



Agenda  
Utility Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers  
625 Swift Boulevard

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Committee Members: Chair Porter, Vice-Chair Staven, and Members Hofstetter, Hyson, Larkin, Richmond, and Wallin  
Council Liaison: Councilmember Whitten

Staff Liaison: Energy Services Director Whitney

**Regular Meeting - 3:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order/Attendance:**

**Approval of Agenda:** (Approved by Motion)

**Approval of Minutes:** (Approved by Motion)

1. Approval of the January 14, 2025 Utility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
  - Arturo Mata, Administrative Assistant II

**Public Comments:**

**Items of Business:**

2. Status of Each Utility (10 minutes each)
  - Carlo D'Alessandro, Public Works Director
  - Tom Huntington, Fire Chief
  - Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director
3. Bonneville Power Administration Provider of Choice - Post 2028 Contract Schedule
  - Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director

**Unfinished Business:**

**Other Informational Items:**

4. Capital Work Plan Update - January 2025
  - Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director
5. November 11, 2025 Utility Advisory Committee Meeting
  - Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director
6. Former BPA Administrator's Letter to Northwest Delegation Concerning BPA Reduction In Force
  - Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director
7. BPA Tri-City Transmission Reinforcement Project - I Q25 Update
  - Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director
8. 2025 Pacific Northwest Snow Pack Levels
  - Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director
9. Forward Agenda

**Adjournment**

Richland City Hall is ADA accessible. Any individual who has difficulty attending the meeting in-person may request to provide comments remotely. (Ch. 42.30 RCW) Requests for sign interpreters, audio equipment, and/or other special services must be received 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling the City Clerk's Office at 509-942-7389.



**MINUTES**  
**UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING**  
Tuesday, January 14, 2025  
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers  
625 Swift Boulevard

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**Utility Advisory Committee Regular Meeting - 3:00 p.m.**

Chair Larkin called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Attendance:	Chair Larkin	Present
	Vice-Chair Porter	Present
	Member Hofstetter	Present
	Member Hyson	Present
	Member Wallin	Present
	Member Staven	Absent
	Member Richmond	Absent

Also present were Staff Liaison and Energy Services Director Whitney, Fire Chief Huntington, Deputy Chief Aust, Public Works Director D'Alessandro, and Administrative Assistant II Mata

**Utility Advisory Committee Chair and Vice-Chair Election**

**Selection of Vice-Chair**

Vice-Chair Porter opened the floor for the election of Vice-Chair.

Vice-Chair Porter nominated member Staven for Vice-Chair.

No other nominations were made. Vice-Chair Porter Closed the nominations for Vice-Chair.

Member Staven was elected as Vice-Chair.

**Selection of Chair**

Member Hyson opened the floor for the election of Chair.

Member Hyson nominated Vice-Chair Porter for Chair.

Not other nominations were made. Member Hyson closed the nominations for Chair.

Vice-Chair Porter was elected as Chair.

## Approval of Agenda

**MEMBER LARKIN MOVED AND MEMBER HOFSTETTER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

## Minutes

1. Approval of the November 12, 2024 Utility Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

**MEMBER LARKIN MOVED AND MEMBER HYSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 14, 2024 MEETING MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

## Public Comments

None.

## Items of Business

2. Status of Each City Utility

### Public Works

Director D'Alessandro provided status updates for departments within Public Works. He provided updates for current projects in Water, Wastewater, and Landfill. Updates for Public Works included booster stations, SCADA study, Horn Rapids intake utility for Atlas Agro, an intertie water connection with West Richland, lift stations, landfill cell project and building projects. Public Works Director D'Alessandro answered member questions.

### Fire & EMS

Fire Chief Huntington introduced Deputy Chief Aust as point of contact for UAC meetings and Fire and Emergency Utilities. Fire Chief Huntington provided status updates for Fire & Emergency Services. He also reminded members of rate increases and increase in staffing in May-June 2025, and each year forward. There were no questions from the members.

### Energy Services

Energy Service Director Whitney provided status updates for Energy Services. He went over the recap of the Capital Work Plan, provided AMI project updates, Outage Management System, after-hours call answering services, and overhead to underground line project. Energy Services Director Whitney answered member questions.

3. Landfill Expansion Phase 2- Bonding

Public Works Director D'Alessandro stated the Landfill Expansion Phase 2 Project required financing as current department funding is not sufficient to cover the required financing for this project. The action of selling bonds is an available option. Member questions were answered.

Director D'Alessandro requested the support from the Utility Advisory Committee before presenting the recommendation to sell bonds at the next Council meeting.

**CHAIR PORTER MOVED AND MEMBER LARKIN SECONDED THE MOTION TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION OF BOND SALES TO MEET FINANCING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LANDFILL EXPANSION PHASE 2 PROJECT. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

4. Columbia and Snake River Dams New Environmental Reviews

Energy Services Director Whitney provided updates regarding the Columbia and Snake River Dams. The current administration has decided to move forward to redo the 2020 Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement. During his review, Energy Services Director referenced attachments and links for additional information. Energy Services Director Whitney answered member questions.

5. Resource Adequacy Update

Energy Services Director Whitney provided resource adequacy updates and referred members to BPA's summary of the 2024 Resource Program which covers load obligations over the next twenty (20) years. He also referred to the 2024 Long-Term Reliability for additional information related to generation resources and load growth scenarios. Energy Services Director Whitney answered member questions.

6. Bonneville Power Administration Quarterly Report – 4Q24

Energy Services Director Whitney presented the BPA Quarterly Report and reviewed transmission line project updates in the Tri-City area. Energy Services Director Whitney answered member questions.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**Future Business Items**

- Bonneville Power Administration Provider of Choice – Draft Contract Review – March 2025
- Ruby Flats – March 2025
- Small Modular Reactor Update – May 2025
- Resource Review (inventory, staffing, wholesale power) – May 2025
- Key Performance Indicators – May 2025
- Bonneville Provider of Choice – Final Contract Review – July 2025
- Status of Transmission Interconnection and Final Investment Decision for Atlas Agro – July 2025
- Electric Rates Review & Rate Design Options with Presentation by FCS – September 2025
- AMI Time of Use (TOU) and Demand Rate Discussion – November 2025
- Bond Analysis

**Adjournment**

Chair Porter adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Arturo Mata, Administrative Assistant II

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Porter, Chair

DATE APPROVED:

DATE PUBLISHED:

DRAFT



# UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 3/11/2025

Agenda Category: Items of Business

Prepared By: Carlo D'Alessandro, Public Works Director  
Tom Huntington, Fire Chief  
Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director

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Subject:  
Status of Each Utility (10 minutes each)

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Department:  
Energy Services

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Recommended Motion:  
This item is informational only.

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Summary:  
A representative from each of the City's utilities will provide a status update.

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Fiscal Impact:  
There is no fiscal impact.

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Attachments:



# UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 3/11/2025

Agenda Category: Items of Business

Prepared By: Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director

**Subject:**

Bonneville Power Administration Provider of Choice - Post 2028 Contract Schedule

**Department:**

Energy Services

**Recommended Motion:**

This item is informational only.

**Summary:**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) continues to make progress with the post 2028 power contract development for public power utilities. The City's existing Regional Dialog (RD) power contract with BPA expires September 30, 2027. The post 2028 replacement power contract is referred to as the Provider of Choice (PoC) with a similar structure to the existing Regional Dialog contract.

Attached is a PoC timeline with key upcoming dates including:

- April 2025 - End of draft comment [contract templates](#)
- June 2025 - Final contract templates released
- September 2025 - Final contracts offered to utilities
- December 31, 2025 - Executed Contract Deadline

The proposed PoC will have Load Following, Block and Slice options. With limited non-federal generation options, many utilities have recently switched to Load Following. Staff's recommendation is to continue being a Load Following BPA customer. Tier 1 and Tier 2 will continue to be part of the PoC with the Contract High Water Mark (CHWM) that establishes Tier 1 allotment calculated in the FY2026 process. The election period for Tier 2 served by BPA, non-federal or a combination, will need to be made at the contract load election and will be for the duration of the nineteen-year contract. With the City not having significant specified generation resources and limited non-federal generation resources meeting climate regulations, City Staff recommends relying on BPA for Tier 2 needs. New Large Single Loads (NLSL) are separate from Tier 1 and Tier 2 federal resource decisions.

Resource adequacy will have a different significance during PoC with BPA having a binding obligation after joining the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) compared to RD.

City Staff will continue to input on the draft template process through energy trade organizations and BPA's public process. **A final contract is expected to be ready for review at the July 2025 UAC meeting with final Council approval needed by EOY 2025.**

**Fiscal Impact:**

This item is informational only.

**Attachments:**

- I. 2025-2-20 Provider of Choice Timeline Graphic

# Pr. of Ch. Detailed Timeline Through Dec. 31, 2025

Last Updated Feb. 20, 2025



**Develop DRAFT Contract Templates**

- Sep 9 - Nov 14: Workshops: Individual draft contract sections
- Oct. 31: Draft templates, version release
- Oct 29 - Nov 13: **Public comment period on draft CHWM Implementation Policy**
- Nov 20 - Dec 17: Workshops: Draft contract sections; Full draft templates
- Dec. 19: Draft templates, version release

**Finalize DRAFT Contract Templates**

- January: Draft master template, version releases
- Jan 21, 22, 23: Intensive workshop series #1
- Mid-Feb: Draft master template, version release
- Feb 18, 19, 20: Intensive workshop series #2
- Mar 4 - Mar 18: **2nd public comment period on draft CHWM Implementation Policy (2 weeks)**
- Mar 12 - Apr 9: **Public comment period on Provider of Choice draft contract templates (4 weeks)**
- Mar 12 - Apr 9: **Public comment period on draft NR Block Policy (4 weeks)**

**Finalize Contract Templates**

Workshop to share draft template changes based on formal comments; next steps

- May 21: **Publish final contract templates**

**Contract Offer, ROD, Execution**

Request for contract and product choice

- Apr 1 - Jun 18: **Publish Contract Record of Decision (ROD); CHWM Implementation Policy; NR Block Policy**
- Aug 28: **Contract offers sent to customers**
- Aug 29 - Sep 30: **Customers sign contracts and send to BPA no later than Dec. 5**

All contracts executed (Dec. 31, 2025)

# Provider of Choice Timeline

Last Updated Feb. 2025



**Policy & ROD**

- ★ **Concept Paper** July 14, 2022
- Policy Workshops** Jul 2022 - Apr 2023
- ★ **Draft Policy Release** July 20, 2023
- Public Comment Period** Jul 20, 2023 - Oct 13, 2023
- Early Planned Product Workshops** Sep 2023 - Dec 2023
- ★ **Final Policy and ROD Release** March 21, 2024

**Policy Implementation & Contract Development**

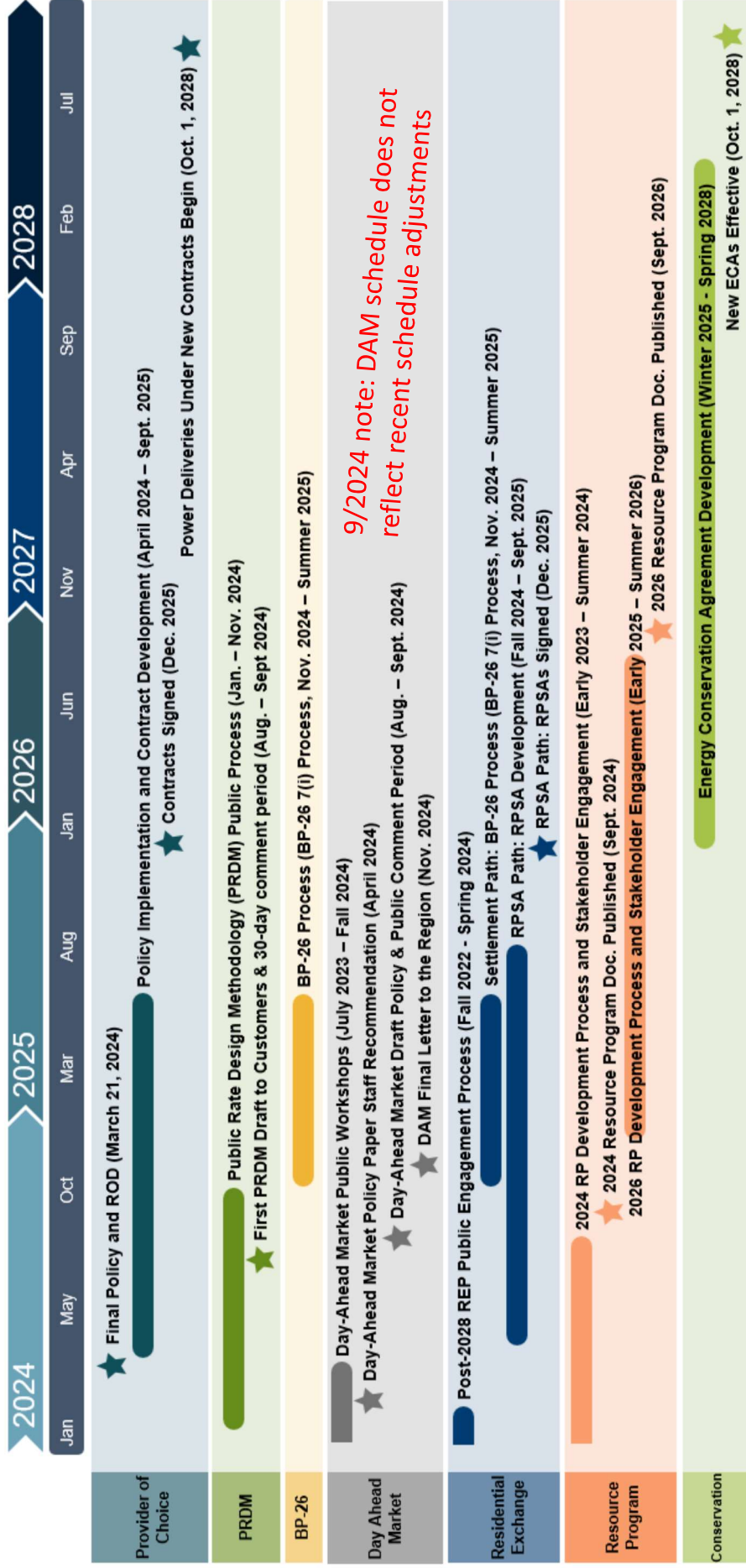
- April 2024 - Feb 2025 **Workshops and Contract Drafting**
- Mar 2025 - Apr 2025 **All DRAFT Contract Templates: Public Comment Period**
- All FINAL Contract Templates Released** ★ Jun 2025
- Contract ROD Released** ★ Aug 2025
- Offer and Execute Contracts** Sep 2025 - Dec 2025
- All Contracts Executed** ★ Dec 2025

**System Readiness & Go Live**

- Jun 2024 - Sep 2028 **Contract Delivery and System Readiness Processes**
- Power Deliveries Under New Contracts Begin** October 1, 2028 ★

# Post-2028 and Other Related Processes

Last Updated 6/7/2024



9/2024 note: DAM schedule does not reflect recent schedule adjustments



## UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 3/11/2025

Agenda Category: Other Informational Items

Prepared By: Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director

**Subject:**

Capital Work Plan Update - January 2025

**Department:**

Energy Services

**Recommended Motion:**

This item is informational only.

**Summary:**

Attached is a summary of Energy Services capital work through January 2025. The budgeted 2025 annual capital expenditures are \$11.9M. Capital expenditures through January were \$610k.

The 2025 capital work budget includes YTD expenses of:

- Line extensions - \$771k
- System Improvements - \$419k
- Renewal and Replacement - \$2.5M
- Substation Improvements - \$4.6M
- Fusion Substation - \$265k
- SandHill Crane Substation Bank 3 (new) and Bank 4 (future) - \$3.3M

2024 end of year financial and capital work plan details are expected to be available for the May UAC meeting.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact.

**Attachments:**

- I. RES CWP REPORT-January 2025



CITY OF RICHLAND  
WASHINGTON

# **Richland Energy Services Capital Work Plan January 2025**



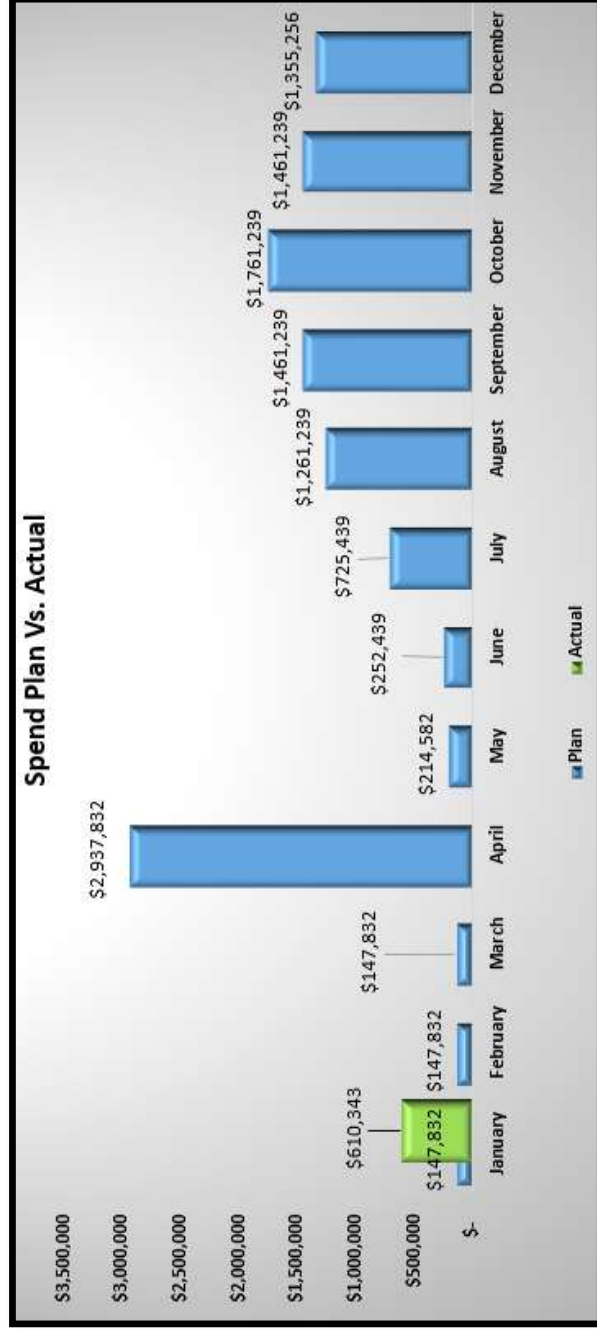
# CWP Costs through January

	Approved 2025 Budget	2025 Revised Budget	Actual	Remaining	January
+ Line Extensions	\$771,000	\$ 771,000	\$ 562,809	\$ 208,191	\$ 562,809
+ System Improvements	\$419,000	\$ 419,000	\$ 31,572	\$ 387,428	\$ 31,572
+ Renewal and Replacement	\$2,548,000	\$ 2,548,000	\$ 979	\$ 2,547,021	\$ 979
+ Substation Improvements	\$4,558,000	\$ 4,558,000	\$ 9,775	\$ 4,548,225	\$ 9,775
+ Fusion Substation	\$265,000	\$ 265,000	\$ -	\$ 265,000	\$ -
+ Sandhill Substation Area Improvements	\$3,313,000	\$ 3,313,000	\$ 798	\$ 3,312,202	\$ 798
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$11,874,000</b>	<b>\$ 11,874,000</b>	<b>\$ 610,343</b>	<b>\$11,263,657</b>	<b>\$ 610,343</b>

<b>Cost Performance YTD:</b>	<b>\$610,343</b>
<b>Cost Performance remaining:</b>	<b>\$11,263,657</b>
<b>YTD % Complete</b>	<b>6%</b>



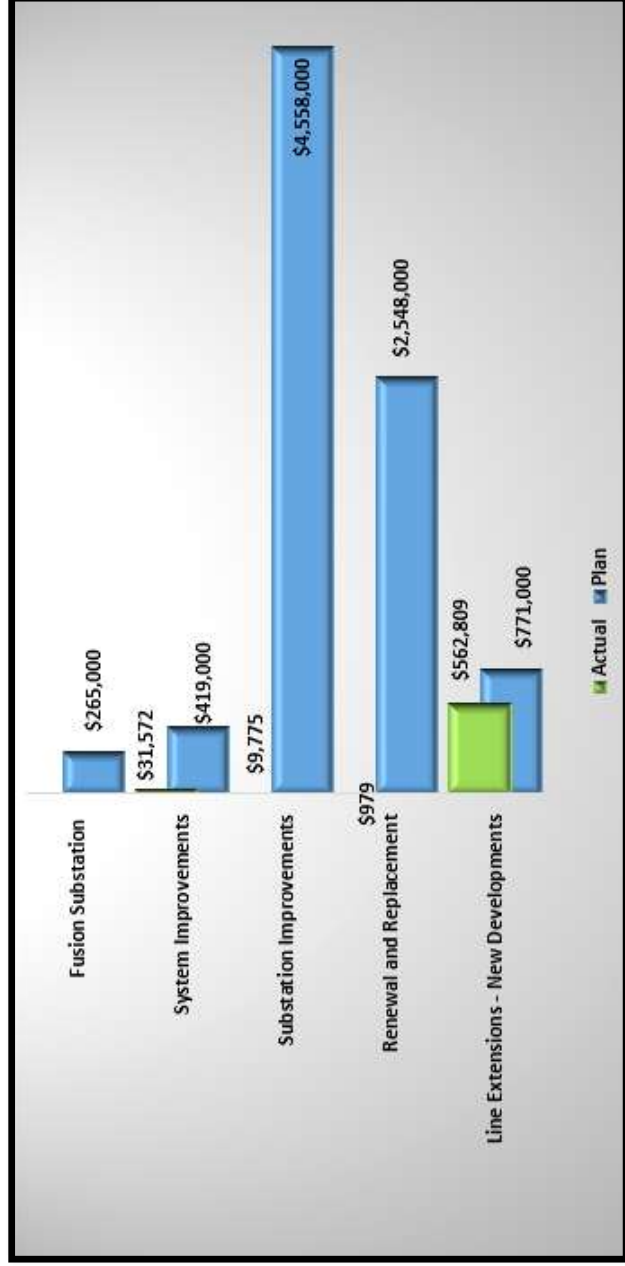
# CWP Monthly Spend Vs. Actuals



% Complete of Overall Spend Plan	
To-Date Projected	\$ 125,915
To-Date Actual	\$ 610,343
<b>Variance</b>	<b>\$484,428</b>
	<b>485%</b>

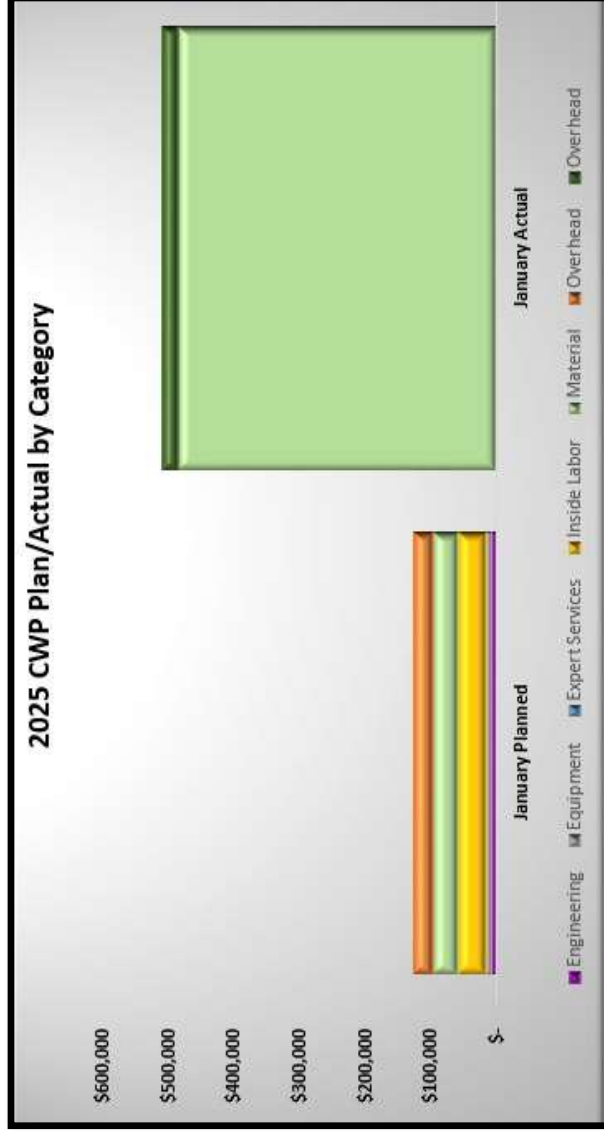


# Costs by Category





# CWP Cost Types



Cost Type	January Planned	January Actual
Engineering	\$ 6,933	\$ 23,741
Equipment	\$ 8,667	\$ -
Expert Services	\$ -	\$ -
Inside Labor	\$ 41,666	\$ 77,673
Material	\$ 37,732	\$ 484,299
Overhead	\$ 30,916	\$ 24,630
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 125,914</b>	<b>\$ 610,343</b>



# CWP Project Costs for January

	Approved 2025 Budget	2025 Revised Budget	Actual	Remaining	January
+ Line Extensions	\$771,000	\$ 771,000	\$ 562,809	\$ 208,191	\$ 562,809
- System Improvements	\$419,000	\$ 419,000	\$ 31,572	\$ 387,428	\$ 31,572
+ RES OH UG ENG DESIGN DWGS	\$0	\$ -	\$ 2,096	\$ (2,096)	\$ 2,096
+ Material Specifications	\$0	\$ -	\$ 3,968	\$ (3,968)	\$ 3,968
+ Move vault, install switch, re-route 4" PVC a	\$0	\$ -	\$ 5,824	\$ (5,824)	\$ 5,824
+ City View Bank 2 Feeder Getaways - 750JAL	\$0	\$ -	\$ 137	\$ (137)	\$ 137
+ 806 Thayer, Relocate Overhead Circuits to U	\$0	\$ -	\$ 623	\$ (623)	\$ 623
+ 3060 Twin Bridges Rd, Ext 6in conduit and V	\$0	\$ -	\$ 585	\$ (585)	\$ 585
+ New Services	\$419,000	\$ 419,000	\$ 18,339	\$ 400,661	\$ 18,339
- Renewal and Replacement	\$2,548,000	\$ 2,548,000	\$ 979	\$ 2,547,021	\$ 979
+ Renewal and Replacement	\$554,000	\$ 554,000	\$ -	\$ 554,000	\$ -
+ UG Cable Replacement	\$1,994,000	\$ 1,994,000	\$ 979	\$ 1,993,021	\$ 979
- Substation Improvements	\$4,558,000	\$ 4,558,000	\$ 9,775	\$ 4,548,225	\$ 9,775
+ City View Bank 2 Addition	\$0	\$ -	\$ 4,147	\$ (4,147)	\$ 4,147
+ Thayer Substation - Bank 1 Rebuild and 115k	\$1,484,000	\$ 1,484,000	\$ 58	\$ 1,483,942	\$ 58
+ Stevens Substation - Bank 1 Rebuild and 115	\$3,074,000	\$ 3,074,000	\$ 3,942	\$ 3,070,058	\$ 3,942
+ Design and Install SEL 2414 at SHC b1-2, FIS b	\$0	\$ -	\$ 761	\$ (761)	\$ 761
+ Relay Replacement	\$0	\$ -	\$ 868	\$ (868)	\$ 868
- Fusion Substation	\$265,000	\$ 265,000	\$ -	\$ 265,000	\$ -
+ Fusion Substation Area Improvements	\$265,000	\$ 265,000	\$ -	\$ 265,000	\$ -
- Sandhill Substation Area Improvements	\$3,313,000	\$ 3,313,000	\$ 798	\$ 3,312,202	\$ 798
+ Sandhill Substation Area Improvements	\$3,313,000	\$ 3,313,000	\$ 798	\$ 3,312,202	\$ 798
Grand Total	\$11,874,000	\$ 11,874,000	\$ 610,343	\$11,263,657	\$ 610,343



## UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 3/11/2025

Agenda Category: Other Informational Items

Prepared By: Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director

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**Subject:**

November 11, 2025 Utility Advisory Committee Meeting

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**Department:**

Energy Services

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**Recommended Motion:**

Staff recommends that the November 11, 2025 Utility Advisory Committee meeting be moved to Wednesday, November 12, 2025, from 3:00pm - 5:00pm

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**Summary:**

Utility Advisory Committee meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. In November 2025, the regular meeting date happens to also be Veteran's Day.

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**Fiscal Impact:**

This is no fiscal impact.

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**Attachments:**



# UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 3/11/2025

Agenda Category: Other Informational Items

Prepared By: Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director

**Subject:**

Former BPA Administrator's Letter to Northwest Delegation Concerning BPA Reduction In Force

**Department:**

Energy Services

**Recommended Motion:**

This item is informational only.

**Summary:**

Former BPA Administrators, Randy Hardy and Steve Wright, penned a letter (attached) to the Northwest Delegation with concerns about a Reduction in Force (RIF) and the operational and maintenance ramifications it could have on electrical reliability.

The RIF from the federal Trump Administration is in addition to recent further federal workforce cuts which include approximately 320 "early out" separations and 100 probationary employee positions eliminated. The total reductions, so far, account for almost 20% of BPA's staffing.

While BPA is a Department of Energy (DOE) entity, BPA is fully funded by electric rate payers and not federal taxpayers. BPA's revenue also pays costs to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Bureau of Reclamation employees who support hydropower production on the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS).

The letter from two former BPA Administrators recommends:

- BPA to identify appropriate cost savings and exemption from additional RIF.
- Removal of the hiring freeze, so BPA can staff appropriately.
- Rehire probation employees that were terminated.
- Exemptions for US Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation FCRPS employees are funded by BPA revenues.

**UPDATE 3/6/2025:**

DOE just announced BPA's request to bring back 70 probationary employees and granted an exemption from the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) upcoming RIF. This doesn't bring back the experienced employees who took an early out. However, it is a good sign that DOE and others in the federal administration recognize the importance of electric reliability in the region and that BPA being self-financed won't save any taxpayer money.

The changes from the federal administration is quickly evolving. It is unknown if the exemption will apply to the USACE and Bureau of Reclamation employees working at FCRPS dams.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact.

**Attachments:**

- I. Major Health and Safety Impacts From Federal Staff Reductions to BPA FINAL

## Major Health and Safety Impacts From Federal Staff Reductions to BPA

In the last 10 years we have jointly written about BPA issues only **twice**, the most recent being **just two weeks ago**. Because of the tremendous risk being created to Pacific Northwest citizens health and safety by workforce reductions at BPA we choose to write again.

### I. No Taxpayer Savings

First, All BPA expenses are funded through electricity rates charged to its Northwest utility customers and passed on to retail consumers. In short, regional citizens pay for all BPA costs, so reducing BPA staff does not save U.S. taxpayer one dime.

### II. Reliability Impacts To Date

Secondly, as we emphasized in our previous letter, BPA already has suffered significant personnel losses, totaling 14 percent of its workforce as a result of the Administration's early out program and net firing of roughly 100 probationary employees. These efforts reduced BPA's total workforce by 420 employees, including eleven power dispatchers -- nearly 20 percent of BPA's operational staffing for this critical job category which keeps the entire Northwest power grid in balance every 4 seconds 24/7.

There has been no strategy to the workforce reductions such as targeting less important positions, or fencing off positions critical to ensuring public health and safety such as power dispatchers and lineworkers. While BPA management is strictly limiting communication, from our experience we can presume that management is now attempting to plug round pegs into square holes and in many cases not having anywhere near enough pegs. The point is this is not a problem in the future. This is a problem right now.

### III. Further RIF Impacts

To make things worse, it appears the recent orders to federal agencies to begin processing reductions-in-force (RIF) have been made applicable to BPA. It's unclear how this will work but at a minimum it suggests that the functions performed by hundreds more BPA employees will be at risk. It also is unfortunate encouragement to BPA employees to leave while it is possible to control their own destiny. Finally, it is an arbitrary exercise that undermines productivity while the months long exercise is going on and then leaves the organization without the skills to fill critical positions.

Subjecting BPA to the Administration's RIF process will substantially increase this already unacceptable degradation of system reliability by eliminating among others, information technology and other "support staff" not deemed "critical" but nonetheless essential to ensure full functionality for BPA's already shorthanded dispatchers. Opportunities to attempt to address workforce reductions through technology adoption will be eliminated. It is difficult to estimate the risk of outages as a result of these kinds of workforce reductions because as far as we know something like this has never been tried before in the history of the electric industry. We also don't know specifically what jobs will be eliminated through a RIF. But what we can say with confidence is the level of **risk now with the existing workforce reductions is unacceptably high** and at some point further reductions make outages practically inevitable. Such outages are most likely to occur during extreme temperature events in the summer or winter when outages are the greatest threat to human health and safety. Such degradations are not consistent with national reliability standards and are clearly unacceptable by any measure.

### IV. Possibility of Cascading Outages Affecting Multiple States

It is also important to understand that outages on the BPA system may not be limited to the Pacific Northwest. A 1996 event that initiated on the BPA system due to a tree contact led to outages for more than

7.5 million customers across 7 western states, Canada and Mexico. While the specific causes of that outage have been investigated and mitigated, the potential ramifications of outages on an electrical system that is interconnected across the western United States remain. Such a cascading outage across several western states could well be repeated given BPA loss of nearly 20 percent of its power dispatchers from already implemented Administration staff reduction measures.

## **V. Nature of BPA Personnel**

It's important to understand that while these are government employees, virtually none have anything to do with politics or making political decisions. These are linemen, engineers, system planners and operators, information technology and other support personnel who carry out electric utility functions the same as people at electric utilities all across the country.

## **VI. Additional Significant Impacts**

We expressed concern previously about (1) BPA's ability to manage the bulk electrical grid in the Pacific Northwest assuring that electrical input and output matches at least every 4 seconds, (2) to perform transmission planning necessary for the explosive growth in data centers that provide a pathway to economic expansion and (3) substantially delaying opportunities for near-term system operation efficiency gains. We now add to our list three additional concerns.

First, it can be certain outage repair times will increase. The reductions in line workers will necessitate reforming and consolidating crews. With a service territory that stretches across 6 states it will take longer on average to travel to outage locations and make repairs.

Second, we believe employee safety will be compromised due to crews being stretched thin and likely requiring more overtime. This is tremendously concerning when dealing with electricity which is a life-threatening hazard. Decision-makers need to understand that a safety culture begins with a tone at the top that prioritizes safety. That is necessary because leaders own the responsibility to take action to avoid risks to employees that can lead to loss of life.

Third, geopolitical tension translates to risk of cybersecurity intrusions. The electric grid is frequently identified as the premiere target for foreign intrusion. Cybersecurity monitoring is a 24x7 whack-a-mole function where the adversaries are constantly evolving. Loss of skills protecting against cybersecurity risk is a national security issue.

We reemphasize that we strongly support seeking efficiency gains especially through the adoption of new technology. But electricity delivery, unlike many other businesses, is a function where the public reasonably expects, and public health and safety demands, round the clock uninterrupted service. Because of the high expectations it is imperative new efficiencies are tested and implemented prior to reducing reliance on the existing systems and people.

## **VII. BPA Not Funded By Federal Taxpayers**

We want to expand on our earlier comments about how these reductions do not impact the federal deficit. BPA is required to cover all its costs from the sale of power and transmission services. There are no annual federal appropriations. BPA can borrow money from the US Treasury for capital projects but is required to repay it at a rate that generates a small profit for the Treasury. BPA repays the hydropower share of Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation dams in the Pacific Northwest. Moreover, BPA revenues also cover the costs of Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation employees who support hydropower production. Just as it does not reduce the federal deficit to eliminate BPA employees, the same is true for Corps of

Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation employees who are paid for with BPA revenues. It is also important to understand that BPA budgets go through a rigorous review process in rate proceedings by the customers who pay the costs. BPA must justify every line item assuring accountability to regional ratepayers.

### **VIII. Inconsistent with Statutory Requirements**

As noted previously, preservation of electric reliability in the Northwest can be accomplished through the public safety exemption provided for in the executive orders. With respect to a potential RIF there is virtually no BPA activity that is not statutorily authorized because of the strong accountability reviews that occur in the BPA rate case. For example, Section 4 of the 1974 BPA Transmission Act contains a specific requirement that the BPA Administrator shall construct such transmission as he determines is necessary to provide service to BPA's (utility) customers and maintain such service. This particular provision, along with other portions of that Act, contains a mandatory obligation for BPA to build and operate the Northwest power grid as needed to meet its customers' needs. Administration measures, especially the pending RIF, firing of many probationary employees, and its early release program without allowing BPA to fence off power dispatchers, line workers and other personnel critical to operating the power system safely and meeting emerging customer needs, appear inconsistent with these very specific statutory requirements. For these reasons, combined with the risks created by a RIF process, an exemption is warranted.

### **IX. Required Changes to Avoid Serious Health & Safety Issues**

As hopefully is clear from our above description, BPA needs the following relief from DOE:

1. Total exemption from the pending RIF and related additional cost reduction actions. Instead require BPA to initiate a process through its rate case to identify appropriate cost savings.
2. Lifting of the existing hiring freeze so BPA can staff appropriately for assuring adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power can be provided.
3. An ability to rehire the roughly 100 probationary employees who were previously terminated.
4. Exemptions for Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation staff who are funded by BPA revenues.

Absent these actions, the impact on Northwest citizens could easily be life-threatening and create severe economic disruption. It would be extremely difficult to explain after the fact given the lack of benefit to key national objectives.

Finally, a message to the remaining BPA employees. You play an incredibly important role. Your work positively affects millions of US citizens and there are thousands of people who understand and appreciate the value you are providing. Your talents and service to the public are a critical component of making the Northwest a great place to live.

Randy Hardy

BPA Administrator 1991 to 1997

Steve Wright

BPA Administrator

2000-2013



## UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 3/11/2025

Agenda Category: Other Informational Items

Prepared By: Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director

**Subject:**

BPA Tri-City Transmission Reinforcement Project - IQ25 Update

**Department:**

Energy Services

**Recommended Motion:**

This item is informational only.

**Summary:**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) provides Tri-City electric utilities a quarterly update on significant transmission line projects BPA has planned in the region. Attached is the IQ25 update of the BPA projects including: South Tri-Cities Reinforcement - New 500/115kV interconnection to the Tri-Cities 115kV transmission network. Richland-Stevens 115kV Line - Rebuild an existing 115kV line and add another 115kV line from Richland Sub to Stevens Sub.

McNary Paterson Tap - A new 115kV line in the Paterson/Plymouth, WA area.

Red Mountain-Horn Rapids 115kV Line - Rebuilding an existing 115kV line in West Richland, WA area

Completion of the four projects will relieve transmission constraints and add additional transmission capacity to the Tri-Cities 115kV network. The most significant project is the South Tri-Cities Reinforcement, followed by the Richland-Stevens 115kV line. The last of the projects is planned to be completed by winter 2027. However, BPA notes there are continued risks to projects in the supply chain, labor markets, and federal administration changes that have reduced land acquisition limits to \$100k and Washington DC oversight on environmental reviews. Federal administration changes are rapidly evolving with DOE reversing several personnel reduction orders.

The only material changes to the quarterly updates from 4Q24 to the latest IQ25 update are changes to the McNary-Patterson Tap and Red-Mountain-Horn Rapids Line. The McNary-Patterson Tap is substantially complete and the Red Mountain-Horn Rapids Line is in construction. The more important projects to the City are the South Tri-Cities Reinforcement (Webber Canyon Sub) and the Richland-Stevens Drive 115kV projects, which are projected to be completed in December 2027 and April 2027, respectively. BPA has recently contacted the City about coordinating substation outages from BPA's Badger Canyon Sub before 2027.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact.

**Attachments:**

I. BPA\_STriCities Report Q1 2025



# TRI-CITIES AREA REINFORCEMENT



**BACKGROUND** | Tri-Cities Area Reinforcement is a key part of Bonneville’s greater strategic goal of delivering projects on-schedule and on-budget while minimizing planned outages. Bonneville is accomplishing this by improving project scoping, planning, contracting and project management processes to ensure efficient execution of our capital programs and maintenance activities.

**THE PROJECTS** | BPA is proceeding with four large projects in the Tri-Cities region. The primary goal of this work is to improve reliability and system flexibility. These projects have the added benefit of increasing BPA transmission capacity into the area, improving security, and modernizing BPA’s substations and lines.

The *South of Tri-Cities Reinforcement* adds a new 500 kV substation, Webber Canyon, and a 115kV line to our existing Badger Canyon substation. This ties the Tri-Cities region into the 500kV Grid. This project provides both short-term operational and maintenance needs, long term reliability and additional load growth capacity to the Tri-Cities region.

The *McNary-Paterson Tap* is a new 115 kV line from McNary Substation to south Benton County. This project resolves low-voltage issues in Paterson Load area and provides some through flow relief.

Both the *Red Mountain-Horn Rapids and Richland-Stevens Drive 115 kV lines projects* will provide reinforcement. Under peak conditions, one line out could cause the other to overload. All four projects together will allow for additional load and mitigate bottlenecks in the Richland area.

***BPA is committed to the continued outreach to our customers, constituents, and the public. We are working with local electric utilities in coordinating efforts and public outreach specific to these projects.***





# TRI-CITIES AREA REINFORCEMENT

*Please note: Next quarter's bulleted items & project schedules are estimates. They are subject to change due to potential issues such as site conditions, supply chain issues, or staffing resources.*

Project Name	Estimated Project Cost	Proposed Energization
South Tri-Cities Reinforcement	\$107M	Winter 2027
McNary-Paterson Tap	\$20M	Spring 2025
Red Mountain-Horn Rapids 115 kV Line	\$7.9M	Summer 2025
Richland-Stevens Drive 115 kV Line	\$17M	Spring 2027

## South of Tri-Cities Reinforcement

- ❖ **Last Quarter**
  - ✓ Continued design with our consultant.
  - ✓ Ongoing outreach with landowners on new and existing Right-Of-Way
  - ✓ The second set of transformers' manufacturer drawings received.
  - ✓ Completed BLM review of Draft EA.
  - ✓ Yakama Nation submitted a draft of the Traditional Cultural Property Study of the project area.
- ❖ **Next Quarter**
  - ✓ Ongoing coordination substation land acquisition with DNR.
  - ✓ Finalizing design
  - ✓ Conduct the construction bid tour for substation scope.
  - ✓ Continue landowner outreach and coordination.
  - ✓ Finalize project construction sequencing plan.
  - ✓ Submit Draft EA for Department of Energy review.

## McNary-Paterson Tap

- ❖ **Last Quarter**
  - ✓ Transmission line construction is complete.
  - ✓ Partnering with Tribal Monitor to comply with MOA.
- ❖ **Next Quarter**
  - ✓ Contract close out.



# TRI-CITIES AREA REINFORCEMENT

## Red Mountain-Horn Rapids 115kV line

### ❖ Last Quarter

- ✓ Continued to work on Land Acquisitions
- ✓ Awarded environmental implementation contract.
- ✓ Held construction kick-off with BREA.
- ✓ Construction kicked off in Jan 2025.
- ✓ Completed tree acquisition and removal.

### ❖ Next Quarter

- ✓ Finalize Land Acquisitions.
- ✓ Award drill shaft foundation contract.
- ✓ Continue line and access roads construction coordination and activities.
- ✓ Continue construction coordination and activities.

## Richland-Stevens Drive 115kV line

### ❖ Last Quarter

- ✓ Finalizing design with consultant.
- ✓ Continued coordination with the City of Richland and the Richland School District.
- ✓ Received the construction plans and bid package.

### ❖ Next Quarter

- ✓ Finalize the Transportation Plan.
- ✓ Order major construction materials.
- ✓ Award construction contract.

## Risks

- ✓ Evolving DOE environmental and funding review requirement changes: these will likely result in South of Tri-Cities project schedule delays, the duration of which is not known at this time.
- ✓ Outage restrictions: outages needed for the program will be challenging to plan.
- ✓ Land acquisition: potential legal, regulatory, and environmental risks might impact on the timing for obtaining the land and the right of way for the projects.
- ✓ Supply chain: continuous disruption in the flow of services and supplies.

## CONTACT

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PROJECT STATUS UPDATE | December 2024 Q4 (FY2025)



# TRI-CITIES AREA REINFORCEMENT

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**Amanda Williams**

Senior Project Manager (TEPL-TPP-1)

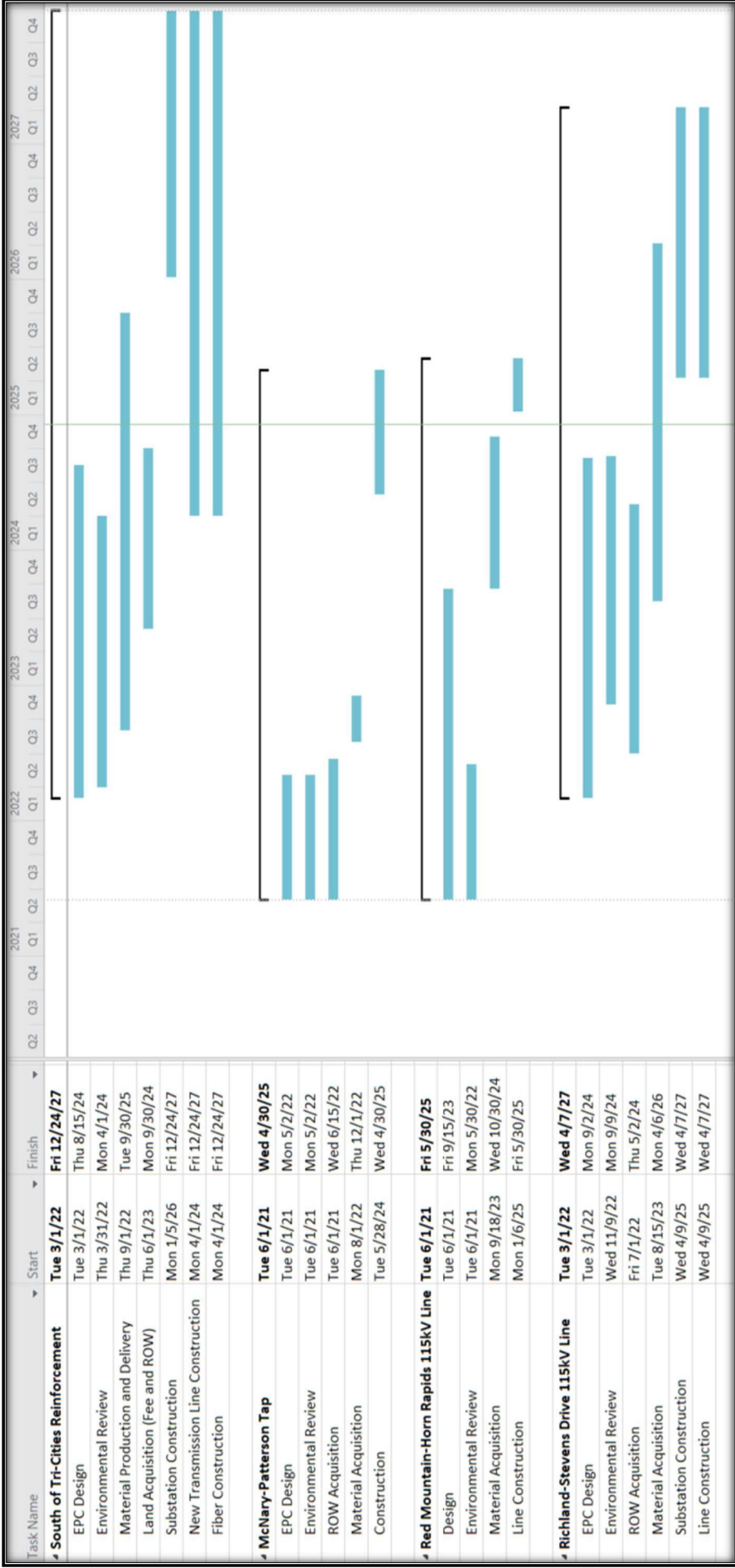
P: 360-619-6634 C: 360-852-7234

E: [amloran@bpa.gov](mailto:amloran@bpa.gov)

PROJECT STATUS UPDATE | December 2024 Q4 (FY2025)

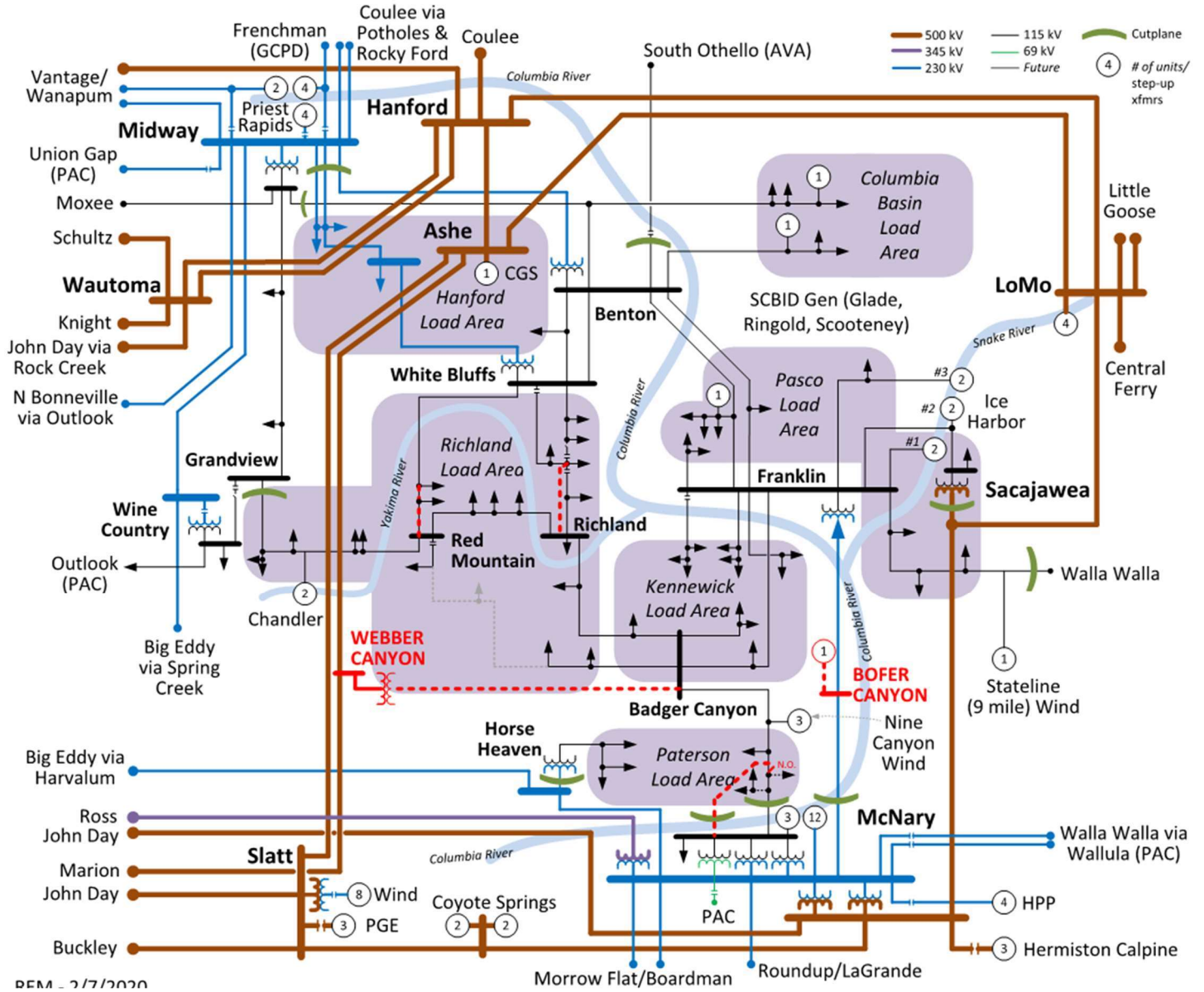


# TRI-CITIES AREA REINFORCEMENT





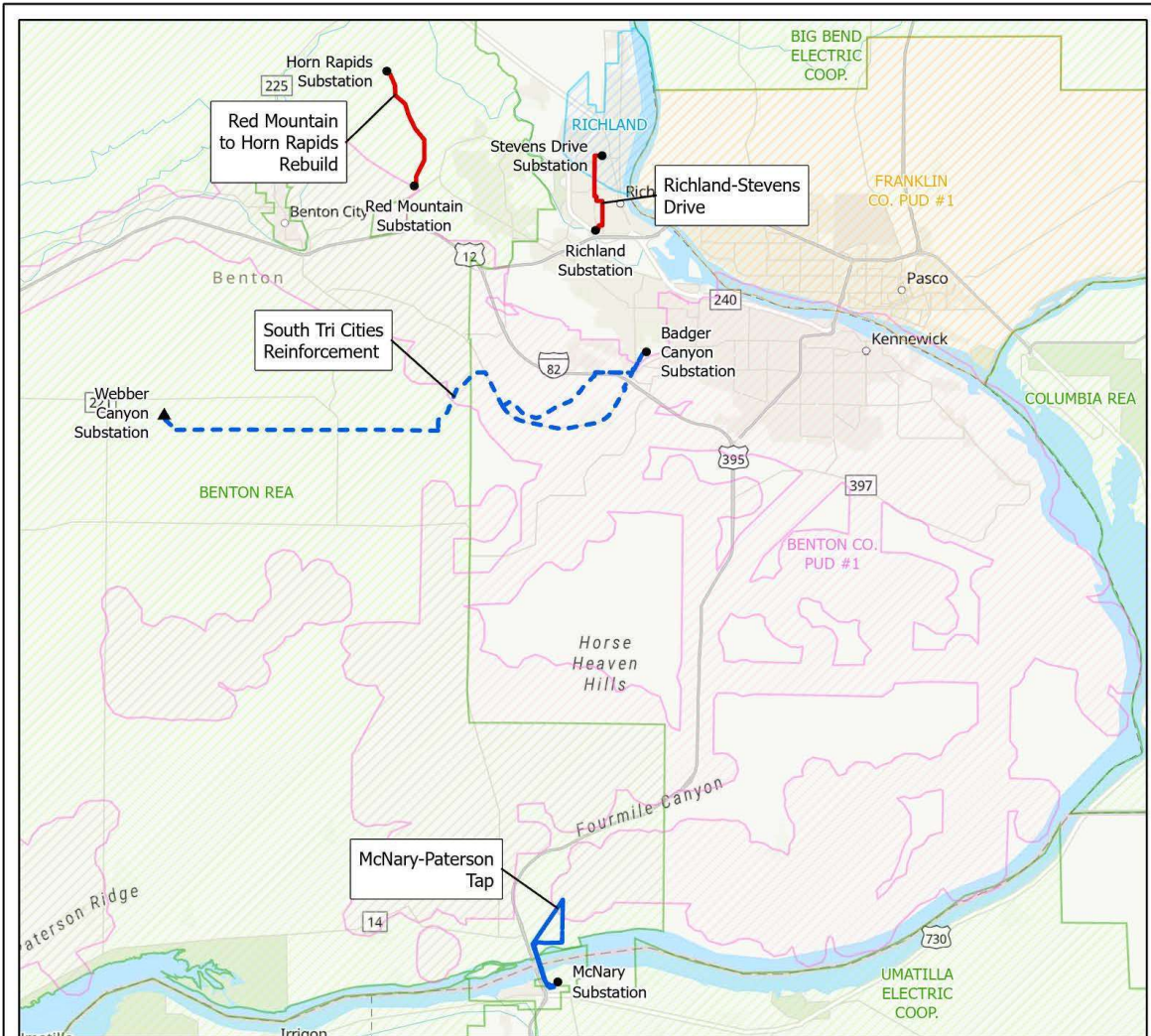
# TRI-CITIES AREA REINFORCEMENT



DEM - 2/7/2020



# TRI-CITIES AREA REINFORCEMENT

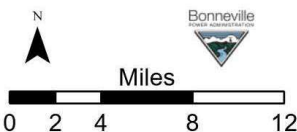


## Tri-Cities Area Reinforcement

- Existing Substation
- ▲ Planned Substation
- Transmission Line Rebuild
- Proposed Transmission Line
- - - Proposed Transmission Line Route Options

### PUBLIC UTILITY TERRITORIES

- Cooperative
- Municipal
- Benton Co. PUD #1
- Franklin Co. PUD #1



Map Location Date: 6/12/2023

Pre-decisional



## UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 3/11/2025

Agenda Category: Other Informational Items

Prepared By: Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director

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**Subject:**

2025 Pacific Northwest Snow Pack Levels

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**Department:**

Energy Services

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**Recommended Motion:**

This item is informational only.

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**Summary:**

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) website displays snow pack levels in the Pacific Northwest as a percentage compared to the 1991-2020 median snow water equivalent levels.

Attached is an NRCS website snapshot of snow pack percentages through March 5, 2025. Most snow pack for the Federal Columbia River Power System (FRCPS) originates northeast of WA, ID and parts of Montana for the Columbia River and eastern OR and southern ID for the Snake River. Snow packs north of WA, ID, and parts of Montana range from 50-109% with many sites 70-89%. Snow packs in the eastern OR and southern ID appear to be 110-150% of the median.

With any snow pack, hydropower production is highly impacted by temperatures and temperature extremes. Too early or too fast of a snow melt makes August hydropower production difficult to support high summer loads.

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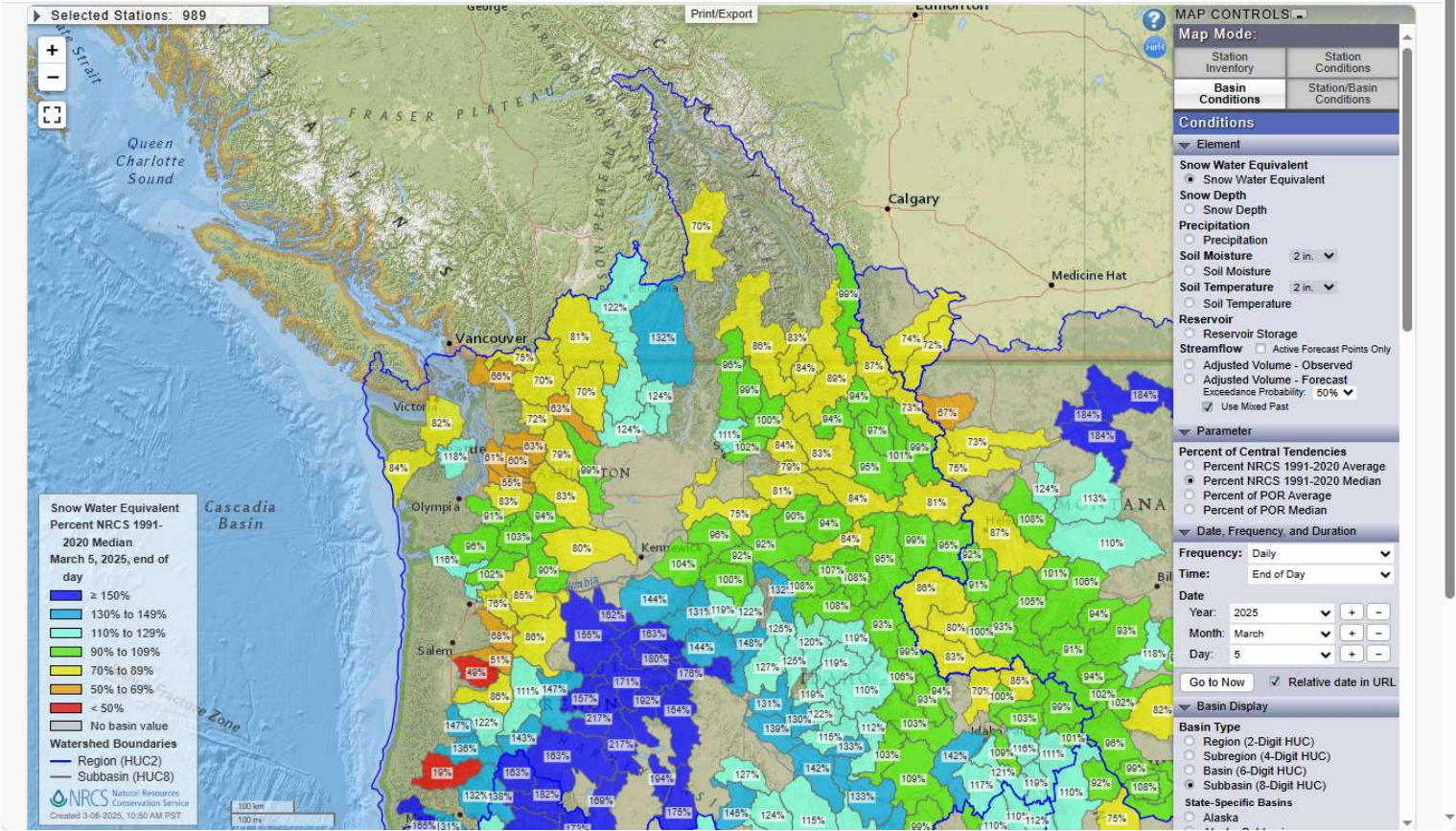
**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact.

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**Attachments:**

I. 2025 PNW Snow Pack Levels





# UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 3/11/2025

Agenda Category: Other Informational Items

Prepared By:

Subject:  
Forward Agenda

Department:  
Energy Services

Recommended Motion:  
This item is informational only.

Summary:  
Small Modular Reactor Update – May 2025  
Resource Review (inventory, staffing, wholesale power) – May 2025  
Key Performance Indicators – May 2025  
Bonneville Provider of Choice – Final Contract Review – July 2025  
Ruby Flats Solar - July 2025  
Status of Transmission Interconnection and Final Investment Decision for Atlas Agro – July 2025  
Electric Rates Review & Rate Design Options with Presentation by FCS – September 2025  
Bond Refund & New Issue Discussion - September 2025  
AMI Time of Use (TOU) and Demand Rate Discussion – November 2025

Fiscal Impact:  
There is no fiscal impact.

Attachments: