



In the Community to Serve®

Targeted TAG #5 Meeting

Date & time: 8/12/2026, 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Presenters: Brian Robertson, Megan Koelzer, Shawna Nieraeth, Patrick Kinney, Shaun Henson, Alyn Spector, Elizabeth Torske

In attendance: Abbie Krebsbach, Adam Shick, Alyn Spector, Ana Boyd, Arabella Blomstedt, Becky Hodges, Brian Robertson, Bruce Folsom, Byron Harmon, Caleb Reimer, Carolyn Stone, Chad Stokes, Chris Robbins, Chris Shoop, Cole Burgess, Darcy Neigum, Devin McGreal, Elizabeth Torske, Eric Shierman, Eric Wood, Jason Verduzco, Jason Verduzco, Jennifer Gross, Jodie Albert, Kai Hiatt, Kathleen Campbell, Kim Herb, Kirten Brewer, Kyle Morrill, Lucas Hamilton, Mark Sellers-Vaughn, Matt Steele, Megan Koelzer, Michael Parvinen, Mouhamad Ahmad, Noemi Ortiz, Patrick Kinney, Russ Nishikawa, Ryan Clarke, Ryan Denton, Ryan Kern, Shaun Henson, Shawna Nieraeth, Steven Nevels, Travis Jacobson, Vigilija Klima, Wesley Franks, Zachary Harris, Zachary Sowards

Brian Robertson, Supervisor of Resource Planning, opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking stakeholders for participating in Cascade's IRP Process. Brian reminded folks that we wouldn't be doing introductions at the beginning of the meeting but asked if/when people interjected throughout the meeting to please introduce themselves.

Presentation #1 – Safety Moment (Brian Robertson)

- How we keep workers safe around powerlines.

Presentation #2 – WA Climate Commitment Act (Megan Koelzer)

- Megan explains the CNGC Environmental Policy:
 - Meet needs of customers without compromising future generations.
 - 30% methane emissions reduction target by 2035.
- Some information about the CCA projected allowance budget over time from 2020-2050, with 2034 being the last year for low-cost allowances for EITE entities.
- There are 4-year compliance periods, 2023-2026, 2027-2030, etc. with potential changes.
 - November 1st is the deadline for compliance each year
- Some compliance options: allowances, offsets, RNG, energy efficiency, other.
- Explanation of the CA-WA-Quebec Linkage that's currently undergoing new rulemaking
- WA CCA No Cost Allowances explanation:
 - Started in 2023.
 - Low-cost allowance projection is being proposed to have a new change.

Q (Byron Harmon): Is the company expected to continue buying WA allowances out until the market begins operating with the joint market?

A (Megan): For confidentiality reasons, I cannot discuss CCA auctions.

A (Brian): We'll probably be modeling in the IRP the current CCA and then a scenario around linkage.

A (Devin): We can talk about linkages. If it happens before November 1st 2027, we would be able to use CA allowances, which are significantly cheaper than WA's. Ecology believes linkage is happening in 2027 but the market is not that stable.

Q (Wesley Franks): Depending how you decide to use allowance revenue, the decarb activities can vary depending on its life. I'm wondering how interactive your modeling will be in terms of modeling this out.

A (Brian): I don't have enough information to say anything right now since we still have a few months until we need to get our modelling results.

Presentation #2 – OR Climate Protection Program Scope (Megan)

- Megan relays information about the Oregon Climate Protection Program: Reducing GHG emissions from regulated fuel suppliers 50% by 2035 and 90% by 2050.
- Compliance options: Compliance instruments, community climate investments, RNG, Energy Efficiency and Demand-Side Management, other.
- First compliance period: 2025-27, then in increments of 2 years, due in December 2028 for 25-27.

Presentation #3 – Reducing Operations Emissions (Shawna Nieraeth)

- Shawna leads a discussion of how Cascade is currently reducing our emissions:
 - Replacing and upgrading pipelines.
- How we're using Picarro AMLD technology:
 - Shows a table of all of the emissions factors for the various Veritas projects using the established vs company-specific emissions factors.

Q (Wesley): Can you say again where the company-specific factors come from?

A (Shawna): This comes from the Veritas project, which uses AMLD technology to report these values.

Q (Wesley): Why are the EPA and Company Specific measures so different?

A (Abbie): The EPA emissions factors potentially have systems that we don't have that contribute to the higher emissions. The AMLD technology gives a much more specific measurement since we're actually driving around in this car measuring all of this at the sites themselves.

- Shows a graph of the pipeline leak emissions trend: Since 2020, emissions have gone from a little under 6,000 MT of CO₂e to under 1000 in 2025.
- In 2020, an order was established to give gas companies a mandate to fix more of their funds.

Presentation #4 – Thermal Energy Networks (Patrick Kinney)

- In 2024 and 2025, WA state law changed to allow utilities to invest in networked thermal energy programs and established a pilot program.
- Explanation of what are TENS
- Targeted pilot is happening at Cascade to see how we can integrate this technology.
- TEN benefits: Higher energy efficiency, decarbonization, BPA synergies, reduces grid impacts, increased resiliency.

Q (Wesley): Has Cascade thought about measuring the non-energy impacts of this program?

A (Patrick): It's all so new, we're going to get through the first pilot programs and then see where we are afterwards.

- Currently working on a pilot project in Bellingham at Bellingham Technical College.
 - Providing heating and cooling with the potential for future expansion to full campus and surrounding neighborhood.
- Other pilots happening in WA state: NWN Vancouver, PSE Seattle. Both in their current general rate case, although the Vancouver pilot was denied being included in current rate case.

Presentation #5 – Activity in Cascade’s Service Area (Shaun Henson)

- Bellingham: Requires electric space and water heating for new commercial and large buildings.
- Whatcom County: Voted to ban construction of fossil fuel related infrastructure.

Presentation #6 – City of Bend (Alyn Spector)

- Bend's climate goals continue to focus on reducing community fossil fuel use.
- Bend and Cascade are working closely to make sure both of their goals.
- Bend is pursuing pathways, including ordinance where people would be charged for installing hookups for gas appliances in residential construction.
 - Cascade will continue to monitor and assess the impacts of this policy.

Presentation #7 – Building Codes (Elizabeth Torske)

- WA Building Code Council is working towards the adoption of the 2024 WA State Energy Code.
 - Penalizes natural gas fueled buildings.
- OR Residential Specialty Code is anticipated to be adopted Oct 1, 2026.
 - Requiring electric heat pumps in new construction.

Presentation #8 – National Focus (Brian Robertson)

- Brian discusses a variety of different programs and projects from the federal government that could potentially affect the natural gas industry. This includes energy conservation projects, appliance-efficiency standards, and carbon pollution standards.

Post Presentations –

Q (Byron): Are you guys planning to have a scenario that showed compliance with a statewide emission goal? Will that look at how the portfolio responds to changing price signals or how customers respond to that changing portfolio over time?

A (Brian): Yes, we are adding that as a scenario. And it will be both.

Q (Wesley): With regards to ENERGY STAR, noting your team is monitoring impacts, it would be nice and useful if the conservation team could update as those happen.

A (Brian): I'll follow up with the team and make sure that's on their radar.

- Brian then goes over the rest of the 2027 IRP schedule. Next Targeted TAG will be September 2, and will start moving into regular TAG meetings in October.

Q (Wesley): When is the company going to seek recovery of expenses for the TENs projects?

A (Patrick): We're not seeking recovery right now, our plan is to include this in the 2028 CCA recovery mechanism because our pilot projects in service state doesn't line up with our current rate case filing.

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 additional action items to track, coming out of the TAG meeting: