Title: Integrated Resource Planning at Tacoma Power

Speaker: Ahlmahz Negash, Tacoma Power

Location: MEB 238

Map: [http://www.washington.edu/maps/?l=MEB](http://www.washington.edu/maps/?l=MEB)

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Abstract:

This presentation will provide an overview of the 2017 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). An IRP is intended to ensure the utility can provide reliable power at lowest reasonable cost and risk over the long term. Historically, the primary questions Tacoma Power has asked in the IRP have been whether, when and which new resources are needed to meet future demand and regulatory requirements. However, the IRP may soon require asking new questions: Does the traditional utility business model need to change? How do we evolve in an increasingly constrained environment?

Load growth in the region has been in decline for quite some time; however, the 2017 IRP update marks the first planning cycle in which Tacoma Power’s load is actually projected to be lower in 20 years than it is today. For an industry that has been built on and supported by growth in demand for decades, declining load growth will require innovative thinking and planning.

These are uncertain times indeed, but they are also ripe with opportunity. The electric utility industry has undergone periods of significant technological, economic, and regulatory transformations over the past century. As we look ahead to the next two decades, there is good reason to believe that more changes are on the horizon. The decision at hand is how we choose to plan for that change.

Ahlmahz Negash is currently a Power Analyst at Tacoma Power in the Long-Term Resource Planning and Analysis group. Her role encompasses a wide range of activities including managing the IRP stakeholder process, resource modeling, evaluating policy impacts, and developing innovative demand-side solutions. Prior to joining Tacoma Power, Ahlmahz was a research fellow at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway. She received her BS and PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Washington in 2010 and 2015, respectively.