

PacifiCorp Equity Advisory Group (EAG)

Meeting #2 Notes

Wednesday June 16, 2021, 1-4pm Pacific Time

These notes were synthesized and summarized by RMI, PacifiCorp's meeting facilitation partner, without EAG member attribution.

Executive summary

PacifiCorp's Meeting #2 continued with the relationship building of the previous meeting and introduced three new EAG members to the group. EAG members introduced themselves, and we heard presentations from PacifiCorp staff members on the current demographic characteristics of PacifiCorp customers in Washington. In addition, PacifiCorp explained the Washington Department of Health's analysis on highly-impacted communities, including census-based data for PacifiCorp's service territory. During the breakout session, EAG members provided thoughts on vulnerable populations in their communities and some of the challenges that they face.

The EAG highlighted the following insights and others during the session:

- Vulnerable populations encompass a wide range of individuals in their communities and include challenges related to language, access to technology, mental health, structure of household (single parent, multi-generational, etc.), rural/remote location, jurisdiction of their residence, and immigration status.
- It is imperative that access to resources have low barriers, especially in terms of language and knowledge.
- Cost of service continues to be a critical concern to EAG members, especially if the transition to cleaner energy impacts rates that individuals are paying.
- While the EAG members represent or serve many vulnerable populations in the community, PacifiCorp should also try to actively engage with community members with lived experiences.
- The EAG expressed interest in additional resources from PacifiCorp on clean energy and the objectives of CETA to further engage their local communities.

Session objectives

1. Welcome new EAG members and continue developing EAG relationships.
2. Establish an understanding of highly-impacted communities and vulnerable populations.
3. Explore EAG members' identification of vulnerable populations and the challenges that they face.

Opening remarks (1:05pm)

Rick Link, Vice President of Resource Planning and Acquisitions

PacifiCorp and Community

- The key driver behind PacifiCorp's day-to-day processes are rooted in understanding how the essential service it provides will improve the lives of customers.
- Customers are front and center in how PacifiCorp operates.

Resource Planning

- PacifiCorp is committed to clean and cost-effective resources for its customers.
- PacifiCorp recently announced that it could add up to 3,200 MW of clean energy and 700 MW of battery capacity.

EAG’s Role in the Planning Process

- EAG perspectives are very important inputs into the near-term and long-term energy planning process, including identifying and addressing equity priorities in communities PacifiCorp has been a part of for more than 100 years.
- PacifiCorp is eager to listen to and hear the EAG’s perspectives.
- PacifiCorp is fully supportive of CETA, and in particular the role of the EAG.

EAG members reflections (1:15pm)

Equity Advisory Group member	Organization
Angélica Reyes and Laura Armstrong	La Casa Hogar
Erendira Cruz	Sustainable Living Center (SLC)
Isidra Sanchez	Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC)
Jonathan Smith*	Yakima County Development Association (YCDA)
Kaila Lockbeam	Perry Technical Institute (Perry Tech)
Nathan Johnson	Yakima County Health District
Noemi Ortiz	Northwest Community Action Center (NCAC)
Norman Thiel*	SonBridge
Paul Tabayoyon	Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC)
Raymond Wiseman	Yakama Power
Sylvia Schaefer	Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC)

*Not in attendance.

PacifiCorp welcomed Noemi Ortiz to her first meeting, as well as new EAG members Nathan Johnson, Norman Thiel (not in attendance), Angélica Reyes, and Laura Armstrong.

EAG members shared their reflections leading up to this meeting. Topics included the impacts of this work, community engagement, clear messaging, and understanding the challenges that these communities face.

PacifiCorp presentation (1:40pm)

[Slides available here](#)

Demographics of PacifiCorp Customers

- PacifiCorp’s territory in Washington encompasses 61 census tracts and approximately 137,000 customers.
- Relative to Washington as a whole, income in PacifiCorp’s customer base is lower, with higher incidence of poverty.
- Higher proportions of PacifiCorp customers speak Spanish at home than average in Washington.
- PacifiCorp’s customer base has higher representation of American Indian and Alaska Native, Some Other Race, and Hispanic or Latino than state-wide demographics.

HICs and Vulnerable Populations

- Highly-Impacted Communities (HICs) is a term defined by the Washington Department of Health.
- The State of Washington defines HICs as communities scoring a 9 or above on the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) score which is a composite score based on 19 different variables representing threats from environmental effects and exposures, as well as vulnerability based on socioeconomic factors or population sensitivities.
 - Washington State Department of Health makes this data publicly available at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/WTNIBL/>
- No census tracts in Walla Walla or Yakima (PacifiCorp Service Area) show an environmental exposures ranking of 9 or greater.
- 22 census tracts in Yakima and 0 in Walla Walla have an environmental effects ranking of 9 or greater.
- 30 census tracts in Yakima and 3 in Walla Walla show socioeconomic factors ranking of 9 or greater.
- 14 census tracts in Yakima and 1 in Walla Walla show sensitive populations ranking of 9 or greater.
- In total, 19 census tracts in Yakima and 0 in Walla Walla show an overall Environmental Health Disparities ranking of 9 or greater.
- 6 census tracts in Yakima and 0 in Walla Walla are located on tribal lands.

EAG Member Discussion

- Following this presentation, no questions were raised.
- Many members expressed no surprise to the EHD scoring results presented.
- EAG members discussed the difference between HICs and Vulnerable Populations
 - HICs are determined by the criteria from the Washington Department of Health that are quantitative.
 - Vulnerable populations are more flexible: they may not be based on a geography or specific metrics, they don't have to be quantifiable.

Break (2:05pm)

Breakout room discussions (2:15pm)

EAG members joined breakout rooms and discussed and documented two questions:

1. What vulnerable populations do you think exist in your communities or region?
2. What are some challenges that you think this population faces?

A word cloud of the challenges that EAG members identified was created and a larger version will be posted online with these notes.



- Breakout Group 1
 - Key themes in vulnerable peoples included language, single parent households, and those with access challenges (such as technology or information).
 - Low-barrier access emerged as a key theme from this group’s discussion which encompasses challenges related to language and access to technology, as well as access to healthcare, transportation, and monetary resources. Information to take advantage of this access is critical.
- Breakout Group 2
 - Key themes in vulnerable peoples included those with mental health issues, language, immigration status, remote/rural communities, and those in disparate jurisdictions (US Government Trust, tribal lands, state and county).
 - Many different communities were discussed and it is critical that PacifiCorp hears directly from these community members.
 - First-hand information and engagement with the community is critical to build trust and understand what actions can tangibly help challenges.
- Breakout Group 3
 - Key themes in vulnerable peoples includes language and access to technology
 - The rural divide and support to agricultural workers was additional topic raised that needs to be considered.
 - Additionally, despite worsening outcomes, the census did not reach some of the most vulnerable communities; as a result, community organizations actually lost funding because the census showed a rise in local income despite the sampling issue.

Public participation discussion (2:15pm)

During EAG member breakout groups, PacifiCorp shared information about the plan for public participation and invited questions or comments from the public participants. Approximately 15 public participants joined the Zoom for PacifiCorp’s EAG Meeting #2.

- The Public Participation Plan is on the CEIP website, linked below, and PacifiCorp encourages public participation throughout the process.
- Resources

- The website (<https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/washington-clean-energy-transformation-act-equity.html>) has meeting materials (including the participation plan), and information on the EAG.
- Email CEIP@pacificorp.com to share more input or ask questions.
- Accessibility
 - Posting meeting materials on the website for public review.
 - Posting notes/minutes from public meetings on the website for those who cannot attend.
 - Website (and materials) will have Spanish translation.

Public Question: What is the timing of the public session?

PacifiCorp Response: PacifiCorp is still exploring what makes the most sense, but due to COVID, the online survey is currently the primary vehicle to getting input. There are opportunities to expand this reach or try different approaches.

Public Question: Will an update of the CEIP/EAG teams' progress be presented at the June 24-25 IRP Public Input Meeting?

PacifiCorp Response: PacifiCorp is open to this, recognizing that the meeting is for stakeholders across multiple jurisdictions.

An online survey is available to provide additional feedback here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=haXYjubYAEu5zNNweDVZ9IWsg2ADyPZKI-boyMhQdQdUM1oySEMxQkgzTUdXOThHWIFUUFFHUFY0Ti4u>

EAG Discussion (3:05pm)

EAG members were asked to reflect on the following question based on the previous discussions on vulnerable populations:

1. What ways do you think clean energy and energy programs could help or complicate the challenges that you identified in your breakout groups?
 - Advantages highlighted:
 - Environmental benefits, clean air, healthier people
 - Improved education as a result of resources/services being available
 - Access to younger people through school programs to educate them on energy conservation
 - Distributed generation could result in more local benefits
 - Complications/challenges highlighted:
 - Will this increase energy costs?
 - Addressing the lack of understanding of the programs or benefits
 - Utilities need reliable, cost-effective power supply, so unclear how clean energy development costing will be approached and what scale is needed
 - Avoiding vulnerable populations shouldering the burden of clean energy development (e.g. cost, land)
 - Distributed generation may cost more

- Many community members rely on gas heating; electric furnaces may have higher equipment and usage costs
- Economic disparities in the community, such as high vs. low-income users, renters vs. property owners
- Transportation-related challenges such as public transportation
- Electricity storage in order to integrate renewables
- Affordable housing, and incentivizing landlords to invest in their properties
- How will this process address businesses?
- Translations are critical to getting through the language barriers
- Additional considerations
 - PacifiCorp should ensure they are providing relatable, easy to understand information to the community, especially to rural, high-barrier communities which will result in a more trusting relationship.
 - The EAG needs to be able to have and provide pertinent information to the communities they serve as the communities ask questions.
 - There may be opportunities for PacifiCorp to take advantage of community organizations' existing needs assessments processes to gather data.
 - PacifiCorp should consider phone calls or in person surveys, not just online, to expand the reach.
 - The EAG expressed interest in resources (especially with graphics) to ensure they can clearly communicate PacifiCorp's clean energy objectives outside this meeting venue to community members.
 - Jobs are a salient issue in this area – how they are created or impacted – that PacifiCorp should consider sharing more about.

Next steps and check out (3:45pm)

- This year, we plan to have five more EAG meetings occurring monthly.
- EAG members have the meeting invitation to the next session on July 21.
- We plan to have these topics of discussion at next month's meeting:
 1. Presentation on PacifiCorp's Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP), existing customer programs, and the role of customer benefit indicators (CBIs) for tracking progress on equity.
 2. Discuss how CBIs could align with challenges for HICs and vulnerable populations.
 3. Brainstorm potential CBIs
- EAG members and the public were asked to complete the survey to provide feedback on this session (<https://forms.office.com/r/L6j91bEZx3>). Please respond by 6/23.
 - We will share materials for EAG members to review in advance of the next meeting.
 - Materials will also be posted to the website for the public to access.