

APPROVED 2-27-19

MINUTES  
City of Tacoma  
Public Utility Board Study Session  
January 23, 2019  
3:00 p.m.

Mr. Jones called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:01 p.m. at the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: Woodrow E. Jones, Jr., Bryan Flint, Christine Cooley, Mark Patterson, Karen Larkin

**AMI Communications and Outreach Plan Update**

Rebekah Anderson, Communications Manager, and Anita Gallagher, Regional Relations Manager, presented the outreach and communications plan associated with the implementation of Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI). The main communications and outreach strategies include providing ongoing messaging updates to leadership, employees, and customer-facing materials; highlighting customer benefits and value; coordinating messaging timelines with project phases; using all available marketing channels as well as community and stakeholder relationships for outreach; and responding to emerging market issues. The near-term plan entails briefings to the Board and Council, meeting with community groups/business leaders, and educating the public on the long-term benefits. Previous outreach has included briefings to the Council, city managers and mayors in franchise cities, neighborhood community groups, Metro Parks Commission, and the First Creek Block Group. Future planned outreach includes agencies such as the Black Collective, Korean Women's Association, Centro Latino, Rotaries, Pierce County Government, Port of Tacoma, and Tacoma Public Schools. Planned communications includes updated web content, media outreach, translated materials, and an email marketing program. A video series addressing the main topics related to AMI (health and safety, economic impacts, data privacy) is also planned. Discussion ensued with Board Members reiterating their desire for timely and robust communication plan in plain, understandable language.

**AMI Program Update**

Andrea Berry, Contract Administrator, provided an overview of the Master Supplier Agreements (MSA) associated with the AMI project. Benefits of the MSA were then outlined: reduce the time to negotiate supplier contracts; effectively address contract risk, and effectively address compliance. Andre Pedferri, AMI Program Manager,

provided an overview of the vendor contracts associated with AMI: Sensus (power and water meters); Omnetric (meter data management system); and Utegration (system integration). Meter safety was then discussed. The RF emissions of a Sensus water SmartPoint is approximately 660 times lower than the average use of a cell phone and the output of a Sensus electric SmartPoint is about 220 times lower than the average use of a cell phone. The total energy presented to humans by this system is at least 50,000 times less than today's cell phone. The Sensus electric meter has two temperature sensors that provide alarms when an overheat situation is occurring and includes an automatic disconnect within the meter which disconnects the meter in emergency high temperature events.


### **Tacoma Power: Energy Risk Management Overview and Policy Changes**

Ying Hall, Energy Risk Manager, began with a description of energy risk management. Energy risk management is a process for measuring, hedging, and communicating the risks from transaction in commodity markets. At Tacoma Power, it is the process for managing the risks to the power supply portfolio and wholesale revenues. There are inherent risks by participating in a bilateral energy market. There is wholesale price volatility, counterparty credit risk, and market liquidity. Ms. Hall then walked through graphical representations of load resource balance, seasonal variability in surplus power, volatility in spot power prices, net wholesale revenues, wholesale revenue and variability. Ms. Hall then reviewed the org chart, policies/procedures governance, and duties for the risk management office and then walked the Board through recommended changes policies and procedures in the energy risk management resolution that offer clarification and bring current practices and the policy into alignment.


### **Adjournment**

The study session was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled study session on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Approved:

  
Woodrow E. Jones, Jr., Chair

Approved:

  
Bryan Flint, Secretary