

**Jeffery C. Allen**  
Chair  
Idaho

**Ed Schriever**  
Idaho

**Doug Grob**  
Montana

**Mike Milburn**  
Montana



## Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

**KC Golden**  
Vice Chair  
Washington

**Thomas L (Les) Purce**  
Washington

**Ginny Burdick**  
Oregon

**Louie Pitt, Jr.**  
Oregon

September 6, 2023

### **DECISION MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Council members

**FROM:** John Ollis  
Manager of Planning and Analysis

**SUBJECT:** Adequacy Modeling Support

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Staff recommends authorization to continue to contract with Gwendolyn Shearer in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for adequacy modeling support throughout the fiscal year 2024.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Staff are preparing another adequacy assessment for 2024 to inform the Council's mid-term assessment on the 2021 Power Plan. This modeling leverages the Council's redeveloped GENESYS model to assess resource adequacy. In preparation for this analysis, as well as analysis in the next power plan, staff are continuing to refine and enhance the GENESYS model. Continuing to contract with Ms. Shearer will expand the team's capabilities to continue model enhancement and complete a robust adequacy assessment next year.

### **BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

For fiscal year 2024, staff recommends authorization to contract with Ms. Shearer in the amount not to exceed \$75,000. This support was included in the Council's budget for FY 2024 and expands the team's capability in the most economical way possible.

## **BACKGROUND**

Ms. Shearer has continuously supported the Council staff in the redevelopment, testing, and running of the GENESYS model since 2010. She has deep familiarity with both classic GENESYS and redeveloped GENESYS. She is the only person outside Council staff (and the developers of the model) that understands the model and how to operate and interpret results. In addition to her extensive knowledge of GENESYS, Ms. Shearer has a deep background in pacific northwest hydropower operations.

The redeveloped GENESYS model is complex and takes more time and effort to set up and run the model. This added effort results in more meaningful analysis to inform our power system decisions of the future. Acting consistent with the Council's fiscal prudence, staff believes a focused contract with Ms. Shearer (as an alternative to hiring a full-time staff to fill a vacancy) is the best approach to ensure the division continues to produce the analysis required by the Council and the region in the timeline necessary while making the most effective use of the division's budget.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The Council could proceed without this added contract support. This would either delay the timeline for the next adequacy assessment or reduce the level of rigor for the analysis. Staff does not see a viable alternative of pursuing an alternative contractor, as the learning-curve required would be costly and less efficient, taking staff time to train up and further reduce our capacity to complete our deliverables in a timely fashion.