

Meeting Minutes 09.21.2026 ETAC

Meeting Date: 09/21/2026 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: *Helena Capital One-Board Rm (235) and Teams

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/21596779304425?p=UkncT7y2Ewo8JvT4Z0>

Participants

Olson, Megan (Meeting Organizer)

Shafer, Jon (NWE)

Carmody, John (NWE)

Stajcar, Matthew (NWE)

Barnheiser, Quintin (NWE)

Dekiep, Brian (NWPCC)

Stamatson, Jamie (MCC)

Rapkoch, Claudia (DEQ)

Minutes

9:30 AM – Meeting started by Jon Shafer.

2026 MT IRP Response to Deficiency Notices

9:35PM – Local Resource Adequacy

- Any thoughts or concerns about a local RA approach?
 - Prob of stochastic analysis. Breaking energy efficiency into two regions, Oregon/Washington, Idaho/Montana. Showed deficiencies. Dual approach was more accurate than single approach.
 - C: In economics and PCM why would you lock yourself in a box and not trade?
 - Frequency; How often does it happen?
 - Duration: Need to stay below threshold either 24hr or year.
 - Events: How many events are within threshold.
- What are your thoughts on supplementing a local RA study in addition to WRAP?
- Q: Why are you completely shutting self-off of market interactions, why not limit it?
 - A: In the PCM we limited transmission capabilities to limit market interactions. GDS stated WRAP is a short-term planning tool.
- Using a case where we limit our selves and “box ourselves in” without using the market, how useful is that to analyze?

- Maybe this is a communication and discussion issue for meeting the deadline, then a modeling issue?
- Does not think we need to run every scenario/sensitivity.
- This isn't restarting all modeling; it is more of a validation of results and showing so. From a local outcome, is it similar why? Is it different why?

9:50 AM – Portfolio Risk and # Simulations

- Portfolio Risk Assessment: Preferred portfolio, then to assessment from there. With range of uncertainty and reliability.
- PSC states that all scenarios need to be tested with 100 simulations.
 - We are doing all the scenarios, however sensitivities we are not doing due to time restrictions.

10:15 AM – Load Forecast Regression

- What should our threshold be for the difference between forecasted inputs for the peak demand of the actual peak?
- Put explanations behind extreme events to remind people why values are recorded higher for that year.

10:30 AM – Demand Response

- Comments from ETAC: DR comes largely from industrial customers. With potential for Data centers, may be more feasible. From commercial / residential DR, could talk about tentative pricing, talking about programs there. Hospitals have backup generators to use as a DR resource. Dealing with this for years, there is not a lot of DR potential in our territory. Voltage regulation, dropping voltage could help. Pilot Programs exist, see some potential in smaller commercial, behind the meter and behind the meter storage. Grid water heaters, on-site generation to be used in a pinch or to minimize peaks.
- Thoughts Behavioral, rate making, etc. DR programs?
 - Behavioral and rates are seen, some kind of incentive to cut back, then it is a low-cost program. Takes time and money to research, build, verify, and implement these types of DR programs.
 - Focus on managing peaks not overall. How about AMI data, and how it can help us find a need?
- Risks? Lots of summer programs, but not a lot of observed winter programs. As a winter peaking territory, how prudent is it to dive into?
- Trying to add more context is useful.

11:00 AM – Break

11:15 AM – PowerSIMM - Auditability and Transparency

- Concern, what does ascend do for their process in the background?
- Are they grading PowerSIMM or the assumptions?

11:40 AM – 60-Day Extension

- Goal to execute well and transparency.
- Recap on topics (local reliability, portfolio risk, load forecast, demand response, transparency)
- Maybe request input on draft documentation.

11:45 AM – Additional Comments:

- ETAC agrees that the MT IRP was a major uplift and was sufficient in detail.
- Increasing transparency and context will go a long way into satisfying PSC comments.
- The plain language helps with transparency. This potentially can solve some issues regarding modeling with PowerSIMM.
- How much money do you really want to put into this from a prudency rate payer standpoint?
- How much time do you want to spend on this plan, instead of working on the next one?
- For next plan, how do we get input on these planning questions to help curb analysis paralysis.

12:00 PM – End of Session.