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SUBJECT: Tacoma Power Hydro Relicensing
DATE: August 4, 2026

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

The Generation/Natural Resources Department is sharing a high-level overview and introductory presentation about the upcoming relicensings of the four TPU-owned hydroelectric under the Federal Energy Regulatory Council (FERC) process.

BACKGROUND:

FERC relicensing is a federally required process for all non-federal hydropower projects. Each FERC License acts as a 'permit to operate' a hydro facility and has a term of 30-50 years. In order to receive a new license, each hydro project must go through relicensing prior to each license expiring. Three of our four hydroelectric projects are expiring in 2037 or 2038, and the entire relicensing process can take up to 10 years, including internal planning and preparation.

Relicensing requires Tacoma to conduct a review and analysis of existing project operations and environmental conditions at each project, including any proposed changes. Tacoma will consult with various state and federal agencies, Tribes, NGOs and the general public throughout the process, while FERC will consult and conduct their review at the end. Following environmental review and consultation, FERC will issue Tacoma a new, 30–50-year license for the project, which will include environmental protections and operational conditions.

ISSUE:

Three of Tacoma's four hydroelectric projects have licenses that expire in 2037 or 2038. The obligations set forth in those licenses will affect Tacoma customers and the communities we serve for many decades to come. Early strategic engagement maximizes opportunities while minimizing risks to customers and communities.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.