



*In the Community to Serve®*

## **TAG #1 – TAG Meeting**

**Date & time:** 03/30/2022, 9:00 AM to 12:20 PM

**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Presenters:** Brian Robertson, Devin McGreal, Ashton Davis, Monica Cowlshaw, Chanda Marek, Abbie Krebsbach, Kathleen Campbell, & Bruce Folsom

**In attendance:** Ashton Davis, Katherine (Kathy) Moyd, Devin McGreal, Bruce Folsom, Abbie Krebsbach, Renie Sorensen, Byron Harmon, Zachariah Baker, Scott Madison, Pamela Archer, Eric Wood, Monica Cowlshaw, Carolyn Stone, Brian Robertson, Chris Robbins, Kathleen Campbell, Chad Stokes, Kevin Connell, Mark Sellers-Vaughn, Isaac Myhrum, Andrew Rector, Brian Hoyle, Chanda Marek, Mike Goetz, Haixiao Huang, Kary Burin, Jon Storvick, Corey Dahl, Carra Sahler, Michael Parvinen, Patrick Darras, Matt Steele, Michael Brutocao, Vincent Morales, Benjamin Zwirek

Scott Madison, Executive Vice President of Business Development & Gas Supply, opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking stakeholders for participating in Cascade’s IRP Process.

### **Presentation #1 – Safety Moment (Brian Robertson)**

- Brian Robertson gave a quick safety moment on cleaning.

### **Presentation #2 – A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON (Brian Robertson)**

- Brian gave a short presentation on Cascade’s history and an introduction to the Company’s diverse system.

### **Presentation #3 – PURPOSE OF THE IRP (Brian Robertson)**

- Brian discussed that the IRP is a requirement by both Oregon and Washington, but it’s also an opportunity for Cascade to produce a Company plan that gets informed by internal and external parties. Brian also mentioned that the IRP helps inform rather than make decisions.

### **Presentation #4 – IRP Stakeholder Engagement (Bruce Folsom and Brian Robertson)**

- Bruce gave a quick introduction to the stakeholder engagement document, specifically around the history and purpose of the document.
- Brian then went through the document and covered the main items of the Stakeholder Engagement document, specifically the major principles as well as the Company and Stakeholder expectations.

**Question:** Andrew Rector asked if there were any significant changes to the Stakeholder Engagement document since last year?

**Answer:** Yes, Cascade met with both WUTC and OPUC regarding the stakeholder engagement document and received several productive edits to the document.

### **Presentation #5 – IRP Team (Brian Robertson)**

- Brian gave a brief introduction to recognize the internal IRP team at Cascade.

### **Presentation #6 – Recommended Improvements (Brian Robertson)**

- Brian covered the recommended improvements that Staff and Stakeholders had provided from the previous IRP. These topics included items from all aspects of the IRP such as load forecast, avoided cost, demand side management, distribution system planning, legislation changes, and several other topics.
- Cascade has committed to discussing these topics during TAGs 2-5 in depth to ensure we've met any concerns and attended to recommendations laid out by Staff and Stakeholders.
- Andrew suggested Cascade look at how other LDCs in our region are modeling climate change in their IRPs. Cascade will provide an update on climate change modeling in TAG 2. Andrew also asked that Cascade provide information on where Cascade is with renewable natural gas at some point during Cascade's IRP process.

**Question:** Byron Harmon asked what type of reflection or improvements that Cascade gained from the Company's attempt to hold a TAG meeting in Bend, OR.

**Answer:** Cascade noted that the Company would definitely like to try the same method again. Cascade also mentioned that other methods were looked into, but the less expensive options were going to be the first options explored.

- Andrew made a comment that reaching out to community-based organizations could be a good idea, which Cascade agreed with. Cascade will provide an update on this in TAG 2.

**Question:** Zach Baker asked why Cascade planned to discuss DSM and avoiding infrastructure through TAG meetings rather than a workshop, as recommended by Staff.

**Answer:** Brian explained that this topic should be and is described throughout future TAG meetings and a workshop would just be a repeat of future TAG meetings. Zach mentioned that he'll run this by OPUC folks and let Cascade know their thoughts later.

### **Presentation #7 – Regional Market Intelligence (Ashton Davis)**

- Ashton Davis gave a short presentation on short-term outlook and a long-term outlook, mainly around pricing in regions that impact Cascade.

### **Presentation #8 – Aspects of the IRP (Ashton Davis, Devin McGreal, Monica Cowlshaw, Abbie Krebsbach, Chanda Marek, Kathleen Campbell)**

- Ashton introduced the load forecast and gave a high-level introduction to Cascade's demand and customer forecast methodologies and formulas.

**Question:** Kathy Moyd asked about hybrid heat pumps and asked about hybrid heat pumps and how that may impact demand.

**Answer:** Ashton explained how something that's not already built into the historical data can be difficult to forecast. Ashton pointed out there may be ways to model but it won't be simple. Devin also noted that hybrid heat pump impacts may take a few years to materialize so Cascade has a bit of luxury before any actionable decisions will need to be made. Monica also added that this is something the Energy Efficiency group is looking into but likely not this year.

- Devin McGreal then introduced Cascade's approach and changes to hedging.

- Devin went on to discuss avoided cost and the different calculations that go into producing an avoided cost.

**Question:** Devin asked an open question around avoided cost in a post CCA/PPP world.

**Answer:** Andrew suggested that it may help to reach out to the other utilities to see what they were doing, and possibly an hour-long work session with other utilities on this subject could help. Cascade will look into how other utilities may be doing this and, if needed, will reach out to the UM-1893 stakeholder group to see if there have been any discussions on this topic in Oregon.

- Monica Cowlshaw presented on Energy Efficiency over the next two slides. Monica mentioned that the goal is to leverage our internal resources and then look at some of the increasing sustainability requirements that the company is seeing in both Washington and Oregon and where they align with the Energy Efficiency Department and then where we coordinate with our other departments within the organization.
- Abbie Krebsbach then presented on Decarbonization Planning as well as Environmental Policy. Abbie noted that the IRP scope will change for this IRP, compared to past IRPs, because of the decarbonization planning in the CCA and CPP.

**Question:** Carra Sahler wanted to confirm that Cascade would go ahead and plan for the CPP despite the challenge that Cascade and other utilities filed against the CPP.

**Answer:** Abbie said yes. The rule is in place and Cascade will comply with the CPP despite the challenge Cascade filed.

- Chanda Marek gave a quick introduction to renewable natural gas and what type of RNG projects Cascade are currently exploring and evaluating. Chanda noted that the RNG projects we've been dealing with are mostly within Washington and Oregon.
- Kathleen Campbell gave a quick introduction to distribution system modeling and the Synergi modeling.
- Devin then discussed the stochastic modeling Cascade will be performing this IRP and later presented at TAGs 4 and 5. Devin also discussed how everything that was previously discussed comes together in the Resource Integration piece. Finally, Devin described the scenarios Cascade plans to run and opened it up to see if stakeholders had other scenarios.
- Based on stakeholder comments, Devin made some clarifying comments on portfolio modeling as well as modeling emissions and the differences between the two states.

**Question:** Byron asked if Cascade's modeling would consider path dependency issues that can arise when evaluating short term versus long-term avoided costs

**Answer:** Devin explained that when it comes to avoided costs the Company is somewhat restricted by regulatory requirements, specifically in Oregon. Regarding the resource integration process, the Company strives to make holistic optimization decisions to account for both short and long-term needs

#### **Presentation #9 – 2022 IRP Schedule (Brian Robertson)**

- Brian went through the WA TAG schedule as well as the OR TAG schedule and discussed the changes to the OR TAG schedule. Brian asked for feedback on the scheduling changes and will try to lock down the new dates the following week.
- Brian noted that the next TAG meeting will take place on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **The Meeting was Adjourned**

Per Cascade Commitment #8 (Stakeholder Engagement Design Document, 2/22,2022: "Provide TAG minutes that include the action items from bullet #7 as well as any upcoming deadlines for feedback on the IRP"), here are the additional action items to track, coming out of the TAG 1 meeting:

1. Status and applicability of hybrid heat pumps on Cascade's system
2. Oregon PUC Staff to report back whether two TAGs substituting for one Workshop is acceptable
3. Look into how other utilities address avoided cost in a post CCA/ CPP world
4. Provide an update on climate change modeling in TAG 2
5. Provide an update on reaching out to community-based organizations in TAG 2

These are in addition to Slides #13 and 14 in the TAG 1 presentation deck (responsive to Cascade Commitment #7 in the Design Document: "Keeping a running list of action items from Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings that need to be further addressed if not directly related to the then-meeting topic or if more time is required to respond").