

**June 2016
DRAC Issue Paper**

WA State Department of Commerce Comments:

The Washington State Department of Commerce appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Council's Demand Response Advisory Committee Scope issue paper. We commend the Council for its analytical work on demand response presented in the 7th Power Plan and support the formation of a demand response advisory committee. We believe there could be significant operational, economic, and environmental benefits from a well-designed demand response programs deployed throughout the region. Given the Northwest's relatively limited experience with demand response we recommend creation of a widely representative advisory committee that includes members from within the region as well as outside of region experts. This combination of members would provide important advice to the Council and the region and, in particular, help the Northwest design demand response programs that fit our unique circumstances.

We would also offer the follow comments on the specific questions raised in the paper.

1. Is the scope of the proposed demand response advisory committee sufficient? a. Do you agree with the focus of the advisory committee in both the near- and long-term?

The proposed scope of the advisory committee appears to be sufficient. We agree that the focus on near term and long term activities is a good approach to the work of the committee. We would urge the council assemble and advisory committee that includes a mix of representatives with deep understanding of the unique characteristics of the NW electricity system and others who have substantial experience in designing, deploying and operating demand response programs both within and outside of the region.

2. Is it appropriate to convene a separate forum to discuss smart grid, storage, and other enabling technologies? a. Do you agree that a forum is the appropriate venue for these topics (versus an advisory committee)?

We support the convening of a forum to discuss smart grid, storage and other enabling technologies as good starting point to increase the Council's and region's pool of information on those technologies, Based upon the outcome of such a forum the Council should then determine if it makes sense to add to the scope and membership of the demand response advisory committee, to create a separate advisory committee for those technologies, or simply incorporate the information generated by the forum into existing processes.

Thank you again for considering our comments. We look forward to the Council's work on demand response and are available to assist in that effort, as needed.

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