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September 6, 2023

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Council Members**

**FROM: John Ollis, Manager of Planning and Analysis**

**SUBJECT: Perspective on Regional Transmission Planning**

### **BACKGROUND:**

**Presenter:** Spencer Gray, Executive Director, Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition

**Summary:** Spencer Gray will provide his perspective on transmission needs, challenges, and opportunities for the Northwest. The Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition (NIPCC) membership is comprised of owner, operator, and developers of independent power generation and storage, power marketers, and affiliated companies. Recognizing the need for significant new resource development in the region, NIPCC provides a unique perspective on the transmission needs and challenges in the region.

**Relevance:** The resource strategy in the Council's power plan is to give priority to conservation and generation resources that are "cost-effective." To be "cost-effective" under the Northwest Power Act, a resource not only has to meet or reduce load at a cost less than other resources, it also has "to be reliable and available within the time it is needed." Section 3(4)(A)(i).

One of the key pieces of a resource being deemed available is access to transmission. Certain resources in past plans have been limited not by the technical potential, but by transmission and siting limitations. Increasing

transmission capability and access within the region can increase the type and quantity of resources available for plan consideration.

Workplan: 4.3.3 Track market efforts, including day-ahead market offerings and transmission planning to inform Council analysis.

Background: In May of this year, NIPPC and Renewable Northwest (an advocacy organization working on renewable energy policy and regulation in the Pacific Northwest) released a whitepaper entitled: ['Appropriate and Required': BPA and Building the Grid the Northwest Needs](#). This whitepaper outlines the history on Bonneville's role in transmission, makes a case for the need for new transmission in the Northwest, and puts forward recommendation of best practices to be incorporated into Bonneville's and the region's transmission planning. The insights in this whitepaper provide useful context and direction for the discussions taking place in the region today on transmission planning. Spencer will be able to highlight these findings and provide perspective on how the region can best proceed forward in this space.

This discussion with Spencer is intended to build onto the presentation from Jeff Cook, Bonneville's VP of Transmission Planning and Assessment Management, at last month's Council meeting.