



# RTF PAC Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2022

9:00am – 10:00am Pacific

## Meeting Participants:

Debbie DePetris, Clark PUD (Co-Chair)  
Ginny Burdick, Oregon Councilmember (Co-Chair)  
Kary Burin, Cascade Natural Gas  
Jim White, Chelan PUD  
Jennifer Langdon, Cowlitz PUD  
Fred Gordon, Energy Trust of Oregon  
Taylor Thomas, Idaho PUC  
Quentin Nesbitt, Idaho Power  
Jeff Harris, NEEA  
Ralph Cavanagh, NRDC  
Alan Zelenka, OR DOE

Cory Scott, PacifiCorp  
Suzanne Frew, Snohomish PUD  
Ray Johnson, Tacoma Power  
Elizabeth O'Connell, WA UTC  
Elizabeth Osborne, WA State Energy Office  
Mark Jerome, CLEAResult, RTF Vice-chair  
Craig Patterson, Independent  
Leann Bleakney, Council Staff Oregon  
Kevin Smit, Council Staff  
Jennifer Light, RTF Chair  
Chad Madron, Council Staff

## Key Outcomes:

At the Q4 RTF Policy Advisory Committee meeting, members discussed the following.

- The main topic for this meeting was a discussion of the RTF use of the regional end-use load research. The RTF PAC expressed support for the RTF use of this data, with some recommendation to step through it thoughtfully recognizing that there are a lot of different questions it could address. There was a brief discussion on existing limitations with leveraging the one-minute data, and discussion that those limitations are likely solvable when the RTF identifies a specific project in need of those data.
- Jennifer Light also reported out the hiring of a new RTF Manager, Laura Thomas, and provided a brief review of 2022 financials to date.

## Discussion:

PAC Co-Chair Debbie DePetris opened the meeting at 9:05 PST. DePetris asked for approval of the minutes, which the body approved. There was then a round of introductions before moving into the meeting agenda.

### ***RTF Staffing Update***

Jennifer Light, RTF Chair, announced that the Council has identified a new RTF Manager, Laura Thomas. She most recently came from Energy Solutions and previously spent several years with the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE). Her first day with the RTF is on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Light and the RTF PAC also took a moment to recognize and thank Kevin Smit for his work keeping the RTF moving forward during this period of transition.

### ***RTF Use of End Use Load Research***

Smit, Council staff, presented on the RTF's use of the regional end use load research. The purpose of this topic was to highlight how the RTF plans to use this research, as well as some potential limitations that the RTF may need to navigate any of the use considerations.

Slide 15

Ralph Cavanaugh, NRDC, asked whether the RTF was using this information to test the presumption of energy efficiency measure performance during extreme weather events. Smit said that the data collected did capture some extreme events and can be used that way. He added that we are finding many uses of the data beyond the initial goals of the project. Light agreed and said that while we can model technologies, having data like these to understand actual unit performance is important. She also added that the RTF is broadening its work on extreme weather, and these data should help with that analysis.

Kary Burin, Cascade Natural Gas, asked whether there was anything with natural gas backup for heat pumps in this work. Smit noted that this research is all electric but expects there are some homes with gas back-ups that you can pull those out in the data. Light added that the robust audit of the homes will help us identify those.

Alan Zelenka, Oregon Department of Energy, asked a question on the meter counts on slide 12 and said that these appear to be low numbers. He wondered whether we could extrapolate from these. Smit said that overall, from a regional perspective, most of these are going to provide reliable insight based on the statistics. Light added some context of the RTF review of load shapes where we learned that the alternative to this is data from ELCAP or a small RBSA I sample and noted that this newer data will be a step forward. Zelenka commented on how useful this data is going to be for a variety of work, including greenhouse gas analysis.

Slide 16

Smit noted that there are limitations in the RTF use of the one-minute data based on the current terms of the project sponsors. Specifically, the RTF would not be allowed to post the results of any analysis with that data, which would undermine the purpose of RTF analysis. Smit said the RTF has plans to work through this when we get there. Smit also noted limitations on reposting the data that the RTF ran into when it underwent its analysis.

Fred Gordon, Energy Trust of Oregon, expressed support of focusing on the load shape first and then getting into more interesting questions, some of which involve the one-minute data. He added that if there is a point the RTF needs the one-minute data, being able to use it is likely solvable given the sponsors are all going to be users of the RTF analysis and find the value. Light added that the majority of RTF analysis would leverage the 15-minute data, so that this wouldn't be an issue.

Jeff Harris, NEEA, echoed Smit's point on the repositing data. NEEA is not trying to restrict access to data, but rather is trying to manage against multiple datasets being posted in multiple locations. Harris also expressed excitement in the RTF using the data.

### ***RTF Near-Year End Report***

Light presented the Near-Year End report with an update on the RTF financials and provided a brief status update of the plan for 2023 invoicing.

Slide 7

Light provided details on some of the projects that were related to tool development, specifically highlighting the work that Ben Larson and Justin Sharp did around technology performance in extreme weather.

Cavanaugh asked Light to share some results from the climate analysis. Light picked a few of the highlights to share:

- In the summer, with air conditioning, we were seeing that on the hottest days in a normal year the air conditioner was already operating at 100%. Given this, we weren't seeing an impact on peak during the extreme weather event, but rather the units were just struggling more to meet set point.
- In the air source heat pump, we were seeing a bigger impact on peak with an increase in electric resistance during those extreme weather periods.
- The development of the extreme weather files was done using the last 30 years of climate data to look at some representative extreme periods to model those events. More analysis is needed to understand how extreme weather is changing.

### ***Wrap Up and Adjourn***

DePetris thanked Smit and Light for their presentations. Burdick added on thanks for a smooth transition. Light noted that we will be scheduling 2023 meetings after doodling the members.

DePetris adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.