

## Seattle City Light Strategic Plan Interim Outreach Meeting Summary

Date: May 11, 2011

Location: Seattle City Hall, Bertha Knight Landes Room

Audience: Key Customers—Representatives from the Largest City Light Accounts

Number of Attendees (excluding City Light staff and Review Panel members): 16

### Summary of Question & Answer Session:

Q: Explain the connection between I-937 and BPA power purchase requirements?

A: There is no relationship between I-937 and BPA. I-937 is a statewide voter approved initiative that requires electric utilities around the state to buy specified amounts of renewable energy each year (reaching 20% by 2020), and hydropower does not count towards this requirement. So, even though City Light does not need more power for about 10 years, each year we buy renewable energy or take other steps to meet these requirements.

Q: Are you working to change I-937? I suggest the Utility refer to its hydropower as a renewable energy resource, so the public better understands that hydropower is renewable.

A: The City did encourage the drafters of the Initiative to consider including hydropower resources as renewable. Since the initiative was approved by voters the City has not sought changes to I-937 in Olympia.

### Reporting out from Tables: (3 Tables reported out; each table's responses are grouped below)

#### *Table 1:*

- Our table discussed the four focus areas (ratepayers, workforce, assets, municipal enterprise excellence). We want to know what City Light will be doing specifically about these things so that we can make our own strategic plans in response. We have nothing to add to the list of 12 objectives and have no problems with these objectives. We want to know what will be the priorities among these.
- Reliability and Rates: what is the balance? For some customers, for example, hospitals, reliability is key and we are willing pay for that. For other customers, the absolute level of rates is very important and keeping rates low is a big priority.

#### *Table 2:*

- In the objective about technology, what is meant? Specifically, how does this relate to the idea of a smart grid? It is not clear to us that a smart grid makes sense for residential customers, as they may not need the additional information that a smart grid would provide. The extra cost to them would probably not be justified. However, it probably does make sense to have a smart

grid for larger business and industrial customers, though these customers may already have sufficient information about their usage.

- There are perceptions about City Light's work rules that should be addressed. Some people believe, perhaps simply from rumors, that the workforce could be more efficient, could be more prepared at meetings. We hope you will address this in the plan.
- Rate design/classes: It is important to promote economic development through rates. To this end, City Light should not just show comparisons of system average rates, but show rate comparisons for different classes of customers. Some other major electric utilities in the country do this.
- We don't see in this discussion how trade-offs will be made or explained to people. Doing so will be very important: we can't do/afford everything that is being discussed.

*Table 3:*

- The 12 objectives are generally good, but associated rate increases are a concern to business.
- City Light should work to improve how it shares information with ratepayers in advance of major decisions, particularly around the capital improvement program. Items seem to resurface on the list of capital projects years after we thought they were taken care of.
- Create a ratepayer advocate position and role in the rate setting process.
- Aging workforce: lots of businesses face this challenge. We encourage the utility to work with local high schools to support student enrollment in industrial arts classes.