the
17 Draft -- 2021 Draft Power Plan.

18 Number one is the retreat from the council's
19 longstanding focus on energy efficiency measures,
20 they're going to be increasingly important as we move
21 on to the rest of the decade and into the 2030s and
22 the 2040s when we're trying to reach the goal of
23 decarbonizing the electric grid in Washington and
24 Oregon and potentially across the entire country.

25 So we can't retreat from the goal of using

1 the electrical resources, what we have as efficiently
2 as possible. That needs to remain a priority.

3 I also want to address something that Mr.
4 Blackmon noted in its opening comments. The 2021
5 Washington State Energy Strategy that was crafted last
6 year over an extensive public process projects that
7 electrical load in Washington State could potentially
8 double by 2045 -- this is the carbon -- carbon-free
9 target -- date due the widespread electrification of
10 transportation and building sectors.

11 That means we're going to need all of the
12 resources available to meet those goals. We're going
13 to need lots more renewable energy including blocks of
14 rooftop solar paired with storage which has tremendous
15 advantages to the grid as some other speakers noted.
16 We're going to need new transmission resources. We're
17 going to need demand response. We're going to need
18 the whole package.

19 And my final comment is an early speaker
20 mentioned the resource modeling and how that's
21 evolved. I would also ask the council to continue
22 work on more advanced resource modeling or
23 supercomputer modeling that's been rolled out in the
24 last several years that can digest transmission load,
25 all -- all of the factors that go into the grid down

1 to a very granular neighborhood level and determine
2 the best places to deploy, distribute energy resources
3 and storage and bring all of those ancillary methods
4 to the grid.

5 So, again, thank you for your work and thank
6 you for the opportunity to comment this evening.

7 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Thank you.

8 Our next speaker is Pamela Ng. Pamela, I
9 think you're on the phone. Chad, you can assist as
10 necessary.

11 **MS. NG:** Hello.

12 **MS. MADRON:** You're unmuted. Yeah, we can
13 hear you.

14 **MS. NG:** Great, thank you. This is Pamela
15 Ng, last name spelled N-g. And I'm so impressed --
16 thank you for the commission to do all this work. And
17 I'm so impressed with the plan. And I've plowed
18 through some of it.

19 I am a retired acupuncturist. And I've been
20 an environmentalist for 40 -- over 40 years only
21 recently more active on -- on that. So and I'm so
22 glad I can talk and hear. And I'm so impressed that
23 I'm given five minutes instead of two minutes like the
24 Seattle meeting on -- on Duwamish Land in Seattle.

25 So, the one -- I have some notes here. And

1 I just -- just thinking about what is the main thing I
2 really want to -- to impression on the commission.
3 The renewable resources as mentioned, natural gas,
4 methane, hydrogen. Of course we know about solar, we
5 know about wind.

6 I'd like the commission to -- the
7 councilmembers to jump out of that because the
8 renewable resources really picking up and we know a
9 lot more now. So maybe we can do, you know, think
10 about a tunnel -- tunnel for waterfall, a tidal --
11 tidal -- turbines and stuff like that.

12 But I'm a little bit concerned about when --
13 when you talk about renewable resources, you would
14 include natural gas and hydrogen fuels. Natural gas,
15 the -- the production process is rather devastating to
16 the environment. So, that I would love to look at as
17 a viable renewable resource.

18 And the other one is the hydrogen fuels.
19 Hydrogen takes a lot of energy to split the hydrogen
20 from oxygen. And so that would not be a really good
21 renewable resource. And, okay, so that's renewable
22 resource.

23 And methane, burning methane, some people
24 say that is a transition to zero emission. But the --
25 the thing is after methane is burned, the carbon stays

1 in the -- stays in the environment for 10, 12, 15
2 years, whereas, burning coals carbondiox, that only
3 stays in the air for a couple of years max. So,
4 that's the difference. And so I would not rate
5 methane, burning methane as a clean renewable
6 resource.

7 And then the next point I want to make is
8 with the buildings, I thought Govenor Inslee passed
9 into law yet last year, I believe, building codes for
10 new buildings and also for building renovation,
11 remodeling. So, I think those should be -- should be
12 included and we need to look at that. So that's for
13 buildings.

14 And for the cost benefit analysis, the cost
15 really need to include the pollution that's in the
16 production process of any of the -- of any of the
17 renewable resources even solar making -- making the
18 solar panels. Making them cost -- needs a lot of
19 trace minerals. And it's -- produces pollution also.

20 **CHAIR OSHIE:** So, Ms. Ng, you have about --
21 you have a few seconds left here.

22 **MS. NG:** Okay.

23 **CHAIR OSHIE:** You've got about 15 seconds
24 remaining so.

25 **MS. NG:** Okay. Thank you. The cost for --

1 for doing anything I think needs to include the
2 destruction of the environment. So I think that those
3 Snake River dams should be taken down. So, yeah,
4 destruction is very important. Thank you. Thank you.

5 **CHAIR OSHIE:** You're very welcome. Thank
6 you.

7 All right. We have two speakers left. And
8 we have -- also call on Cathryn, I guess, is it Chudy?

9 **MS. CHUDY:** It's Cathryn -- Cathryn Chudy.

10 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Chudy. Okay. Thank you, Ms.
11 Chudy. So, if you could please spell your last name
12 and then if you have -- if you're affiliated with an
13 organization that you're representing here tonight,
14 please state that and proceed with your testimony.

15 **MS. CHUDY:** Thank you. My name is Cathryn
16 Chudy, C-h-u-d-y. I'm representing myself, but I'm
17 also affiliated with the Sierra Club, with Columbia
18 Riverkeeper, with the Oregon Conservancy Foundation,
19 and the Alliance for Community Engagement which is a
20 coalition of organizations here in Vancouver,
21 Washington.

22 I appreciate that the council has used a
23 climate-adjusted baseline with global climate models
24 down scaled to the Northwest.

25 The past year of local climate disasters,

1 underscores the urgency of addressing those impacts
2 aggressively and equitably to protect and serve all
3 who live here as well as those who come after us. I
4 believe the draft plan as written falls short of
5 recognizing and responded adequately to this urgency.

6 I am greatly concerned that the proposed
7 Draft Plan adopts a reduced role for energy efficiency
8 in our region setting a significantly lower target for
9 energy efficiency compared to the seventh plan at
10 reducing Bonneville's share of the regional target.

11 Rural customers depend on Bonneville Power
12 to fund efficiency programs which makes reducing their
13 obligation and equity issue. It makes no sense when
14 we in the Northwest are already on track to meet the
15 high end of the energy efficiency target to alter the
16 positive course we are on and shift down and away from
17 the momentum we have built for something so critical
18 to our energy future.

19 Energy conservation, as a reminder, is the
20 effort made to reduce the consumption of energy by
21 using less. Your council is named Northwest Power and
22 Conservation Council. And it seems you betray that
23 name by relegating energy efficiency to a reduced role
24 in your draft plan. And I would like to see that
25 changed.

1 It's well known that we, in the Northwest,
2 enjoy utility rates and bills that have been the
3 lowest in the country. As so many of us are
4 struggling to meet the economic impacts of the
5 pandemic we need to continue pursuing at least as
6 much, if not more ways, to leverage energy efficiency
7 programs. That we, as customers support, that we now
8 provide employment in local economic benefits and our
9 key means to ensure that equitable climate policy is
10 being implemented.

11 As a customer of Clark PUD in Vancouver,
12 Washington, I have joined many other customers in
13 urging our commissioners to direct their staff to
14 pursue clean energy technologies that are already
15 available and cost effective in the region,
16 especially, demand response, energy storage and
17 renewable and storage systems.

18 We have advocated customer-side resources,
19 distributed generation and electrification as
20 aggressive decarbonization goals in Washington and
21 Oregon are being set into place in response to the
22 impacts of catastrophic climate change in order to
23 reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as providing
24 resilience.

25 I encourage the council to improve the Draft

1 Plan to better reflect our need for these priorities
2 with a more balanced resource strategy. These
3 priorities keep us building rather than stalling our
4 momentum for a truly clean reliable and fair power
5 system.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

7 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Thank you. Our next speaker
8 is Lauren McCloy. Ms. McCloy, are you -- are you
9 available?

10 **MS. MCCLOY:** I am. Can you hear me.

11 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Yes, we can.

12 **MS. MCCLOY:** Oh, great. Thanks a lot.

13 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Yes, thank. If you can --

14 **MS. MCCLOY:** Good evening, councilmembers.

15 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Please spell your last name
16 for the record, please. Thank you.

17 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Yes, sir. Lauren McCloy, M-c-
18 c-l-o-y. And I am here as the policy director for the
19 Northwest Energy Coalition.

20 First, I just want to congratulate the
21 council and the council's staff on the release of the
22 Draft 2021 Northwest Power Plan with the disruption
23 caused by the pandemic and the transition to remote
24 work, we know it's been challenging to keep the work
25 on this plan on schedule.

1 And we acknowledge that the council had to
2 make some tough decisions in order to prioritize its
3 work and still meet its obligation to release a plan
4 in early 2021.

5 I also want to express appreciation for the
6 format and accessibility of these public comment
7 hearings. Providing this opportunity for public
8 participation is an important part of the council's
9 process. So thank you for making this happen while
10 we're still in a pandemic.

11 As you've heard from many of the previous
12 speakers, we agree that the 2021 Plan comes at a
13 critical time for the region when we need solutions
14 now that are going to put the region on a pathway to
15 transform the electricity system over the next 20
16 years.

17 This draft includes some notable progress on
18 renewable energy, understanding the impacts of climate
19 change, and incorporating equity considerations under
20 power planning.

21 We're pleased to see the climate-adjusted
22 baseline adopted in this plan informed by consultation
23 with climate scientists and incorporating elements
24 from three different climate models.

25 As we know, climate change is already

1 affecting our region and has already started to shift
2 monthly Northwest hydropower and increase peak demand
3 with an overall shift towards summer peaks and more
4 extreme hot and cold weather events.

5 It's important that we have all our regional
6 power planning to be more forward looking given these
7 impacts and we commend the council for this important
8 innovation which will be valuable for the region.

9 We're also pleased to see diversity, equity,
10 and inclusion discussed in the plan. We support the
11 draft recommendation that the region can be in a
12 series of workshops to investigate existing equity
13 data and perform a gap analysis to identify areas
14 where further research and data are needed with the
15 goal to develop a regional framework to improve future
16 power planning analysis. We would encourage the
17 council or one of its advisory committees to play a
18 more active role in supporting broader incorporation
19 of equity into the council's work going forward.

20 However, we do have some concerns about the
21 resource strategy proposed in this plan. The
22 Northwest had long been a leader in energy efficiency,
23 one of the major reasons utility rates and bills are
24 among the lowest in the country.

25 Since the Northwest Power and Conservation

1 Act went into effect, over 7,000 megawatts of energy
2 efficiency has been achieved, making it our second
3 largest resource behind hydropower.

4 If I were concerned that this plan appears
5 to back away from energy efficiency as the preferred
6 resource for the region, we would encourage the
7 council to adopt a target of at least 1,000 average
8 megawatts, the high-end of the range proposed in this
9 plan to at least maintain current budgets and program
10 capabilities.

11 In the near term, the council should also
12 consider revisiting its cost effectiveness methodology
13 to account for the full value of energy efficiency and
14 a decarbonized economy.

15 We're particularly concerned about the Draft
16 Plan's proposal to reduce DPA's share of the regional
17 energy efficiency target. This reduction in DPA's
18 share could affect DPA's ability to provide applicable
19 programs as required under the Power Act.

20 We're also concerned that this change in the
21 council's longstanding policy with allocating 42
22 percent of the regional target to Bonneville occurred
23 without public consultation or deliberation and is not
24 supported by the materials provided with the Draft
25 Plan.

1 The level of demand response and the lack of
2 energy storage in the Northwest represented in the
3 resource strategy is also disappointing. We think
4 that the target for demand response should be more
5 aligned with the analysis conducted by the demand
6 response advisory committee which found significantly
7 higher demand response potential.

8 And it also conflicts with what we're seeing
9 on the ground in utility integrated resource plans in
10 the region where utilities are finding significant
11 value in a variety of demand response measures beyond
12 time-of-use rates and distribution voltage reduction.

13 While the draft plan includes a soft
14 recommendation that the region look at energy storage,
15 a lack of energy storage in the resource strategy,
16 particularly energy storage paired with renewals in
17 hybrid applications is also a notable shortcoming
18 worth a revisit.

19 The energy storage cost assumptions used in
20 the regional portfolio model are based on public data
21 from 2019. And since then, the cost of solar plus
22 storage systems, in particular, have fallen by about a
23 third.

24 I think the council should consider updating
25 its cost assumptions for energy storage and

1 investigate a longer strategy of updating the regional
2 portfolio model to better reflect the value of
3 flexibility of a broad portfolio of clean energy
4 resources.

5 And, finally, we are disappointed that the
6 council did not continue to refine the pathways to
7 decarbonization scenario in the draft plan. Much work
8 was -- has been done to establish Washington's
9 decarbonization pathway including the Washington State
10 energy strategy and the Northwest decarbonization
11 study among others.

12 And while the council had an opportunity to,
13 you know, build on these efforts in the regional plan,
14 it decided to -- declined to do so for the 2021 Plan.
15 Nevertheless, we feel that the resource strategy
16 represented by the council's decarbonization scenario
17 is, you know, a better representation of where the
18 region needs to go since it includes more energy
19 efficiency, a demand response, energy storage, and
20 renewable energy.

21 We would encourage more consideration of
22 this analysis in the final resource strategy and the
23 action plan and support the recommendations by the
24 Department of Commerce on this point.

25 So in conclusion, we think that the council

1 should revisit several aspects of the draft before
2 finalizing the Power Plan and we're to stay to core on
3 energy efficiency, continue BPA's leadership role in
4 the region, and strengthen its recommendations
5 pertaining to demand response storage and storage plus
6 renewables, distributed generation and other side --
7 other customer-sided resources.

8 And, finally, we urge the council to
9 carefully consider what next steps it can take in the
10 action plan to help state's utilities and the
11 stakeholder's meet aggressive departmentalization
12 goals in Washington and Oregon.

13 Thank you so much for the opportunity to
14 comment tonight.

15 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Thank you, Ms. McCloy. All
16 right, Chad, is there anyone else have signed up to
17 testify this evening?

18 **MR. MADRON:** Mr. Oshie, we had a few close
19 calls, but no. Someone signed up for the wrong
20 hearing, but we got that corrected. And so I'm
21 unmuting the phone lines in case there's someone we
22 have not called on. All the people who have signed up
23 online have been called forward. Is there anyone on
24 the phone who, perhaps, didn't get a chance to sign up
25 yet or would like to speak? I guess not.

1 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Okay. Well, why don't we take
2 a break here. Why don't we just make it -- let's
3 return at 6:45.

4 **MR. MADRON:** Okay.

5 **CHAIR OSHIE:** And we'll see if we have
6 anyone else. For those who may still be on listening,
7 we have, you know, we will keep the hearing open until
8 7 p.m. We're going to be in recess now until 6:45.
9 We'll come back to see if there's anyone else that
10 would like to testify.

11 I'd just to like to, you know, remind
12 everyone that even if you testified tonight, if you'd
13 like to submit written comments you may do so. And
14 we'll cover that. And at the end of this hearing,
15 you'll see the email address there for all of you to -
16 - to use if you -- if you'd like doing so. All right.
17 With that --

18 **MR. VADAS:** Sir.

19 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Yes, sir.

20 **MR. MADRON:** Yes.

21 **MR. VADAS:** I spoke already, but is there
22 any chance if there's time for -- to say -- make more
23 comments that happen to be talked about yet?

24 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Is this Mr. Vadas?

25 **MR. VADAS:** Yes.

1 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Well, what would you like a
2 couple more minutes?

3 **MR. VADAS:** Sure. Yeah, I was shorter than
4 I wanted to be. I don't know, but do you want me to
5 say something right now?

6 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Sure.

7 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Now is the time, so please.

8 **MR. VADAS:** Okay. All right.

9 **CHAIR OSHIE:** So you'll have about -- give
10 you two more minutes here to finish your thoughts.

11 **MR. VADAS:** My name, yeah, my name is,
12 again, is Robert Vadas, V as in Victor, a-d-a-s. I'm
13 actually a resident of Olympia, Washington. And,
14 again, my comments are independent.

15 What I want to add especially in light of,
16 you know, seeing the, you know, the Planet of the
17 Humans documentary, what we really need our -- and I
18 have solar panels on my house now.

19 But a lot of people cannot afford them and -
20 - and could use some help. I mean, instead of, like,
21 you know, totally destroying desert habitat with, you
22 know, solar panels all over the place, you know, as
23 portrayed in that documentary. It would be better to
24 put solar panels on every house because that's already
25 developed infrastructure.

1 It's already tied into the grid. I mean, to
2 me it seems that's really the better way to make this
3 into, you know, big, you know, big bloated kind of
4 industry approach to alternate energies.

5 And I -- I will quickly reiterate what
6 others -- a couple of the speakers have said, a few
7 note. The lower Snake River dams, you know, are
8 probably on their way out. They don't produce a lot
9 of energy anyway. And then -- and the salmon -- the
10 southern resident orca whales are important.

11 And so we do have the energy to replace
12 that, you know, that the energy produced by those dams
13 and I would love to see the council try to work
14 towards that as, you know, until that is possible,
15 whatever they can do to facilitate that. Thank you
16 again for my extra comments.

17 **CHAIR OSHIE:** You're welcome. All right.
18 It looks like -- so if there -- I don't want to
19 discourage extra comments, but everyone had some time
20 here to offer their comments. You do have a chance to
21 submit written comments. We'll take one more. I
22 believe there's -- I see a hand up. Chad, can you --

23 **MR. MADRON:** Yes, Mr. Steinke, you're
24 unmuted.

25 **MR. STEINKE:** Thank you.

1 **CHAIR OSHIE:** I'll give you two minutes,
2 sir.

3 **MR. STEINKE:** Thank you. This is Don
4 Steinke. One of the common arguments made for fossil
5 fuels is made by the gas industry. And they are
6 always saying what about when there's a blackout?
7 People need a dual system of energy.

8 And so I would like to recommend that you
9 model various systems -- various ways to deal with --
10 with blackouts. And I think one system I like is to
11 have propane tanks stored safely and only used when --
12 when there's a blackout.

13 As one of the models for resilience when
14 there's a blackout and I guess you could say that's a
15 form of storage too.

16 And back in 1965 what got me interested in
17 this was a headline in Popular Mechanics. It had a
18 picture of a home in Coos Bay, Oregon where the guy
19 said he used heat from his roof. He piped it down to
20 a bin of rocks in his basement in a septic tank,
21 basically, full of washed drain rock. And he took the
22 heat from his roof and he used it to warm the rocks.

23 And then when needed, he used the warm rocks
24 to heat his house. And he only needed to supplement
25 that with -- with 7 gallons of fossil fuel per year

1 including his swimming pool. And it would actually
2 cool his house in the summertime because he reversed
3 the process.

4 Well, I would like you to model various
5 forms of energy storage such as that and -- and like a
6 gravity storage. So those are my new comments. Thank
7 you very much for the opportunity to speak a second
8 time. Thank you.

9 **CHAIR OSHIE:** You're welcome, Mr. Steinke.
10 Okay. We're -- we'll go ahead and take a break until
11 6:50 and we'll return at that point. And so we are on
12 recess until 6:50, Chad. I see you've got the note
13 up. And we'll be -- we'll return and we will reopen
14 the hearing at that time to see if anyone else has --
15 has comments to give the -- to give the council.

16 **(Recess taken.)**

17 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Chad.

18 **MR. MADRON:** Hello, there.

19 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Hello. Has anyone signed up
20 to testify at this point?

21 **MR. MADRON:** I'm double checking a few
22 spots, but, no, I do not believe so.

23 **CHAIR OSHIE:** All right. Well, I'm going to
24 reconvene the hearing for the purpose of putting on
25 the record that we will be taking -- we'll be in

1 recess for another five minutes. And so we'll -- and
2 at that point we'll reconvene at 6:55. So thank you
3 everybody. And I will confirm with you at Chad that
4 no one has signed up as a speaker --

5 **MR. MADRON:** Sure.

6 **CHAIR OSHIE:** In the time that we were in
7 recess.

8 **MR. MADRON:** Let me just check one thing.
9 There was one caller muted. If there's anybody who
10 could hear my voice who wanted to speak tonight and
11 did not have a chance to sign up, please let us know
12 either by calling out, sending -- or sending an email
13 or signing up via the form that's shown on the screen
14 here. Thank you.

15 **CHAIR OSHIE:** All right. So we'll be in
16 recess until 6:55. Thank you, everyone.

17 **(Recess taken.)**

18 **CHAIR OSHIE:** For the purpose of going into
19 a further recess until 6:59. And at that point, if
20 there are no further speakers, we will -- we will end
21 the hearing this evening. So we're in recess until
22 6:59.

23 **(Recess taken.)**

24 **CHAIR OSHIE:** Well, I just want to thank
25 everybody for -- for participating in today's hearing.

1 I want to thank the members for your time. And it's
2 always good to hear the testimony of the public when
3 it comes to important matters, of course, like the
4 Power Plan.

5 And it is -- it's a key to -- the input of
6 the public is a key to the work that is done by the
7 council and we very much appreciate it at all levels,
8 whether tonight during the advisory meetings or
9 monthly meetings or at any other opportunity that we
10 have to share ideas and share thoughts. So with that,
11 everyone thanks again and this hearing is now
12 adjourned.

13 **MR. MADRON:** Thank you.

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CERTIFICATE

I, Kayla Broden, do hereby certify that I reported proceedings adduced in the foregoing matter and that the foregoing transcript pages constitutes a full, true, and accurate record of said proceedings to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am neither related to counsel or any part to the proceedings nor have any interest in the outcome of the proceedings.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of November, 2021.

/S/ Kayla Broden

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