



JUICE

News from NIPPC

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Welcome to Juice

"Juice" as in electricity - after all, Northwest independent power producers generate a lot of it. NIPPC's modest e-letter will go out whenever NIPPC staff come across something worth sharing with you.

Every which way and lose **Oregon PUC Addresses Competition**

PacifiCorp and Portland General Electric each have RFPs before the Oregon Public Utility Commission even as the OPUC updates its competitive bidding policy.

PacifiCorp's renewable RFP is poised for a acknowledgement on May 25th provided [Chair Lisa Hardie's surprising resignation](#) doesn't alter the schedule. The 1300-megawatt RFP was recently [panned by the OPUC staff](#) with the following bottomline: "this RFP cannot be characterized as competitive."

Portland General Electric's RFP lags behind PacifiCorp; it's only just debuted the draft bid. Staff and stakeholders, led by NIPPC, [promptly critiqued it](#) for utility self-build bias. Bates White, the independent evaluator (IE) [also raised serious concerns.](#)

One shared concern was that PGE release to all bidders transmission rights it's exclusively holding for its own "benchmark" bid(s). NIPPC



own "benchmark" bid(s). NIPPC insists these rights are a ratepayer and not a shareholder asset. "Any transmission reservations currently held, in queue or optioned by PGE...above PGE's legitimate existing and forecasted transmission needs...should be assumed to be available to the resource selected in this RFP, regardless of ownership of those resources."

Meanwhile, the OPUC entered the final stage of its competitive bid rulemaking. The [commissioners](#)

[adopted staff recommendations](#), which slightly enhance policies designed to make competitive procurement competitive. While welcoming the enhancements, [NIPPC suggested sadly](#), that direct competition between IPPs and utilities could never be fair "...as long we have a regulatory model in which a utility has an inherent bias and financial incentive to make decisions that benefit itself over its competition."

Expanding definitions **The Power Sector's "Swiss Army Knife"**

It's time to broaden the definition of storage, Robert Kahn opines in a recent OP ED in Clearing Up. NIPPC's executive director argues that storage, whatever its configuration, won't be fully adopted until capacity is properly compensated. "Advanced battery storage has supplanted solar as the sector's sexiest new technology," Kahn writes, "Its polar opposite is pumped storage, the staid, proven technology, which in Carl Sandberg's verse, has 'broad shoulders.' But both are candidate game changers where capacity is in short supply."

Kahn's reflections can be found [HERE](#).



THERE are those who love opera and then there are the rest of us. Still, opera is the ideal soundtrack for a [jaw-dropping surprise](#) or [subterranean slapstick](#). See for yourself!

Peace in the Valley? **PURPA Consensus at WUTC**



It sounds oxymoronic, but a PURPA consensus has surfaced before the WUTC just as the Commission is



poised to update its PURPA policy in U-161024.

The first sign of peace came when NIPPC and Puget Sound Energy agreed on several key elements in contracting for qualifying facilities (QFs). These included clarification on the starting date for compliance of 15-year term contracts. The stipulation also calls for

changes to establish separate pricing for renewable QFs, but leaves the WUTC to establish capacity and avoided cost values.

It's certainly noteworthy to see Puget Sound Energy find common ground with NIPPC, the Renewable Energy Coalition, Renewable Northwest, Northwest Energy Coalition and Climate Solutions in a set of focused and constructive [recommendations to the Commission](#). Avista and PacifiCorp remain in steadfast opposition to PURPA per se.

Washington's commissioners will convene on Monday, May 14th to hear testimony in Olympia as the time for decision nears.



**NIPPC Annual Meeting
Oct 7-9, 2018 Save the date!**

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