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**BEFORE THE NORTHWEST POWER  
AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL**

In Re:

The Sixth Northwest  
Electric Power and  
Conservation Plan

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**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Tuesday, October 13, 2009**

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**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Tuesday, October 13, 2009**

Reported by David E. Hix, ASCR, for Naegeli Reporting Corporation, 111 Southwest Fifth Avenue, Suite 2020, Portland, Oregon 97204, (800) 528-3335, Professional Freelance Court Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Montana, residing in Missoula, Montana. Taken at: 100 Madison, The Bitterroot Room, Missoula, Montana, on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

1 **PUBLIC HEARING**

2 **Tuesday, October 13, 2009**

3 **7:00 p.m.**

4  
5 **MR. MEASURE:** I'd like to call the  
6 hearing on the Sixth Northwest Power Plan Draft to  
7 order. This is the second to last day of the  
8 hearing. The actual last day of the hearings are  
9 tomorrow night in Idaho Falls, Portland and Boise,  
10 Idaho and Missoula tonight. We're glad we have  
11 such a great turnout here in Missoula. If there  
12 are any of you who have not signed up to speak, if  
13 you wish to speak, there's a sign-up sheet at the  
14 back of the room. We have two hours, from 7 to 9.  
15 We want everyone that wants an opportunity to  
16 speak to do so. We want anyone that has anything  
17 pertinent to say to express their position, even  
18 if it's not pertinent.

19 What I would ask you to do, is that we  
20 do have a lot of people here. I don't know how  
21 many of you are going to speak tonight. If you  
22 have a repetitive opinion, you might just want to  
23 say I agree with the previous speaker or agree  
24 with their position. That might help move things  
25 along. And try and limit your comments to 5

1 minutes, that way everyone can get through here.  
2 As I mentioned earlier, if you have something to  
3 say, we will let you talk pretty much as long --  
4 not as long as you'd like, but as long as most  
5 people would like.

6           There are three members of the council  
7 here. Joan Dukes, from Oregon; Rhonda Whiting, a  
8 Montana member, and myself. I'm Bruce Measure,  
9 from the Montana contingent. We also have five  
10 staff members here starting with the Executive  
11 Director, Steve Crow; our Director of Public  
12 Affairs, Mark Walker, is at the door; Michael  
13 Schilmoeller, who is the analyst that's primarily  
14 responsible for much of the plan is sitting back  
15 there (indicating); and John Bushnell, our  
16 economist from the Helena office is here; and John  
17 Shurts, our general counsel.

18           **MR. SHURTS:** I'm the lawyer.

19           **MR. MEASURE:** So we have a statement to  
20 read

21           -- Rhonda is going to read -- regarding the  
22 comments that you make tonight. We also have a  
23 court reporter here, who will record all of your  
24 comments. So when you speak, you have a couple of  
25 different options: If you can come up to the

1 table, we want you to clearly identify yourself as  
2 to who you are. We'll read the name off the list  
3 in the order that you signed up. Clearly identify  
4 yourself before you speak so the court reporter  
5 can record your name. Speak clearly into one of  
6 the microphones, and you can either do it from  
7 your seat, if you'd like. John will bring the  
8 microphone around or you can come up here and  
9 state your comments clearly. Rhonda, do you want  
10 to go ahead.

11 **MS. WHITING:** I'm going to read an  
12 opening statement, and this is the statement that  
13 we introduce at every hearing. It kind of goes  
14 through the process itself. "Welcome to the public  
15 hearing held by the Northwest Power and  
16 Conservation Council on the Council's proposed  
17 Sixth Northwest Power Plan. The Northwest Power  
18 Act directs the Council to develop a regional  
19 conservation and electric power plan, and to  
20 review that plan every five years. The Council is  
21 now engaged in its latest five-year power plan  
22 review. As part of this effort, the Council  
23 released a draft revised power plan on September  
24 3rd for public review and comment." "The Council  
25 will be taking written comment on the draft power

1 plan until November 6th. The Council will also  
2 hold public hearings like this one on the draft  
3 plan in all four Northwestern states between now  
4 and then." "If you would like to comment at this  
5 hearing, please sign in on a sheet provided for  
6 that purpose. If you haven't signed in, please  
7 do. Your comments will be recorded, placed in the  
8 Council's administrative record for the power plan  
9 review, and -- and most importantly -- considered  
10 carefully by the Council as it makes its decision  
11 on the final power plan later this year." "For  
12 more information on the proposed Sixth Power Plan,  
13 including the text of the draft plan itself, you  
14 can visit the Council's website at  
15 [www.nwcouncil.org](http://www.nwcouncil.org), or you can submit comments by  
16 using the "how to comment link" on the webpage  
17 devoted to the draft power plan."

18           And I'd like to say I'm glad and really  
19 pleased -- and not surprised -- to see this many  
20 people here in Missoula. Having been a Missoulian  
21 all my life and a Montanan all my life, I know  
22 that this is one area where people are very  
23 passionate and get involved in different issues  
24 around the state. Particularly, Missoula brings  
25 out a lot of people, which is a good thing.



1 We welcome the public participation, and  
2 we're glad that each one of you are here. And if  
3 we can go ahead, I think Member Measure is going  
4 to do a PowerPoint, and then we'll go to the  
5 testimony.

6 **MR. MEASURE:** Joan helped me with that.  
7 This has some of the primary issues in the Sixth  
8 Power Plan. The goal of the plan is to recommend  
9 a low-cost and low-risk strategy to assure the  
10 region of an adequate, efficient, economic and  
11 reliable power system while supporting  
12 implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Program.

13 What we found is that conservation is  
14 the lowest cost resource and can be about 85  
15 percent the demand growth in the region for the  
16 planning period. It avoids the risks of volatile  
17 fuel prices that follow natural gas and  
18 contributes to meeting peak demand as well as  
19 annual energy needs, and it's really great for  
20 creating local jobs. When they put up windmills,  
21 that's a good thing.

22 Key findings-Renewable Generation: Wind is  
23 cost-competitive with other generating  
24 technologies, and is required to meet renewable  
25 energy standards in Montana, Washington and

1 Oregon. Renewables avoid the risks of volatile  
2 fuel prices and the variable output for wind  
3 creates an integration for the region, and in some  
4 cases those integration challenges are pretty  
5 significant.

6           We are probably going to need a good  
7 deal of natural gas generation in the near-term.  
8 Some utilities will need it to meet their capacity  
9 needs, others will need it for flexibility or  
10 both. It carries the fuel-price risk that I spoke  
11 of earlier, but it has lower carbon emissions than  
12 coal. The option on natural gas generation  
13 protects against high carbon costs and rapid-  
14 demand growth, and can even help with integrating  
15 wind.

16           As far as carbon risk, our existing coal  
17 plants provide only 20 percent of our electricity  
18 but emit 85 percent of the CO<sub>2</sub>. We're heavily  
19 dependent upon hydropower at this point in time.  
20 The plan illustrates scenarios that can reduce CO<sub>2</sub>  
21 emissions from the power system. Significant  
22 reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> will require reduced coal use,  
23 and reduced coal use would require additional  
24 natural gas.

25           Our five-year action plan is to develop

1 during that five years 1,200 average megawatts of  
2 conservation; develop renewable generation as  
3 required by renewable portfolio standards in the  
4 three states that have them; develop cost-  
5 effective new generation, if needed, for energy,  
6 firming capacity for the wind and flexibility and  
7 improve power system operating procedures to  
8 expand the ability to integrate wind power.

9           So, your comments tonight? As Rhonda  
10 said, if you've signed up, you get a chance to  
11 comment here tonight. Otherwise, please comment  
12 either by written -- it has to be either from the  
13 website or mail it to us. From the website you  
14 can get the address. That has to be done by the  
15 6th of November.

16           That's it. So I, too, welcome your  
17 comments and appreciate the time that you've taken  
18 out of your lives to come and comment on this  
19 power plan. So Representative Sue Malek, there's  
20 a microphone up here. Or, if you choose to  
21 comment from your seat, just state your name first  
22 for the reporter.

23           **MS. MALEK:** I'm Representative Sue  
24 Malek, M-a-l-e-k representing the western section  
25 of Missoula in Montana's State Legislature. I

1 have followed the work of the Northwest Power  
2 Planning Council, now the Northwest Power and  
3 conservation Council, for many years. I am  
4 grateful for your work, grateful to know that four  
5 states work together to plan power generation and  
6 conservation on a regional basis.

7 I understand that Bonneville Power,  
8 under your guidance, is integrating wind power  
9 into its system, having generated 2,200 megawatts  
10 of wind in 2000, anticipating generating 4,500  
11 megawatts of wind two years from now, 31 percent  
12 of its peak load by next year. I commend  
13 Bonneville and you for your good work.

14 There is much to be appreciated in the  
15 Sixth Northwest Power Plan. But this plan  
16 outlines our hopes for the next 20 years, and it  
17 does not do enough to reduce carbon emissions over  
18 the next five years, let alone over the next ten  
19 and twenty years.

20 Our states have established carbon-  
21 reduction goals for themselves. We need your help  
22 to achieve these goals and to achieve more. We  
23 need this plan to expect more conservation; to  
24 anticipate developing more alternative energy; to  
25 do more to ensure clean water and air to future

1 generations, more to provide good, clean jobs for  
2 our states.

3           Bonneville Power and the Council must  
4 strengthen plans to inform and educate customers  
5 about energy conservation. People will conserve  
6 as they become more informed. They will generate  
7 their own power when given the opportunity. As  
8 your plan says, conservation measures from 1980 to  
9 2007 saved the equivalent of 3,645 average  
10 megawatt hours of new power generation. We know  
11 we can do more to conserve energy. Our citizens  
12 want you to do more. You must lead.

13           Because of Bonneville's demonstrations  
14 of what can be done with wind power and because of  
15 the untapped innovation of so many people in  
16 Montana with its big skies full of sun and wind,  
17 we know that we can generate more alternative  
18 energy. Lead us in demonstrating that alternative  
19 energy can work. But us, as a region and a  
20 participating state, limit carbon emissions and  
21 visualize and plan for a cleaner, more profitable  
22 future for ourselves and our families.

23           **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Representative  
24 Malek, and my apologies for mispronouncing your  
25 name. Ken Sugden. If you have written comments

1 leave them there at the table, and we'll put them  
2 in as part of the record as well.

3 **MR. SUGDEN:** Ken Sugden, general manager  
4 of Flathead Electric in Kalispell, Montana.

5 Thanks for this opportunity to give testimony.

6 I'd like to start out by saying that the draft  
7 plan is a good effort overall. I can't remember  
8 in any previous plan as much interaction as the  
9 Council and the Council's staff has had with the  
10 stakeholders in the region, and I appreciate that.

11 I know in going to the Pacific Northwest  
12 Utility Conference Committee every month there's  
13 usually a Council member and/or staff almost every  
14 month at those meetings. With the energy and the  
15 utility industry, we're going to carry out a lot  
16 of this plan.

17 We do support the draft plan's objective  
18 of affecting and enhancing the renewable,  
19 noncarbon-emitting hydropower system, and we think  
20 that we need more smaller scale hydro in the  
21 region and would like to see the plan have a  
22 little more emphasis on that.

23 We appreciate the fact that this plan  
24 recognizes the need for flexibility and resource  
25 development. Local conditions require particular

1 actions. Mark Johnson, who is next on the list  
2 from Flathead Electric, will talk to you about  
3 some of the particular things that we're doing at  
4 Flathead Electric in that regard.

5 We do think that the plan understates  
6 future resource costs and think that the public  
7 needs to know the effect of policy decisions on  
8 the costs of resources. We are always surprised  
9 and our members are surprised when we're at our  
10 annual meetings. We point out to them fish and  
11 wildlife costs are almost a third of our  
12 Bonneville Power bill. Most of the public doesn't  
13 realize some of that, that the policy decisions  
14 are tending to affect the cost of resources rather  
15 than the actual construction costs of resources.

16 We do urge you to use caution in your  
17 estimates of future carbon costs in the models,  
18 because the unknown future carbon regulation,  
19 we're not sure what the costs are going to be.  
20 And if you use too high a cost, that skews the  
21 analysis for future resources.

22 You've heard that the utility industry -  
23 - and we've worked with the Council staff on the  
24 conservation targets, and the utility industry  
25 thinks that the conservation targets are too high.

1 There are challenges for rural utilities to meet  
2 the goal, especially if it's based on the share of  
3 regional load. Many rural utilities only serve  
4 residential customers. And a lot of the  
5 residential customers don't have electric heat, so  
6 there's not a lot of potential in some of those  
7 areas. Plus, a lot of us have been doing  
8 conservation programs since the 1980s. So we  
9 think the bottom of the five-year range, 1,100  
10 megawatts, should be 1,000 megawatts.

11 We do support the midterm review of  
12 energy efficiency targets. We support the  
13 adoption of building codes. But you need to be  
14 aware that building inspections are an issue in  
15 the rural areas of our services area.

16 The Regional Technical Forum needs to be  
17 overhauled. If I had my way, the Regional  
18 Technical Forum, we would tell them the measures  
19 we want to do, and they would tell us how many  
20 kilowatt hours savings it would be rather than  
21 getting into the cost-effectiveness of those  
22 measures and telling us, no, you can't do this one  
23 because it's not cost-effective.

24 Exhibit M, dealing with fish and  
25 wildlife costs, drastically understates those



1 costs. It uses the average imbedded cost to the  
2 system to estimate the cost of fish and wildlife,  
3 and we think it should use market costs. So we're  
4 urging the Council to throw out Exhibit M and redo  
5 those costs, because they drastically understate  
6 it.

7           Some of the specific issues raised by  
8 the Council in the request for comments, you ask  
9 about the rising prices of electricity over the  
10 next 20 years and the ways utilities can help  
11 reduce the effect on customers' monthly bills. We  
12 do agree with the Council draft plan that  
13 conservation programs are the least-cost resource.  
14 And we also know that load growth is going to cost  
15 more. As we look at future resources, the costs  
16 are a lot higher than the cost that we're paying  
17 Bonneville Power.

18           We don't have any issues with the  
19 Council's load-growth forecast. And I talked  
20 about the conservation targets. We're worried  
21 about how those targets are going to be  
22 apportioned to individual utilities. Thank you.

23           **MR. MEASURE:** Thanks, Ken. Mark  
24 Johnson, please.

25           **MR. JOHNSON:** My name is Mark Johnson.

1 I'm the assistant general manager of Flathead  
2 Electric Cooperative. Ken Sugden talked a little  
3 bit about the overall perspective on the plan, and  
4 I'd like to talk a little about Flathead  
5 Electric's -- what it means to Flathead Electric  
6 as far as the power plan and how to influence the  
7 decisions that we'll make at Flathead Electric.

8           As Ken mentioned, energy efficiency,  
9 obviously, we recognize that as a least-cost  
10 resource, that utilities recognize its importance  
11 moving forward. Flathead Electric has been  
12 progressively pursuing energy efficiency since the  
13 1980s. We started with no-interest weatherization  
14 loans in the '80s. In the 1990s, we moved, making  
15 a big step for the utilities industry, into energy  
16 efficient water heaters, Super Good Sense homes,  
17 and geothermal heat pumps.

18           And Flathead Electric recognizing that,  
19 from 1980 to 2008 we saved, with our programs,  
20 almost 42.5 million kilowatt hours, which is  
21 enough energy to power Whitefish and Columbia  
22 Falls for a year. But that wasn't enough, and we  
23 recognized that's not enough. We did it as the  
24 least-cost resource. So in 2009, Flathead  
25 Electric and its board added three energy-

1 efficiency FTEs and four new energy-efficiency  
2 programs, including home-energy audits, which  
3 hadn't been done; high-efficiency window  
4 replacement rebates; insulation upgrades, rebates  
5 on a new Montana home construction design. And  
6 then we're also participating in a smart-grid  
7 program with 16 northwest utilities that's being  
8 led by Batel and Bonneville.

9           And the utility recognition of the  
10 importance of energy efficiency is not lost at  
11 all, and it's becoming very exclusive -- extensive  
12 in our region. I would echo Ken's point that the  
13 1,100 megawatt lower-end range is a little high,  
14 based on the analysis that's been done by  
15 utilities and the organizations that implement the  
16 plans, and would echo his recommendation of 1,000  
17 megawatts.

18           Flathead Electric budgeted almost nine  
19 million kilowatt hours of energy efficiency for  
20 our residential programs in 2009, and another nine  
21 million kilowatt hours of energy-efficiency  
22 savings from industrial and commercial programs.  
23 We are not going to meet those targets, and it  
24 isn't because we've not actively pursued them.

25           If you read our newspaper, you'll see

1 our ads. We've pursued a lot of advertising,  
2 direct mailings, all kinds of programs to try to  
3 attain those goals. But unfortunately, things  
4 outside of our control have influenced those, and  
5 I think that the plan needs to take into account  
6 that there are forces outside of just promotion  
7 that cause problems in meeting these targets.

8           The economy, obviously, has played a big  
9 issue. We had some -- obviously, some of our  
10 large industrial customers, where the rubber  
11 really meets the road relative to energy  
12 efficiency, they just have either closed some of  
13 their plants. They've curtailed operations.  
14 They've laid employees off, and they just don't  
15 have a desire to do -- to spend any resources at  
16 this point, which caused some of our losses in  
17 that particular sector.

18           I will also echo that the building codes  
19 are many times adequate, but the enforcement is  
20 not. And that makes it hard on us to try to put  
21 in energy efficiency. And so it makes our job  
22 that much tougher.

23           There also needs to be some  
24 consideration in the plan to the variation in  
25 loads and the geographic diversity of loads. By

1 not having an allocation or a stated allocation  
2 methodology, you're pitting utilities one against  
3 another. You're pitting the I-5 corridor  
4 utilities that have a lot of opportunity and  
5 statutory requirements to meet the loads, versus  
6 utilities in Western Montana that have primarily  
7 residential loads, and that makes it very tough.

8           When you're talking about a timber  
9 processor or any kind of large-scale industrial  
10 operation versus putting CFLs into a home, it  
11 makes it very complicated for those utilities to  
12 meet a load-based application of the target. So  
13 we need to make sure there's some direction on how  
14 those allocations are allocated to each of the  
15 utilities.

16           The other thing I think I'd like to  
17 mention is the plan making sure that consideration  
18 is given to all of the conservation and energy  
19 efficiency programs that have been done to this  
20 point. A lot of the low-hanging fruit has already  
21 been taken, and I agree that we need to pursue  
22 more options and more programs be in place. I  
23 think that's an important consideration.

24           As far as resource acquisition, I  
25 appreciate the fact that in the plan it does note

1 that Bonneville will need to acquire resources,  
2 that conservation and renewables won't be enough,  
3 and I think that's an important point. Flathead  
4 Electric has recognized that, and we have tried to  
5 move from purely a distribution utility -- which  
6 we had been -- to a utility that now, obviously,  
7 has a generation focus. Because it's in a tiered-  
8 rates world with Bonneville, that's where we need  
9 to be.

10 We did fire up this year a landfill gas  
11 project. We do have a congressional appropriation  
12 to do some geothermal drilling near Hot Springs.  
13 We're working with the City of Whitefish on a now-  
14 defunct small hydro project and revitalizing that  
15 project. We're working with some local timber  
16 mills on combined heat and power projects for  
17 biomass, and we're also working on a couple of  
18 projects within independent parties on some  
19 potential biomass options.

20 So I will echo, again, what Ken had  
21 mentioned as far as the cost of resources being  
22 substantial. If our members purely read the plan,  
23 I don't think the plan is going to tell them  
24 exactly what it's going to do to our rates. And  
25 it's really unfair that the plan tries to deal

1 with rates. Because it's so different, it depends  
2 on whether your utility is dense, if you have a  
3 lot of economies of scale, if you're spread out  
4 and aren't dense, it really matters. We have  
5 utilities in Western Montana whose actual  
6 wholesale rates are less expensive, but their  
7 rates to their consumers are higher because they  
8 don't have the density that we have, and they  
9 don't have the opportunities we have.

10 I would also echo an appreciation for  
11 the collaborative effort that the Council and the  
12 Council staff has put in, in spending a lot of  
13 time with all of the individuals that are impacted  
14 by this plan. I really appreciate that. Thank  
15 you.

16 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Mark. Before  
17 we go on, we have 24 people who have signed up to  
18 testify -- or 26 total. If you intend to testify,  
19 and you haven't signed up yet, please do so.  
20 We're trying to judge the time pretty closely.  
21 I'm watching my cell phone up here, and if you go  
22 over, I'll probably give you a little wag with my  
23 finger. That just means to move it along, if you  
24 would.

25 Beth Schenk. Beth, why don't I give you

1 this decent microphone so you don't have to hold  
2 it.

3 **MS. SCHENK:** My name is Beth Schenk, S-  
4 c-h-e-n-k, and I'm speaking as a public citizen  
5 tonight. I'm a registered nurse, and I want to  
6 speak about our energy future that doesn't have  
7 wind enough in it and, in my opinion, is a health  
8 effect and adds to climate destruction.

9 First, I do totally appreciate the work  
10 that you're doing on the plan. I appreciate that  
11 you've addressed eliminating fossil fuels in the  
12 power plan -- it's needed -- and the general  
13 discussion about renewables and the discussion by  
14 others, that is confusing to me, about nonfossil  
15 alternatives to that generation.

16 In terms of health effects, this is an  
17 important issue. Of course, it varies according  
18 to where you are on the planet. Right here on the  
19 western front we had a welcome rest this summer  
20 from the fires, but we remember what it was like  
21 the last decade. I think, given that, we need to  
22 work a little harder than the plan suggests in our  
23 efforts in reducing carbon.

24 I'd like to see that -- even though we  
25 don't need new ones, I'd like to see that we



1 ratchet down the existing number of carbon power  
2 plants.

3 I'd like to also comment on energy  
4 efficiency. If the Department of Energy is  
5 correct in saying that 20 percent of current  
6 energy use in homes or businesses is wasted,  
7 perhaps we can go a lot further with energy  
8 efficiency in those costs. But I think overall we  
9 can probably achieve those costs. I don't think  
10 it's possible to expect or examine and achieve the  
11 costs of health effects, but we'd like them to do  
12 more research and more education more clearly.

13 I believe -- especially as evidenced by  
14 our prior speaker -- we can come up with many more  
15 solutions that might spare us in the future from  
16 worrying. I think we have that opportunity now.  
17 And I would like to thank you for the opportunity  
18 to make these statements on that. Thank you very  
19 much.

20 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you. Thomas M.  
21 Power.

22 **MR. POWER:** Good evening. For those of  
23 you who are not, I'm from Missoula. Welcome to  
24 Missoula. I was raised as a good Catholic boy, who  
25 always tries to do what he's told, and was told

1 that I should limit my comments to 3 minutes. I'm  
2 also trying to save the economics or professorial  
3 profession from the usual claim that we can say  
4 nothing in less than 50 minutes. So I'm going to  
5 try and stick to the 3 minutes; although, I've  
6 burned up a couple already.

7 In any case, my name is Thomas Michael  
8 Power. I'm a research professor and professor  
9 emeritus in the Economics Department at the  
10 University of Montana, where I've served as a  
11 teacher, researcher and administrator over the  
12 last 42 years, a long time.

13 Since the mid 1970s I've been involved  
14 in electric utility planning, working with all of  
15 the public utilities commissions in the region and  
16 very directly with the now-defunct Montana Power  
17 Company -- I was not responsible for that, however  
18 -- and now NorthWestern Energy, primarily  
19 representing low income and other consumer  
20 interests.

21 I applaud the Council's and your staff's  
22 efforts to wrestle with the substantial  
23 uncertainties associated with impending national  
24 carbon regulation and its implications for the  
25 relative costs of the different ways of meeting

1 our electric supply needs as well as other  
2 uncertainties, including the future price of  
3 natural gas.

4           You have faced those uncertainties  
5 directly and sought to develop a regional electric  
6 plan that reduces risks, maintains substantial  
7 flexibility in the system, while keeping costs --  
8 including environmental costs -- as low as  
9 responsible.

10           The most difficult and controversial  
11 issue, at least from my point of view, that you've  
12 had to deal with has been climate change,  
13 greenhouse gas emissions and the impending  
14 regulation of those emissions.

15           As I read the draft plan, the Council  
16 has not taken a position on the appropriate method  
17 or level of greenhouse gas regulation. Instead,  
18 your modeling has indicated how different levels  
19 of emission penalties are likely to affect  
20 greenhouse gas emissions of the electric sector in  
21 the Pacific Northwest.

22           On my reading, there's several clear messages  
23 that come through from that modeling and the  
24 discussion in the plan: First, without fairly  
25 rigorous nationwide regulation of greenhouse gas

1 emissions, normal economic forces may stabilize  
2 emissions from our electric sector but will not  
3 allow us to make progress in reaching Montana's  
4 and other states' targets to reduce those  
5 emissions.

6           Second, a fairly high penalty, in the 40  
7 to \$50 per ton range of carbon emissions, may be  
8 required to reach the emissions-reduction targets  
9 we as a state and a region have already adopted.

10           Third, reaching those reduction targets  
11 will require the reduction of generation from the  
12 region's coal-fired plants or the capture and  
13 storage of the carbon dioxide that's emitted by  
14 those plants.

15           Fourth, our emission-reduction targets  
16 in the electric sector can be met at a significant  
17 but relatively modest cost to households,  
18 businesses and the overall economy, quite modest  
19 especially compared to the potential costs  
20 associated with doing nothing about climate  
21 change.

22           Fifth, investments, as we're already  
23 heard and energy efficiency and renewable electric  
24 resources, and very importantly, major efforts to  
25 reduce the barriers to expanding both of these our

1 region's electric portfolio are the cheapest,  
2 least risky and most environmentally benign  
3 electric planning path for this region to be on.

4 To a certain extent, these messages are  
5 somewhat buried in your draft plan. But I still  
6 think that they come across quite clearly and will  
7 help guide utility energy planning in the region  
8 in the right direction.

9 Given that three of the four states of  
10 the region have adopted the goal of significant  
11 reductions in their greenhouse gas emissions, I  
12 think it's important for the final Sixth Plan to  
13 explicitly comment on what would be necessary in  
14 the region's electric supply decisions to  
15 contribute to the achievement of those goals to  
16 reduce, not just stabilize, our greenhouse gas  
17 emissions. Thank you.

18 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you. Chuck Magraw.

19 **MR. MAGRAW:** Thanks, Council Member  
20 Measure.

21 Chuck Magraw representing -- speaking on  
22 behalf of NRDC on RNC. I'll simply read what I've  
23 written here: The draft plan is impressive in its  
24 scope, finding and conclusions. In particular,  
25 the draft should be commended for its finding that

1 northwest load growth over the next 20 years can  
2 and should be met by a combination of energy  
3 efficiency acquisition and renewable energy. But  
4 I also must say, that notwithstanding the  
5 achievement of the draft plan, it doesn't quite  
6 make it to the finish line.

7 First, it's important to note what the plan  
8 does. Very simply, the plan is a map to our  
9 energy future. It enables the northwest to  
10 anticipate what lies in store for us and to  
11 prepare for it by taking those actions and making  
12 decisions that will, when that future is realized,  
13 produce benefits to us: Economic benefits, social  
14 benefits and environmental benefits.

15 So what does the draft plan envision?  
16 Well, it's pretty clear. The draft plan says --  
17 and this is a quote -- "that we are in a time of  
18 profound change." Indeed, the change the plan is  
19 talking about the form of carbon constraints that  
20 will fundamentally alter the way we produce, use  
21 and consume energy, envelops the draft plan and  
22 drives all of its findings and conclusions. But  
23 the plan stops short of actualizing its findings.

24 We know that we must reduce greenhouse  
25 gas emissions. The draft plan acknowledges that

1 this is our future. And to reduce greenhouse gas  
2 emissions, maybe not right now, maybe not  
3 tomorrow, but soon, we will have to begin to  
4 retire existing coal-fired generation and will  
5 have to transition to non and low-carbon sources  
6 of energy.

7 But the draft doesn't call for this, and  
8 so doing, it fails to enable the region the plan  
9 for the very future that the draft envisions.  
10 That is my overarching point here. But I want to  
11 emphasize that that issue does not negate the  
12 many, many good things that are in the plan.

13 So briefly I'd like to talk about some  
14 of these and some of the specific actions items.  
15 All of the conservation action items are sound. I  
16 want to call out, however, for special attention -  
17 - not because they are more important than any of  
18 the others, but because I don't want them to go  
19 unnoticed -- Action Items Nos. -- Conservation  
20 Action Items Nos. 5, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 18. These  
21 correctly, in my opinion, identify the importance  
22 of building codes and standards, the important  
23 role played by the Regional Technical Forum, the  
24 risk-reduction benefits from energy efficiency,  
25 the need to reduce barriers to efficiency

1 acquisition and the recognition of the special  
2 circumstances faced by electric cooperatives.

3 On the draft plan's generation items, I  
4 want to note and agree with the draft items No. 3  
5 through 6. And those regard the importance of  
6 addressing balance service issues, or what the  
7 draft plan refers to as flexibility. Those are  
8 critical, and I think the plan is well advised to  
9 highlight those and identify those as items of  
10 high priority.

11 On the Bonneville action items, I simply  
12 wanted to observe -- and this is actually more in  
13 the nature of a question -- that no mention was  
14 made in the Bonneville discussion or in the action  
15 items about Bonneville's role in transmission  
16 development.

17 The federal power agencies, as you know,  
18 were given substantial resources in the way of  
19 increased power and authority under the Recovery  
20 Act. I think that it is an appropriate role for  
21 Bonneville to be addressing transmission issues.  
22 And, obviously, this is the central issue here in  
23 Montana with respect to development of Montana's  
24 renewable resources.

25 Finally -- and you'll forgive me for



1 ending here on a somewhat critical note -- I want  
2 to urge you as strongly as I can to strike, in its  
3 entirety, Generation Option No. 8. It suggests  
4 that there is a trade-off between energy  
5 efficiency acquisition and renewable energy.  
6 Nothing could be further from the truth.

7           The draft plan makes it clear that both  
8 of these resources reduce risk and are cost-  
9 effective and that we need both. Moreover, there  
10 is absolutely no evidence, either in this region  
11 or anywhere else in this country, that renewable  
12 energy acquisition has adversely impacted energy  
13 efficiency acquisition. Nor is there any reason  
14 for concern in this regard, because energy  
15 efficiency acquisition will be favored in any  
16 carbon-reduction strategy. Thank you very much.

17           **MR. MEASURE:** Thanks, Chuck. And as a  
18 side bar, you may want to talk to John Shurts on  
19 the way out the door about the transmission issue.  
20 Jim Maunder, please.

21           **MR. MAUNDER:** I'm Jim Maunder. I'm the  
22 Manager of Member Services for Ravalli Electric  
23 Co-op. I'm the Montana representative to the  
24 Regional Technical Forum and, also, been doing  
25 this for almost 25 years with utility conservation

1 programs. I appreciate you taking the time to  
2 come to Montana and to listen to what we have to  
3 say.

4 This marks the 75th year that Ravalli  
5 Electric Co-op has provided clean, 100 percent  
6 renewable hydro from Bonneville to our members.  
7 We started purchasing power from Bonneville in  
8 1950, and we've just signed another 20-year, long-  
9 term contract. I'd like to thank them for that.

10 I'm going to speak mainly to the energy  
11 efficiency or conservation measures. Since 1980  
12 through 2008 Ravalli Electric Co-op has been very  
13 active in promoting energy efficiency through  
14 Bonneville programs. We do promote, to our  
15 members, EnergyStar appliances, geothermal heat  
16 pumps. We work -- I've worked through the  
17 Regional Technical Forum for the standard for the  
18 Montana house, energy-efficient all-electric home.

19 Currently in Ravalli we have 8,000  
20 members. We have about 10,000 meters. We're 95  
21 percent residential. With this downturn in the  
22 economy, we've seen it hit really hard in our new  
23 services, but for potential for people, low-income  
24 in our area.

25 Weatherization is a big issue. What

1 we're running into, is we're going back to houses  
2 built five and seven years ago -- I handle high-  
3 build complaints -- but houses that were  
4 supposedly builder self-certified, built to code  
5 and they're not. I've been in a number of houses,  
6 including one built last year, that didn't even  
7 come close to the code.

8 Montana has a builder self-  
9 certification. In our area, it's builder no  
10 certification is what's going on. So if we're  
11 going to promote energy efficiency in this state  
12 and have a renewable energy portfolio standard, we  
13 need to have code enforcement. Otherwise, we're  
14 going back every year to weatherize homes that  
15 should have been built right in the first place.

16 One of the biggest challenges we see is  
17 that as new technologies come onboard -- having  
18 done this for 20 years -- Montana is an island  
19 surrounded by land -- what's driven by the I-5  
20 corridor utilities is usually, easily 18 to 24  
21 months before it gets adopted. We're the dumping-  
22 ground for water heaters and inefficient light  
23 bulbs that were pushed out in code in Seattle. We  
24 find them coming in here. So you, as a member, I  
25 don't know what we do, but we need to address

1 that.

2 I'd like to thank the Council members  
3 and the RTF members for coming to Montana, meeting  
4 with the five Western Montana Co-ops that purchase  
5 power from Bonneville to address some of our  
6 concerns this year, and look forward to doing it  
7 more next year. I want to thank you for your  
8 time.

9 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you. Mark Hayden,  
10 please.

11 **MR. HAYDEN:** Good evening. My name is  
12 Mark Hayden. I'm the general manager of Missoula  
13 Electric Cooperative. I'm not going to revisit  
14 all the issues that were so well expressed by Ken,  
15 Mark and Jim, instead maybe focus a little more,  
16 again, on our energy-efficiency efforts at MEC and  
17 what we're seeing.

18 MEC is a full-requirements Bonneville  
19 customer that serves the needs of nearly 14,000  
20 members here in Western Montana and Eastern Idaho.  
21 I would like to commend the Council on their  
22 efforts to put forth a plan that appears  
23 reasonable and thoughtful and addresses the notion  
24 that individual utilities may have needs different  
25 than the region as a whole.

1           Since taking over as general manager six  
2 months ago, I'm proud to report on the efforts MEC  
3 has made in the area of energy conservation. We  
4 agree that energy efficiency is typically the  
5 lowest cost resource, and it should be the first  
6 the region looks to as we move forward.

7           MEC has devoted the resources necessary  
8 to develop a robust energy-efficiency department  
9 devoted to areas that are most relevant to our  
10 member owners. As a result, we have implemented  
11 existing BPA sponsored programs targeted towards  
12 our residential, agricultural and commercial  
13 members.

14           One concern I have with regard to the  
15 plan relates to conservation targets. While  
16 initial interest in our program offerings has been  
17 strong, utilization has been slow, the low result,  
18 I believe, of the current economic situation and  
19 related uncertainty over conditions in the near-  
20 term.

21           Given this high degree of uncertainty  
22 and the results of research by the utility at BPA  
23 staff that have implemented energy-efficiency  
24 programs, we believe the lower boundary of the  
25 Council's conservation targets is too aggressive

1 and suggest that the Council adjust the  
2 conservation targets accordingly.

3           As general manager, it's also my  
4 responsibility to stress the importance of  
5 affordability when discussing future rate  
6 increases that the members will face. Discussion  
7 of future rate impacts deserves a prominent place  
8 in the plan. That being said, it's more important  
9 than ever to main the output of the existing hydro  
10 system. We appreciate the plan's recognition of  
11 the value of the existing hydro system, and that  
12 there will be heavy carbon-cost impacts to  
13 eliminating generation at any of the dams. It's  
14 important to maintain the output of this carbon-  
15 free, low-cost resource. Thank you.

16           **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you. Bob Baily,  
17 please.

18           **MR. BAILY:** I'm Bob Baily, Director for  
19 Ravalli Electric. I'd just like to reiterate my  
20 support for what has been presented by our other  
21 co-op members here tonight.

22           The only other area that you haven't --  
23 nobody has addressed is to bring up other  
24 alternative power, what I refer to as almost green  
25 power. We haven't addressed nuclear as being an

1 issue. I'd just like to bring up, since we have a  
2 few Sierra Club members here, a member of Green  
3 Peace just recently addressed some of our co-ops  
4 at a national meeting, and made the statement that  
5 one of the worst things that they -- or one of the  
6 mistakes they made in the past was killing  
7 nuclear. That, of course, precipitated nuclear  
8 plants around the nation that coal was the only  
9 thing that we could bring forth.

10           You know, I want to thank you for your  
11 efforts on this plan. Being a board member for  
12 30-some years, this is quite an advance over  
13 previous plans. I definitely support what you're  
14 doing with this present plan. Thank you.

15           **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Bob. Len  
16 Broberg.

17           **MR. BROBERG:** Good evening. My name is  
18 Len Broberg, and it's B, as in boy, r-o-b, as in  
19 boy, e-r-g. I'm here tonight as a private  
20 citizen. At my day job, I teach at the University  
21 of Montana. Thank you, Council Members, for  
22 holding this hearing here in Missoula. It's very  
23 nice to be able to come just for an evening and  
24 share my thoughts on the plan with you.

25           I think it's a very important piece of

1 work that will guide us into the future and will  
2 ultimately influence quite heavily how successful  
3 we are at meeting the challenges ahead of us. So  
4 I appreciate all the efforts of the Council and  
5 the staff to wrestle with these difficult issues  
6 and to help guide us into the future in a positive  
7 way.

8           For that reason, I'd like to applaud,  
9 first of all, your proposal to meet the new energy  
10 demand that will occur in this region with energy  
11 conservation and renewable energy. I think that's  
12 the direction to go. I think that's a good step  
13 that's outlined by the plan, and I think we can  
14 work together to address the kind of issues that  
15 are being raised by rural utilities here in  
16 Montana and structure the process of allocation of  
17 that energy efficiency attainment in a way that  
18 allocates those burdens fairly, but reaches the  
19 ultimate targets that you're projecting in the  
20 plan.

21           I would, though, encourage the Northwest  
22 Power Conservation Council to take the next step  
23 beyond meeting that new demand and actually to  
24 start ramping down the reliance on coal-fired  
25 generation within the region. And there are lots



1 of good reasons to do this, the measure of which  
2 will be touched on, I'm sure, by other folks and  
3 have already been touched on.

4           But I think a few that might be  
5 underappreciated are that taking these steps now  
6 has real merit. Many of the problems that we have  
7 now are caused by our delaying actions, which we  
8 perceived as having an immediate cost and that we  
9 thought perhaps somehow, in some kind of silver-  
10 lining future, we might avoid those costs or  
11 reduce them.

12           Well, I don't think that's likely, for a  
13 variety of reasons. If we take the steps to  
14 reduce reliance on coal-fired generation now in  
15 the northwest and reduce our CO2 emissions, I  
16 believe it will lead us to an advantageous  
17 leadership position. We'll be competitive at  
18 attracting industry that wants more of a carbon-  
19 neutral energy base to work from, plus will help  
20 us improve the job opportunities here in the  
21 region.

22           It will also reduce costs that would  
23 occur with an inevitable transition of phasing  
24 into different kinds of power modalities in the  
25 future. Those costs are probably best predicted

1 in the short term rather than in the long term.

2 At the university I've watched many  
3 times where they've started out with building  
4 projects and construction projects. And in the  
5 last decade, as they've moved forward with those  
6 projects, they had to go back and raise more  
7 because the costs of doing that have doubled or  
8 tripled.

9 I think we're likely to face the same  
10 scenario here. If we're going to put a different  
11 infrastructure in place, I suggest the costs are  
12 more likely to be lower in the short term than  
13 they will in the long term for many of the kinds  
14 of technologies you've been looking at.

15 Another point is I think it will reduce  
16 the dislocation of the northwest economy in this  
17 energy transition to start a ramp down now. If we  
18 have to start with a more drastic approach later,  
19 that will cause greater dislocation, greater  
20 disruption potentially of power sources and its  
21 collateral effects of the economy and the lives of  
22 people in the region.

23 I think also by taking this step now you  
24 begin to ramp it down and keep costs reasonable to  
25 consumers, another important focus of your

1 planning efforts, which I think is altogether  
2 appropriate. But I think the idea that the  
3 current uncertainty of the situation promotes a  
4 wait-and-see attitude works to the disadvantage of  
5 the consumer as well, ultimately.

6           And finally, I think you can better  
7 anticipate and project costs for near-term changes  
8 than for long-term changes, as I've already said.  
9 Energy efficiency and renewables provide energy  
10 sufficient to cover the initiation of the  
11 switching from coal-fired generation to more  
12 carbon-neutral sources, and I encourage you to  
13 take more aggressive steps in that direction.

14           Another point I'd like to raise is that  
15 I think we can reduce -- or remove, excuse me --  
16 the state river dams and still cover the power  
17 needs of the region in a carbon-neutral way. So  
18 I'd like to incorporate that as part of your  
19 planning process and have that recovery of salmon  
20 runs, which will only work to bolster communities  
21 throughout the Pacific Northwest, into your  
22 planning as well.

23           Thank you again for your time and  
24 attention. Good luck in your deliberations.

25           **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you. Ralph Goode.

1 And there are also five or six good seats up front  
2 here for anyone that would want them.

3 **MR. GOODE:** Good evening. My name is  
4 Ralph Goode, General Manager of Mission Valley  
5 Power. We are a full-requirement Bonneville Power  
6 Administration customer. Our utility has  
7 purchased no power that has a carbon footprint to  
8 date. We have over 18,000 meters in our service  
9 territory, and over 14,000 of those are  
10 residential. So over 75 percent of our customers  
11 are residential customers.

12 We've had an aggressive energy  
13 conservation program since the '80s, but  
14 especially in the last eight years we've pushed  
15 hard on energy conservation. Many times we pay for  
16 incentives that we thought were important for our  
17 customers that was not credited towards the PTRs  
18 of planning, tracking, reporting because it wasn't  
19 on the system, available to credit ourselves. We  
20 did not get credit back from Bonneville, so it was  
21 not a Bonneville program. It was a utility  
22 program. We're very proud of that and continue to  
23 push for that yet today.

24 The challenge that I want to talk about  
25 tonight is Regional Technical Forum, the

1 experience that I pushed through with my energy  
2 conservation specialist on the Montana Energy  
3 Home. We at Mission Valley Power had not been  
4 able to convince our contractors to build  
5 EnergyStar homes. They weren't interested in  
6 that. They came off the Super Good Sense home.  
7 We've lost that label, I guess, and so EnergyStar  
8 was picked up.

9           So we developed a home that our builders  
10 were interested in building, and the utility  
11 started pushing that for two years. We called it  
12 the Montana Mission Valley Power Home. Now we  
13 call it the Montana Home.

14           So I took that before Bonneville as a  
15 customer proposal. They ran it through RTF, and  
16 it sat there for about six months before we got to  
17 go to the table and answer and present it.

18           It was approved. Some of the  
19 information that was processed there in the  
20 calculations was never made available to us. It's  
21 a black box that the energy-efficiency people told  
22 me we could look at. So it's controlled by one  
23 person, and it's not shared with the people that  
24 know about it. So that was hard for us to  
25 understand and to work through.

1 I went to the meeting in January. That  
2 was on the final tap of it. We sat through  
3 telephone calls before. We spent the money to go  
4 to Portland. And what I observed at that meeting  
5 was we had good support from -- a Washington  
6 person made the motion, from a small co-op, and it  
7 was approved. So we were tickled. We got it and  
8 were excited about it. We left.

9 The next meeting, Washington and Oregon  
10 were not allowed to participate, only Montana co-  
11 ops. So that was really alarming to me, and I  
12 never did find out all the reasons for that.

13 After that, then it took four months to  
14 get on the planning, tracking, reporting system  
15 because it doesn't flow. There's a process that  
16 works. So the Regional Technical Forum, we have  
17 to streamline it. And as Ken said, we need to have  
18 demasures for whatever we're going to do and not  
19 worry about cost-effectiveness, because it's not  
20 the same throughout all the areas.

21 The utilities will decide what's cost-  
22 effective or Bonneville will. If we don't want to  
23 participate, then thank you. In 2011, we probably  
24 won't participate in Bonneville programs. We'll  
25 probably do it ourselves, because we're trying to

1 reduce our purchase requirements above the Tier 1  
2 authorization. Those are some of the things I  
3 saw.

4 The other thing that I saw on the RTF is  
5 we had consultants do a presentation, sit down and  
6 vote on the presentation. That was alarming to  
7 me. I think the RTF should be made up of utility  
8 people only and other specialists that aren't  
9 doing work for utilities to promote business.

10 The last thing on the RTF is there's no  
11 demerits for utility upgrades on distribution  
12 and transmission. We're losing a lot -- there's a  
13 lot of good things down there that we're not  
14 getting -- the northwest is not getting credit for  
15 the savings. We're using bigger wire and better  
16 transformers, those kind of trade-offs. We don't  
17 need to be paid for it, but we need to credit  
18 ourselves, especially if you're going to keep the  
19 target at 1,100. We think that's going to be a  
20 big challenge for us.

21 Future power choices for Mission Valley  
22 Power, we've worked hard on this for the past two  
23 years with RG&T. We were really excited about  
24 wind. But the last wind offer we got was four  
25 times higher than the hydropower, and it was brown

1 power. I never knew what brown power was, but it  
2 was offered without any green credits. And it was  
3 four times higher.

4 So the wind factor or opportunity here  
5 is very costly. So the customer is going to have  
6 to pay for that, and I'm real concerned about  
7 that. We are very much into renewable choices.  
8 But it also has to be cost-effective and reliable.

9 The other day I drove through the Cut  
10 Bank wind farm. There was about a 20-mile-an-hour  
11 wind, my estimate for western Montana. I'm not a  
12 wind guy, so it's my estimate. But half of them  
13 were turning. Sunday night I came through Great  
14 Falls, and the six outside of Great Falls, nothing  
15 was turning. I didn't stop in Great Falls to see  
16 what the wind was like. The trees weren't bent  
17 over anyways, so that was a good sign. There  
18 wasn't too much wind, I don't think.

19 I think the plan is a good start. I  
20 think we've got some challenges. I hope you look  
21 at those. And I thank you for the opportunity to  
22 speak.

23 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Ralph. Kyla  
24 Wiens.

25 **MS. WIENS:** Hi. My name is Kyla Wiens,



1 that's W-i-e-n-s, with the Montana Environmental  
2 Information Center. The Montana Environmental  
3 Information Center is a nonprofit environmental  
4 organization that works to promote a clean and  
5 healthful environment for all Montanans. I want  
6 to thank you for the opportunity to comment and  
7 listening to our comments tonight, and also for  
8 developing a plan that sets stronger goals for  
9 energy efficiency and renewable energy in the  
10 region.

11 MEIC is supportive of the plan's  
12 proposal to acquire 5,800 average megawatts of  
13 energy efficiency to help meet the region's  
14 growing energy demand over the next two decades.  
15 This is an ambitious yet affordable and an  
16 achievable goal. Energy efficiency is the  
17 cleanest resource available, and developing this  
18 resource will save consumers billions of dollars  
19 and prevent them from being subject to volatile  
20 energy costs.

21 Energy efficiency and renewable energy  
22 are important, but they are only half of the clean  
23 energy equation. Gains in conservation and  
24 renewable resources of power must be coupled with  
25 a plan that sets goals for reduced greenhouse gas

1 emissions, phased out coal-fired power and account  
2 for likely future costs placed on carbon-based  
3 fuels and emissions.

4 Washington, Oregon and Montana have  
5 developed state policies or signed on to regional  
6 plans, such as the Western Climate Initiative,  
7 that sets significant greenhouse gas emissions  
8 reduction goals. The Council should set emissions  
9 reduction targets for the next 20 years that meet  
10 or exceed reduction goals set out in these plans.

11 Under the current policy, greenhouse gas  
12 emissions would only stabilize at 2005 levels.  
13 Without reduction targets, the full economic and  
14 environmental benefit of energy efficiency and  
15 renewable energy resources will not be realized.

16 The Sixth Plan should also create a road  
17 map for the future that phases out power generated  
18 from coal over the next 20 years. Coal plants  
19 provide 23 percent of the northwest's electricity,  
20 but are responsible for close to 90 percent of the  
21 region's carbon dioxide emissions.

22 In 2007, the Council recommended that  
23 the only way to reduce global-warming emissions in  
24 the region would be to end our reliance on coal-  
25 fired power. In a region where coal is not the

1 dominant power supply but the dominant carbon  
2 emission source, phasing out coal-fired power is  
3 both economically feasible and environmentally  
4 effective.

5 By transitioning away from coal, the  
6 projected greenhouse gas emissions 20 years from  
7 now would be 70 percent below 2005 levels. This  
8 is close to what is recommended by the  
9 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
10 Recommendations.

11 Finally, the Sixth Plan should also  
12 include a reasonable carbon dioxide price  
13 forecast. The cost of coal will increase in the  
14 near future; that is certain. Impending  
15 regulations for mercury emissions, advanced air  
16 pollution controls and coal combustion waste  
17 disposal will finally place the true cost on the  
18 price of coal.

19 Additionally, there will be a cost  
20 placed on carbon dioxide emissions. While the  
21 Council cannot control the future costs of carbon  
22 emissions, its Sixth Plan should contain a  
23 reasonable carbon dioxide price forecast for  
24 utilities to use for planning in their ongoing  
25 operations. Without a price indicator, utilities

1 are given a free pass to continue business-as-  
2 usual operations at coal-fired power plants. It  
3 is unreasonable to exclude a price forecast from a  
4 regional plan that will be operating in a carbon  
5 constrained future.

6 We encourage the Council to move forward  
7 and develop a plan that is not only strong in  
8 developing energy efficiency and renewable energy  
9 but recognizes the importance of reducing the  
10 region's global-warming emissions. Thank you for  
11 the opportunity to comment.

12 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you. Whitney Byrd,  
13 please.

14 **MS. BYRD:** Hi. My name is Whitney Byrd,  
15 and I'm speaking tonight as a private citizen.  
16 I'm also a graduate student at the University of  
17 Montana.

18 I'd like to thank the NWPCC for this  
19 opportunity to comment on the draft of their Sixth  
20 Power Plan. First, I'd like to applaud the  
21 Council for demonstrating that through measures to  
22 conserve energy, there's no need to increase net  
23 greenhouse gas emissions or build new fossil-fuel  
24 burning plants to meet a growing need for  
25 electricity in the northwest region.

1           However, it is my understanding that our  
2 atmosphere will not stabilize by avoiding  
3 increases in greenhouse gas emissions alone, but  
4 rather, by reducing current greenhouse gas  
5 emissions as well. In terms of the action plan,  
6 this means to reduce the number of fossil-fuel-  
7 burning plants and to reduce our greenhouse gas  
8 emissions rather than keep the current system in  
9 place.

10           This can be achieved by harnessing more  
11 energy from renewable resources, such as wind  
12 power, to replace fossil-fuel-burning plants  
13 rather than supplementing energy supplied by the  
14 plants to reach an increasing demand.

15           Globally, we are currently already above  
16 the concentration of carbon dioxide in the  
17 atmosphere that the latest climate science  
18 determines to be a safe upper limit. To aid the  
19 most severe consequences of climate change for  
20 future generations, we have a duty to take more  
21 aggressive action by not only avoiding increases  
22 in burning fossil fuels, such as coal, but to also  
23 reduce our emissions by phasing out this practice  
24 as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

25           **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you. Nels Hefty,

1 please.

2 **MR. HEFTY:** I'll submit my comments in  
3 writing.

4 **MR. MEASURE:** Very good. Zack Porter.

5 **MR. PORTER:** Good evening. My name is  
6 Zack Porter. Thank you very much for allowing us  
7 to have this opportunity to speak tonight. As co-  
8 president of the University of Montana Climate  
9 Action Now and as a student at the University of  
10 Montana, I come here with a really special message  
11 for you, and that I hope you will listen to very  
12 carefully, because I feel that it's an issue that  
13 won't be addressed by many other people in the  
14 audience here tonight. So I hope that you will  
15 give me your full and undivided attention, despite  
16 that we're a long way into the evening already,  
17 and I know there's a long way to go.

18 First of all, I'd like to ask all the  
19 students who are in this room who are concerned  
20 about these issues, that they stand. Please come  
21 forward and show yourself, stand please. As you  
22 can tell, this is a high percentage of the people  
23 in the room. And there are a lot of other things  
24 on our agenda for the evening, I can promise you.

25 This is an issue that matters to us more

1 than I would say anybody else; us being young  
2 people. If there is anything that I can leave you  
3 with tonight, I hope it's a sense of urgency. And  
4 I'm not into scare tactics, but I want to even say  
5 fright, for ourselves and future generations.  
6 Because when it comes down to it, none of us in  
7 this room will even be feeling the impacts of  
8 climate change that our children will and their  
9 children. So I hope you'll take that message from  
10 us here tonight.

11 As previous speakers have said, this  
12 plan takes significant steps that are commendable  
13 and that are excellent first steps towards meeting  
14 our future energy needs and also reducing our  
15 carbon emissions. However, we can't simply  
16 stabilize emissions, as Whitney eloquently said  
17 just a moment ago. We have to reverse them.

18 Just next week we will have action on  
19 campus all week with the 350 Week of Climate  
20 Action. 350 being an international -- or  
21 nongovernmental organization headed up by Bill and  
22 Kevin and others with the goal of returning our  
23 level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere back to  
24 350 parts per million. This issue -- so this  
25 issue is something that we are addressing as we

1 speak.

2 I wouldn't go into much more detail  
3 about it here because people have said many of the  
4 goals that we hope you will consider already.  
5 Once again, we do commend you on what you have  
6 done so as far. These are important steps  
7 forward. But I hope that you will realize that 20  
8 years is a long time, and that's the next time  
9 we'll be addressing these issues again.

10 We have to assume technologies will  
11 improve. We have to assume that we're able to do  
12 even greater things in five years than we can now.  
13 Let's aim high, and let's make sure that our kids  
14 have a better future than we do currently. Thank  
15 you.

16 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you and your fellow  
17 students for placing this much importance on the  
18 process. Jeff Birkby.

19 **MR. BIRKBY:** Good evening. My name is  
20 Jeff Birkby. I'm a project manager with the  
21 National Center for Appropriate Technology, or  
22 NCAT, based in Butte, Montana. NCAT's overall  
23 mission is to research and demonstrate good ideas  
24 and new tools of sustainable energy and  
25 sustainable community development.



1 NCAT has more than 30 years experience  
2 in helping people learn about technologies and  
3 practices that save energy and resources in their  
4 homes, farms business workplaces and communities.

5 NCAT is also the main support contractor  
6 for NorthWestern Energy's Business Energy Partners  
7 program. Through this project and the partnership  
8 with NorthWestern Energy over the past two years,  
9 we have conducted more than 300 energy audits on  
10 commercial businesses in Montana, and we are on  
11 target to complete over 1,000 energy audits on  
12 businesses in Montana in the next two years.

13 Examples of small business energy audits  
14 we've conducted include a bowling alley in Twin  
15 Bridges, a small cafe in Anaconda, a church in  
16 Townsend, a carpet store in Bozeman and a grocery  
17 store at Red Lodge. We've also completed energy  
18 audits on middle schools in Helena, another at the  
19 courthouse in Havre, a car dealership in Great  
20 Falls.

21 We've conducted energy audits on some of the  
22 largest energy users in Montana, including large  
23 centralized warehouses for Safeway and Albertson's  
24 grocery stores, the Ironwood Manufacturing  
25 furniture factory here in Missoula, a number of

1 hotel and motel chains, and even cement production  
2 plants. These hundreds of Montana energy audits  
3 tell the same story: Energy conservation is the  
4 best option in our state for saving energy and  
5 avoiding the need to produce more power from  
6 fossil-fuel power plants.

7           Through our efforts at NCAT, we have  
8 helped to develop roughly \$50 million in energy-  
9 conservation jobs in the state of Montana in the  
10 past two years, stimulating job creation from Red  
11 Lodge to Plains, Thompson Falls to Columbus, and  
12 Darby to Havre. The energy conservation retrofits  
13 completed as a result of these energy audits have  
14 led to the hiring of electricians, boilermakers,  
15 window installers, carpenters, maintenance  
16 engineers, architects and engineering firms  
17 statewide.

18           Implementing cost-effective energy  
19 conservation in Montana has proven to stimulate  
20 jobs, reduce energy consumption and have a  
21 tremendous payback. Often, the energy  
22 conservation measures, such as replacing old,  
23 inefficient lighting in a high school gymnasium,  
24 has a payback of less than two to four years. In  
25 many cases, we have found that 30 percent to 50

1 percent of the energy a business pays for is  
2 wasted through inefficient boilers, bad lighting  
3 and poor insulation, and we've just scratched the  
4 surface in Montana.

5           The Sixth Power Plan can do a great deal  
6 to shine on the tremendous benefits of investing  
7 more in energy audits and energy conservation.  
8 Energy conservation is cost-effective. It creates  
9 jobs and it can help reduce global warming through  
10 both reducing energy use and eliminating the need  
11 to build more fossil-fuel plants.

12           But even more aggressive energy  
13 conservation can do much more. The Sixth Energy  
14 Plan should clearly recommend that no new fossil-  
15 fuel plants be built in the region. Conservation  
16 and renewables can handle new growth. But the  
17 plan should also assert that existing energy use  
18 could be significantly reduced through more  
19 aggressive energy conservation, thereby  
20 eliminating the need for many existing fossil-fuel  
21 facilities, which would accelerate the reduction  
22 of carbon, save more energy and create even more  
23 local jobs for Montana's workers. Thank you.

24           **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you. Larry Keogh.

25           **MR. LARRY KEOGH:** Good evening. My name

1 is Larry Keogh; it's K-e-o-g-h. And this evening  
2 I'm here just to show support, not to rag. I'm  
3 kind of the every guy here. I'm a student. I'm  
4 also -- I pay my utility bills through Ravalli  
5 Electric Co-op, so I'm just a regular guy, a  
6 regular guy that started attending these meetings  
7 back in 1983 or 1984 with this Northwest Power  
8 Planning Council. So I really appreciate the work  
9 you folks have done. We in Montana have continued  
10 to enjoy relatively low rates. A large part of  
11 that is due to your work, so sincerely, thank you.

12           The carbon costs, they aren't  
13 internalized at present. We spew stuff into the  
14 air. That's just totally the way it is. And I  
15 know that since not all carbon costs are  
16 internalized, we don't pay them. That if I had to  
17 pay my carbon costs, I'd howl; I'd howl aloud.  
18 But sometimes you just got to nut up, and you've  
19 got to do what's right.

20           The direction we need to follow, the  
21 right path right now, is to reduce the amount of  
22 carbon we're spewing into the air. We need to  
23 pursue low or no carbon increasing as far as our  
24 production. Additionally, as we cowboy up or nut  
25 up to do what's right, we need to look at the --

1 we need to encourage -- maybe through BPA  
2 incentives and the like -- smaller, more regional  
3 power production that's either carbon neutral or  
4 low carbon. We need to scale back our carbon  
5 footprint that we're already putting out. And as  
6 far as energy processes go, we've got to cut back.  
7 We have to do what's right. So what's right now  
8 is that we've got to cut back our carbon footprint  
9 regardless of the cost. That's what's right.  
10 Thank you.

11 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Larry. Next,  
12 the voice I only know at the end of the telephone,  
13 Bob Decker. It's interesting to see what you look  
14 like. I didn't realize you were so tall.

15 **MR. DECKER:** Thank you, and good to meet  
16 you, all of you. It's Bob Decker. I'm the  
17 Executive Director of a nonprofit organization in  
18 Helena called the Policy Institute, part of whose  
19 work is the development and practice of state  
20 energy policy.

21 The chairman of my board of directors is  
22 Ken Toole, Public Service Commissioner, one of  
23 five in Montana who is reaching -- or counties of  
24 his direction extend from Lewis and Clark in the  
25 south up either side of the Rocky Mountain front

1 through Teton, Glacier, Flathead and Lake, and I  
2 may have forgotten one. But Chairman and  
3 Commissioner Toole wanted me to emphasize his full  
4 support and enthusiasm for your focus on  
5 conservation and renewables. And our organization  
6 does the same good job. We support that  
7 wholeheartedly.

8           You've heard this evening about -- or  
9 some questions and some friction about the concept  
10 of conservation. You've heard several people say  
11 that you're not being aggressive enough, and  
12 you've heard, particularly from some co-ops, that  
13 the numbers you've set will be hard to reach.

14           I wanted to tell a very brief small-  
15 picture story about conservation and suggest how  
16 we might get at it a little better. And that has  
17 to do with building codes, another subject you've  
18 heard about this evening.

19           Our organization has been working for  
20 over a year now on the revision of Montana's  
21 building codes. And we're making good progress.  
22 Just a couple of months ago the Montana Building  
23 Codes Council, a committee appointed by the  
24 governor, approved several revisions and  
25 strengthening standards based on the 2009

1 International Energy Conservation Code energy  
2 standards, and did pretty good work to revise  
3 Montana's codes.

4 I and my allies in this effort have  
5 worked, as I say, for a year to make that happen.  
6 And what has occurred along the way is  
7 illustrative to me of why this conservation thing  
8 is hard to grasp sometimes. In organizing and  
9 calling labor unions, and utility representatives,  
10 and municipal building code officials, city  
11 commissioners and county commissioners and co-op  
12 people, I quickly bumped into -- from a lot of  
13 people -- cynicism about building codes. Because  
14 for many people in Montana, regulators, utilities,  
15 co-ops, it doesn't matter -- I oversimplify -- but  
16 it really doesn't matter what the codes say,  
17 because there is no enforcement.

18 So it's been estimated that when Montana  
19 adopts and exercises building code programs, it  
20 reaches perhaps 50 percent of the new structures  
21 built in the state. Now, of those 50 percent that  
22 it reaches, there's good enforcement; there's bad  
23 enforcement, but there's some sort of system at  
24 work.

25 For the other half of the new structures

1 in the state -- as was mentioned earlier -- it's a  
2 sticker on an electric box that has several boxes  
3 that you check off -- that works on the honor  
4 system -- that energy codes are followed. There  
5 is general agreement that that volunteer system  
6 isn't working, and it's resulted in cynicism about  
7 the adoption of new codes.

8           So what I'm telling you about this  
9 little sliver of conservation, what I'm telling  
10 you, this is for -- is to ask that the Council,  
11 when you discuss, when you look at one aspect of  
12 conservation, that is building codes. Using just  
13 this example of work in Montana, you can throw  
14 your institutional expertise and weight at the  
15 idea of enforcing -- enforcement -- of the things  
16 that are written on paper, which don't, by  
17 themselves, save any energy.

18           If you do that, if you throw your  
19 institutional strength in a new or a better way at  
20 enforcement, you give us, at least in Montana --  
21 I'll presume the other states in the region -- a  
22 lot of help towards achieving what most people  
23 agree on paper that we should achieve. So thank  
24 you very much for your time. It's good to meet  
25 you, Mr. Measure.



1           **MR. MEASURE:** Good to meet you at this  
2 time. Thank you. Mary Hamilton, please.

3           **MS. HAMILTON:** Thank you for this  
4 opportunity. My name is Mary Hamilton. I am one  
5 of the owners of Solar Plexus, LLC, which is a  
6 solar installation business here in Missoula.

7           Father Henry Morrell (sic), who served  
8 the Avondale Parish (sic) in the late '70s and  
9 drowned in the Big Blackfoot River in a canoeing  
10 accident, once told me to always remember that  
11 small is beautiful. Coming from a man who was  
12 6'4", it made an impression on me.

13           I think it's important to emphasize the  
14 importance of bottom-up over top-down reform. The  
15 reason for this is because of the power of  
16 corporate lobbyists on the top. Their interests  
17 are in maintaining the inertia of the systems that  
18 have brought great wealth to the companies they  
19 represent. We the people are much better served by  
20 bottom-up, grass-roots programs which answer only  
21 to the common sensibility of the American people.

22           Our retail store and solar installation  
23 business has been in operation for 16 years. We  
24 have installed one-and-a-half megawatts of  
25 renewable energy. Well over a half a megawatt of

1 that is solar PV. We've had a few different  
2 employees over the years, trained them into the  
3 field, providing them with health care and paid  
4 plenty of taxes into the general economy.

5 My point is that we -- if we can be part  
6 of job creation, fight global warming, provide  
7 health care benefits, promote conservation,  
8 efficiency and renewable energy and actually enjoy  
9 what we do, then perhaps the powers that be should  
10 incentivize this type of business. All new energy  
11 studies have shown solar PV to create, by far, the  
12 most new jobs.

13 Think of it like a huge field of  
14 wildflowers.

15 Each flower is like our business, and each  
16 one is spreading the solar energy that nearby  
17 homes and businesses need to bloom and be  
18 productive: Talk about distributed generation.

19 I think of all of our business as a test  
20 case. Can it work? Yes, it can. Will you become  
21 a millionaire overnight? No, you won't. Do you  
22 have to give it a great deal of commitment?  
23 Absolutely. Does it put meaning into your life?  
24 More than I ever imagined. It is the American  
25 dream.

1 This all sounds real good, but we still  
2 haven't figured out how to incentivize this  
3 activity, and America, so far, has it all wrong.  
4 We have a long history of offering tax incentives  
5 for solar based on the nameplate value of the  
6 system. These incentives have missed the mark  
7 because they're discriminatory in that you need a  
8 tax burden to be interested in or to profit from  
9 the incentive or even to qualify.

10 And the systems aren't based on  
11 production, which encourages all manner of fly-by-  
12 night installation and shoddy material, causing  
13 safety issues, unfair competition and giving solar  
14 a bad name overall as clients tell friends how  
15 their poorly designed and poorly installed system  
16 doesn't work.

17 Enter the feed-in tariff. If you hear  
18 about something working well somewhere else in the  
19 world, it makes good sense to go there and study  
20 the model. I recently wrote to the Secretary of  
21 Energy to ask that he send an envoy to Germany to  
22 study the feed-in tariff model there so we can  
23 begin to figure out how we can incorporate it into  
24 our energy program.

25 I received a very polite reply from an

1 office person with some engineering degree level  
2 who said we can't do a feed-in tariff because  
3 we're not set up for it. My gut reaction was,  
4 isn't that why we elected you guys, so you could  
5 set it up, so to speak? Anyway, back to the  
6 grass-roots level in a hurry.

7           The feed-in tariff is production based,  
8 so it requires separate meters to measure the  
9 power being delivered by the solar or wind system  
10 back to the utility. The owner of the system  
11 would then get paid more for their green power  
12 than they have to pay for the usual fossil fuel or  
13 dirty nuclear they would otherwise be using. All  
14 of the ratepayers share in the cost of the green-  
15 power purchase. In Germany, this has been  
16 implemented nationwide, and yet rates have only  
17 increased about \$4 per month, per customer.

18           Until very recently Germany has been  
19 purchasing about half of the solar panels produced  
20 in the world each year. Other countries are  
21 following the

22           German example: Italy, France, Spain.  
23 Surprisingly, Germany started this program at the  
24 grass-roots level, and once it proved itself to be  
25 a good program in the outlying provinces, it was

1 adopted nationwide. They are still paying 43  
2 cents a kilowatt on 20-year contracts for PV. We  
3 could live with that.

4           Gainesville, Florida, has a feed-in  
5 tariff, the first in the U.S. Now Vermont and  
6 Hawaii and just yesterday California have jumped  
7 on board. These programs vary on how they're  
8 operated, but nevertheless, there is strong  
9 evidence that they are fairer than tax credits and  
10 get better results. There is a strong incentive  
11 for the installer to do a good job because the  
12 system will be judged on production. There is a  
13 strong incentive for the customer, the owner of  
14 the system, to make sure the system is producing  
15 what the installer claimed it would, because if it  
16 doesn't, he won't get a check for his power.

17           Ontario's incentive rates vary from 10  
18 cents a kilowatt to 80 cents depending on the type  
19 of energy. Solar is usually rated the highest,  
20 while wind, because of its need for transmission  
21 and its random production, gets a lower incentive  
22 rate.

23           Enough can never be said about  
24 conservation and efficiency. This means that  
25 there just needs to be some allowances for

1 smartening up the grid. I just don't see the need  
2 for big, new transmission from large centralized  
3 power plants of any kind as long as we have the  
4 on-site potential of solar PV.

5 In summation, conservation and  
6 efficiency are the cheapest and most successful  
7 energy resources available. Don't get carried  
8 away on new power lines. Smart substations? Yes.  
9 Power lines to nowhere? No, very expensive,  
10 wasteful, time consuming, political stuff.

11 Implementing the feed-in tariff from the  
12 bottom up is absolutely urgent if we are going to  
13 get solar off of the ground in the U.S. and beat  
14 global warming.

15 Number four, this is for my husband, who  
16 has a small hydroelectric plant. He's going to be  
17 certified as green by the Low Impact Hydro  
18 Association, recognizes green, also on hydro,  
19 recognizing the certified low impact hydro system.  
20 Thank you.

21 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, very much. Jim  
22 Morton, please.

23 **MR. MORTON:** My name is Jim Morton. I'm  
24 the Director of the Human Resources. And for over  
25 35 years we have been offering energy

1 conservation, services and opportunities to lower  
2 energy in schools in our valleys and counties --  
3 Missoula County, rather. We do that through a  
4 variety of funding sources including congressional  
5 appropriation, requests by our governor and  
6 incorporating our state legislature, contracts  
7 with Bonneville Power, Missoula Electric  
8 Cooperative, NorthWestern Energy as well.

9 I mention those funders and contracts to  
10 convey to you a widespread support that I have  
11 seen for energy conservation and energy  
12 efficiencies across many sectors of our economy  
13 and society. Therefore, I'm here to support the  
14 conservation section on conservation and encourage  
15 you to adopt it.

16 And as someone who has been involved in  
17 every plan that the Council has issued, I would  
18 also like to give you my appreciation for the  
19 dedication I have seen over the years to public  
20 involvement and to encouraging the citizenry of  
21 our states to get involved in this process.

22 I would also like to compliment the  
23 staff as well as the Council members for what I  
24 think is probably one of the most robust and  
25 sophisticated approaches to power planning in the

1 United States. As I travel around and talk to my  
2 colleagues in other parts of this country, I'm  
3 often congratulated because I'm there, on being  
4 from a region that takes so seriously energy  
5 planning. And I think that this high praise for  
6 you and your staff in something that all of us  
7 should be proud of because we do take this  
8 seriously. We do understand what happens to the  
9 end user as prices fluctuate. And I encourage you  
10 to go forward. Thank you.

11 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Jim. Dan  
12 Spencer, please.

13 **MR. SPENCER:** My name is Dan Spencer.  
14 I'm here as a private citizen. I also teach at  
15 the university. I want to start by just, again,  
16 as others have, by commending you for the sound  
17 basis for a plan to move forward, particularly  
18 with a plan that meets new energy needs for the  
19 next 20 years with no net increase in greenhouse  
20 gas emissions and no new fossil burning plants.

21 I'll be brief, and I'll take you up on  
22 your invitation. Some of the other people have  
23 said the things I was going to say. I'll give you  
24 my written comments and just echo those.

25 I want to say one other thing: I'm really



1 inspired by the number of students who are here  
2 tonight. Several of them are my students. Some  
3 of them weren't in class this morning, but they're  
4 here tonight. It's probably their priority to  
5 have not.

6 I am deeply concerned about the impact on  
7 future generations, both human and animal, in this  
8 region here. I would just echo two more points  
9 again: You've got a very good start at  
10 stabilizing, but we really need to move beyond it  
11 by reducing CO2 emissions, greenhouse gas  
12 emissions, and particularly by aggressively moving  
13 to phasing out and shutting down our current coal-  
14 fired power on that. So I commend you for an  
15 excellent start. I appreciate your very hard  
16 work, and appreciate you listening to us tonight.

17 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, very much.  
18 We're inspired as well. Ross Keogh, please.

19 **MR. KEOGH:** Thank you, Councilman. I  
20 would first like to start out, my name is Ross  
21 Keogh, and during the day I'm an energy analyst  
22 for a small renewable energy company. My comments  
23 tonight are based on my own feelings about the  
24 power plan, not those of my employer.

25 I want to applaud your staff, many of

1 whom I've worked with at different levels and then  
2 talked to them about their expertise in this power  
3 plan. I feel like it truly represents a fantastic  
4 document that provides a guiding voice for how the  
5 northwest can achieve realistic conservation  
6 targets and CO2 reductions over the next 15 to 20  
7 years.

8           That was going to be the extent of my  
9 comments until I spent all day with NorthWestern  
10 Energy in a session on how to identify how they  
11 can properly integrate wind into the transmission  
12 system. After that session, I am concerned that  
13 your power plan takes one thing as endogenous,  
14 which is the institutional design of our  
15 electrical grid in the Pacific Northwest.

16           And by this I mean specifically that we  
17 don't have a regional ISO. That term is going to  
18 sound a little bit long to the people in this  
19 room, but I think it's something that we really  
20 need to focus on.

21           California and other parts of the  
22 Western Interconnect have done a fantastic job of  
23 integrating their transmission systems, and this  
24 has allowed them to facilitate larger penetrations  
25 of wind at reduced costs and to reduce the cost of

1 moving power around that transmission system.

2 I want to stress this comment because  
3 your staff has the technical capacity to sit down  
4 and to quantify the benefits associated with  
5 moving to a regional ISO. We seem to not be able  
6 to get there with utility working groups. I think  
7 it's important that your plan, Council,  
8 investigate the situation and do what you can to  
9 try to put some pressure on those to move towards  
10 a regional ISO. That's all I've got. Thank you.

11 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Russ.  
12 Commissioner Gail Gutsche.

13 **MS. GUTSCHE:** Good evening, Council  
14 Members, folks. I am Gail Gutsche, and I am a  
15 member of the five-member Public Service  
16 Commission. I represent this district, which is  
17 District 4, which is Granite, Powell, Ravalli,  
18 Lincoln, Mineral, Sanders and, of course, Missoula  
19 County. And I welcome the opportunity to make a  
20 few comments. And I will be brief because I'm not  
21 going to repeat what so many people have already  
22 said tonight.

23 Unlike so many folks who have already  
24 spoken before me, I'm pretty new to the regulatory  
25 business and to the power business. And so this

1 has been a great learning opportunity for me  
2 tonight. I want to specifically thank Mary  
3 Hamilton from Solar Plexus for a crash course on  
4 how to incentivize solar PV. And I think it's  
5 great so many folks have turned out tonight to  
6 speak.

7           The reason I think that this power plan  
8 is so important -- and I just barely got through  
9 learning the Fifth Power Plan and now we're on the  
10 Sixth -- is because it gives guidance to the  
11 Public Service Commission on what the energy mix  
12 should look like, what it might look like. It's  
13 helpful to have this thorough analysis as I  
14 engaged in decision-making on how utilities are --  
15 investor-owned regulated utilities move forward,  
16 operate and potentially expand.

17           This guide to utility energy planning  
18 and electric supply decisions is hugely important  
19 as a map to our energy future. We need you folks  
20 to lead. We will help lead our utilities through  
21 your leadership.

22           The conclusion that was constant and  
23 that so many folks have already mentioned in your  
24 plan, that the most cost-effective and least risky  
25 resource for the region is improved energy

1 efficiency of electricity use couldn't be more  
2 germane. It couldn't be more important at this  
3 time. It's heartening, and it's humbling.

4           The goals are lofty, but I think they're  
5 achievable. And beyond that we must achieve them  
6 if we are going to reduce our carbon footprint.  
7 If we're going to reduce our need to produce more  
8 energy, we have to do so much more with the energy  
9 resource. It's heartening to have a plan that  
10 says that between energy efficiency and  
11 renewables, we can, in fact, meet our load growth  
12 over the next 20 years. Energy efficiency is our  
13 first and best resource, and as several folks have  
14 said, our least-cost resource. And that's the  
15 most important thing to remember, is that it's our  
16 least-cost resource.

17           I appreciate a couple things specific to  
18 regulatory goals in the plan. One is that you did  
19 not place specific conservation targets on  
20 regulated, investor owned utilities, such as  
21 NorthWestern Energy, but instead leave that up to  
22 individual public service commissions or public  
23 utility commissions. I think that's really  
24 important. As other speakers have alluded to,  
25 it's not a one-size-fits-all map, and we're going

1 to need to work with our individual utilities as  
2 best as we can.

3 I applaud the Council's plan to develop  
4 and implement measures that are commercially  
5 viable but relatively new. But I urge continued  
6 diligence in monitoring and achieving maximum CFL  
7 penetration and savings consistent with that  
8 market transformation. Yes, a lot has been done,  
9 and that is low-hanging fruit. But I don't think  
10 that we have maxed out on CFLs yet.

11 And third, I applaud the conditioned  
12 funding for energy management companies such as  
13 the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and its  
14 supported market transformation, because it's  
15 essential to achieving the Council's overall  
16 conservation goals to fund these kinds of  
17 organizations.

18 And then I'd just like to make a couple  
19 of comments about the regulatory scheme and the  
20 fact that I believe the plan needs to consider the  
21 external regulatory environment, and that includes  
22 Congress but also the EPA. Clearly, it is an  
23 uncertain time. There are profound changes, and  
24 we are moving forward with those uncertainties.  
25 But to not take into consideration that we are

1 going to be living in a carbon-constrained world  
2 and what that will do to energy prices, I think is  
3 a mistake.

4 I think it's important that we realize  
5 that the EPA is moving forward with a host of  
6 regulations that will make carbon, coal  
7 specifically, cost a lot more than it does now.  
8 So I hope that you will consider those thoughts  
9 when you are improving and working on your plan.  
10 And the Public Service Commission will be making  
11 formal comments on this plan, as a unity, before  
12 the deadline. Thank you.

13 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Commissioner  
14 Gutsche. Alex Taft, please.

15 **MR. TAFT:** Hi. I'm Alex Taft. I'm the  
16 vice-chairman of the Missoula Chapter of the  
17 Montana Conservation Voters. We have 500 citizen  
18 members in our chapter in Missoula, and Montana  
19 Conservation Voters has 3,000 citizen members  
20 throughout the state.

21 The Montana Conservation Voters seeks  
22 candidates for public office who are conservation-  
23 minded. We support their election, and when  
24 elected, we monitor their actions in their new  
25 jobs in promoting conservation.

1 I have four specific comments on the  
2 plan. First is the plan fails to establish a CO2  
3 emissions price that utilities should use for  
4 planning and operating their systems. Two, the  
5 draft plan would stabilize global warming  
6 emissions but not reduce them, as many have said  
7 already. Three, we applaud the Council for  
8 showing we need no new fossil-fuel power plants.  
9 And, four, the conservation targets in the draft's  
10 five-year action plan are too low. Thank you very  
11 much.

12 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you. Patrick Rhea.

13 **MR. RHEA:** My name is Patrick Rhea, that  
14 is R-h-e-a. I'm a student at the University of  
15 Montana. I'm centered with the Associated Students  
16 of the University of Montana, and I'm here  
17 speaking on behalf of U of M Climate Action Now  
18 with my co-president Zack Porter.

19 I really want to echo some of the things  
20 that have been said tonight about reducing CO2  
21 emissions, on a whole, across the region. I think  
22 that is something that's extremely important, and  
23 I'm afraid that it's overlooked. I'm afraid that  
24 it's also just going to be considered another part  
25 of the plan if it is included. I feel that it



1 should be a priority.

2           The affects of climate change have been  
3 reported upon extensively by many scientists  
4 around the world, and we're finding out, even now,  
5 that maybe those predictions are too conservative  
6 and that we're going to see effects that are a lot  
7 worse than what we thought we had coming, and we  
8 thought we had some pretty bad things coming.

9           So I'm concerned that if we don't put a  
10 focus on climate change with this plan, it will be  
11 overlooked, and we won't do what's necessary to  
12 make sure that the northwest is doing its part.

13           What I want us to do is make sure that  
14 CO2 emissions are a priority, and we need to make  
15 sure that we're reducing those to a level that is  
16 safe and healthy. I want to make sure that  
17 efficiency is done, as well, but done in a way  
18 that basically works with reducing our CO2  
19 emissions at the same time.

20           I want to echo the fact that we can  
21 increase efficiency with our systems currently and  
22 still use different forms of power generation. I  
23 think that those two can work together very well.  
24 It's my opinion that if we do not ensure that we  
25 reduce the CO2 levels, we are letting down not

1 only ourselves, but we're letting down our future  
2 generations. I want to make sure that's something  
3 that does not happen. I hope you will consider  
4 this a central focus with the plan, and I thank  
5 you for being here tonight. Thanks.

6 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Pat. Zack  
7 Brown, please.

8 **MR. BROWN:** My name is Zack Brown, and I  
9 come to you as a private citizen, as a college  
10 student. I'm 19 years old. I come to you also as  
11 a future father and hopefully a future  
12 grandfather. And lastly, I come to you as a  
13 native Montanan.

14 I was raised fishing Montana rivers in  
15 the Gallatin Valley, and it's a huge part of my  
16 identity. I say fishing because that's the most  
17 immediate ramifications of burning coal that comes  
18 to mind for me. Climate change can become an  
19 abstract issue. But as far as your plan, I say  
20 that you need to address not only eliminating --  
21 if you say there will be no need to generate or  
22 create new fossil-fuel power plants, but I say we  
23 need to be deassembling those and eliminating them  
24 from there.

25 But going back to fishing, there was

1 recently a study done by the USGS that found that  
2 mercury found in fish was a way -- was a much  
3 larger problem than ever before recorded or  
4 thought. And they found mercury levels at  
5 dangerous levels all across the board in the  
6 United States, in pristine environments  
7 everywhere. And they also stated that the main  
8 source of that mercury is from coal-fired power  
9 plants.

10           So I remember vividly when I was 10 or  
11 12 years old my father took me on the Gallatin  
12 River. And he raised me as a catch-and-release  
13 fly fisherman. That's still something that I  
14 practice. But the first time I caught a nice,  
15 good-sized brown trout on a catis fly, we took  
16 that fish home, and we fried it up and ate it.  
17 And that is something that I can vividly remember,  
18 to this day, and it's a huge part of my identity,  
19 just that love for that fish and that love for  
20 that river.

21           And if you're telling me that you're not  
22 willing to address that in its entirety -- and my  
23 opinion, it needs to be a priority to eliminate  
24 coal. It should never be burned. Because if  
25 you're telling me that in 50 years I can't take my

1 son or grandson on the Gallatin River and eat the  
2 trout out of that river because it has high levels  
3 of mercury in it, that breaks a part of my soul.  
4 I don't know, I mean, that is an inalienable  
5 right, in my opinion. And mercury is a  
6 neurotoxin. So to me, that needs to be an  
7 incredible priority. To me, maybe that's a  
8 personal issue, but that's an incredible priority  
9 to me.

10 We -- I would like to leave you with one  
11 -- I would also like to address one thing. I seem  
12 to be noticing a trend in the energy cooperatives  
13 saying that conservation targets are too  
14 aggressive. I would say that that is a concern  
15 that has in mind their economic well-being in the  
16 immediate future, and that should not be a concern  
17 that comes into this plan.

18 When in three generations people are not  
19 going to look back and say, was that a good  
20 economic choice? Was that -- did that make or  
21 lose profit or was that -- that won't even come to  
22 mind. What will come to mind is if we left them  
23 with clean air and clean water to breath and  
24 drink. That needs to be the ultimate, top  
25 priority above all else. So, thank you.

1           **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Zack. Vicki  
2 Watson, please.

3           **MS. WATSON:** Hi. I'm Vicki Watson, and  
4 I am a professor of environmental studies at the  
5 university. But I'm here speaking as a Montana  
6 citizen and citizen of plant earth. I want to  
7 start off with a big thank you to the Council,  
8 particularly for pursuing a plan that you say will  
9 require no new coal-fired power plants. That's  
10 very good news. And I'd like everyone here to use  
11 the wind power available to you and blow some  
12 kisses to the Council, a little bit of wind power  
13 to thank you for a very important first step.

14           As everyone else has said, we need to go  
15 beyond just stabilizing our global warming  
16 emissions. We need to actually reduce them. The  
17 climate scientists have identified as a safe level  
18 of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere at 350 parts  
19 per million. We're already at 385 parts per  
20 million, so we are violating a global,  
21 environmental health standard. All of us together  
22 collectively are doing that. And when you're  
23 violating what's already been identified as a safe  
24 standard, it's time to take really aggressive  
25 action to get back down to that safe level.

1 That means closing coal-fired power  
2 plants, the best way to do that. Coal -- the best  
3 place for coal is in the ground and not being  
4 burned. How do we go about achieving an even-more  
5 aggressive conservation schedule than you guys  
6 have proposed? I think that we -- obviously, such  
7 a more-aggressive conservation program would  
8 create green jobs; that's a good thing, but we  
9 have to pay for it.

10 And one possibility, perhaps one you  
11 considered, is a revolving loan fund for energy  
12 conservation could be used by small businesses and  
13 homeowners for their conservation needs, and also  
14 for communities that are pursuing serious plans to  
15 go carbon neutral and become energy self-  
16 sufficient. There are some communities actually  
17 working on that. Missoula is doing some talking  
18 about it as well.

19 Where do we get the money for the  
20 revolving loan fund? Well, we might pay for it  
21 through a pricing structure for energy that  
22 identifies that a certain level of energy use is a  
23 reasonable level, and that would have one price.  
24 And then energy use above that level is excessive  
25 and not meeting reasonable conservation standards,

1 and that should be charged at a much higher price.

2 Back in the 1970s we realized that we  
3 weren't going to clean up the air and water unless  
4 we put in place certain treatment standards. The  
5 Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act called for  
6 what was called "best available technology." This  
7 was a level of treatment that was identified at  
8 well-operated industries, whether they were pulp  
9 mills or cement plants, or whatever, to produce a  
10 given -- to produce a ton of pulp or ton of  
11 cement, you shouldn't produce more than X amount  
12 of air pollution and water pollution.

13 We wrote down those treatment standards.  
14 They were industry specific. They also applied to  
15 municipal sewage treatment plants. We required  
16 that those treatment levels be met. We need an  
17 energy efficiency act at the national level that  
18 also identifies what constitutes best available  
19 technology with respect to producing a ton of pulp  
20 with a certain amount of energy. And above that,  
21 if we were following the model of the Clean Air  
22 Act and the Clean Water Act, that they would be  
23 fined for using higher amounts of energy to  
24 produce a given amount of product. So that would  
25 be nice to have national legislation like that.

1 But perhaps the Council could be a  
2 leader with your highly knowledgeable technical  
3 staff to research industry specific standards with  
4 respect to best available technology to produce a  
5 given amount of product with a given amount of  
6 energy. And if you do have some powers with  
7 respect to pricing systems to, again, charge the  
8 lower price for the reasonable amount of energy  
9 used and the higher price for the excessive energy  
10 use, and use that to fund a revolving loan fund  
11 for energy conservation measures in homes, small  
12 businesses and communities, again, that are  
13 pursuing this idea of being carbon neutral and  
14 energy self-sufficient.

15 Lastly, I just want to mention in  
16 connection with our tough economic times,  
17 certainly the question gets asked, can we afford  
18 to reduce carbon emissions? And the companion  
19 question is, can we afford not to reduce carbon  
20 emissions?

21 The Council has analyzed various -- done  
22 an analysis of the cost of carbon emissions.  
23 Those are real costs, not just speculative costs.  
24 So they should be put into the decision mix. I  
25 think we need to use those analyses in guiding



1 utility planning. We need to put the carbon  
2 emission cost beside the cost of reducing carbon  
3 emissions to show that reducing carbon emissions  
4 does make good economic sense.

5 We're all concerned about the impacts of  
6 rising energy costs on low-income users. But the  
7 best way to help low-income energy users is to  
8 finance conservation measures for their homes and  
9 transportation systems, not keep energy prices so  
10 low as to discourage serious conservation by  
11 middle and high-income users and business users.  
12 So those would be my suggestions.

13 And let's blow kisses to the Council  
14 again.

15 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Ms. Watson.  
16 It's 8:55, and we have four people left on the  
17 agenda. Are you okay to go for another 15 or 20  
18 minutes? Thompson Smith.

19 **MR. SMITH:** Thanks for having this  
20 hearing. Thanks to the Council. My name is  
21 Thompson Smith. I'm from Charlo, Montana. I'm a  
22 member of the Flathead Basin Commission recently  
23 reappointed by Governor Schweitzer. I'm speaking  
24 tonight on my own behalf.

25 Serving on the Flathead Basin Commission

1 we experience the threat of coal in a different  
2 way, a more direct way perhaps. The Flathead  
3 Basin Commission has existed for 30 years  
4 primarily because of the threat of coal mining and  
5 other industrial development in the headwaters of  
6 the North Fork of the Flathead River in British  
7 Columbia. And the continued demand for coal is,  
8 of course, what drives that continuing threat.

9           So far, we've survived that threat  
10 mainly because of the changes in the market, but  
11 that's an entirely unstable way to preserve the  
12 water quality in the Flathead basin. We continue  
13 to search for a solution to that. But, of course,  
14 the main solution for coal in Montana, in the  
15 Flathead and worldwide, is to leave it in the  
16 ground. That's what I'm here to encourage.

17           I join other speakers in encouraging the  
18 Commission not only to seek to stabilize fossil  
19 consumption in the region, which I applaud the  
20 conservation measures in this plan. It's really  
21 admirable. But again, I join other voices in  
22 calling for reductions and eventual elimination.

23           When we say "eventual," I think all of  
24 us have to try to put our heads around the kind of  
25 threat we're facing. Even people eminently

1 involved in the study of global warming can fully  
2 imagine the threat that's upon us and how quickly  
3 it's coming upon us, how short a period of time we  
4 have to really deal with this, the urgency with  
5 which we have to act.

6           James Hanson spoke to the University of  
7 Montana a year or two ago and said that directly  
8 or indirectly that 80 percent of the global-  
9 warming threat is due to coal, directly or  
10 indirectly. And that's since been backed up by  
11 other studies.

12           Another speaker mentioned that 23  
13 percent of the energy in Montana is produced by  
14 coal. 90 percent of the global warming emissions  
15 are produced by coal. A recent article, I think in  
16 the current issue of Science, the Journal of  
17 Science, has now incontrovertibly proven that  
18 we're now at CO2 levels that are higher than at  
19 any time in the last 15 million years, before ice  
20 caps -- permanent ice caps -- existed on the  
21 planet. So we may be on the verge of quite  
22 dramatic change.

23           I would call -- join other speakers also  
24 in calling on the plan to allow not only for  
25 dramatic changes in the regulatory landscape that

1 Commissioner Gutsche mentioned astutely, but also  
2 to at least be able to respond minimally to  
3 possible rapid changes in the actual physical  
4 environment in relation to global warming. Things  
5 may be changing even more quickly than we think.  
6 Another one of the young speakers mentioned that  
7 seems to be coming through in every scientific  
8 report we receive.

9 I would also add one cautionary note.  
10 This has not been mentioned yet tonight. That in  
11 the rush to wind energy, which is renewable  
12 energy, clean energy is what, of course, is the  
13 second priority after conservation. But there  
14 really hasn't been mention that there continue to  
15 be real problems with birds and bats associated  
16 with development of wind energy. That should not  
17 be trivialized. It's obviously not as great a  
18 problem as global warming.

19 But in the Judith Gap wind development  
20 project a couple of years ago, a ground survey  
21 indicated that 1,100 birds and bats were dead  
22 underneath that project. That has to continue to  
23 be a real concern. Hopefully, there will be  
24 better technical solutions to it.

25 Again, I just want to applaud the

1 Commission for its focus on conservation, on the  
2 development of a far more sophisticated plan than  
3 has ever existed and to really join other voices  
4 in urging you towards a more urgent, faster  
5 reduction in our contributions to global warming.  
6 Thank you very much.

7 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you. Steve Loken,  
8 please.

9 **MR. LOKEN:** My name is Steve Loken, and  
10 I have two hats today. One hat is for the  
11 Alternative Energy Resource Organization. We have  
12 over 850 members in the state, and I have kind of  
13 a thing -- I appreciate you guys coming to the  
14 outback, by the way. It's not often that you come  
15 to rural Montana, so I appreciate your listening  
16 to us. And the other hat I had is I'm a citizen  
17 and a builder of energy-efficient homes here in  
18 the Missoula area.

19 This first hat will be to testify on  
20 behalf of AERO and our membership and how we  
21 appreciate the work that you've done in the  
22 conservation of movement in this plan. AERO has  
23 been advancing many of the things in this plan  
24 with conservation and renewables throughout  
25 workshops and conferences throughout the state

1 over the last 28 years. While we applaud your  
2 work in proposing the conservation efforts, we  
3 think that there is more work on energy efficiency  
4 and conservation as well as renewables and  
5 decentralized energy production in the state. So  
6 that kind of caps what AERO wanted to say to you  
7 tonight. We appreciate what you're doing, and we  
8 think the conservation plan is a strong one. And  
9 we'd like to compliment that by continuing our  
10 efforts in the state to let citizens know what's  
11 going on. Okay, that hat is off.

12 Now, I'm putting my hat on as a citizen  
13 and a builder. Vicki Watson was trying to blow  
14 you guys kisses. But I think -- and you've been  
15 applauded a lot for the efforts that you've been  
16 doing. But I think more importantly is this  
17 region of the United States uses more electrical  
18 energy per capita than any other region in the  
19 United States, by half. And we do that because  
20 the price point and the price stimulus that you've  
21 given us in the Pacific Northwest isn't as cheap,  
22 and we haven't been able to pay for the true costs  
23 of this cheap power.

24 So while you're trying to promote energy  
25 conservation, I'm on the ground every day with my

1 company and 12 employees trying to do energy  
2 conservation retrofits, new superinsulated passive  
3 solar construction. And what I see is not very  
4 many people geared to understand how to do  
5 conservation, builders hungry for the information  
6 and not knowing what to do, the public asking and  
7 not getting a response, colleges of technologies  
8 and University of Montanas around this state not  
9 training people to understand how to do audits,  
10 energy analysis or on-the-ground, green-job stuff.

11           Everybody is talking about green jobs,  
12 but I'm not getting called by people wanting to  
13 working for my company to be able to do that. So  
14 the conservation aspect of your plan is a hugely  
15 important one. And somehow the state, this state  
16 -- by the way, I hope you tell the governor that  
17 he needs to keep the coal in the ground and try to  
18 train the next generation of people in this state  
19 to be able to meet the conservation challenges  
20 that you're putting forth, because they're huge.  
21 Personally, I don't think they're huge enough.  
22 5,800 megawatts is peanuts; it really is. When  
23 you look at how houses and buildings in this state  
24 hemorrhage energy, it's unbelievable.

25           We had a conference and a tour in Helena

1 two weekends ago in a wastewater treatment plant  
2 in Helena. In that wastewater treatment plant --  
3 thank you, by the way, for your demand-side  
4 charges. We love those things. When all of those  
5 pumps and motors go on at the wastewater plant in  
6 Helena, for 15 minutes that peak surge of power,  
7 which has to be provided by the utility company,  
8 that wastewater plant pays the peak charge for the  
9 whole month. I love that, because they get  
10 dinged.

11 And the utility company sees this peak surge  
12 and they go, oh-oh, you better be able to provide  
13 that amount of power for a long time, not just for  
14 15 minutes. So that penalty charge for the peak  
15 power incentivizes the City of Helena has to hire  
16 people to come in and do simple retrofits on their  
17 pumps and motors: Soft-start motors, variable-  
18 speed motors. They save Helena \$7,000 a month in  
19 energy costs, because it was the incentive of  
20 cost, the incentive of peak demand that did that.

21 So outside of the training and field  
22 confirmation of what's going on -- Montana is a  
23 unique state. Bob never talked about -- we only  
24 have five -- six jurisdictions in Montana that  
25 have building codes. And one of the jokes among



1 the building community here in Montana is, what's  
2 black and brown and looks good on the building  
3 inspector? It's a Doberman.

4 But we do not have the infrastructure in  
5 this state to do energy codes. Idaho even beat us  
6 in energy code legislation, for crying out loud,  
7 Idaho. Do you believe this? We can't even get  
8 basement insulation in the state up to R-13 for  
9 below grade. Idaho beats us out on this. We're  
10 not behind the eightball on this one.

11 But what I'm thinking, is if rural  
12 electric co-ops can't get their new buildings on  
13 their grid certified -- and by the way, the minute  
14 the paint has dried in new housing in Montana  
15 today, they're obsolete from an energy  
16 perspective. That's just the way it is. We have  
17 primitive codes with no certification.

18 So if there's a way that Bonneville or  
19 the utility companies can have a hookup fee, and  
20 in that hookup fee new buildings and new business  
21 are penalized for the load that they're putting on  
22 the grid, if they're not built to a conservation  
23 standard, that's one of the ways that we can start  
24 today with new construction. And that penalty  
25 charge, upon hookup, can go into a fund -- as

1 Vicki was talking about to help incentivize the --  
2 and, Jim Morton, you might confirm this -- but the  
3 last time I heard you say there was 70,000 low-  
4 income qualified homes in Montana, I think last  
5 year you weatherized 1,800 of them. So there's a  
6 huge demand for people on the low end to get  
7 better. And the only way to do that is to try to  
8 penalize the people that hook up that don't meet  
9 decent standards for energy efficiency. Those  
10 buildings are going to be there for 100 years. As  
11 I said, when the paint is dry, they're already  
12 obsolete.

13           So I would put it to the utility  
14 companies that while you're saying you're our  
15 provider for juice in this state, we're wanting to  
16 buy 1,500 megawatts of conservation power. You  
17 need to really put up a stick to that and figure  
18 out how to make sure it's done and train -- help  
19 train the people.

20           I, personally, have trained about 12,000  
21 architects, builders and engineers in the region  
22 for the Super Good Sense Program, RSTP and RCDP  
23 back in the the early mid '80s. I'm too old to  
24 remember. But there is a whole bunch of young  
25 people that are in the building trades now that

1 don't have a clue what energy conservation is. I  
2 know that program was incentivized early on, and  
3 the results of those programs were fielded  
4 throughout the region. We need to get that  
5 information back out into the hands of the  
6 building and construction community. Again, thank  
7 you.

8 **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Steve. Bill  
9 Flanery.

10 **MR. FLANERY:** My name is Bill Flannery.  
11 I want to thank you for giving us the opportunity  
12 to speak and also commend your patience in  
13 listening to so many of us, but we do have  
14 concerns about this plan.

15 I do think it's a very well-thought-out  
16 plan and certainly very good so far as it goes. I  
17 too feel that we need to have a more-ambitious  
18 goal of reducing carbon emissions and achieving  
19 real reduction and not just maintaining the  
20 present level.

21 I'd like to say something about the  
22 misconception that some people have about global  
23 warming. Because in recent years we seem to have  
24 entered a phase of cooling as compared to the  
25 increasing global warming that was taking place

1 there for so long.

2 But I think we need to recognize that as  
3 with most statistical analyses, there will be  
4 fluctuations up and down, and we're just in a down  
5 phase now. But the long-term trend continues to  
6 be up. And as other speakers have pointed out,  
7 the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is  
8 385 parts per million, and that is too high. We  
9 need -- we, as a nation, as well as a region, need  
10 to set an example for the rest of the world. If  
11 we expect China and India and other developing  
12 countries to get on the global-warming bandwagon  
13 and reduce their carbon dioxide emissions, we need  
14 to set a good example here. And I hope we can do  
15 so.

16 I would like to make a couple of  
17 suggestions. One is that in addition to  
18 emphasizing renewable energy sources, we need to  
19 also consider some nonrenewable sources that are  
20 also free of carbon emissions. I'm thinking, for  
21 example, of nuclear power. I think you give  
22 rather short mention in the document to nuclear  
23 power. I would hope that this would be given more  
24 serious consideration.

25 I was troubled by the suggestion in

1 there that we want to wait until some other part  
2 of the country first develops new nuclear power  
3 plants before we try to do that in our region. I  
4 don't think we have to wait for others. I think  
5 we should go ahead. And while it has taken a long  
6 time in the past to get nuclear power into  
7 operation, with the new modular designs and  
8 simplified designs of nuclear power reactors, that  
9 can be done much more efficiently and  
10 expeditiously as was the case in previous years.

11 I also think some of the other potential  
12 power sources should be given greater  
13 consideration, such as geothermal power, tidal  
14 power and others that present very interesting  
15 possibilities and are not given perhaps enough  
16 emphasis in the plan as it exists.

17 Again, I do applaud the Council for the  
18 plan insofar as it goes, but I do think it would  
19 be possible to increase our conservation targets  
20 and to make use of other sources such as nuclear  
21 and geothermal to complement the renewable  
22 sources. Wind and solar, after all, are weather  
23 dependent. And to have power sources that are not  
24 weather dependent to complement those would be  
25 real advisable. Thank you.

1           **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you, Bill. Dick  
2 Barrett, please, Representative Dick Barrett.

3           **MR. BARRETT:** Thank you. I am  
4 Representative Dick Barrett. I represent House  
5 District 93 here in Missoula. In having survived  
6 many legislative hearings, I will be mercifully  
7 brief, because I know you're probably about at the  
8 end of your rope right now.

9           You've heard a lot of people urge you  
10 tonight to plan not just for no new coal-fired  
11 power plants but for a reduction in coal-fired  
12 power plants into the future, and I second that.  
13 But to be realistic about it, I don't know whether  
14 it's really in your power through the planning  
15 process to achieve that.

16           I think probably we all know that  
17 ultimately there's going to be -- we're going to  
18 need legislation. We're going to need political  
19 will and legislation at the state level and at the  
20 national level, and even internationally, in order  
21 to achieve reductions in carbon emissions at the  
22 level that we need to achieve in order to  
23 stabilize the climate. We're not there yet, and it  
24 is a highly-contested process, a very highly-  
25 contested process.

1           If you think of nothing else, just  
2 imagine what you would be hearing in Miles City  
3 tonight about coal as opposed to what you're  
4 hearing about coal in Missoula. It's going to be,  
5 as I say, a highly-contested process. And I think  
6 that the role of planning in that process is to  
7 give us some kind of a road map, so that as we  
8 struggle with these issues in the public policy  
9 arena, in the legislatures, with the governor or  
10 with the great multiplicity of interests that are  
11 involved here, that we know how we can get where  
12 we need to be. And I think that you can provide  
13 an invaluable service to us by planning, by  
14 creating that road map, by showing us how, indeed,  
15 we get to where we need to be. Thank you.

16           **MR. MEASURE:** Thank you for your  
17 comments, Representative Barrett and your  
18 sympathy. But I can assure that these meetings  
19 are scintillating as compared to an actual Council  
20 meeting.

21           Do we have anyone else that wants to  
22 comment tonight? Is there anyone else that's  
23 signed up? Is there anybody who would want to  
24 speak that isn't signed up who would want to sign  
25 up?

1 We greatly appreciate your coming  
2 tonight. I think I can speak on behalf of my  
3 fellow Council Members that we are very excited  
4 about the students who have come and testified.  
5 We're really glad that you have shown an interest  
6 in this process. And we're glad that you've all  
7 shown an interest in this process, so thanks for  
8 coming.

9 Again, we will consider all of your  
10 information that you have given us. And remember  
11 that your comment period closes on November 6th.  
12 Thanks again.

13 **(Thereupon, the hearing concluded at**  
14 **9:15 p.m.)**

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2 STATE OF MONTANA ) : SS. County of Missoula )  
3

4 I, David E. Hix, ASCR, Freelance Court Reporter and Notary  
5 Public for the State of Montana, residing in  
6 Missoula, Montana, do hereby certify:

7 That I was duly authorized to and did report the testimony  
8 and evidence in this cause;  
9

10 That the foregoing pages of this public hearing constitute  
11 true and accurate transcription of my stenotype notes.  
12

13 I further certify that I am not an attorney nor counsel of  
14 any of the parties; nor a relative or employee of any  
15 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor  
16 financially interested in the action.  
17

18 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal  
19 this the 26th day of October, 2009.  
20

21 David E. Hix, ASCR  
22 Freelance Court Reporter,  
23 Notary Public, State of Montana  
24 Residing in Missoula, Montana.  
25 My Commission expires: August 1, 2013

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