



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

**Date of Meeting: November 15, 2023 | 9:00 – 11:00 AM |
Meeting held in SMT 3204 and via Microsoft Teams “Final”**

MEETING ATTENDANCE					
Panel Members:					
Mikel Hansen	√	Leo Lam	√	Oksana Savolyuk	√
Joel Paisner	√	John Putz	√	Thien-Di Do <i>Appointment pending</i>	√
Kerry Meade	√	Tim Skeel	√	Amy Altchuler <i>Appointment pending</i>	√
Mike Haynes		Jen Chan	√	Julie Ryan (Consultant /RP Facilitator)	√
Kirsty Grainger	√	Andrew Strong	√	Craig Smith	
Jim Baggs		DaVonna Johnson		Maura Brueger	
Kalyana Kakani		Emeka Anyanwu	√	Leigh Barreca	√
Julie Moore	√	Chris Ruffini	√	Angela Bertrand	√
Greg Shiring	√	Carsten Croff	√	Brian Taubeneck	√
Eric McConaghy		Caia Caldwell		Bridget Molina	√
Jeff Wolf	√	Karin Eastby		Jenny Levesque	√

Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Julie Ryan introduced Amy Altchuler, a candidate for the recently vacated Industrial Customer Representative position. Amy works at First Mode, one of City Light’s industrial customers. Because Council committee meetings are on hold during the city budget process, it is likely that the positions will not be voted on until early 2024. Until that time, Amy and Di Do will join meetings as non-voting members. Julie and Leigh Barreca are putting together a packet of materials for new members as well as a short training session. These will be available in January. All panel members are welcome to receive the packet and to attend the one-hour training.

Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Standing Items:

Chair’s Report. Mike Hansen welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Review Agenda. Julie Ryan reviewed the agenda.



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Approval of Sept. 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Minutes were approved as presented.

Communications to Panel. There were no communications to the Panel.

General Manager's update. (Jen Chan provided the update.)

1. Social responsibility program – There are several fundraising efforts underway throughout the utility, in advance of the holidays. One fundraising effort is a Toys for Tots drive that is happening right now as well as a campaign to get donations to the City Light Project Share account. Through [Project Share](#), City Light offers emergency assistance to residential customers facing financial challenges with their past due electricity bills.
2. Customer focused events – City Light held Key Customer and Franchise City forums in late October. There were 50 Key Customer and 12 Franchise City representatives at the meetings. There was a lot of good interaction with these groups. We focused on topics that were selected by each group---strategic planning, rates, wholesale power and the impact of our recent water year.
3. Customer Satisfaction Survey City Light just launched its second customer satisfaction survey and we will be receiving those results in December or January. The summary information will be shared with the Review Panel early next year.
4. Award for Craig Smith - Craig has been recognized with the [Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\)](#)'s Tom Eckman Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is for his legacy in energy efficiency in the Northwest, which included key utility leadership roles at Snohomish PUD and City Light, as well as time serving as NEEA's board chair.
5. Cedar Falls – City Light finalized a memorandum of agreement with SPU to meet power needs at Cedar Falls and build a new substation (over 6 years) This will provide additional capacity and alleviate some environmental concerns about water running into the Cedar River.
6. Skagit – City Light's fire mitigation work continues. For the next five years, there is a risk of flooding in the area, so mitigation is underway to support the area.
7. Organizational updates – The Mayor's Office continues the GM/CEO search, hoping to name a new GM/CEO soon. Other executive vacancies at City Light, such as the chief operating officer will be recruited soon.
8. Proposed Load Forecast –Electrification is increasing the load forecast sooner than we planned. Electrification load is difficult to forecast because it is based on customer choices. City Light is working to anticipate how this new load will affect our resource planning.
9. Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) – This is the Western Power Pool's voluntary program to help the region plan resources to meet future load. City Light is a participant in this regional coordination and planning effort. In 2028 City Light will enter the "binding program" which will require compliance with the WRAP. City Light is currently participating in the rule making phase of this process.
10. FIFA World cup – City Light is working on an inter-departmental team to plan how to support the games, such as power reliability at the stadium, increased load, requests for new EV

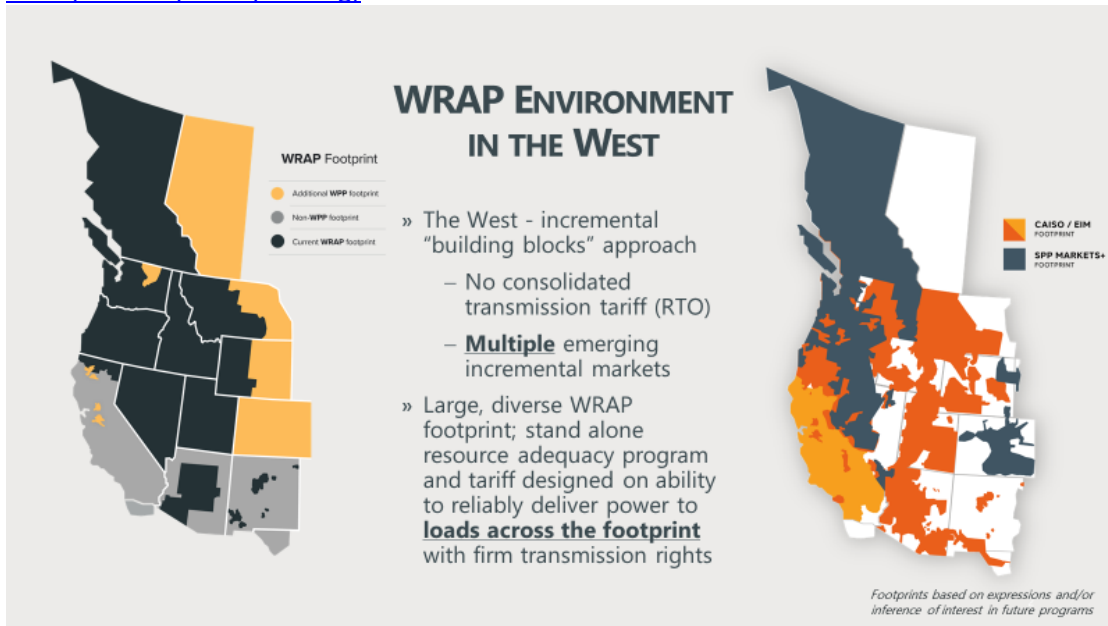


City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

charging, and working with the host association. The Aug 2026 event will span most of the month, with special focus on the waterfront and stadium districts.

Q: Who are the other partners in the Western Adequacy Group?

A: <https://www.westernpowerpool.org/about/organizations/>
[WPP \(westernpowerpool.org\)](https://www.westernpowerpool.org/)



Strategic Plan Update. Leigh Barreca introduced the following topics related to the 2025 – 2030 Strategic Plan Update. All materials are included in the Review Panel packet.

- a. Summary of Landscape Exercise (Julie Ryan presented)

Summary of the landscape exercise from the workshop last month

There were great observations made and suggestions provided during the October workshop to discuss the landscape in which Seattle City may be operating over the next six years. Not too surprising, the external and the internal topics were closely interwoven. The largest workshop themes were:

1. **Forecasting is Far More Challenging:** Climate change has contributed to more forecasting uncertainty for customer demand (load) and supply (resources). "Normal" weather is harder to forecast and there have been more severe temperature deviations seen in recent years. Hydro forecasting is very difficult too, for similar reasons. And there are more external risks to City Light's system, from wildfire and other weather driven events. Some key impacts are:
 - o City Light has two peaking seasons, with high demand in both winter and summer.



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

- Wholesale Power Markets similarly have been more volatile. This is relevant since City Light sells surplus power into the market and purchases power when load exceeds its power supply.
 - Recognition that with more forecasting uncertainty, there is greater benefit to conducting scenario analysis, considering resource diversity, and working on regional initiatives that could result in more efficient use of regional resources to meet loads and improve long-term resource and transmission planning.
2. **Government regulations are increasing.** This adds complexity to long-range planning. Government decarbonization efforts may also result in:
- Significantly more load from the transportation sector switching and demand from building electrification that may ban natural gas space and water heating, in favor of electric.
 - There are challenges to advocate and connect with policy makers given there are often many proposed policies and legislation at any given time.

The challenges of complying with new regulation opens up opportunities for regional collaboration as well as re-imagining City Light's relationship with customers (such as demand response, TOU, and customer DERs).

3. **There are many technology and infrastructure challenges and opportunities.** The October workshop discussion included smart meter infrastructure, customer owned generation, aging infrastructure, and the need for strong cyber security measures. There are some new generation technologies such as green hydrogen and other new generation sources like small modular nuclear reactions in the region. . AI may also become a tool to use for monitoring demand, grid management, administering demand response programs, and other applications that may result in even more responsive service to customers.
4. **Customer issues received a lot of attention during the workshop.** Customers have wide, varied interests, and City Light will need to continue to reduce barriers, bring customers along, and meet customers' needs. But the greatest emphasis was on how to keep rates affordable (and noting the energy burden for customers), given that costs are rising everywhere. There are many different types of costs, related to grid modernization, possible cost increases in the BPA contract, supply chain challenges, reliability investment, ensuring adequate supply and transmission, and preparing for the workforce of the future.
5. **Workforce is a critical area to address.** City Light faces labor shortages in the skilled crafts areas, as well as in other important areas at the utility. Upcoming retirements add to this problem. This is happening when City Light needs to develop and train employees to respond to the rapidly changing technologies. The discussion included the importance of competitive salaries and the importance of employee retention.



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

- b. Strategic Outcomes introduction (Angela Bertrand presented)
- c. Q3 2023 Strategic plan status report (Brian Taubeneck presented)

Q: Help me understand what “in progress/delayed” means? Does that mean it will happen or will it miss the milestone?

A: We use this to show that it missed the quarter it was due but will be done soon. This is a high-level summary. We use this to give as accurate a picture as we can to highlight delays and not gloss over them.

- d. Outreach Overview (Jenny Levesque presented)

Load Growth and Electrification. Emeka Anyanwu presented (materials are in the Packet.)

Q: Are you focused on resources built in Washington?

A: Yes. In terms of evaluating the responses, we did indicate a preference generation sited in Washington state. This was considered in addition to other criteria such as transmission interconnection, delivery to our system or BPA’s system, and cost. We will be considering projects both inside and outside Washington.

Q: For valuing resource decisions, what kind of price forecasting are you using?

A: For price forecasting, we are using a combination of internal expertise and external consultants.

Other discussion:

- Julie Moore shared the recently released combined 2021 & 2022 City Light Annual Report: <https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/CityLight/Communications/SCLAnnualReport2022.pdf>

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Next meeting: January 24, 2024, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.