SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUD
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1

Your Northwest renewables utility

January 12, 2017

Submitted via email: techforum@bpa.gov

Bonneville Power Administration
Attn: Rahul Kukreti
905 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Subject: **Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County Comments on the December 13, 2016 Tariff Engagement Design Presentation and December 8, 2016 Questionnaire**

Dear Mr. Kukreti:

The Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County ("Snohomish") strongly supports BPA's efforts to establish a public process for future revisions to BPA's Open Access Transmission Tariff ("OATT"). Snohomish believes that the input from customers and other stakeholders is critical to creating a robust OATT.

The comments below lay out Snohomish's preference for a *pre-defined scalable public process*, and a general framework for such a process.

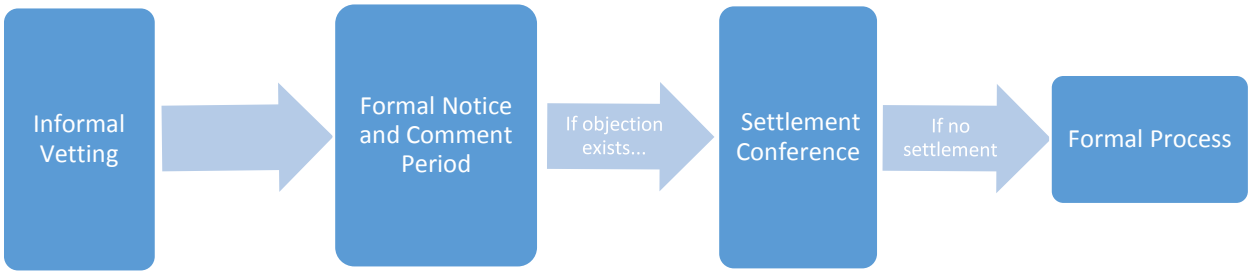
Process Alternatives

BPA staff presented three straw public process proposals: (i) Case-by-Case; (ii) Scalable; and (iii) Existing Formal Processes. Snohomish does not favor either a case-by-case approach or a purely formal process. The former lacks the definition and certainty required for an efficient process, and the latter may provide an overly burdensome process, especially in situations where there is no opposition.

Snohomish prefers that BPA establish a pre-defined scalable process that begins informally and gradually progresses into a more formal process subject to continued opposition, including an opportunity for settlement before reaching the most formal step in the process. This would allow a speedy resolution for revisions that have no opposition, an opportunity for settlement when there is opposition, and the ability to provide an adequate record for BPA to produce a final record of decision when settlement is unattainable.

General Framework of a Pre-defined Scalable Process

Snohomish's view of a pre-defined scalable process would include the following general steps:



1. Informal Vetting - Either through a joint technical team or workshops (all of which would be public), the first step would vet proposed OATT revisions for red flags. It may be best to have this process once a year so that all proposed OATT revisions are reviewed together.

2. Formal Notice and Comment Period – Once the proposed revisions have the opportunity to be tweaked based on the input received in step 1, the proposed revisions should be released for formal public comment similar to the "minimum level of process" laid out in BPA staff's Scalable Process proposal. If there is no objection during step 2, BPA would issue a record of decision and adopt the revisions.

3. Required Settlement Discussions – To the extent there is an objection during step 2, step 3 would require parties to discuss possible avenues of achieving agreement. This could be done initially through further workshops and comments with the option of using a mediator as an alternative.

4. Formal Process – To the extent the parties declare an impasse, then a formal process would commence. Snohomish is open to a 7(i)-type process or another formal process. The goal would be to allow the opposing party (or parties) to have an opportunity to articulate their issue and allow some level of discovery and briefing so that an adequate record is developed for BPA to properly respond to a challenge in a record of decision. To the extent BPA's decision is then challenged in another forum, all parties will be well-served by having a fully developed record.

Conclusion

Snohomish looks forward to working with BPA and other customers on developing a public process for future OATT revisions. We understand that if our proposed process is adopted, there are many details to be worked out. We also understand that there may be exigent circumstances where a pre-defined scalable process may not work. However, we believe that such a process will work for most OATT revisions and that BPA, customers, and other stakeholders will benefit from the certainty, efficiency, and fairness such a process will bring.

If you have any questions about Snohomish's comments, please contact Ian Hunter, either by phone at 425-783-8309, or by email at irhunter@snopud.com.

Sincerely,

/s/Ian Hunter

Ian Hunter
Transmission Policy Analyst