



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: JAN 21, 2026 | 9:00 – 11:00 AM - Approved
Meeting held in SMT 3204 and via Microsoft Teams

MEETING ATTENDANCE					
Review Panel Members:					
Bruce Flory	x	Kerry Meade	x	Oksana Savolyuk	x
Cristina Gina Sima	x	Leo Lam	x	Ryan Monson	x
Joel Paisner	x	Louis Ernst	x	Toyin Olowu	x
City Light:					
Dawn Lindell – <i>GM/CEO</i>	x	DaVonna Johnson	x	Malini Nambiar	x
Craig Smith	x	Ellie Thorstad	x	Maura Brueger	x
Alan Bach	x	Joon Sohn	x	Mike Hamilton	x
Andrew Strong	x	Julie Moore	x	Mujib Lodhi	
Angela Bertrand	x	Julie Ryan - <i>RP Facilitator</i>	x	Natalie Randell	x
Bridget Molina	x	Kirsty Grainger	x	Rebecca Klein	x
Brittney Garcia Stubbs	x	Katie Ewing	x	Siobhan Doherty	x
Carston Croff	x	Leigh Barreca	x	Verene Martin	x
Other Attendees:					
Adam Day	x	Eric McConaghy	x	Kathryne Patton (BPA)	x
Christie Parker	x	Karina Bull (Committee Coord)	x	Paul Menefee (CM Juarez Staff)	x

Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Standing Items:

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

Review Agenda. Julie Ryan reviewed the agenda.

Approval of November 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Minutes were approved.

Communications to Panel.

- Megan and Michelle, who came to provide public comment in November, sent a PDF to share with you. It has been included in your packet.



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

- A customer reached out with a billing issue. It has been shared with the appropriate team who is resolving the issues.

General Manager's Update. GM Dawn Lindell presented.

1. Update on South Dakota Street Project

In November you heard public comment from Megan and Michelle about concerns with the South Dakota Street Project. City Light is actively working with residents on South Dakota Street and 13th Avenue South to address their concerns. City Light representatives met on site with property owners in early December, and then again the same month with property owners who had additional questions. We believe we have now landed on a shared understanding among all participating neighbors.

City Light will manage the planting and transplanting of trees, including coordination with gas and water utilities, and the use of vacuum excavation to minimize site disturbance. Property owners will identify private underground facilities and will assume responsibility for ongoing tree care once planting is complete. All work is planned to occur on a single day in late 2026 or early 2027 to reduce stress on the trees.

Two properties, 1303 and 1321 South Dakota Street, will obtain replacement trees through Seattle's Trees for Neighborhoods program. This program supports our "Right Tree Right Place" principles and our long-standing partnership to promote a healthy and resilient urban tree canopy. Tree species will be confirmed with property owners in spring 2026 once the program procures their offerings for the year.

Two trees located in the public right-of-way at 1303 South Dakota Street will be replanted in the front yard of 1309 South Dakota Street.

Two trees located in the public right-of-way at 1309 South Dakota Street will remain in place and will continue to be managed under City Light's standard vegetation management practices.

Three trees located in the public right-of-way at 1321 South Dakota Street will be removed and transplanted. One tree will be relocated to private property at 4020 13th Avenue South. The remaining two trees will be placed at City Light selected public sites, prioritizing Beacon Hill.

Formal consent will be documented through signed acknowledgements from each property owner. City Light's Legal and Communications teams are actively finalizing the agreement language with the residents to ensure clarity, alignment, and completeness.

This approach reflects a balanced and thoughtful path forward that respects neighborhood concerns, urban forestry best practices, and City Light's responsibilities for safety, reliability, and stewardship.

2. Katie Wilson sworn in as Mayor on January 2nd.

We are underway in supporting Katie Wilson's new administration, including a few familiar City Light faces in the office including former Chief of Staff, Jen Chan, and former Organizational Change Management Manager, Kristina Pham. In addition, to Jen and Kristina, Mark Ellerbrook is the deputy direction of operations. He will have seven staff reporting to him in the role of



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Executive Operations Managers, each of whom will have a set of departments reporting to them. Our assigned manager is Hannah McIntosh. In addition to SCL, she will also be working with SPU and SDOT.

The mayor has decided to move in a different direction for Seattle City Light leadership. Effective immediately, Craig Smith, Chief Operating Officer, will transition into the role of Interim General Manager and CEO through March 4, 2026. Beginning March 4, 2026, Dennis McLerran will step in as Interim General Manager and CEO.

Our new committee assignment is to **Parks and City Light**, chaired by Councilmember Juarez and Vice-Chaired by Councilmember Kettle. Councilmembers Saka, Rivera, and Strauss will also serve on the committee. Our committee will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 2pm.

Review Panel Member Comment:

I want to acknowledge my disappointment with this decision. While I understand that leadership changes often occur with a new mayoral administration, this transition comes at a time when the utility needs stability and continuity, especially given the challenges facing the industry.

Review Panel Member Comment:

I do not believe this decision reflects Dawn's performance. Consistent leadership is critical for the utility, and I shared my disappointment with the Mayor's Office. I want to thank Dawn for her strong leadership.

Review Panel Member Comment:

I want to echo the comments already shared. This is the third General Manager transition during my time on the Review Panel, and it has been unsettling for the organization. I encourage the next GM not to make a lot of changes.

Dawn, you provided steady leadership and made meaningful improvements to culture, accountability, and service. I want to thank you and wish you the very best.

Review Panel Member Comment:

Agreed. Dawn, it has been a pleasure getting to know you and work with you and the team under your stewardship.

3. Skagit Project responds to drenching atmospheric rivers, wind

In December, a series of atmospheric rivers hit Western Washington. From Monday, December 8 through Wednesday, December 17, over 13 inches of rain fell at the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project. City Light's Incident Management Team (IMT) was activated and actively monitored river conditions, ensuring employee safety, operational continuity, and power generation. Equipment and supplies were strategically staged throughout the three-dam Skagit River Hydroelectric Project, supported by a 24-hour staffing plan. City Light also maintained regular communication with the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management.

Under an established agreement, Seattle City Light transfers control of Ross Dam to the Army



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Corps eight hours ahead of water flow forecasts at the town of Concrete exceeding 90,000 cubic feet per second. In this case, the Corps stepped in a day and a half before the trigger point to mitigate flood risks. It's not unusual for the Corps to regulate waterflow for municipal and utility-owned dams during flood events.

The dam held back 99% of water flowing into the reservoir, according to the Army Corps, who also took over Puget Sound Energy's Upper Baker Dam on the Baker River, a major tributary of the Skagit River. Dam operations were able to shave 4 to 5 feet off the river's peak height of about 37 feet, according to the Army Corps' preliminary estimates. Without this strategic reduction, flooding in Concrete and Mount Vernon could have been more severe.

4. **Holiday Giving**

Employees came together across the utility this year, raising over \$22,000 across four charitable organizations, each supporting the communities we serve and live in. The **Skagit** Holiday Party Auction & General Store raised nearly \$4,000 for nearby Concrete, with funds going to support the food bank and youth sports. The **Boundary** team celebrated their annual auction & potluck, raising over \$1,000 for The Tree of Sharing in North Pend Oreille (PON-DER-RAY) County. Here in Seattle, **The Field Operations teams** at North and South Service Centers pulled off another bountiful, recording-breaking Toys for Tots drive this year, raising more than \$16,500 in toy donations!

5. **City Light secures long-term power contract with Bonneville Power Administration**

Seattle City Light recently signed a new 16-year "Provider of Choice" power contract with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Finalized in early December, the power purchase agreement guarantees our continued access to affordable, reliable hydroelectric power through September 2044.

BPA, which operates the Federal Columbia River Power System, generates about one-third of the electricity in the Northwest. As a public preference customer within the BPA system, City Light will continue to have access to some of the region's lowest-cost energy. Currently, BPA's wholesale power rates average around \$40 per megawatt-hour (MWh), compared to two to four times the cost per MWh for other non-BPA sources being developed in the region.

City Light's partnership with BPA has been a cornerstone of our energy supply for decades, historically providing about half of our electricity. This new agreement, effective October 2028, ensures this partnership continues, delivering stability and supporting our mission to safely provide our customers with affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible energy services.

Securing this 16-year contract was a massive undertaking, and it wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of several teams across the utility. A special thanks goes to our Power Contracts and Regional Affairs team for leading this complex negotiation process.

6. **City Light participates in GridEx to prepare to protect our grid**

Think of GridEx as the "Super Bowl" of grid security. Hosted every two years by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC), it is the largest grid security exercise in North America. The goal is to break the



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

system in a controlled scenario so we can stress-test crisis response and recovery plans.

This year's event was a full-day, discussion-based tabletop exercise involving a cross-section of the utility. It wasn't just engineers and operators; the room included representatives from communications, physical security, IT, field operations, safety, employee support, leadership, and more. The simulation forced teams to make critical decisions without their digital tools. With the internet down and energy management systems offline, they had to determine how to prioritize work, ensure facility and employee safety, communicate effectively with employees and the public, and keep the lights on.

The exercise aimed to:

- Improve decision-making: How do we operate when our technology is compromised or unavailable?
- Increase situational awareness: How quickly can we understand the scope of a multi-pronged attack?
- Identify best practices and gaps: What are we doing well, and where do our plans fail under pressure?

Q: Were there any learnings from the GridEx exercise?

A: DaVonna Johnson, People and Culture Officer, shared that the exercise identified gaps with the uninterruptible power supply at the North Service Center and the need to replace a generator. While this work was already underway, the exercise highlighted the need to elevate these items as higher priorities. The exercise also strengthened coordination with Seattle IT and improved shared understanding of City Light's operational needs.

Q: IT – Seattle City Light previously had its own IT. Now that IT is citywide, has this been more challenging?

A: While the City provides IT services to Seattle City Light, we do have our own Operational Technology group and Technology Officer. There has been some turnover within Seattle IT, including approximately 15 to 20 of the City Light staff who transferred to Seattle IT. As a result, there are some knowledge gaps, which has created challenges.

A new area of focus at City Light is a Sustainability officer position, driven by the growth in transportation electrification and demand for EV charging. Plans are being developed to announce this work, assuming the new administration wants to proceed this direction..

Load Forecast. Mike Hamilton presented. Materials are in the packet.

Q: You mentioned that the bands of uncertainty are very high on the graph showing the base and high forecast. Yet, they appear relatively small in the graph.

A: The presenter noted the scale of the graphics makes the bands appear tighter than they really are. If the graphics were expanded and viewed in more detail, the uncertainty would appear



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

larger. There was significant thought put into defining these scenarios, with a focus on areas that carry the most risk of change. These scenarios are intended to be reasonable representations.

Q: Do you run simulations to account for uncertainty across different factors, such as demand going higher or lower?

A: Yes. The team runs Monte Carlo simulations but focuses on the biggest drivers of uncertainty rather than every possible factor. These include transportation, data centers, weather, buildings, and electrification. This approach helps capture the overall range of possible outcomes.

Q: Is there information available online that explains the model assumptions, structure, and variables, including what is and is not accounted for?

A: Yes, there is. That documentation is not currently publicly available. Staff could share additional information if helpful.

Q: There was surprise about how small the increase in core load demand appears. Can you explain why?

A: We are not seeing large commercial building construction. And, while there is quite a bit of residential development, new construction is much more efficient than old building stock, because of building codes and appliance efficiency.

Integrated Resource Plan. Katie Ewing presented. Materials are in the packet.

Q: The summary slide shows a significant amount of customer-side resources, but they are dwarfed by the supply-side additions. Can you provide context on how much of the technically feasible customer-side potential this represents?

A: The Demand Side Management Potential Assessment (DSMPA) will be presented to the Review Panel next month, which will provide more detail. Seattle City Light has achieved strong customer-side efficiency gains over many years, which limits remaining potential compared to other utilities, though additional opportunities still exist.

Q How is the utility planning to integrate advanced technologies such as small modular reactors and enhanced geothermal, and what are the expected timelines?

A: The near-term acquisitions include wind, solar, and short-duration battery storage. Advanced technologies such as geothermal, small modular reactors, and longer-duration storage are being evaluated, with potential integration expected in the early to mid-2030s. Seattle City Light is a member of Energy Northwest, which is in partnership with Amazon to develop SMRs. And Seattle City Light is talking with geothermal developers to better understand timing and feasibility by the mid 2030s.

Q: As these projects evolve, are timelines and assumptions incorporated back into future IRPs?



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

A: Yes. The IRP is updated every two years, and new information such as pricing, contracts, and lessons learned are incorporated into the modeling, recognizing there is a time lag between data updates and model runs.

Q: Outside of the two-year IRP cycle, is there a way to identify when assumptions may need to change?

A: Forecasting occurs across multiple timeframes, from short-term operations to long-term planning. In addition, each resource acquisition is evaluated individually to assess how it fits within the overall portfolio, allowing the utility to adjust as conditions change.

Review Panel Member Comment: In the chart with name plate capacity, it appears SCL is acquiring resources in excess of its forecasted load. I recommend you convert the numbers with a capacity factor coefficient to show "firm" or expected energy production instead.

Revenue Foundations. Carsten Croff presented. Materials are in the packet.

Q: Are days cash on hand based on actual cash or credit?

A: Days cash on hand reflects a combination of unrestricted operating cash and the stabilization rate account. Bond funds and capital accounts are not included.

Follow-up:

Due to lack of time to complete his full presentation, Angela Bertrand asked Carsten to return next month to continue this topic with the Review Panel. Review Panel members were invited to questions can be emailed to Julie Ryan or Angela Bertrand in advance so they can be addressed at the next meeting.

February Agenda. Draft Rate Path, DSMPA & ToU Update, First Look at Strategic Plan Outline

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next meeting: February 18, 2025, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.