

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 17, 2010

TO: NEET Executive Committee

FROM: Rob Russell (NEEA)

SUBJECT: Outstanding Data Gaps (NEET WG#1/Action 2)

NEET Workgroup #1 (“Measuring What Matters”) identified regional research and data needs and gaps, and it estimated that the region would need to spend \$8 - \$10 million to meet those needs. At the same time NEET was doing its work, NEEA was developing its 2010-2014 Business Plan, which calls for NEEA to deliver some—but not all—of the research and data that the work group identified. The NEET Executive Committee called for the following action: “compare how NEEA data collection activities mesh with NEET report recommendations and determine gaps for future regional attention”. The work group completed that action and concluded that significant gaps still remain.

Since the last NEET Executive Committee meeting, the majority of utilities have reported that their efforts and funding in research and evaluation has increased significantly. In addition, NEEA has facilitated the formation of the Northwest Research Group (NWRG), a regional group that comprises research, evaluation and planning staff from regional entities. The group’s purpose is to provide a venue to coordinate research, share information and provide advice to regional studies. NWRG has a key role in a few areas, including: coordinating Regional Data Collection (focused on evaluation and market research), and development of a Dedicated Clearinghouse/Web Archive (focused on evaluation and market research reports). Recently, the NWRG discussed progress towards attaining NEET’s goals in this area and found the following to be the most urgent gaps:

- 1. Absence of End-use load shape data for all sectors**
- 2. Lack of Sales Data (white goods, consumer electronics, etc.)**
- 3. Deficit of Market Characterizations of the Industrial and Agricultural Sectors**

While the cost to address any of these gaps is significant, there are substantial benefits, including economies of scale, to regionally coordinated approaches that leverage the existing budgets and skilled personnel of utilities in the four-state area. The NWRG plans to examine each of these gaps and prepare proposals for consideration to the Regional Coordination Group.