



Pacific Power Equity Advisory Group (EAG)

April 2024 Meeting Notes

April 11, 2024, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, Pacific Time

These notes were synthesized and summarized by E Source, Pacific Power’s meeting facilitation partner.

Executive Summary

There were 25 participants in attendance at the Washington EAG meeting on April 11, 2024, including six EAG members. The meeting was hosted via the ZOOM platform.

The following is a summary of the content and feedback received during the public meeting.

Session Objectives

1. Present Prioritization Activity Results
2. Introduce Distribution System Planning (DSP)
3. Learn about Emergency Management & Preparedness
4. Communicate Integrated Resource Planning, Regulation and General Updates

2024 EAG Members	Organization
Erendira Cruz	Sustainable Living Center of Walla Walla
Jonathan Smith	Yakima County Development Association
Norman Thiel	SonBridge
Paul Tabayoyon	Asian Pacific Islander Coalition
Sylvia Schaeffer	Blue Mountain Action Council
Todd Hilmes	Northwest Community Action Center
Presenters	
Christina Medina	Stakeholder Policy & Engagement Manager
Horace Ward	Senior Emergency Management Specialist
Ian Hoogendam	Distribution System Planning Manager

Kimberly Alejandro	Equity Advisory Analyst, Pacific Power
Randy Baker	Director of Resource Planning
Shauna Thomas	Transmission & Distribution System Planning Specialist
Stephanie Meeks	Regulatory Manager, Regulatory Policy & Operations, Pacific Power
Morgan Westberry	Facilitator, E Source

Pacific Power Affiliated Attendees	
Lisa Corbly	Emergency Management Specialist
Nancy Goddard	Senior Program Manager
Tracy Moreland	Tribal Liaison Representative
Tag Galvin-Darnieder	E Source, Facilitation Team
Zanya Morgan	E Source, Facilitation Team

Public Attendees	
Andy Wilson	Yakima Health District LERC
Keith Quinta	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Paul K	
Stefan de Villiers	Washington State Office of Attorney General

Opening

Pacific Power's Kimberly Alejandro opened the meeting by greeting all attendees and thanking EAG members for their continued participation.

E Source's Morgan Westberry then shared meeting experience items, objectives, the agenda, and introducing presenters.

EAG Member Check-In

E Source's Morgan Westberry "checked-in" with meeting attendees by posing the question: *What is a book, film, or song that means a lot to you?* Recommended books were *The 4 Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz, *Watership Down* and *Shardik* by Richard Adams, *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell, *How Edison's Lamp Helped Light the West* by John Dierdoff, *The Nothing that Is: A Natural History of Zero* by Robert Kaplan, and *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. Recommended films or series were *The Pursuit of Happyness*, *Groundhog Day*, *The Dark Tower* and *North and South*. Common themes were:

- Self-help, learning ways to improve professional and personal life
- Motivational content, making something of oneself out of humble beginnings

- Nostalgia, nurturing the inner child in adults and utilizing children as a measure of the success of society
- The effects on industrialization and colonialization on faith, individuals, and society
- Recentering when feeling misdirected
- Origin stories, measurements of growth

Community Calendar

Kimberly Alejandro presented the community calendar, including the following events:

April Events –

- April 13 - 2024 Arbor Fest FlowerPower @ Yakima Area Arboretum | 10am - 3pm
- April 13 - Sustainable Watersheds @ Bennington Lake Recreation Area | 1pm – 2:30pm
- April 20 - Earth Day in Cowiche Canyon | 10am – 12:30pm
- April 20 – Yakima Earth Day @ Sarg Hubbard Park 9am-3pm
- April 21 - Dozer Day One @ Yakima Fairgrounds Quiet Hours 10am – 11am | Regular Event Hours 11am – 3pm
- April 22 - Dozer Day Two @ Yakima Fairgrounds Quiet Hours 10am – 11am | Regular Event Hours 11am – 3pm
- April 27 - Persistent Local Market @ The Showroom on Colville | 10am - 2pm
- April 30 – Pacific Power Community Visits with the Equity Advisory Group

May Events –

- May 1 - Pacific Power Community Visits with the Equity Advisory Group
- May 2 - Pacific Power Community Visits with the Equity Advisory Group
- May 4, 11, 18 & 25 - Walla Walla Downtown Famers Market @ Farmers Market Pavilion 9am – 3pm
- May 12, 19 & 26 - Downtown Yakima Farmer's Market @ Rotary Marketplace 9am-1pm
- May 16 - Chamber Café | Agriculture, Agribusiness & Agritourism @ Walla Walla Chamber 8:30am – 9:45am
- May 21 - PWS Low Water Landscaping @ WWCC Water & Environmental Center 6pm – 8:30pm

Meeting Discussion:

- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition also shared an Earth Day event at Sarg Hubbards Park in Yakima on April 20.

Closing the Feedback Loop

Morgan Westberry gave a snapshot of some things the group heard and saw in the March 2024 session. Some of the central themes the last time the EAG convened included:

March Themes:

- Reviewed regulation updates and pathway to non-emitting by 2045
- Provided energy efficiency updates based on preliminary results from 2023 CBI metrics
- Introduced new energy savings Pilot
 - Tree Planting Conservation Program

March Feedback Highlights:

- Guided activity revisiting community priorities, ranking least to most important concerns
- How is accessibility being considered in Transportation Electrification
- Intersectionality between broadband, economic vitality, and equal access
- Meeting participants want to continue building psychological safety and trust between Pacific Power and service communities

Impacts:

- Circled back on the topic of Transportation Electrification, highlighting new barriers not previously addressed
- Using member feedback to update interim targets and clarify metrics
- Ongoing planning of the EAG space to incorporate new voices and shifting priorities

Pacific Power continues to plan with previous themes, feedback highlights and impacts in mind whilst continuing to welcome feedback and prospective opportunities of where the EAG space will go this year.

Last Month's Activity: Revisiting Community Priorities

Morgan Westberry revisited last month's activity and updated the group on the status of the feedback given. Ms. Westberry acknowledged that with new innovations in technology, new barriers and priorities have arisen. However, in comparing priority rankings from 2021 to 2024 some topics have remained central such as access to information.

Top 3 priorities:

- Discrimination
- Access to information
- Technology challenges/access to broadband

Ms. Westberry reassured the group that Pacific Power is still tracking feedback and orienting around community priorities.

Kimberly Alejandro reiterated that although today's meeting is not centered around the previously mentioned concerns, Pacific Power continues targeting community priorities and recognizes the intersection as the company considering potential solutions. Community priorities are well documented and understood, serving as the group's true north. Alejandro recognizes those who have been left behind and ways to prevent the same issue. As a company, Pacific Power recognizes the influence and is always thinking of ways to make meaningful progress and conscientiously working to strengthen relationships with partners in the community.

Introduction to Distribution System Planning (DSP)

Ian Hoogendam provided background of the current state of Distribution System Planning (DSP) and the future state. A distribution system ensures that power reaches homes and businesses in the community via poles and overhead or underground wires. The purpose of the distribution system planning is to forecast power demand in an area and prepare to implement solutions for future needs, ensuring reliable and efficient electricity is delivered to communities. Ian Hoogendam shared an overview of the modern electric grid noting the primary focus is on the distribution system. Electricity is produced at generation plants using water, solar, wind or coal and travels long distances via transmission system from generation plants to distribution substations which then delivers power to consumers via poles and wires, both overhead and underground. Pacific Power submitted a two-part filing in August 2022 outlining how the company plans to advance DSP, since then the team has been focused on implementing the filed plan. Local communities have asked utilities to increase transparency and engagement when conducting DSP studies and for preferred solutions in grid needs. From this conversation, nontraditional solutions were increased such as residential rooftop solar power and/or batteries and smart thermostats installed in homes to allow utilities a better insight into the impacts of different solutions during specific times of the day. Mr. Hoogendam used residential rooftop solar power as an example, highlighting the effectiveness of solar power during the afternoon when the sun is at peak versus in the morning. Mr. Hoogendam explains that some non-traditional solutions may require implementing multiple non-traditional solution mechanisms, as doing so may improve effectiveness in comparison to standing alone. Pacific Power recognizes that collaborating with communities is essential in finding the most cost effective and mutually beneficial solutions to understand persistence of grid needs and the opportunities to leverage grid energy programs.

Washington currently has 33 distribution substations serving a network of 140 subjects with:

- 3,363 miles of overhead wire
- 751 miles of underground infrastructure
- 114,450 residential customers
- 17,833 commercial customers
- 5,040 irrigation customers
- 479 industrial customers

53% of these circuits have SCADA, a technology that allows Pacific Power to automatically monitor and store load measurements. The entire system utilizes an automatic meter reading system (AMR) allowing for increased accuracy, encapsulating 42 MW of net metered capacity, primarily residential rooftop solar projects.

Mr. Hoogendam shared that the grid has become more complex as new technological innovations come out but also due to commercial/industrial developments, population growth, heat electrification, air conditioning adoption, rising costs and economic output, and weather and climate.

Meeting Discussion:

- SonBridge questioned *how Pacific Power plans for resiliency in Distribution System Planning? Has the company considered the effects of nature, such as weather, ice, or vegetation?*
 - Mr. Hoogendam answered that the primary focus is load growth, but the company has considered resiliency specifically as it pertains to battery longevity. The plan is to continue working with the EAG to utilize feedback and incorporate resiliency more

Mr. Hoogendam reviewed traditional solutions and the upgrades, expansions or reconfigurations that are sometimes required to accommodate the projected increase in power demand. Traditional solutions to load growth include:

- Equipment upgrades: increase capacity of system equipment
- New equipment: new equipment to address voltage/protection needs or facilitate load transfers
- New substations and circuits: sometimes required in conjunction with other traditional solutions
- Load transfers: transfer load to circuits with spare capacity
- Phase balancing: Balancing load among circuit wires
- Setting changes: Updating equipment settings to ensure safe and reliable service for expected loading conditions

Mr. Hoogendam shared that setting changes are the preferred solution for utilities as it is the most cost efficient for both the company and the customers.

Mr. Hoogendam outlined the 2024 DSP engagement schedule for the near future with upcoming in person visits with EAG members in May and three upcoming Clean Energy Implementation Planning workshops between May and October.

Break

Emergency Management & Preparedness

Pacific Power's Horace Ward, Senior Emergency Management Specialist introduced himself and his team, giving a glimpse of his background and professional achievements with expertise in landslides, HazMat, wildfires, flooding, active threats, severe weather, and radiological and aircraft incidents.

Mr. Ward emphasized the importance of emergency preparation by highlighting the growing frequency of disasters and the cost impact associated with events from 1980 to 2024. In 1980, the United States had only three disaster events, a drought, wildfire, and tropical cyclone resulting in about \$45 billion in losses. By 2000, the number multi-billion disaster events increased to 5, a severe storm, flooding event, winter storm, drought and wildfire resulted in \$15 billion in losses. In 2020, the number of billion-dollar events increased exponentially with over 20 disaster events, including numerous severe storms and tropical cyclones causing \$118 billion in losses.

Mr. Ward compared today's disaster events against events in the mid-late 1900s. Since 1950, 61% of fires have occurred between 2000-2017. A 17-year period had 1.5 times the fires as a 49-year period. 2010-2020 saw an increase of 246% compared to 1999-2009 in structures lost from wildfires. Overall, in comparison to the 1900s disasters in the 2000s are more frequent, more costly, and more damaging. Mr. Ward emphasizes the importance of preparedness, both for individuals and companies. Personal preparedness means being informed about the types of disasters prone to your region and ways to prepare, making a plan that answers questions such as how to receive emergency alerts and warnings, what is the shelter plan and evacuation route, what is the household communication plan and is the emergency preparedness kit up to date? A disaster kit containing food, water, and other vital supplies (can opener, personal hygiene items, tools, pet supplies, cash, medical equipment and medication, identification, and extra clothes and shoes) is especially important after an emergency because help is rarely immediate – FEMA suggests enough supplies to last at least two weeks. In addition to individuals,

companies must have a disaster preparation plan in place consisting of backup communications, emergency plan updates, an employee preparedness campaign, and a plan to work with local emergency management and first responders.

Meeting Discussion:

- Sustainable Living Center of Yakima asked if there are *any new technologies Pacific Power is looking at for fast response like Crescent City, battery backups, or nuclear?*
 - Mr. Ward responded that Pacific Power is exploring solar setup with large portable batteries for short term backup generation in California and in Wyoming the company is exploring modular nuclear energy.
- Sustainable Living Center of Yakima expressed anxiety surrounding emergency management and preparation.
 - Ms. Westberry responded that although the topic is heavy, it is important to discuss to ensure proper preparation.

Personal preparedness and company preparedness comes together in community outreach events and temporary generation capability. Pacific Power was awarded \$73,000 to investigate the possibilities of a microgrid and a solar/battery storage backup power source to support community and emergency operations in Yakima, Washington. To further promote emergency management and preparedness, Mr. Ward shared an upcoming [Pacific Power webinar on April 30th](#).

Integrated Resource Planning

E Source's Morgan Wesberry thanked Horace Ward for his presentation and welcomed Randy Baker, Director of Resource Planning at Pacific Power to speak about the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).

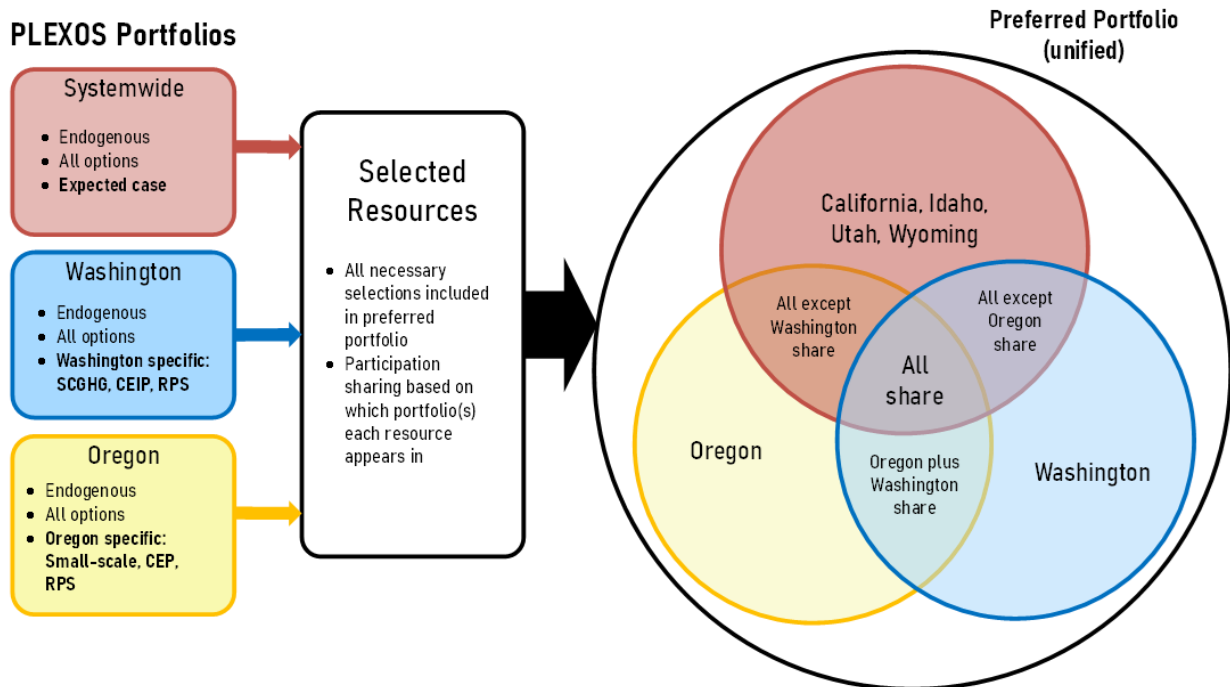
Mr. Baker provided an update Integrated Resource Planning due to a recent filing. The filing updates the Two-Year Progress Report filed in May 2023 and describes resource planning activities since that time. The report continues the company's commitment to maintain a long-term resource plan that considers cost, risk, uncertainty, and the long-run public interest. Mr. Baker explains the 15-month IRP approach beginning with the launch until the filing of the IRP.

- Month 1 identifies conservation and demand response opportunities
- Months 2-3 set up analytic tools and present the modeling process
- Month 4 plans for new energy and policy requirements
- Month 5-7 gathers/discusses inputs and assumptions
- Months 8-9 commit data and modeling updates
- Months 10-12 is portfolio development and analytics
- Month 13 presents and discusses draft preferred portfolio
- Months 14-15 incorporate draft feedback and assemble data disc

Mr. Baker notes that some phases overlap with each other once initiated, the process is always adjusting and adapting to incorporate feedback as it comes.

Mr. Baker explains how Pacific Power arrives at a preferred portfolio that is the best plan for the IRP and for all service states, but specifically as it relates to the Clean Energy Implementation plan for Washington looking for overlap in selected resources in other states. The all-share overlap in the middle of the Venn

diagram represents the most common outcome that is desirable in any set of conditions. The other cross-sections are determined by what is best for that state. Some resources will be allocated completely to one state only, if it is determined to be the best outcome.



To meet the goals across all 6 states, Pacific Power creates multiple different portfolios for evaluation analyzing outcomes and alternatives that may not be outwardly obvious. One of the objectives is to make sure all states are accurately represented, meeting state and federal timing requirements and milestones, without colliding with other states' interests. The timeline is driven by the most restrictive state requirements that all other states will adhere to.

Meeting Discussion:

- The Sustainable Living Center of Yakima asked *how closely are the IOUs (investor-owned utilities) working together to meet their renewable energy targets?*
 - Mr. Baker responded that although IOUs are not planning to build resources together, the companies do consult and coordinate on key topics.

Mr. Baker shared the 2023 IRP update preferred portfolio through 2032 illustrating the resources allocated strictly to Wahington, 2030 utility scale wind at 443 megawatts and energy and efficient demand response, and those shared by both Oregon and Washington, 2029 4-hour battery at 134 megawatts. The goals of the systems built out are finding what each state wants, seeing where resources overlap and analyzing how the resources can be shared.

To end the IRP segment, Baker closed the loop on questions from March’s EAG meeting; *where does Pacific Power feel it is in its readiness for the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) 2045 target date? What are the challenges to hitting this clean energy goal?*

Regulation Updates

Pacific Power's Stephanie Meeks, Regulatory Manager, informed the group of regulation updates with a new workshop underway. Pacific Power has scheduled three vulnerable population workshops for 2024 on May 17th, August, and October. May's 3 hour workshop is intertwined with the Clean Energy Implementation Plan Engagement series and aims to table set and provide background information on current methods used to identify Vulnerable Populations in Pacific Power's Washington service area. August's session is 2 hours with a focus on Pacific Power's Settlement Condition factors. Pacific Power will collaborate with interested persons to develop alternatives and the identification of a preferred methodology to identify and track Vulnerable Populations.

Meeting Discussion:

- Mrs. Meeks clarified that the 3rd CEIP workshop will be offered as a hybrid meeting, so those unable to attend in person can join online. Additionally, the workshop will be recorded and posted on the CEIP webpage.
- Paul K asked *if the vulnerable population workshops will be sent out beforehand?*
 - Ms. Alejandro responded yes; slides will be sent out beforehand.

Mrs. Meeks reviewed Clean Energy Implementation Plan Settlement condition 43:

- 43. Miscellaneous Condition 2. Pacific Power will include a publicly available and regularly updated list of its EAG members and their organization or community affiliations on its website and in future Biennial CEIP Updates and CEIPs.

An update to Settlement Condition 43 is due on July 1, 2024, in the CEIP annual progress report.

Mrs. Meeks acknowledged an updated rate case in [Docket 230172](#); however, it is a very recent update, and further details are expected to come in next month's EAG meeting. Pacific Power is also planning to meet with EAG members individually in May to brainstorm ways to bring the Washington Advisory Groups together to collaborate and work towards shared outcomes and goals.

General Updates

Kimberly Alejandro presented general updates and upcoming events including a [Grantee Peer Roundtable](#) online April 17th from 2:30-3:30 PST, this is an opportunity to invite potential grantees to learn about past awarded projects in Washington and Oregon. On June 4th Pacific Power is hosting a Communities Grant Program Webinar to conduct live training on a grant program opportunity and online application program. Next month, in lieu of an online EAG meeting Ms. Alejandro will conduct one on one community visits to build upon existing relational partnerships, meeting EAG members where they are in community, share updates and resources with one another, and to gain exposure to the different cultures within Pacific Power's service area and through authentic encounters, identify emerging barriers and opportunities to community energy program participation.

Meeting Discussion:

- Ms. Alejandro shared the presentation link with the group, encouraging members to review the glossary and appendix.
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition requested Yakima College STEM students be added to the potential Grantee learning process.
 - Ms. Alejandro offered to circle back on adding Yakima College students.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Next Steps

The agenda for the remainder of the year is concrete and Pacific Power will continue to bring important topics to the group. If an EAG member wants to propose a topic, please contact Kimberly Alejandro.

EAG meetings will resume in June with an [online meeting on June 13th via Zoom](#) focused on Integrated Resource Planning updates and Energy Efficiency updates.

Kimberly Alejandro closed the meeting by sharing the [April 2024 EAG meeting survey link](#). The survey link provides another avenue to provide feedback on EAG meetings and is available for both EAG members and members of the public.