



DATE: February 20, 2014

TO: Mayor Ed Murray
Seattle City Council

FROM: Jorge Carrasco *Jorge Carrasco*

SUBJECT: Financial Update – December 2013

This memo provides an analysis of Seattle City Light's financial condition and operating results through December 31, 2013. The attached Income Statement Analysis, which is summarized in the chart below, provides a summary of how City Light performed in 2013 compared to the same period of the previous year and the 2013 Financial Plan. The 2013 Financial Plan is based on the revenues and expense projections included in the adopted budget for 2013.

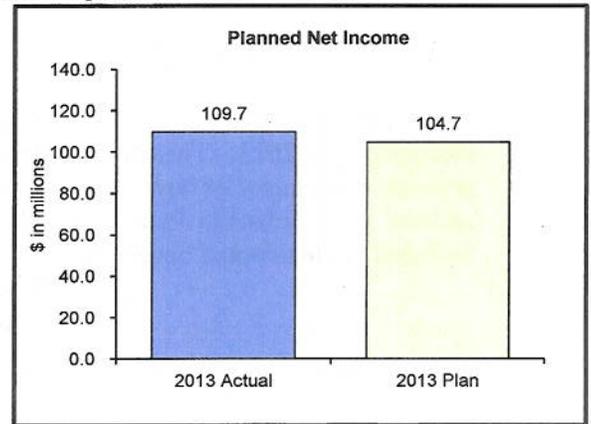
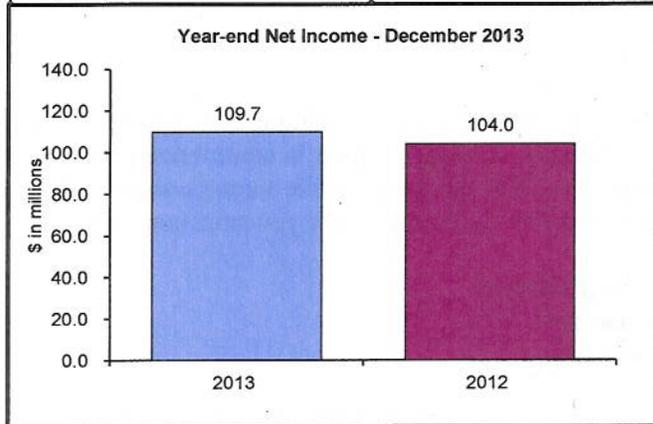
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
December 2013
(\$ millions)

	Year-to-date Dec 31			2013- Plan
	Actuals 2012	Actuals 2013	Plan 2013	
Retail Power Revenues ⁽¹⁾	\$ 664.3	\$ 694.7	\$ 707.2	\$ (12.5)
Net Wholesale Energy Sales ⁽²⁾	\$ 63.9	\$ 51.5	\$ 90.0	\$ (38.5)
Net Power O&M	\$ (245.2)	\$ (245.5)	\$ (257.2)	\$ 11.7
Net Non-Power O&M	\$ (188.2)	\$ (209.2)	\$ (224.4)	\$ 15.2
RSA Transfers, Net ⁽³⁾	\$ 13.2	\$ 18.3	\$ (1.4)	\$ 19.7
Taxes, Depreciation & Other	\$ (204.0)	\$ (200.1)	\$ (209.6)	\$ 9.5
Net Income	\$ 104.0	\$ 109.7	\$ 104.7	\$ 5.0
Operating Cash	\$ 180.5	\$ 206.8	\$ 135.6	\$ 71.2
Construction Account - Restricted	\$ 129.7	\$ 58.5	\$ 42.8	\$ 15.7
Rate Stabilization Account	\$ 103.8	\$ 110.0	\$ 93.0	\$ 17.0
Bond Reserve	\$ 34.2	\$ 46.8	\$ 57.0	\$ (10.2)
Other Restricted Assets	\$ 14.3	\$ 11.7	\$ 16.7	\$ (5.0)
Total Cash	\$ 462.5	\$ 433.8	\$ 345.1	\$ 88.7
Debt Coverage Ratio	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.82	\$ 1.81	\$ 0.01
Debt to Capitalization Ratio	62.8%	61.8%	62.4%	-0.6%

- (1) Retail power revenues include revenues such as Green Power Program and power factor charges.
- (2) Revenue from wholesale sales, before booked out long term purchases.
- (3) Transfers from the RSA less transfers to the RSA. Includes year-end 2013 transfer of \$21 million.

Year-end Net Income, Relative to 2012

As indicated in the table on the previous page and in the charts below, net income for the period ending December 31, 2013 was \$109.7 million, which is \$5.7 million or 5.5% higher compared to the same time period in 2012. This increase is primarily due to higher retail power revenue as a result of the 4.4% system average rate increase, as well as higher capital contributions. Offsetting these increases are higher generation, customer service, administrative and general, and depreciation expenditures. Year-end retail power revenue and selected expenses data are detailed in their respective sections below.

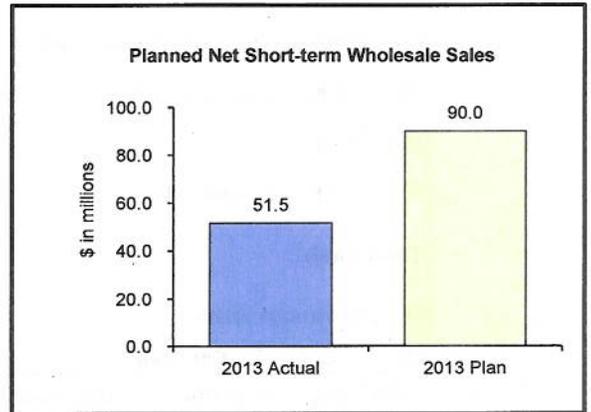
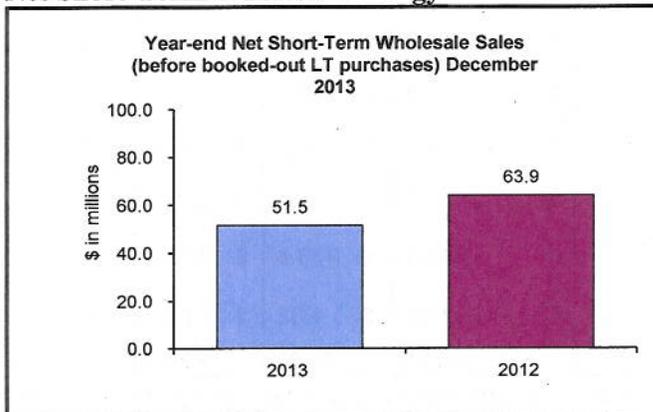


Year-end Net Income, Relative to Plan

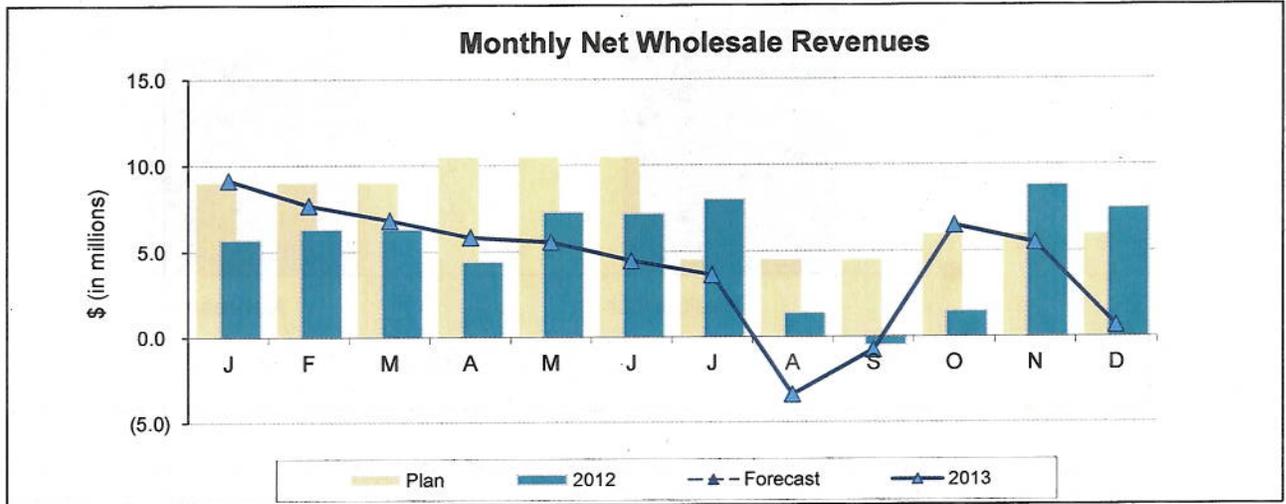
The following points in this section detail factors contributing to the difference between year-end net income and planned net income:

- Net Non-Power O&M expenses are lower than planned due to higher vacancies and consultant contracting in distribution expenses. These are partially offset by the write-off of planning costs for the cancelled Gorge second tunnel project.
- Capital Contributions are much higher than planned due to increased in-kind CIAC from the 2013 completion of an SDOT Mercer corridor project and the Amazon HQ project.
- Net Power O&M expenses are lower than planned due, in part, to lower Stateline wind output as well as planned Lucky Peak and BPA purchase expenses, despite an unforeseen BPA rate increase.
- Retail Revenues are lower than planned, which partially offsets the increase in net income. This is due to lower than planned consumption, which is slightly offset by increased rates from the 0.9¢/MWh BPA pass-through effective October 1, 2013.

Net Short-Term Wholesale Energy

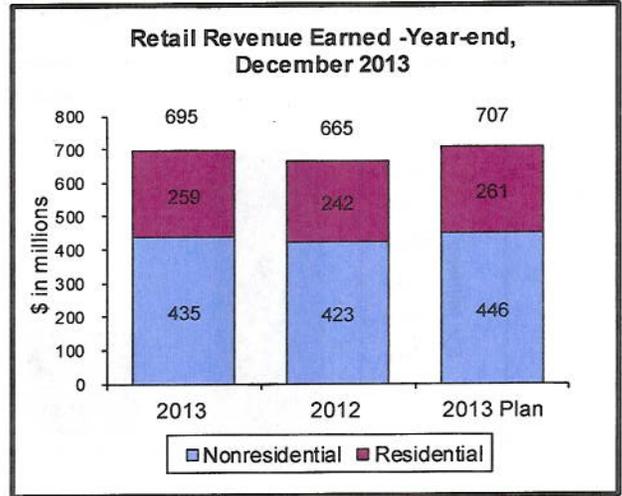
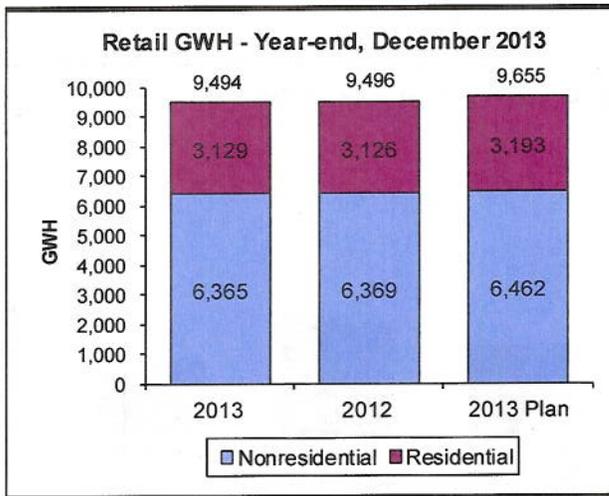


Year-end net wholesale revenue was \$51.5 million, which is \$38.5 million lower than the \$90 million 2013 RSA Baseline. In December 2013 net wholesale revenues were \$0.7 million which was \$6.9 million lower than in December 2012 due primarily to very low hydro flows.



Retail Power Revenues

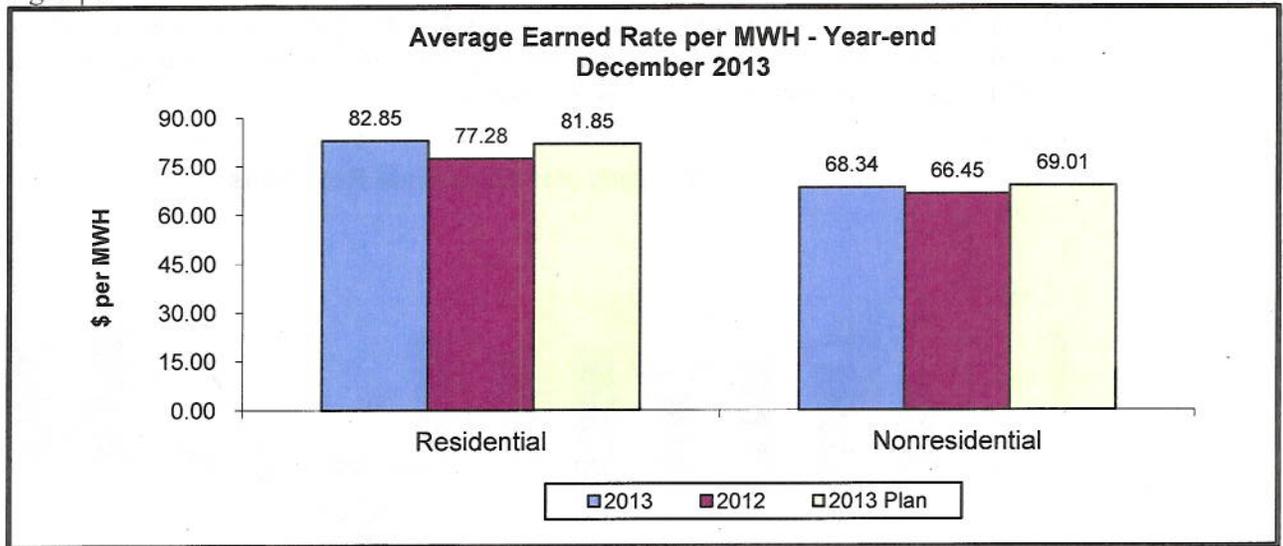
The charts that follow present selected data on year-end retail power revenues.



	Retail MWh YTD		
	Nonresidential	Residential	Total
2013 vs 2012	-0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
2013 vs Plan	-1.5%	-2.0%	-1.7%

	Retail Revenue YTD		
	Nonresidential	Residential	Total
2013 vs 2012	2.8%	7.3%	4.5%
2013 vs Plan	-2.5%	-0.8%	-1.8%

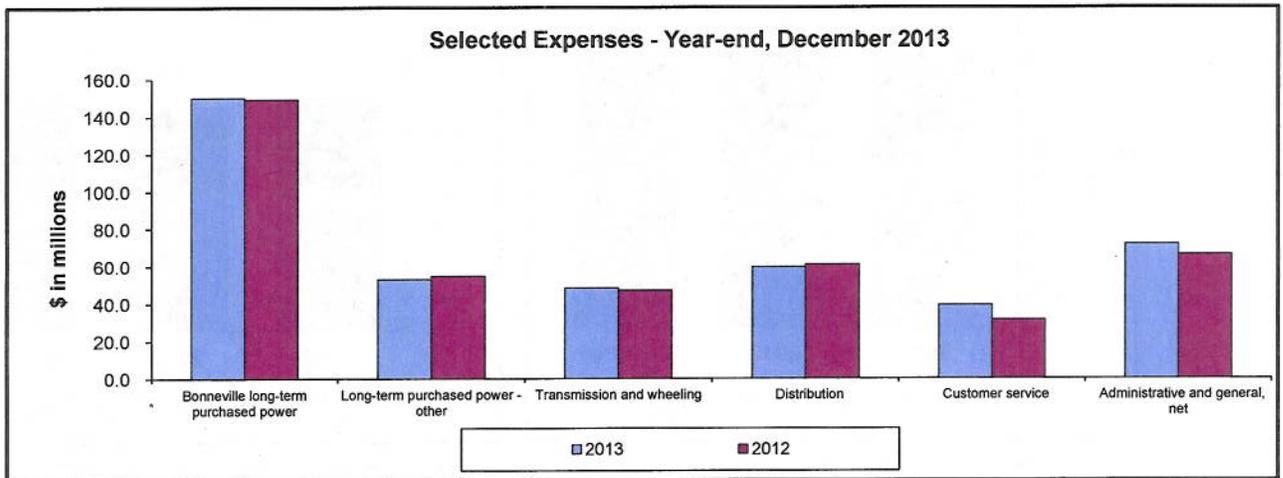
Total 2013 energy consumption was similar to 2012. Residential consumption was lower than the 2013 Plan due to lower load growth, and nonresidential consumption was also lower in part because of waterfront tunnel boring delays. Retail revenues for 2013 \$29.8 million higher than in 2012 because of a rate increase averaging 4.4% effective January 1, 2013, while they are lower than the 2013 Plan due to 1.7% lower than planned consumption.



The actual average earned rate per MWh for residential and nonresidential customers is different from what was expected in the 2013 Plan due to slight differences in assumed versus actual patterns of consumption as well as higher than planned rates due to the 0.9¢/MWh BPA pass-through effective October 1, 2013.

Expense Data for Selected Accounts

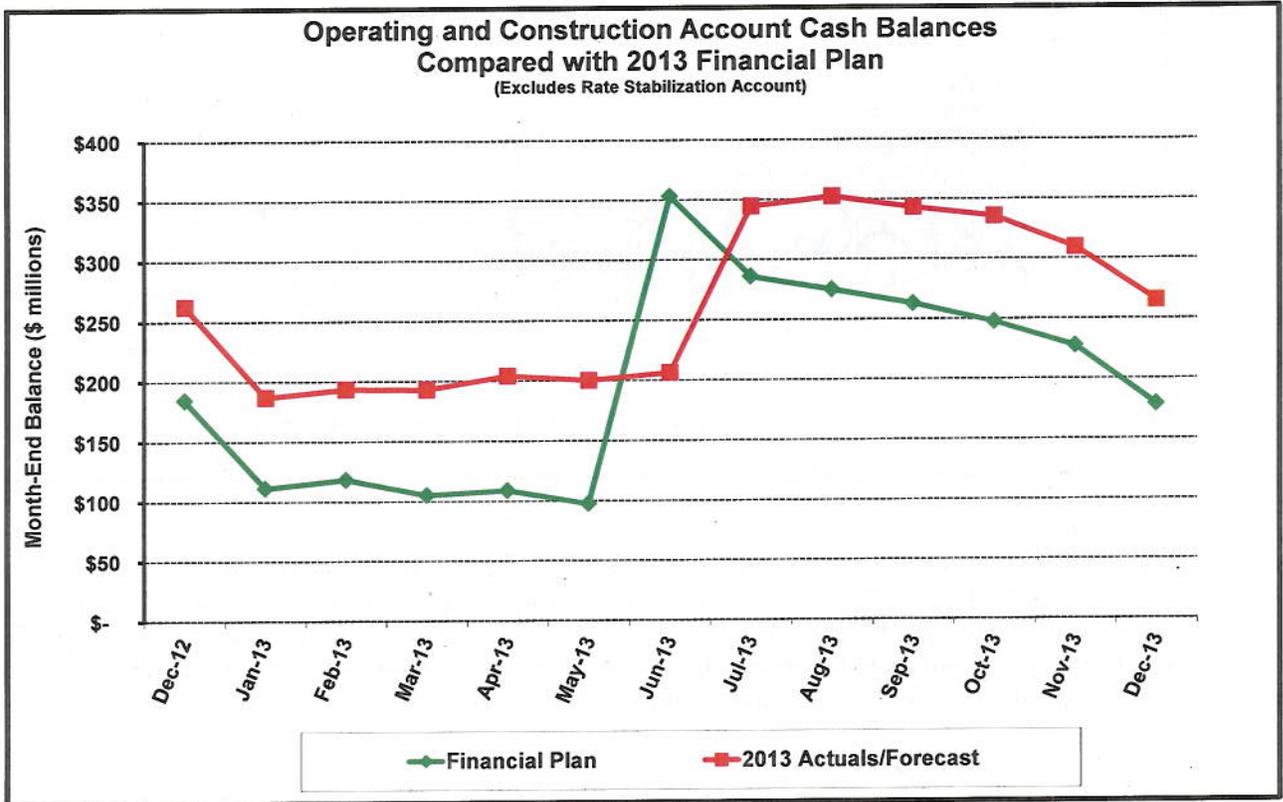
The following chart presents year-to-date data for major components of City Light’s operating expenses excluding wholesale power transactions.



Bonneville, transmission, and distribution expenses are not significantly different from 2012. Non-BPA long term purchased power expenses are slightly lower than in 2012, mostly from lower Lucky Peak expenses and higher booked out long term purchases (which offset purchased power). The customer service expenses year-end are higher than last year primarily due to higher billing and collection expenses, higher system operating expenses and higher bad debt expense. The comparative bad debt expense for 2012 had been reduced due to improved net collection from SHA and overall lower receivables. Administrative and general expenses are higher this year due primarily to higher salaries caused by COLA adjustments, new positions and higher employee pension and benefits expenses; these are partially offset by lower environmental remediation due to the deferral of these expenses beginning in 2013.

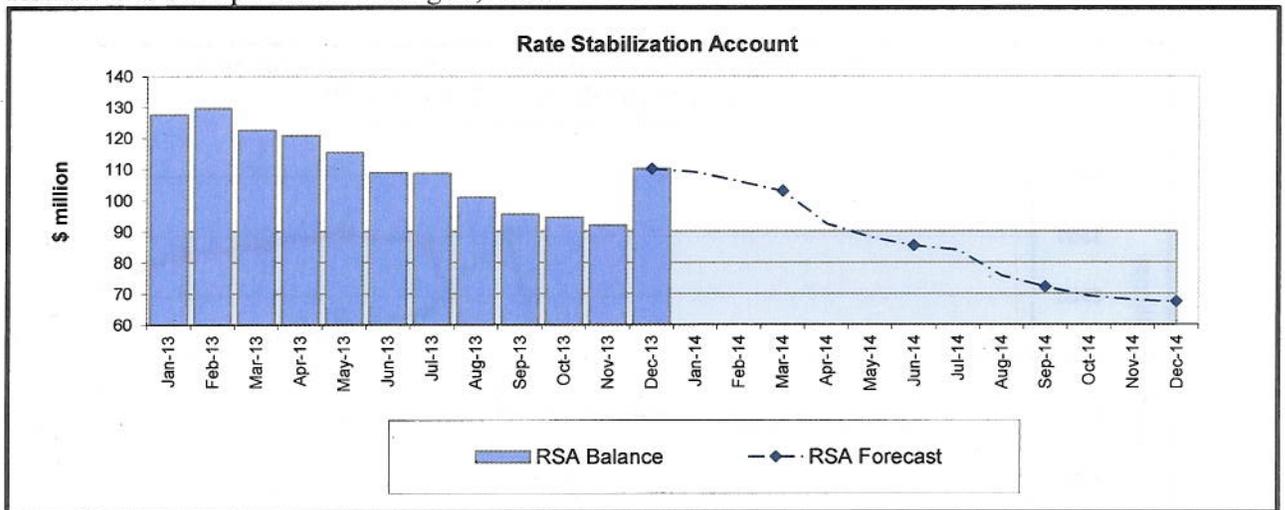
Cash Position

As of December 31, 2013, City Light’s operating plus construction account cash balance was \$265.3 million, which was \$159.2 million higher than the balance projected in the 2013 Financial Plan. This difference comes from higher than planned 2012 year-end cash balances, which were not reflected in the 2013 Plan, and lower than planned O&M and capital spending in 2013.



RSA Position

The year-end cash balance in the RSA was \$110 million as of December 31, 2013. This value is inclusive of a \$21 million transfer from the Light Fund to the RSA at year end in order to delay a surcharge at the beginning of 2014. Because City Light had a number of operational savings, it was able to transfer the \$21 million and still maintain a debt service coverage ratio of 1.8. A automatic RSA surcharge is currently forecasted to be implemented in August, 2014.



2013 Budget

City Light was within its budget authority in 2013 and there were no legal budget exception for any Budget Control Level. The Department has spent 94% of the overall O&M budget (O&M budget includes Non-Power O&M expenses, Purchased Power, Taxes and Debt Service) through year-end. The significant areas of under-expenditure include lower purchased power costs and salary savings from vacant positions. City Light’s spending on the Capital program through December is 90% of the 2013 work plan.

Debt-to-Capitalization

As of December 31, 2013, City Light’s debt-to-capitalization ratio was 61.8%, a decrease from 62.8% reported at December 31, 2012. This is slightly lower than the 2013 Plan because of the lower bond issue in July, higher than planned 2013 net income and 2012 actuals that were not included in the Plan.

Compliance with Risk Policies and Standards

Attached for your information is the City Light Risk Oversight Status Report as of December 4, 2013, which conveys City Light’s compliance with risk policies and standards at that point in time.

Performance Metrics

In addition to the financial information included above, we have provided a report on performance metrics for Distribution Operations, Vegetation Management, Safety and Human Resources, Power Resources and Customer Care. The updated Performance Metrics Report for December 2013, with 2012 data included for comparison, is attached.

Attachments

Line No.	Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position	Year Ending December 31, 2013			
		[A] Actuals December 31, 2013	[B] Actuals (Adjusted) December 31, 2012	[A - B] Actuals to Actuals Variance	[D] 2013 Financial Plan
1	Unaudited				
2	In millions				
3					
4	Operating Revenues				
5	Retail power revenues	\$ 694.7	\$ 664.3	\$ 30.4	\$ 707.2
6	Short-term wholesale power revenues, net (lines 41 + 44)	63.0	70.4	(7.4)	109.3
7	Power-related revenues - other	40.4	29.3	11.1	35.5
8	Transfers from/(to) rate stabilization account	18.3	13.2	5.1	(1.4)
9	Other revenues	22.8	23.1	(0.3)	22.8
10	Total operating revenues	839.2	800.3	38.9	873.4
11	Operating Expenses				
12	Generation	40.0	32.3	7.7	39.0
13	Bonneville long-term purchased power	150.1	149.3	0.8	153.3
14	Long-term purchased power - other	53.0	54.8	(1.8)	65.8
15	Short-term wholesale power purchases	19.8	11.8	8.0	24.5
16	Power-related wholesale purchases - other	14.1	7.8	6.3	9.6
17	Other power costs	12.2	10.3	1.9	10.6
18	Transmission and wheeling	48.2	47.0	1.2	48.2
19	Distribution	59.6	60.9	(1.3)	69.5
20	Customer service	39.2	31.3	7.9	42.6
21	Conservation	21.5	20.7	0.8	22.7
22	Administrative and general, net	71.7	66.1	5.6	73.3
23	Taxes	79.3	74.9	4.4	81.3
24	Depreciation and amortization	102.3	94.8	7.5	97.4
25	Total operating expenses	711.0	662.0	49.0	737.8
26					
27	Net Operating Income	128.2	138.3	(10.1)	135.6
28					
29	Other Deductions, Net				
30	Investment income	0.8	5.2	(4.4)	7.8
31	Other income (expense), net	7.1	4.7	2.4	6.3
32	Interest expense	(79.3)	(78.8)	(0.5)	(81.3)
33	Noncapital grants	3.2	2.8	0.4	-
34	Capital contributions	47.9	31.0	16.9	35.6
35	Capital grants	1.8	0.8	1.0	0.8
36	Total other deductions, net	(18.5)	(34.3)	15.8	(30.9)
37					
38	Change in Net Position	\$ 109.7	\$ 104.0	\$ 5.7	\$ 104.7
39	Note A:				
40	Short-term wholesale energy sales, gross	71.3	75.7	(4.4)	114.5
41	Short-term wholesale energy purchases	(19.8)	(11.8)	(8.0)	(24.5)
42	Net ST wholesale sales before booked-out LT purchases	51.5	63.9	(12.4)	90.0
43	Booked-out long term purchases	(8.3)	(5.3)	(3.0)	(5.2)
44	Net short-term wholesale energy sales	43.2	58.6	(15.4)	84.8
45	Note B:				
46	Power-related revenues, net (line 7 minus line 16)	26.3	21.5	4.8	25.9
					0.4

**Net Income Variance Analysis
December 2013**

Variance Year-to-Date 2013 Compared to 2012 Actuals: \$5.7 million or 5.5%

Major components (\$ millions):

\$104.0	Net Income YTD through December 31, 2012, as adjusted for GASB 65
\$30.4	Higher retail revenues due to 4.4% rate increase effective January 1, 2013 and 1.2% BPA pass-through rate increase effective October 1, 2013
\$5.1	Higher transfers from rate stabilization account due to lower net wholesale revenues than projected
(\$12.4)	Lower net surplus energy sales
(\$3.0)	Higher long term booked-out energy purchases due to increased market prices
(\$7.7)	Higher generation due in large part to Gorge Tunnel planned efficiency costs write-off
(\$7.9)	Higher customer service expenses primarily due to higher bad debt expense compared to 2012.
(\$5.6)	Higher administrative and general, net
(\$7.5)	Higher depreciation and amortization due to increases in capital assets
(\$4.4)	Lower investment income due to losses in fair market value of cash pool investments
\$16.9	Higher in-kind CIAC primarily for Mercer Street and Amazon projects
\$1.8	Other (net)
\$109.7	Net Income YTD through December 31, 2013

Variance 2013 Actuals Compared to Financial Plan: \$5.0 million or 4.6%

Major components (\$ millions):

\$109.7	Net Income through December 31, 2013 - Actuals
(\$12.5)	Lower retail revenues due to lower than Planned load growth
(\$38.5)	Lower net surplus energy sales than planned
\$19.7	Higher net transfer from RSA to offset lower net surplus energy sales
\$12.8	Lower long-term purchased power expenses
\$9.9	Lower distribution expenses
\$3.4	Lower customer service expenses
(\$4.9)	Higher estimated depreciation and amortization
(\$7.0)	Lower investment income
\$13.3	Higher noncapital and capital grants, and capital contributions
(\$1.2)	Other (net)
\$104.7	Net Income YTD through December 31, 2013 - Financial Plan

City Light Risk Oversight Status Report As of Wednesday, December 18, 2013



Summary

	<u>% of 5 yr Avg</u>	<u>Current '14 Avg</u>	<u>5 Yr Avg</u>
SCL Hydro Generation	87%	976 MW	1,115 MW
Peak Market Prices	89%	\$39.66	\$44.47

SCL Hydro Generation: The total average generation per hour for Seattle City Light's three major hydroelectric resources (Skagit, Boundary, and BPA Slice) for the 2014 calendar year. This average includes actual generation for past months, and forecasted MW for future months. The 5 year average value is comprised of actuals for years 2009-13.

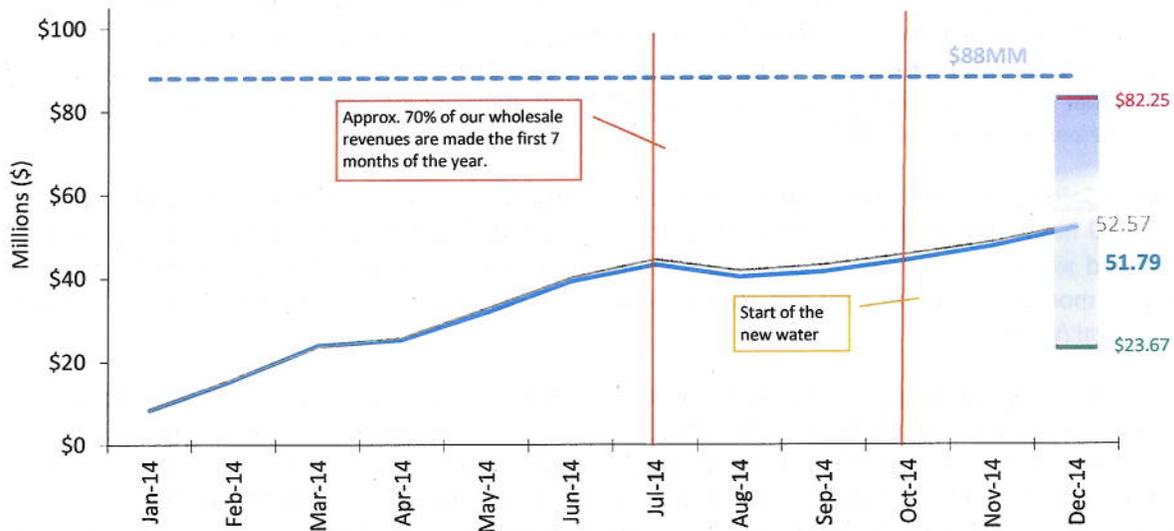
Peak Market Prices: The average peak market price for the nearest electricity trading hub (Mid-C) for the 2014 calendar year. The 2014 average is comprised of monthly peak forward marks for future months and averaged Dow Jones firm peak index daily prices for past months. The 5 year average is calculated using Dow Jones peak daily prices for years 2009-13.

Wholesale Revenue Variance: Chart 1 below compares the 2014 annual approved Net Wholesale Revenue (NWR) budget of \$88MM with the latest NWR forecast of \$51.79MM. The NWR forecast decreased by \$0.8MM from the previous forecast of \$52.57MM as a net result of a 23 aMW decrease in the 2014 outlook of around \$6.5MM and increase in forward prices of around \$5.7MM, helping to offset some of the impact from the reduced hydro outlook.

Chart 1

Cumulative Net Wholesale Revenue for 2014
Budget vs. Forecast
as of December 18, 2013
(Source: CHER, AVG tab)

- Budget
- Current Forecast
- Last week's forecast
- Avg of 5% Tail Risk
- Avg of 95% Tail Risk



City Light Risk Oversight Status Report As of Wednesday, December 18, 2013



Policy Compliance:

Tail Risk Limit	Prompt Month & Within Month Limit	Forward Month's Resource Requirement Limit	Forward Sales Limit	Physical Options Limit
Compliant	Compliant	Stop Sale	Compliant	Compliant

**Per Policy the Forward Month's Resource Requirement Limit for Q2' and Q3' 2014 has met the criteria for 'Stop Sale'. This is shown in the positions depicted in Chart 3. Power Marketing has stop sales planned in Q2 of 2014 and Q3 of 2014, therefore no action is required.*

Tail Risk: For the current calendar year, the Power Marketing Division (PMD) will conduct its hedging activity to maintain the Utility's position within an \$8MM Risk Tolerance Band (RTB) around the calculated 5% Tail Risk metric. For the prompt year (the year immediately following the current calendar year), the Utility's position will remain within a \$10MM RTB around the 5% Tail Risk metric. (Section 3.3.2 Prompt and Within the Month (WERM))

Prompt Month & Within Month Volumetric Limit: The Power Marketing Division (PMD) will maintain City Light's power portfolio position for any prompt month or any Balance of the Month period so that such position shall not exceed a 50 average megawatt deficit during such period. Such limit will be calculated as the net position of City Light's combined physical position adjusted for any call options (daily or monthly) that City Light has purchased for such month. If this limit is exceeded, the Division will take immediate action to reduce the deficit to under 50 average megawatts. (Section 3.3.1.1 Prompt and Within the Month (WERM))

Forward Month's Resource Requirement Limit: The Power Marketing Division (PMD) will immediately suspend any further forward sales for any future calendar quarter, which includes the next full 24 months, if the forecasted net combined system energy projected surplus for that quarter is less than zero, calculated on a 75% probability of occurrence. Further, the PMD will take immediate action to purchase if the forecasted net combined system energy position for a future calendar quarter, which includes the next full 24 months, is less than zero at 50% probability of occurrence. The corrective action shall reduce said deficit to zero at the 50% probability of occurrence. (Section 3.3.1.2 Forward Month's Resource Requirement (WERM))

Forward Sales Limit: The Power Marketing Division (PMD) will not sell forward a quantity of more than 1,750,000 net megawatt hours over a rolling four full calendar quarter year period. Such limit will be calculated as the net position of City Light's combined physical position adjusted for any call options (daily or monthly) that City Light has purchased for such period. (Section 3.3.1.3 Forward Month's Resource Requirement (WERM))

Physical Options Volumetric Limits: As the utility introduces physical puts and calls into its portfolio it will do so in a conservative manner. This will allow for the refinement of procedures and controls that these transactions will impact. The Power Marketing Division (PMD) will limit its option volumetric position so that it will not transact more than the lesser of 300 average megawatts in physical puts and calls (including daily and monthly options) or spend more than \$2MM for option premiums for any calendar year. (Section 3.3.1.4 Forward Month's Resource Requirement (WERM))

City Light Risk Oversight Status Report As of Wednesday, December 18, 2013



5% Tail Risk Metric, 2014

In October 2007, City Light implemented a risk metric named the “5% Tail Risk”. It is calculated as the average of the worst-case scenarios for City Light’s cash from operations for the calendar year. Cash from operations is a bottom-line financial metric defined as the cash available to finance capital projects. There are numerous drivers of cash from operations such as retail revenue, investment income, debt service, and O&M expenses; however wholesale energy revenue is typically the primary driver of uncertainty in this metric.

In 2011, the Rate Stabilization Account (RSA) became operational. The RSA is a cash reserve that is used to buffer the Utility from uncertainty in wholesale energy revenue. If the RSA becomes depleted, it is replenished via retail rate surcharges. The RSA significantly mitigates City Light’s financial (i.e. cash from operations) risk associated with wholesale energy revenue; however retail customers are exposed in part to the wholesale energy revenue risk via RSA surcharges of up to 4.5%. To appropriately encourage management of risk borne by both City Light and retail customers, the cash from operations amount used in the 5% Tail Risk calculation excludes any effects of the RSA.

The 5% Tail Risk metric is used as a risk control measure in City Light’s management of surplus hydro resources. It is used in concert with additional volumetric limits, as well as expert knowledge and analysis of western wholesale energy markets, river flow data, and generation unit outages, to inform power management decisions.

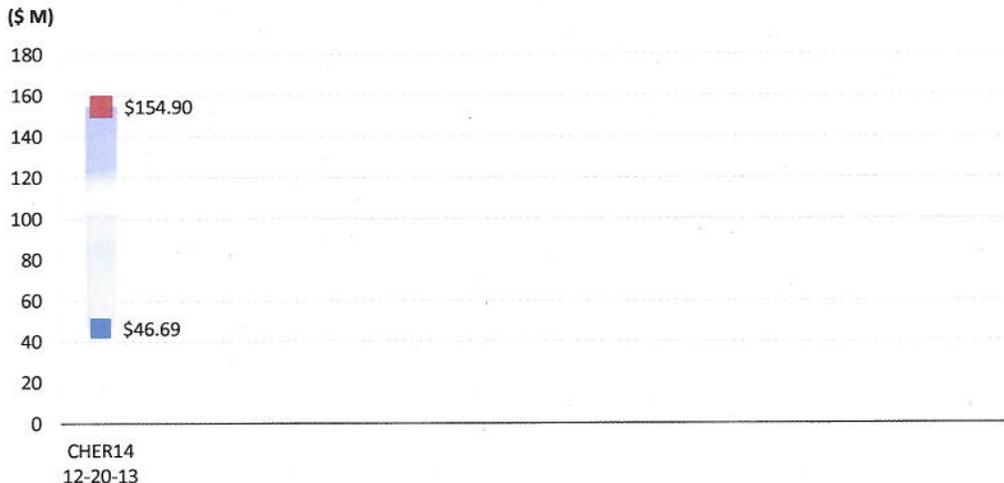
Every week, portfolio models are updated with the most current information and the 5% Tail Risk is recalculated for both the current portfolio (forecast position plus purchases, less sales) and planned portfolio (current portfolio plus remainder of existing hedge plan). The metric provides an indication as to whether the utility’s portfolios include too much or too little surplus resources.

Chart 2 (below) illustrates the Average of the 5% and 95% Tail Risk metric for the calendar year 2014. During the course of the year, the 5% Tail Risk metric value has decreased from an initial projection of \$30.1MM to the current projection of a worse case of \$46.69MM of Cash from Operations.

Chart 2

Chart 2
Tail Risks 2014
Average of the 5% and 95% Tail Risks

■ Avg 5% Tail Risk
■ Avg 95% Tail Risk



City Light Risk Oversight Status Report As of Wednesday, December 18, 2013



Hedging Plan & Position Status

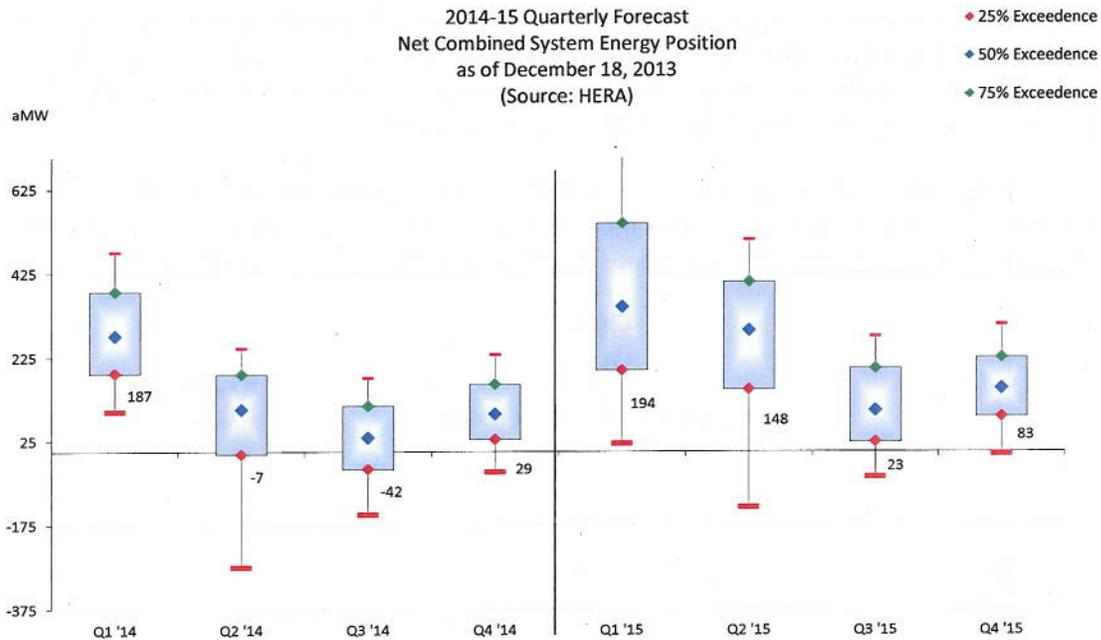
Hedge Plan 2014, Phase 1 was last proposed and approved by the Risk Oversight Council on December 17, 2013.

City Light uses the most recent load and hydro forecasts including relevant historical data to run a Monte Carlo simulation based model that produces a forecast of more than two thousand portfolio resource scenarios. The output of this model along with the current forward positions provides energy information needed to determine SCL's position. The chart above shows the positions as of the model run date for the different probability of occurrence of the various resource scenarios.

Chart 1 shows the Net Combined System Energy Position for the next 8 quarter, 2 year periods to cover the full amount of City Light's contracting authority. The blue boxes represent the expected net energy position from the 25th to the 75th percentile. The dark blue diamonds inside the boxes represent the 50th percentile. Under the amended rule, if the blue diamond is below zero, City Light must purchase energy to get back above zero.

Chart 3

2014-15 Quarterly Forecast
Net Combined System Energy Position
as of December 18, 2013
(Source: HERA)



City Light Risk Oversight Status Report As of Wednesday, December 18, 2013

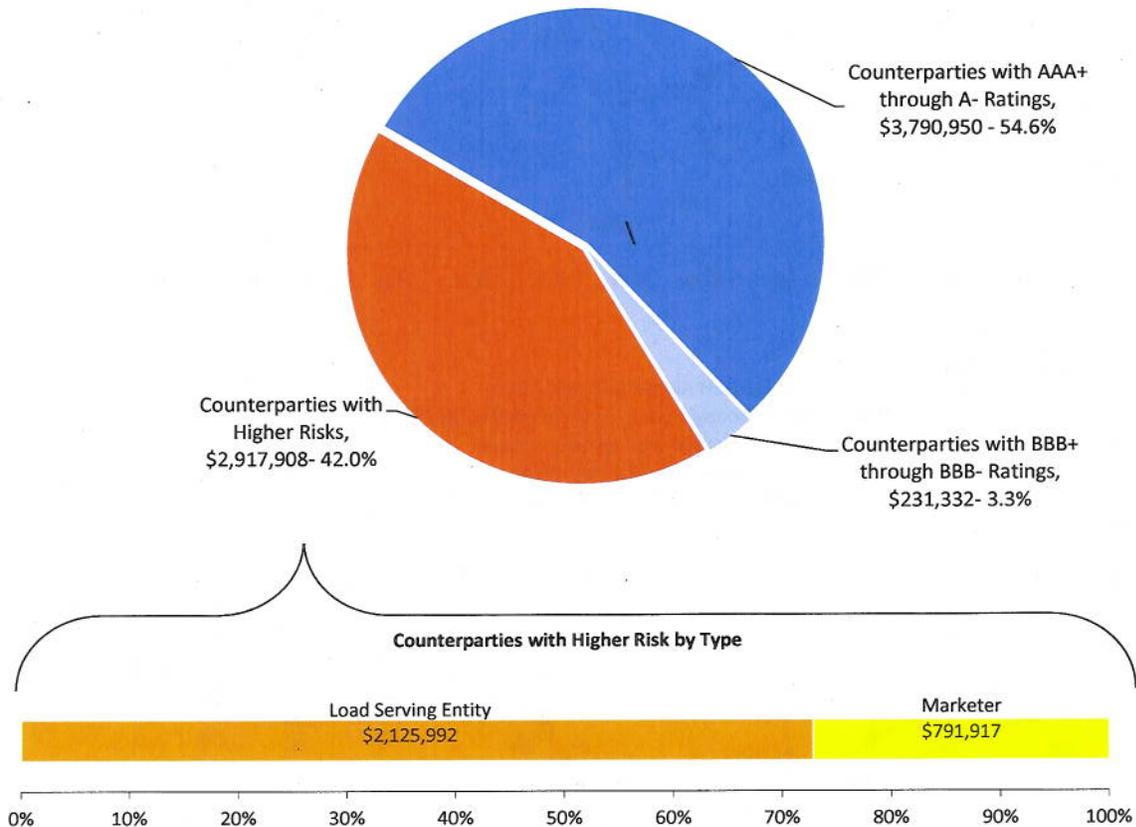


Credit

City Light actively manages its wholesale energy market credit risk by: setting credit limits for each counterparty that are derived from credit scoring models and analysis; securing credit enhancements; monitoring industry news; and by tracking counterparty credit exposures. Risk Management Division uses industry standard tools to proactively measure changes in counterparty creditworthiness. Internal credit ratings are arrived in conjunction with ratings provided by external agencies. In addition, the concept of risk tolerance further extends to counterparties that are considered 'Higher Risk' with equivalent Moody's and S&P implied ratings of 'BB+' or less. Counterparties with such implied ratings are placed into the 'Higher Risk Credit Portfolio' for close monitoring in order to reduce the risk of slow or non-payment while maximizing wholesale power, transmissions and related ancillary revenue opportunities. City Light strives to keep its "Higher Risk" counterparty exposures at less than 25% of the total exposure at any given time.

Chart 4

**Total Net Credit Exposure by Implied Ratings Class
as of December 18, 2013**



Credit Notes: No significant events.

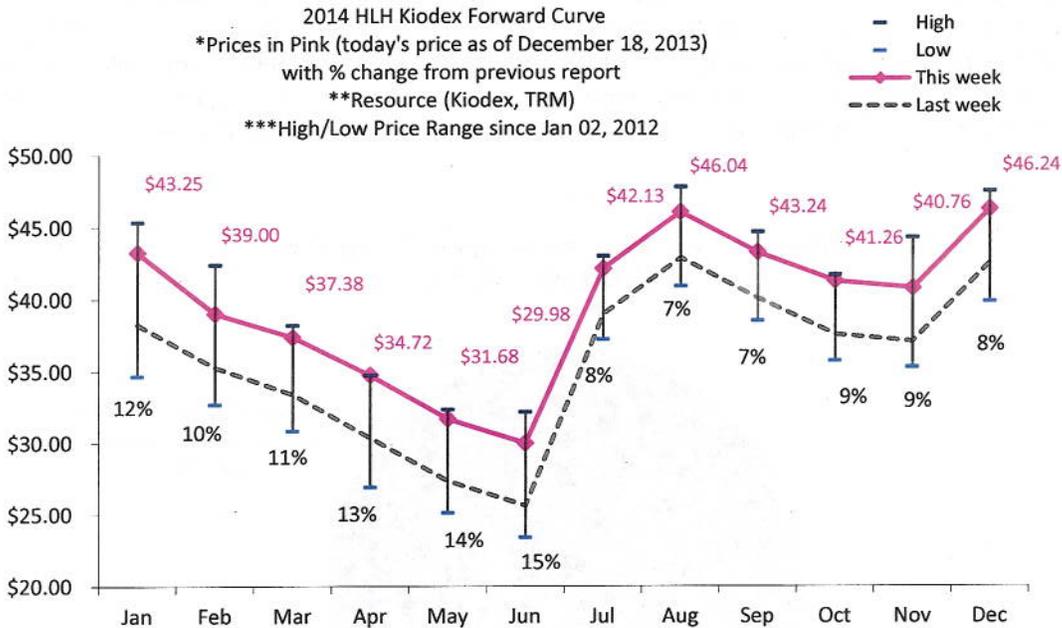
City Light Risk Oversight Status Report As of Wednesday, December 18, 2013



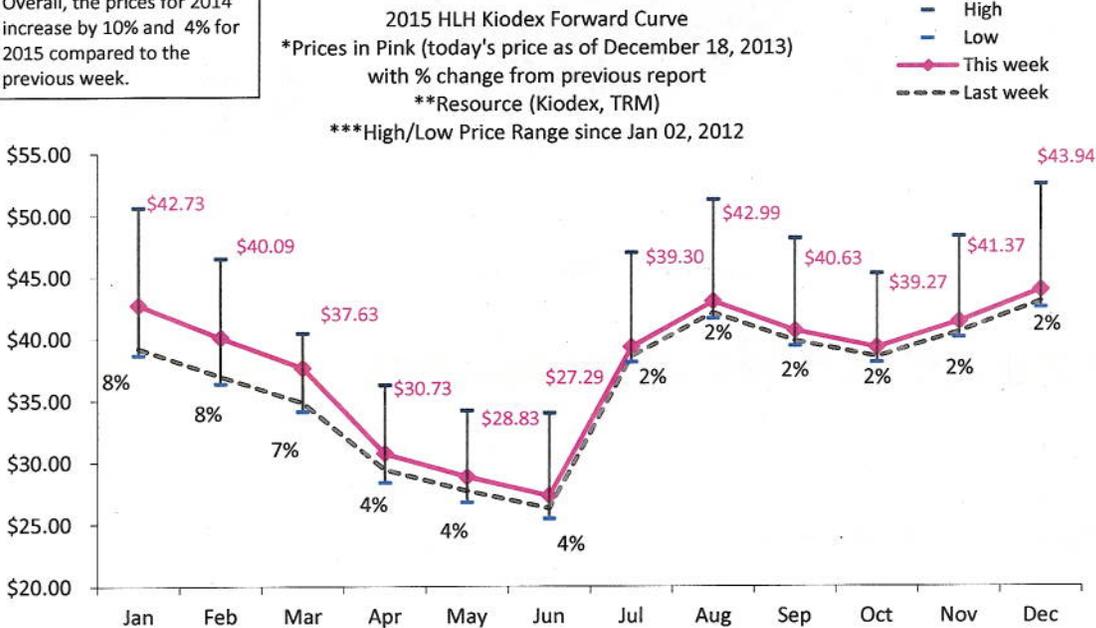
Price

To ensure that prices are independently developed, City Light's official forward price curve is prepared by KIODEX and used for internal analysis, valuation and modeling tasks. Chart 5 shows the forward price range (Mid-C HLH only) for calendar year 2014 & 2015.

Chart 5



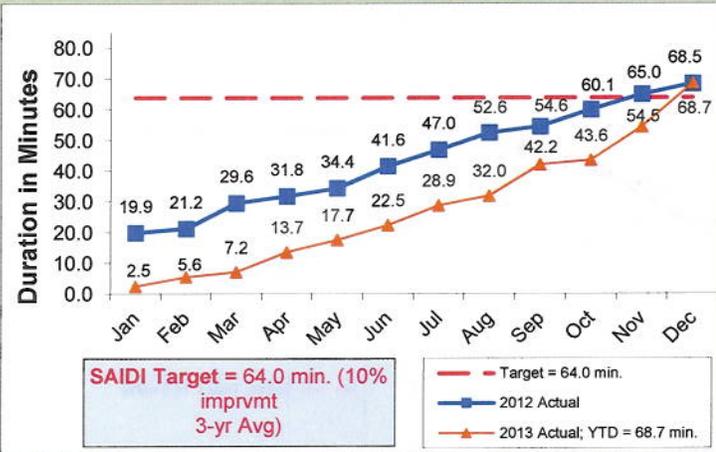
Overall, the prices for 2014 increase by 10% and 4% for 2015 compared to the previous week.





Distribution Operations:

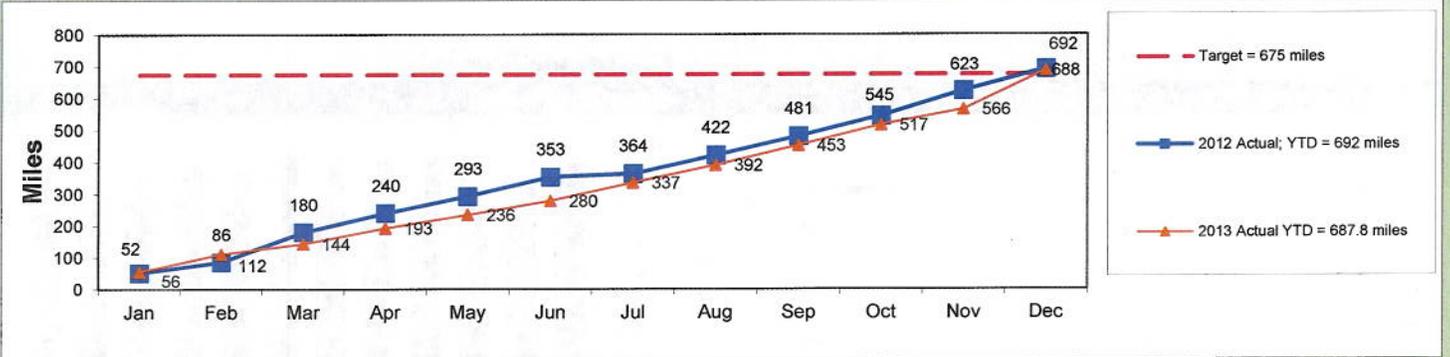
SAIDI - Cumulative



SAIFI - Cumulative

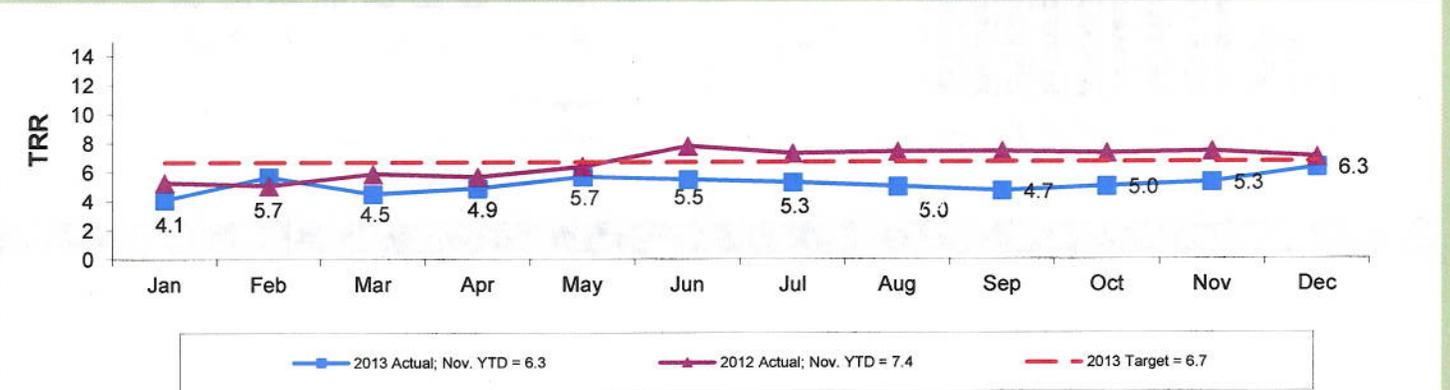


Vegetation Management - Cumulative Miles of Trees Trimmed



Human Resources:

Safety - Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRR) - Cumulative

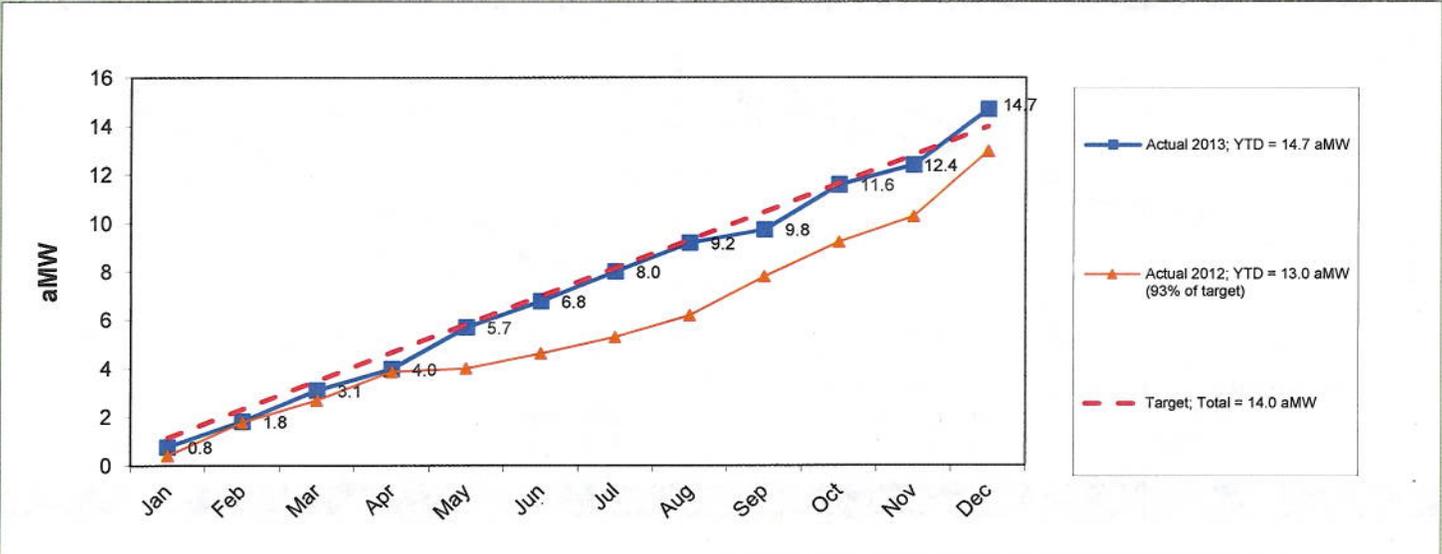


Hiring Statistics YTD

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cumulative # of New Hires	12	21	30	40	54	74	88	100	113	125	131	145
Cumulative # of Promotions	4	9	13	16	27	31	39	44	52	58	64	69
Ave. # of Hiring Days	38	47	45	46	46	46	44	40	38	35	38	38
Cumulative # of Attrition	4	14	26	38	51	59	70	82	90	98	110	122
Vacancy Rate Mo. End	7.8%	7.9%	7.8%	7.8%	8.0%	7.4%	7.2%	7.3%	7.2%	6.9%	6.9%	7.0%

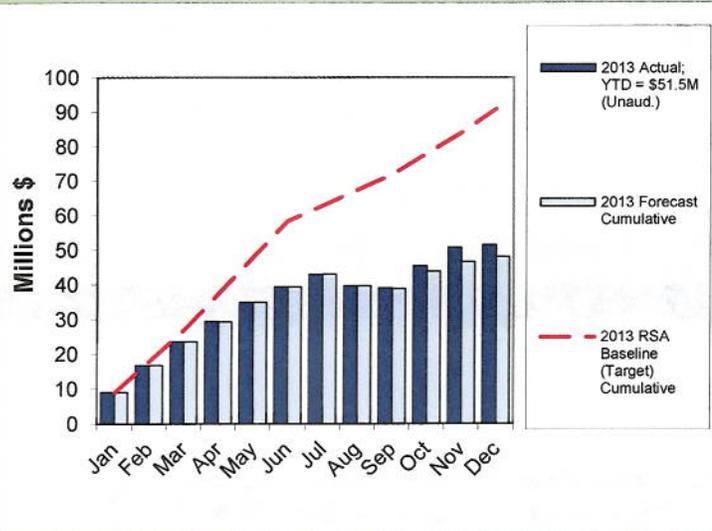
Power Resources:

Conservation Savings (Cumulative)

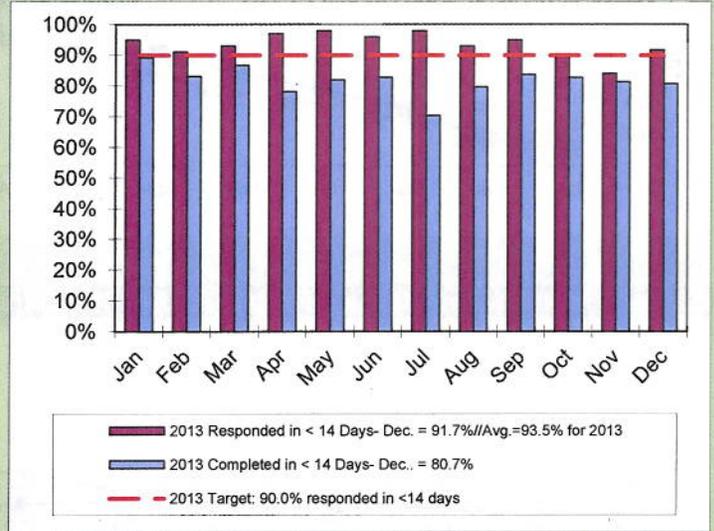


Customer Care:

Net Wholesale Power Sales (Cumulative)



Streetlight Repairs



Service Connections

