

# Electricity Resource Planning in the Pacific Northwest

Presentation to Oregon Senate Committee on Energy  
and Environment

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Northwest **Power** and  
**Conservation** Council

# Who We Are

- Authorized by Congress through the Northwest Power Act of 1980
- Council appointed by the governors of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington
- Key responsibilities include:
  - Develop a program to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the hydro facilities
  - Develop a power plan to assure an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply
  - Inform and involve the public in these planning efforts



# Power Planning for the Northwest

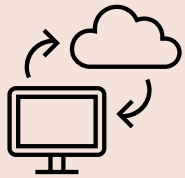
- Council is developing its ninth power plan for the Northwest
- Process includes:
  - Analysis of the capabilities of the existing system
  - Forecasts of future electricity demand, looking out 20 years
  - Characterization of new resource options to analyze
  - Recommended resource strategy for the region balancing costs and risks with due consideration for environmental quality, fish and wildlife program, and integration with the existing system
- Power plan guides resource decisions of the Bonneville Power Administration, while providing useful analysis and recommendations for the rest of the region



**The 9th Northwest  
Power Plan**

# Key Considerations of Future Resource Needs

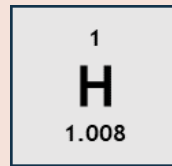
**Load Growth:** After years of relatively flat loads, the region is seeing significant growth across multiple sectors



Data Centers



Electric Vehicles



Other  
Electrification

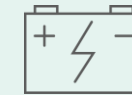
**Resource Options:** Policies, economics, and load growth are driving a need for more and different resources



Demand Side



Renewables



Storage



Natural Gas

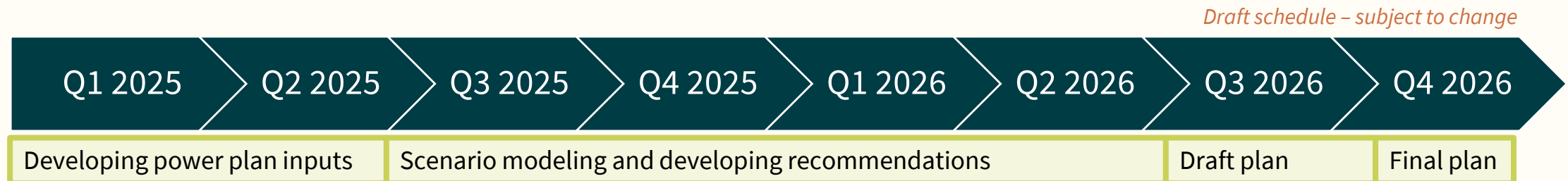


Emerging Tech: Including clean baseload, clean peaker or medium duration storage, and clean long-duration storage

**Other Uncertainties:** Pace of transmission development, climate and weather impacts on the power system, changing policies, energy prices, and more are all uncertainties to account for in planning for future needs

# What's Next

- Council is currently in process of amending its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program and developing its Ninth Northwest Regional Power Plan, with both processes expected to conclude in 2026



- All work is vetted through advisory committees open to the public before going to the Council for consideration
- More information available: <https://www.nwcouncil.org/energy/ninthpowerplan/>

# Questions