

Meeting Minutes 12.9.2024 ETAC

Meeting Date: 12/9/2024 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: *Helena Capital One-Board Rm (235) and zoom

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5qwTe3IOTbaVaAgjhu04rQ

Participants

Olson, Megan (Meeting Organizer) (in person)

Shafer, Jon (NWE, in person)

Stajcar, Matthew (NWE, zoom)

Pellicori, Damon (NWE, in person)

Carmody, John (NWE, in person)

Jeff Blend (MT DEQ, in person)

'Barkey, Patrick' (BBER, remote)

Brian Dekiep (NWPPCC, in person)

'Chuck Magraw'(NRDC, remote)

Haylee Gobert (MT PSC, in person)

Jamie Stamatson (MCC, in person)

Kyla Maki (MDEQ, in person)

Mike Dalton (MT PSC, zoom)

Kelli Schermerhorn (SPP, zoom)

Todd Gudseth (NWE, zoom)

Minutes

1. Discussed Base Portfolio and some preliminary modeling ideas for the next MT IRP. Mentioned that: 1) potential QFs are not included by default but have been evaluated in scenarios, 2) Colstrip dropping off after 2024 will be an element of the next plan, 3) SMRs will be modeled as a candidate resource, among other options (prices will be refreshed for this Plan).
 - a. Suggestions/Discussion from Group:
 - i. Evaluate long-duration batteries - 100 hr flow and/or iron-air batteries.
 - ii. Scale candidate resource sizes so model can select smaller builds as well as multiples of a particular resource type.
 - iii. Discussed elements of WRAP PRM.
 - iv. Consider adjusting the forced outage rates in model runs.
 - v. Recommendation to tie retirement dates to EPA's regulatory deadlines.
 - vi. Pumped hydro – suggestion to consider more than 100MW.
 - vii. Interest in Geothermal, will include as candidate resource.
 - viii. Limit amount of market depth.

- ix. Model transmission constraints. Look at transmission constraints during actual peak load events. Question: how do you model the cost of transmission upgrades relative to building a resource in your BA?
- x. Question about modeling thru 2050, so that the attainment of Net Zero is evident. Industry convention is a 20-yr plan, but subsequent plans will go out through 2050.
- xi. “Externalities” – discussed that we’ll need to address externalities in next plan.

2. Load Forecasting Presentation

- a. Question: Will IRP look at large load additions? Like a large server farm load? May not be productive modeling separately (by picking random years to add a large amount of industrial load), but Plan will consider high load scenario(s).
3. ETAC would like to see a more robust communication plan. The committee discussed using emails to document collaboration among ETAC members and using that as documentation which could be attached to IRP materials.