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June 22, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Power Committee

FROM: Jim Kempton and Terry Morlan

SUBJECT: Thoughts on the Proposed RPS Workshop

The Power Committee in Boise suggested that rather than proceed with an analysis of the Council's power plan compared to renewable portfolio standards the Council should host a workshop to ask others in the region what the Council should do regarding RPS. We have given additional thought to this issue and have proposed further discussion for the July Power Committee.

We propose that instead of hosting a workshop on RPS the Council write a paper that examines and clarifies the role of renewable resources in the 5th Power Plan. This paper would not directly address the various RPS proposals and laws in the region, but simply provide additional and more focused analysis and interpretation of the Council's plan. This paper and the wind confirmation process the Council has initiated with Bonneville will provide important information related to RPS without specifically taking a position for or against such policies.

There are a number of reasons that we are cautious about convening a workshop on RPS. One is that such a gathering could provide a forum for political debate of specific state RPS proposals. This would increase the chance of the Council being perceived as involving itself in these political debates. Another reason for dropping the workshop relates to the resources required. Council staff and other regional organizations are stretched thin by the many important regional discussions regarding Bonneville's future role, wind confirmation, regional transmission improvements, energy and capacity adequacy standards, conservation implementation, and integrated resource planning. Unless we can identify a compelling and urgent need, and a well-defined useful product, for a workshop on RPS we are reluctant to ask for regional participation in such a workshop.

We will discuss this proposal with the Power Committee in Missoula and seek your guidance.

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