



Public Involvement Policy Workshop #2

April 13, 2026



Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenters
1:00 p.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Joel Scruggs, Chief Communications Officer
1:20 p.m.	Proposed Policy Changes	Sarah Burczak, Provider of Choice Policy Lead Maryam Habibi, manager of Media, Policy & Writing
2:30 p.m.	Responding to issues not in policy	
3:30 p.m.	Next Steps	

Note: Times are approximate. Workshop may also include a 5-10 min. break

Workshop Objectives

Today's objectives:

- Discuss proposed policy changes.
- Discuss feedback from previous workshop not reflected in changes.
- Gather final input ahead of release of draft policy.





Welcome and Opening Remarks

Policy and Proposed Changes

Background

- BPA sought public involvement prior to the Northwest Power Act. In 1977, BPA published (and requested comment on) “Marketing Policy Formulation, Final Procedures for Public Participation.
- In 1981, BPA established the Procedure for Public Participation in Major Regional Power Policy Formulation to update the existing procedures to align with the requirements in Section 4(g) of the Northwest Power Act of 1980.
- In 1986, BPA decided to update the procedures due to:
 - Expansion of the opportunities available for the public to participate in.
 - Identified areas the procedure could be strengthened.
- The 1986 Policy for Public Involvement was completed following the established 1986 procedures.

III. Explanation of Policy

Clarification or Proposal:

- I. Background and III. Explanation of Policy are not part of the actual policy. They provide supplemental information to the 1986 policy
- Feedback from previous workshop included requests to maintain language found in these sections

Proposed Policy:

- Staff will review whether any portions of the Background or Explanation of Policy should be incorporated as edits to the policy
- If parties are interested in retaining text, that should be shared with BPA in interim feedback or during the formal comment period

Examples of Major v. Other Actions

Feedback:

- Provide examples of major regional power policies and other public involvement opportunities

Examples:

- The supplemental information in the 1986 policy provided examples including:
 - Major regional power policies: BPA's Billing Credits Policy, Customer Service Policy, Transmission Policy, and the Fish and Wildlife Consultation Procedures
 - Other public involvement actions: BPA's Direct Service Industries Option Study, Resource Strategy, Load Forecast, Long Term Conservation Contracts, Model Conservation Standards Implementation Program, and Fall River-Lower Valley Reinforcement Project

Definitions

Feedback:

- Provide clarity around “informal” v. “formal” comments including whether they will be shared publicly, time allowed for comments, and where they may be addressed

Proposed Change:

- Staff to propose new definitions in the draft policy and clarify how and when each feedback type will be used in the process.
- For “informal” comments:
 - BPA will retain discretion and flexibility around use of, timing for, and public availability of informal feedback.
 - In practice, BPA would strive to provide details of how “informal” comments would be used when they are requested (e.g. deadline for receipt, how they will be used and if they will be publicly posted, summarized, etc.).
- For “formal” comments:
 - BPA will remove the policy’s reference to public comment forums (a form of formal comment not public meeting) but add language to written comments that BPA may provide such forums to supplement written comment periods.

Scope of Exemptions

Feedback:

- Review whether additional processes should qualify for exemptions going forward.

Proposed Change:

- Staff propose to add two new exemptions:
 - Procedures defined by Section 212(i)(2)(A) of the Federal Power Act.
 - Transmission business practice process.

Notice of Intent Update

Feedback:

- Add requirement to “Decision to Formulate a Policy and Notice of Intent” to provide any existing policies that would be replaced or supplemented by the new policy.

Proposed Change:

- Staff propose to adopt feedback and add requirement to the new notice of intent section of the policy.

What will not change?

Comment Period Length:

Feedback:

- Input recommended maintaining the 30-day comment period.

Response:

- Adopt feedback and retain 30-day comment period.
- Also retain language allowing for expedited decision-making when needed, that could include a shorter comment period.

Additional Workshop Requests:

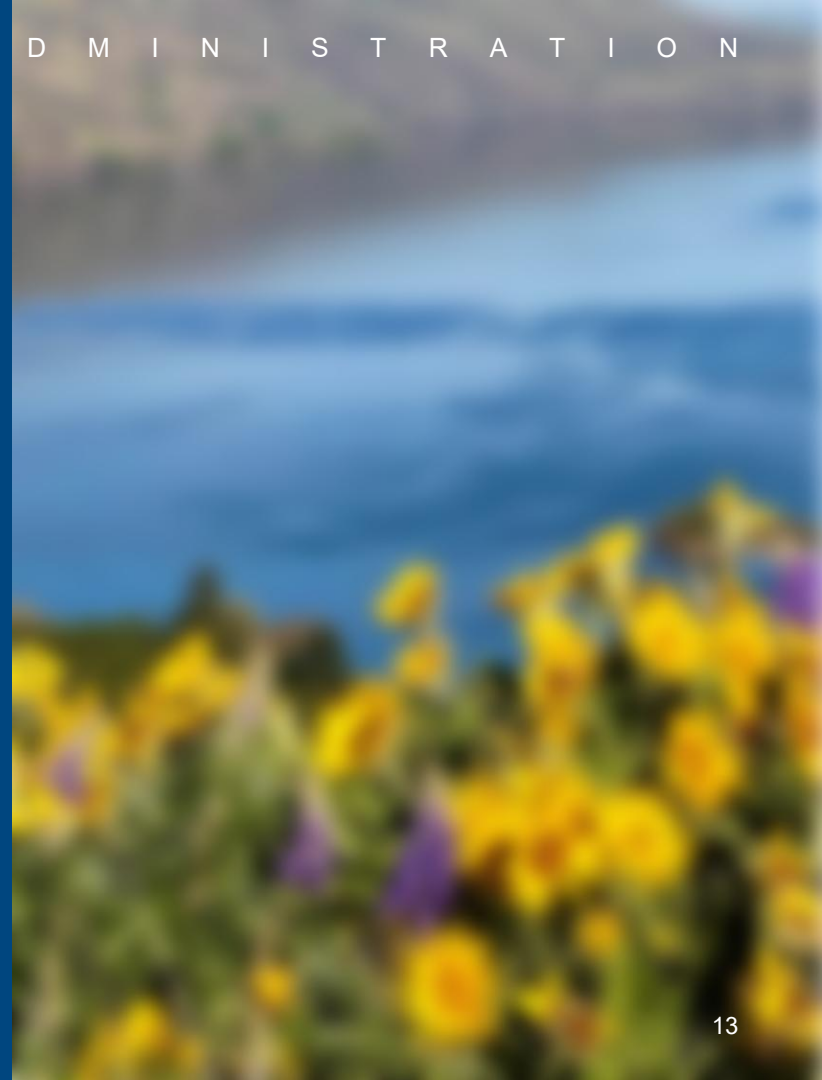
Feedback:

- Consider additional language around requests for additional workshops or engagement opportunities.

Response:

- The policy will describe the minimum engagement required; BPA will retain discretion about its ability to offer additional workshops or engagement opportunities.

Outside the scope of the policy



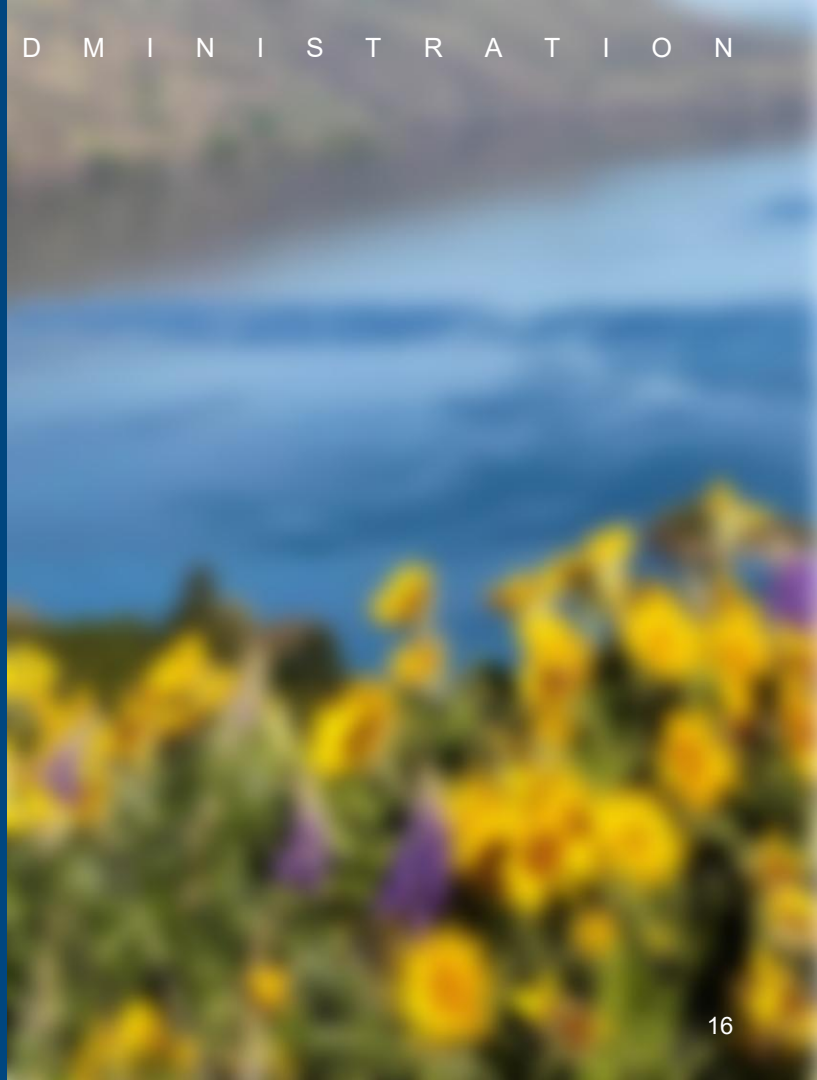
Modernizing external engagement

- BPA is modernizing its public engagement notification methods (internal project defining requirements).
- Feedback from workshop/comments to consider:
 - Notice everything via Tech Forum
 - Include options to subscribe
 - Include ics with event or email (allowing add-to-calendar)
 - Clearly identify points-of-contact information on documents
 - Document retention (policy version history, context)

Benchmarking

- **Benchmarking to other involvement**
 - Other entities
 - WAPA (examples)
 - FERC (requirements, structure)
 - Public Involvement standards
 - Consider International Association for Public Participation and other standards/best practices (IAP2, PRSA, IABC, EUCI, etc.)

Next Steps



Draft Timeline

Kick off process

2026/Feb

Today



★ **Workshop 1**
2/3/26

★ **Workshop 2**
4/13/26

★ **Publish Draft Policy**
5/27/26

May 27 - Jun 29

Comment Period

Publish Final Policy ★
9/2/26

External Process

Dates are based on best available information and are subject to change.

Interim Feedback

- Feedback on issues discussed today or any final issues due by COB Wednesday, April 22, 2026
- Send feedback to communications@bpa.gov.

Thank you!

*Please send any questions to
communications@bpa.gov*

