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## Environment Committee

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### HB 1826

**Brief Description:** Updating integrated resource plan requirements to address changing energy markets.

**Sponsors:** Representative Morris.

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires integrated resource plans (IRPs) to include an assessment of methods, technologies, or facilities for integrating renewable resources, including during an overgeneration event.
- Expresses a preference that electric utilities include in their IRPs a range of forecasts of projected customer demand for the next 20 years that would be in addition to the required 10-year forecast of projected customer demand.
- Directs the Department of Commerce, in reporting on the adequacy of Washington's electricity supply, to provide an examination of assessment methods used by electric utilities to address overgeneration events.
- Modifies the definition of conservation and efficiency resources.

**Hearing Date:** 2/19/13

**Staff:** Scott Richards (786-7156).

#### **Background:**

##### Electric Utility Resource Planning.

All investor-owned and consumer-owned electric utilities in the state with more than 25,000 customers must develop an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). All other utilities in the state, including full requirements customers that essentially receive all their power from the Bonneville Power Administration, must file either an IRP or a less detailed resource plan.

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An IRP must describe the mix of generating resources and conservation and efficiency resources that will meet current and projected needs at the lowest reasonable cost to the utility and its ratepayers. The IRP, at a minimum, must include:

- a range of forecasts, for at least the next 10 years, of projected customer demand;
- an assessment of commercially available conservation and efficiency resources;
- an assessment of commercially available, utility scale renewable and nonrenewable generating technologies;
- a comparative evaluation of renewable and nonrenewable generating resources;
- the integration of the demand forecasts and resource evaluations into a long-range assessment describing the mix of supply side generating resources and conservation and efficiency resources that will meet current and projected needs at the lowest reasonable cost and risk to the utility and its ratepayers; and
- a short-term plan identifying the specific actions to be taken by the utility consistent with the long-range IRP.

#### Conservation and Efficiency Resources.

Under current law, conservation and efficiency resources is defined as any reduction in electric power consumption that results from increases in the efficiency of energy use, production, transmission, or distribution.

#### Reporting on the Adequacy of Washington's Electricity Supply.

The Department of Commerce is required to review the plans of consumer-owned electric utilities and investor-owned electric utilities, and data available from other state, regional, and national sources, and prepare an electronic report to the Legislature aggregating the data and assessing the overall adequacy of Washington's electricity supply. The report must include a statewide summary of utility load forecasts, load/resource balance, and utility plans for the development of thermal generation, renewable resources, and conservation and efficiency resources.

#### **Summary of Bill:**

##### Electric Utility Resource Planning.

In addition to other reporting requirements, electric utilities with more than 25,000 customers that are not full requirements customers of the Bonneville Power Administration must include in their integrated resource plans (IRP) an assessment of methods, technologies, or facilities for integrating renewable resources, including during an overgeneration event, if applicable to the utility's resource portfolio.

All other electric utilities, when enumerating the resources that will be maintained and/or acquired to serve those loads, must provide in their resource plans an explanation of why methods, technologies, or facilities for integrating renewable resources, including during an overgeneration event, were not chosen and why that decision was made.

An overgeneration event is defined as an event of 15 minutes or longer when the electricity supply, including generation from intermittent renewable resources, exceeds the demand for electricity for that utility's customer.

##### Integrated Resources Plans Forecasting Range.

In addition to including a range of forecasts of projected customer demand for at least the next 10 years, electric utilities are encouraged to include in their IRPs a range of forecasts of projected customer demand for the next 20 years.

Conservation and Efficiency Resources.

The definition of "conservation and efficiency resources" is modified to mean any reduction or increase in electric power consumption that increases the efficiency of energy use, production, transmission, or distribution.

Reporting on the Adequacy of Washington's Electricity Supply.

In reporting on the adequacy of Washington's electricity supply, the Department of Commerce must provide an examination of assessment methods used by electric utilities to address overgeneration events.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.