

**Updated Work Plan for NW Natural's
WASHINGTON
UG-240312 - 2025 Integrated Resource Plan
October 4, 2024**

Introduction

NW Natural filed their Original Draft Work Plan for the 2025 IRP in Docket UG-240312 on May 1, 2024. Since that time, NW Natural has revised some of its 2025 IRP Public Engagement process and schedule. This revised filing sets forth those changes.

2025 IRP Public Engagement

In the previous Work Plan, filed May 1, 2024, the Company's 2025 IRP public engagement format included a two-track approach for workshops. One track was a set of webinars intended to explore IRP topics at a more general and accessible level to those without technical expertise in resource planning. With an accompanying technical working group track for technical consultation. Due to the nature of the technical track, membership of the technical working group was planned to be by application whilst still allowing the public to observe and provide comments at the end of the meeting. However, based on feedback from stakeholders, NW Natural will keep the technical working group participation open. NW Natural will still include the additional opportunities for public engagement; a summary of each is provided below. By retaining the other aspects of our public outreach, NW Natural believes these additions to the IRP process is an important step to improving procedural equity principles in the IRP. We will continue to work with our Community and Equity Advisory Group (CEAG) and other stakeholders to refine the process as needed.

- **General Accessibility Tools and Features**

The Company strives to include accessibility features and offerings throughout its programming, and customer and stakeholder outreach. As a tool becomes known or available in one area, we attempt to apply it. For example, many NW Natural services and programs are translated into languages other than English. The IRP team will be offering translation services for the Public Engagement Webinar meetings by request and will offer closed caption and live caption features offered through virtual platforms. In addition to translation services for the Public Engagement Webinars, the Company will also look to incorporate plain language reviews, and importantly strive to provide the right level of educational content and safe spaces for new participants to be able (and feel comfortable) to effectively participate.

- **Dedicated Resource Planning Webpage and Contact Information**

The NW Natural website features a [resource planning page](#) with information on past and present IRPs, upcoming workshops, archived materials, and the IRP team's contact details. Feedback and questions can be sent to the dedicated email, IRP@nwnatural.com, which is also used for IRP-related announcements.

- **Feedback Form and Summary Report**

The IRP team regularly requests and responds to feedback provided on its IRP. For the 2025 IRP, the team will be implementing a more standardized approach to collecting and responding to feedback. This form will be available to all stakeholders.

- **Facilitator Guided Workshops**

For the 2025 IRP, the team will be having a professional facilitator lead the workshops. This is intended to create a safe space where different opinions are heard whilst allowing all stakeholders including the Company to more fully participate in the meetings.

- **2025 IRP Open House**

This open house will kick off NW Natural's IRP engagement for the 2025 IRP. The content will be structured as an IRP 101 with an intent to introduce the team to stakeholders and cultivate relationships for the work ahead as well as to inform stakeholders of the IRP process, a little about the Company and provide a high-level review of the IRP tools. This will be open to all stakeholders.

- **Two-Track Approach for Workshops**

Track 1 – Public Engagement Webinars (PEWs)

NW Natural will be adding a set of webinars which are intended to explore IRP topics at a more general level and be more accessible to those without technical expertise in resource planning. These will be interspersed into the traditionally held Technical Working Groups (TWGs) series schedule. These webinars will be open to all stakeholders and designed as 60–90-minute informative sessions with the ability for participants to ask questions and provide comment. NW Natural will be using a third-party facilitator to aid in making these spaces accessible, safe, and open for all stakeholders to learn and participate equitably. These webinars will be recorded and posted on NW Natural's website.

Track 2 – Technical Working Groups (TWGs)

In the past, Technical Working Groups (TWGs) were day-long workshops, lasting 6-7 hours. They aimed to present crucial technical information to stakeholders, covering topics like risk analysis, scenario development, and modeling methods. However, for the 2025 IRP, NW Natural is adapting these workshops based on stakeholder input to have more, but shorter meetings.

The TWGs will remain a technical forum for consultation and IRP development, but their structure will change. Specifically, they will consist of 12, 3-hour sessions. NW Natural will use a third-party facilitator for this process and they will be open to all stakeholders. These TWGs will be recorded and posted on NW Natural's website.

- **Energy Resource (IRP) Fair Events**

The concept of the Energy Resource (IRP) Fair received very positive feedback from the CEAG to replace the previously hosted meeting for the public. This will be held in person and the Company aims to host one near the beginning and after the end of the Technical Working Group meetings. These events will last 1.5 to 2 hours and will focus on resource planning information and education. Subject matter experts will be stationed at topic-

specific tables for stakeholders to explore at their own pace. These events will be open to all stakeholders, inclusive of those with children.

- **Workpapers Workshop / IRP Office Hours**

This workshop will be held once the IRP and workpapers are filed with the Commission. This workshop will be open to all stakeholders. Additionally, NW Natural is willing to host open office hours as needed during the IRP process.

Schedule of Public Participation

Table 3 below outlines the NW Natural-led public participation process for the Company’s 2025 IRP. Unless noted as in-person only, public engagement opportunities will be either virtual or hybrid with a virtual option. Six TWG topics are split into two-part sessions intended to be scheduled for three hours each. This 12-part series is replacing the previous six full day meetings from previous IRP processes. Each topic may not warrant two sessions and if this becomes the case, NW Natural will alert stakeholders to any changes or cancelations. All dates are tentative and subject to change.

Table 3 - Public Participation Process for NW Natural’s 2025 IRP

Public Engagement Opportunity & Topic	Date	Type & Purpose of Engagement
IRP Open House: About NW Natural & Overview of the IRP	October 10, 2024	Kickoff for the IRP. Meet and greet with opportunity to learn and connect with IRP team.
Technical Working Group #1: Part 1	October 22, 2024	Planning Environment, Environmental Policy, and Equity Considerations
Technical Working Group #1: Part 2	October 30, 2024	Recap from Part 1 and Scenarios
Technical Working Group #2: Part 1	November 13, 2024	Load Forecasting: Customer Forecast, and Climate
Technical Working Group #2: Part 2	November 21, 2024	Recap from Part 1 and Load Forecast
Energy Resource (IRP) Fair #1:	November 16, 2024	In-Person Only. Opportunity to learn and engage. on IRPs and Energy Services & Programs. Event to be held in collaboration with community partners.
Technical Working Group #3: Part 1	December 10, 2024	Avoided Costs & Demand- Side Resources
Technical Working Group #3: Part 2	December 17, 2024	Avoided Costs & Demand- Side Resource

Technical Working Group #4: Part 1	January 21, 2025	Supply-Side & Compliance Resources
Technical Working Group #4: Part 2	January 28, 2025	Supply-Side & Compliance Resources
Public Engagement Webinar #1:	February 4, 2025	Opportunity to learn and engage on an IRP and key topics previously presented and related to resource planning and utility energy services.
Technical Working Group #5: Part 1	April 1, 2025	Distribution System Planning
Technical Working Group #5: Part 2	April 8, 2025	Distribution System Planning
Technical Working Group #6: Part 1	April 29, 2025	Resource Optimization Planning Model
Technical Working Group #6: Part 2	May 6, 2025	Resource Optimization Planning Model and Portfolio Results and Action Plan
Energy Resource (IRP) Fair #2:	May 10, 2025	In-Person Only. Opportunity to learn about IRPs and Energy Services & Programs & Proposed Action Plan and engage. Event to be held in collaboration with community partners.
Public Engagement Webinar #2:	May 12, 2025	Opportunity to learn and engage on an IRP and key topics previously presented and related to resource planning and utility energy services.
File 2025 IRP	August 2, 2025	Opportunity to be informed and provide feedback.

Details on Topics for Technical Working Groups (no change from May 1, 2024 Work Plan)

Topic	Details
Planning Environment	Review relevant factors impacting long-term resource planning, scenarios being considered for analysis in the IRP, and the distinction between system planning and distribution system planning.
Environmental Policy	Review current and potential federal, state, and local regulations and policies.
Equity Considerations	Review topics related to energy justice and how it relates to resource planning.
Load Forecasting	Review load forecasting methodology and preview draft results.
Avoided Costs	Review avoided cost methodology and avoided cost applications.
Demand-Side Resource	Review conservation potential assessments and energy efficiency forecasts, and other potential demand-side resources.
Supply-Side Resources	Review supply-side capacity resources required to serve system peak day energy requirements and annual energy requirements.
Compliance Resources	Review emissions reduction resources or other compliance resources that meet current or potential federal, state, and local emissions reduction policies.
Resource Optimization Planning Model and Portfolio Results	Review the resource optimization planning model (PLEXOS®), scenario portfolio results, and stochastic analysis results.
Distribution System Planning	Review distributions system planning, non-pipeline alternatives, and traditional supply-side solutions.
Action Plan	Review NW Natural’s preferred action items based on the totality of the analysis conducted in the IRP.