

Update on the 2020 Demand Response and All-Source RFPs

Puget Sound Energy ("PSE") has filed a motion to withdraw draft Demand Response and All-Source RFPs filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("the Commission") in dockets UE-200413 and UE-200414 respectively. Currently, the draft RFPs are scheduled for consideration at the Commission's open meeting on September 10, 2020. PSE filed a petition in these dockets on September 3, 2020 requesting a two week extension. If the extension is granted, the motion to withdraw PSE's draft RFPs would be considered at the Commission's next open meeting on September 24, 2020.

If the draft RFPs are withdrawn, PSE intends to integrate targeted demand response into a separate Targeted Demand Side Management ("TDSM") RFP in September of this year. Currently, PSE is planning two non-wires (or pipes) alternative pilots with scoping in PSE's 2020-2021 Biennial Conservation Plan for four additional pilots, if those pilots prove to be viable. The two pilots anticipated to start in 2020 are located on Bainbridge Island and in Duvall. These pilots will support PSE's objective of developing demand response programs in the future consistent with state policy and applicable statutes.

Background

On May 4, 2020, PSE filed with the Commission draft Demand Response and All-Source RFPs demonstrating a need for new capacity resources within the next four to five years. In late July, PSE completed the process to update its load forecast (the F2020 load forecast), which reflects updated economic and demographic assumptions, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and increased conservation from the 2019 IRP process. PSE subsequently updated its electric-peak capacity need projection (as shown in Figure 1) to include the new F2020 load forecast, which had the overall effect of reducing the expected capacity need over the next 20 years. As Figure 1 demonstrates, PSE does not project a material need for new capacity resources until 2026.

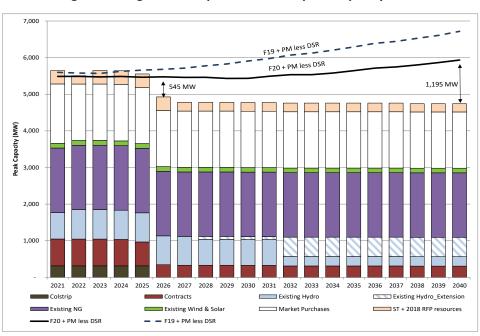


Figure 1. August 2020 updated electric-peak capacity need



On August 26, 2020 PSE filed an informational update in Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission dockets UE-200413 (Demand Response RFP) and UE-200414 (All-Source RFP), seeking comment from interested parties on the potential withdrawal of its draft RFPs. PSE received a total of eight comments in response to this notification. After careful consideration of the comments, as well as the impact of the F2020 normal peak load forecast on the capacity need, PSE maintains it is in the public interest to withdraw the draft Demand Response and draft All-Source RFPs. For more information about the comments received, please see PSE's petition filed on September 8, 2020 in these dockets.

Next steps

If PSE's petition filed on September 3, 2020 in Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission dockets UE-200413 and UE-200414 for a two week extension is granted, the Commission would consider PSE's petition to withdraw the draft Demand Response and All-Source RFPs at its next open meeting on September 24, 2020. If these requests are withdrawn, PSE intends to integrate targeted demand response into a separate Targeted Demand Side Management ("TDSM") RFP in September of this year.

PSE will notify interested parties of the outcome of these dockets once the Commission issues a final order. Notifications will be sent by email to PSE's stakeholder notification list and will be posted to our RFP webpage (https://www.pse.com/RFP). Interested parties may opt in to receive stakeholder notifications by contacting AllSourceRFPmailbox@pse.com.

PSE's RFP Team