# Date of Meeting: January 15, 2025 | 9:00 – 12:00 PM

# Meeting held in SMT 3204 and via Microsoft Teams “APPROVED”

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| **MEETING ATTENDANCE** |
| **Panel Members:** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mikel Hansen | √ | Leo Lam | √ | Oksana Savolyuk  | √ |
| Joel Paisner | √ | Amy Altchuler | √ | Bruce Florey *(appointment pending)* | √ |
| Kerry Meade | √ | Thien-Di Do  | √ | Ryan Monson (*appointment pending)* | √ |
|  |  |  |  | Toyin Olowu (*appointment pending)* | √ |
|  |  |  |
| Dawn Lindell *(GM)* | √ | Leigh Barreca | √ | Julie Ryan (Consultant /RP Facilitator) | √ |
| Mike Haynes | √ |  Andrew Strong | √ | Craig Smith | √ |
| Kirsty Grainger | √ |  DaVonna Johnson |  | Maura Brueger | √ |
| Julie Moore | √ |  Chris Ruffini |  | Angela Bertrand | √ |
| Greg Shiring | √ |  Carsten Croff |  |  Brian Taubeneck | √ |
| Eric McConaghy |  |  David Logsdon |  |  Bridget Molina | √ |
| Jeff Wolf |  |  Caia Caldwell |  | Kristina Pham | √ |
| Siobhan Doherty | √ | Karin Estby | √ | Shannon Marsh | √ |
| Erik Turner (FAS) | √ | Vanessa Rogers (Envir Science Associates) | √ | Brittney Garcia Stubbs | √ |

**Welcome and Introductions**. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

**Public Comment**. There was no public comment.

**Standing Items:**

**Chair’s Report**. Leo Lam welcomes everyone and opened the meeting.

**Review Agenda.** Julie Ryan reviewed the agenda. Attendees, including our new members, introduced themselves.

**Approval of October 16, 2024, Meeting Minutes.** Minutes were approved with one exception:

Under discussion of charter amendments, the Panel agreed to strike the sentence: “The charter will be amended as agreed. Leigh Barreca will ask Jeff Wolf to review the proposed updates as a next step”

**Communications to Panel.** There was no communication to the Panel.

**General Manager’s Update.** GM Dawn Lindell presented.

1. November Storm Response – Seattle City Light weathered one of the largest storms in recent memory when winds produced by a bomb cyclone swept through Western Washington the evening of Tuesday, November 19. Rare easterly gusts reached nearly 60 miles per hour in the Seattle area downing trees and power lines, breaking poles, damaging equipment, and leaving more than half a million customers across the region in the dark.

At the peak Tuesday night, more than 114,000 City Light customers were without power. It was the most customers without power since the 2006 Hanukkah Eve windstorm. The wind knocked out power to a high number of customers in the northern (Shoreline and Lake Forest Park) and southern (Burien and Southeast Seattle) regions of our service area.

A bomb cyclone — known for its explosiveness — is a storm that forms quickly when central pressure drops rapidly in a 24-hour period. We knew the winds were coming and we prepared. We had enough transformers, wooden utility poles, and cabling on hand. As of Sunday, crews had replaced 39 poles and 47 transformers.

In the first 24 hours, we restored power to more than 90,000 customers across our service area. Restoring the remaining 25,000 customers, many of which involved complex repairs, was a multi-day effort. By Thursday morning, we were down to 10,000 without power. As we headed into the weekend, about 2,000 customers remained out. The work was slow-going as we continued to clear trees and debris, reset poles, and re-string wire. By early Sunday evening, we had restored power to everyone impacted by the storm.

Customers in hard-hit Lake Forest Park were among the last to be restored. We met with the Lake Forest Park City Council last Thursday evening to discuss the storm restoration efforts in this community and planned improvements to our outage management system, communication processes and infrastructure that will enable us to better serve all customers in the coming years.

Hundreds of employees across the utility worked long hours to assist with the response. Our schedulers and crew chiefs, field crews, and power dispatchers coordinated to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. There were over 900 individual events. In addition to the efforts of our crews, we called in mutual aid from Avista Utilities and Tacoma Power to assist in our storm recovery efforts.  We restored every customer in 6 days while PSE took over 2 weeks. We did an after-action report to improve for the future. We did learn our externally facing outage map was not working as planned and are strengthening for the future.

Whenever a major storm like this disrupts power to our system, multiple City Light teams pull together to support our field operations, supply tools and resources, and inform our customers. Employees from system operations, emergency management, finance, fleets, warehousing, safety, substations, network, environmental management, engineering, customer service, communications, and more all play a role in restoration efforts. I am grateful to the hard work of everyone involved.

**C: The storm was very difficult for people in Lake Forest Park. It was very frustrating to access information on the SCL website, although when I was able to call and speak to someone, they were very helpful. This ties into what’s happening in LA, and we need to clear trees from lines even if it’s hard.**

**R**: Two learnings were to share the expected end date broadly and loudly. We shared our optimistic hope even when we knew restoration would likely be longer. Also, as General Manager, I should have been calling the mayors of these towns and I will be doing that in the future.

1. 2024 Accomplishments – In addition to responding to extreme weather events, we completed foundational work to position Seattle City Light to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving energy landscape and fulfill our mission to safely provide our customers with affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible energy services.
	1. Seattle City Council approved **updates to two important planning tools**: The 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, our guiding document, and the Integrated Resource Plan, our roadmap to meet growing customer energy needs. Big thank you to the Review Panel for their support making this happen. We adjusted our 2025-2030 rate path for customers to help stabilize revenues and invest in our aging infrastructure. As Seattle’s population expands and electricity demand rises, upgrading our energy network and expanding our renewable energy portfolio is crucial.
	2. We **completed critical infrastructure upgrades**, including adding new electrical equipment at the Broad Street Substation to improve the reliability of the regional transmission system and installing a new power transformer at the East Pine Substation.
	3. We marked milestones in the multi-year, **federal relicensing processes for two hydropower projects**. We advanced negotiations with Skagit Hydroelectric Project license partners related to environmental and cultural measures to include in the new license for the three-dam project on the Upper Skagit River. We started the official process to relicense the South Fork Tolt Hydroelectric Project.
	4. Across the state, we **cut the ribbon on a conservation fish hatchery**, the Native Salmonid Conservation Facility, in Usk, Wash. The facility aims to create self-sustaining fish populations of native trout in northeastern Washington’s Boundary Reservoir tributaries. This years-long effort was a partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Kalispel Tribe of Indians.
	5. We continued to drive our clean energy future with a focus on ensuring all customers can experience **the benefits of electric mobility** — from residential customers with electric vehicles (EVs) to businesses transitioning to electric fleets to multifamily customers looking to install EV chargers at their properties. We partnered with regional government agencies to break ground on the first all-electric bus base and turned on shore power for cruise and cargo ships.
	6. For the third consecutive year, City Light finished first among midsize electrical utilities in the Western United States with **the highest business customer satisfaction index score**in the J.D. Power 2024 U.S. Electric Utility Business Customer Satisfaction StudyTM.
2. Looking Ahead in 2025 - In 2025, we will continue to invest in a more resilient and reliable grid and help our customers save energy. We’re on track to launch time-of-use pricing, giving customers the option to use electricity when power is cheaper, and demand is lower.
	1. The Executive Leadership Team is developing a 10-year Strategic Roadmap to address key priorities, such as replacing aging assets, identifying new generation and transmission resources, and improving our processes. This work is critical.
	2. Through a partnership with the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, we will expand our outreach and engagement efforts to reach underrepresented communities to connect more customers with utility bill assistance programs and ensure we are investing in an energy future that will benefit everyone.
	3. As a leader, it is my job to notice and fill gaps. We will add key positions this year. I look forward to announcing our new Chief Information Officer who will join the Executive Team and focus on integrating new technologies and enhancing cyber security. A Continuous Improvement Manager will be onboard soon to lead process improvement efforts across the utility, including an initiative to significantly shorten our electric service connection timelines. We will also recruit a Sustainability Officer to advance our electrification strategy and environmental stewardship programs.

**Q: During the bomb-cyclone, did you talk to the other CEOs of area utilities and what is the value in that? I’m curious about the regional approach.**

**A:** I spent more time on the phone with CEOs from utilities that were not impacted and which offered mutual aid. I talked to Snohomish PUD and Mike Haynes was in contact with Michelle Varga at PSE as there were many places where crews worked side-by-side. We also talked to staff at Tacoma, who were not very affected. Mutual aid allows us to offer crews and assistance to other utilities since we are, usually, not in competition with them. It’s a beautiful thing in the utility industry. We are billed for the time and supply them with materials, hotel, and food. This allows us to restore power as quickly as possible with the aid of other utility crews.

**Q: When your communications went down because you lost power, did you not have back-up?**

**A:** There is back-up power, but the momentary interruption triggered a re-boot situation. When it re-booted, there was an error. We called the head of Seattle IT who immediately jumped into action to fix the situation. Our System Operations Center never lost power.

**Q: Have you sent crews to LA?**

**A:** Not yet. They are not dispatching their own crews yet for safety reasons. But Seattle Fire has sent firefighting crews down. We are waiting for a request to come through.

**Review Panel Charter updates.** Julie Ryan led this discussion. The draft charter is in the meeting packet.

**Q: Can we streamline the historical element about at inception the staggered positions?**

**A:** Yes, we will adjust the language as discussed today. The first half sentence of D will be added to A in the Membership section.

The Review Panel approved the Review Panel Charter as presented in the packet with the following edits:

“TERMS OF REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS. Appointments to the Review Panel shall be in general for three years. ~~except that at the Panel’s inception, Positions 1, 2 and 3 shall be appointed for a one-year term, and Positions 4, 5 and 6 shall be appointed for a two-year term.~~ A member whose term has expired will continue to serve until a successor has been confirmed by Council.

The final version will be emailed to Review Panel members with the meeting materials for the next Review Panel meeting.

**Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Exercise.** Kristina Pham led this exercise. Presentation materials are in the meeting packet.

**February Agenda. The next meeting will include the** Leadership Team visioning work overview, the integrated outreach plan for the ten-year plan, and a program presentation TBD.

**Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

**Next meeting:** February 20, 2025, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.