

**Cc:** Capanna, Steve <[steve.capanna@hq.doe.gov](mailto:steve.capanna@hq.doe.gov)>; Hammond, Emily <[emily.hammond@hq.doe.gov](mailto:emily.hammond@hq.doe.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Updates on BPA-E3 analysis

Perfect, thanks Birgit.

Ryan

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Ryan Wiser  
Senior Scientist  
Office of Policy (detail)  
U.S. Department of Energy

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**From:** Koehler, Birgit G (BPA) - PG-5 <[bgkoehler@bpa.gov](mailto:bgkoehler@bpa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2022 8:53 AM  
**To:** Wiser, Ryan (CONTR) <[ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov)>  
**Cc:** Capanna, Steve <[steve.capanna@hq.doe.gov](mailto:steve.capanna@hq.doe.gov)>; Hammond, Emily <[emily.hammond@hq.doe.gov](mailto:emily.hammond@hq.doe.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Updates on BPA-E3 analysis

*Deliberative; FOIA-exempt*

Hello Ryan,

To date, we have not shared the SOW with anyone except DOE and maybe CEQ. But I will certainly touch base with our Office of General Counsel and plan to get back to you before Thursday.

Birgit

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**From:** Wiser, Ryan (CONTR) <[ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2022 8:29 AM  
**To:** Koehler, Birgit G (BPA) - PG-5 <[bgkoehler@bpa.gov](mailto:bgkoehler@bpa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Capanna, Steve <[steve.capanna@hq.doe.gov](mailto:steve.capanna@hq.doe.gov)>; Hammond, Emily <[emily.hammond@hq.doe.gov](mailto:emily.hammond@hq.doe.gov)>; Wiser, Ryan (CONTR) <[ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Updates on BPA-E3 analysis

Hi Birgit

Nancy Hirsh reached out to Steve Capanna and me in the Office of Policy, hoping to talk to us about the E3 study.

After a brief exchange with DOE GC, we've decided to take Nancy's call, but be in active listening mode – so as not to overstep given the legal and other sensitivities.

If there is anything specific that you think we CAN share on the E3 study, please let us know the specifics of what is shareable. I think we will schedule the short discussion with Nancy late this week, so anything before Thursday should work.

Related, I know Nancy has expressed interest in seeing the actual SOW between BPA and E3, and asked John H whether that could be made available. So this is another tangible ask for you and the legal folks at BPA/DOE to consider. Any immediate idea whether that might be feasible?

Ryan

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Ryan Wiser  
Senior Scientist  
Office of Policy (detail)  
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**From:** Koehler,Birgit G (BPA) - PG-5 <[bgkoehler@bpa.gov](mailto:bgkoehler@bpa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2022 6:07 AM  
**To:** Wiser, Ryan (CONTR) <[ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Updates on BPA-E3 analysis

Deliberative; FOIA-exempt

Good morning Ryan,

Yes, the news is now public. We coordinated very high-level talking points with CEQ (and likely with DOE, perhaps Emily).

Clearing Up, a widely-read west-coast energy newsletter, ran a story last Friday about White House and Congressional attention on the lower Snake River Dams and included this statement:

Meanwhile, BPA has hired Energy and Environmental Economics to look at what resources it would take to replace the dams. "We're going to use the info [from E3] to help inform our participation with the [Biden] administration in discussions with regional entities related to the Columbia River system," BPA spokesman Doug Johnson told Clearing Up.

Birgit

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**From:** Wiser, Ryan (CONTR) <[ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2022 5:06 PM  
**To:** Koehler,Birgit G (BPA) - PG-5 <[bgkoehler@bpa.gov](mailto:bgkoehler@bpa.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Updates on BPA-E3 analysis

Birgit

One additional question – and just emailing you here, as maybe the answer is common knowledge and I don't want to annoy others. Based on the email below, it sounds like knowledge of the E3 analysis is now public. Is that right? Just wondering what NWPCC as well as various other NW stakeholders know, or do not know, about the study's existence, scope and timing.

Thx,

Ryan

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Ryan Wiser  
Senior Scientist  
Office of Policy (detail)  
U.S. Department of Energy

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**From:** Koehler, Birgit G (BPA) - PG-5 <[bgkoehler@bpa.gov](mailto:bgkoehler@bpa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2022 11:46 AM  
**To:** Wiser, Ryan (CONTR) <[ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov)>  
**Cc:** Capanna, Steve <[steve.capanna@hq.doe.gov](mailto:steve.capanna@hq.doe.gov)>; Hoffman, Patricia <[pat.hoffman@hq.doe.gov](mailto:pat.hoffman@hq.doe.gov)>; Muse, Whitney <[whitney.muse@hq.doe.gov](mailto:whitney.muse@hq.doe.gov)>; Hammond, Emily <[emily.hammond@hq.doe.gov](mailto:emily.hammond@hq.doe.gov)>; Baumann, Jeremiah <[jeremiah.baumann@hq.doe.gov](mailto:jeremiah.baumann@hq.doe.gov)>; Godwin, Mary E <[megodwin@bpa.gov](mailto:megodwin@bpa.gov)>; Leary, Jill C <[jcleary@bpa.gov](mailto:jcleary@bpa.gov)>; James, Eve A L <[eaajames@bpa.gov](mailto:eaajames@bpa.gov)>; [slbaskerville@bpa.gov](mailto:slbaskerville@bpa.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: Updates on BPA-E3 analysis

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Hello Ryan and team DOE,

We signed the contract with E3 in early March. The SOW includes four tasks:

1. Gather and summarize the latest resource information for the West including state mandates for renewable and carbon-free goals, highlighting the role/need for hydropower
2. Run E3's model, Resolve with and without the four lower Snake River dams to show the regional resources needed in the region, with and without the four lower Snake River dams.
3. Qualitative assessment of other services the four lower Snake River hydroprojects provide that are not captured in the Resolve model
4. Brief written report

**Timeline:**

We are asking for draft PowerPoints and perhaps other materials by mid-April on the results of tasks 1-3. This was the earliest feasible date we could get results. The final material and written report are due June 1.

If we learn that the CEQ process will allow more leeway, that might permit E3 to run another scenario or two and/or allow more time for coordination.

**Current efforts** are in two areas:

1. We are defining the scenarios for E3 to run including current policy and deep decarbonization. The primary scenario will examine the generation from the lower Snake River dams with the Preferred/Selected Alternative. Time permitting, they will also run an assessment of the full capability of the dams without fish operations constraining generation, as this shows the full value of the dams that would be lost if they were breached.
2. We are sharing generation information from the four lower Snake Dams with E3 to tune their model to capture the dams' capabilities.

After we coordinate the scenarios with E3 and provide data about the dams' capabilities, we will let E3 perform the study independently. We do not plan to be engaged in their work as the aim was to have an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party perform this study.

**Potential involvement from DOE:**

- We have not made formal connections with the DOE Water Power Technologies Office. E3 stated that they have connections at the National Labs whom they would contact if they would like input. They are planning to use public information generated by DOE/Labs.
- It would be useful to have review from DOE
- Task 3 is the qualitative assessment of other capabilities of the dams not captured in E3's Resolve model such as voltage and reactive support or black-start capability or maybe even capacity that was

not used in the Resolve model. We have not spent much time with E3 discussing this task in detail since it is a later step. If E3 does not have the appropriate reference material to assess a value for these characteristics, this might be an opportunity for DOE to help.

- We are trying to thread the fine line of not slowing E3 down with additional coordination while including help where value is added.

You heard correctly that the NWPCC is discussing performing a study of the power system with and without the lower Snake River dams. They announced their intention to create a study plan in February and held a public workshop soliciting input. Public input was mixed on support/discouragement of the NWPCC study. This was before Bonneville formally signed the contract with E3 and before we coordinated with DOE and CEQ about sharing the news of the E3 study. NWPCC has now slowed down work on their study plan. If NWPCC proceeds with their study, their timeline is “up to two years,” which would not be helpful for informing the CEQ process or the litigation July 2022 Stay Agreement expiration.

While this email exchange is the fastest way for me to reply with an update, we’d be happy to have a meeting if you want to discuss. (Next week or after April 11 would work. I’m on leave April 4-11.)

Cheers,  
Birgit

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**From:** Wiser, Ryan (CONTR) <[ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2022 8:48 AM  
**To:** Koehler, Birgit G (BPA) - PG-5 <[bgkoehler@bpa.gov](mailto:bgkoehler@bpa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Capanna, Steve <[steve.capanna@hq.doe.gov](mailto:steve.capanna@hq.doe.gov)>; Hoffman, Patricia <[pat.hoffman@hq.doe.gov](mailto:pat.hoffman@hq.doe.gov)>; Muse, Whitney <[whitney.muse@hq.doe.gov](mailto:whitney.muse@hq.doe.gov)>; Hammond, Emily <[emily.hammond@hq.doe.gov](mailto:emily.hammond@hq.doe.gov)>; Baumann, Jeremiah <[jeremiah.baumann@hq.doe.gov](mailto:jeremiah.baumann@hq.doe.gov)>; Wiser, Ryan (CONTR) <[ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ryan.wiser@hq.doe.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Updates on BPA-E3 analysis

Hi Birgit

I’m emailing on behalf of the DOE team, wondering if there are any updates on the earlier-proposed E3 Lower Snake River work to share. Has that work gotten underway?

In addition to a basic status update, there are a couple other related topics for possible discussion, including:

- The DOE Water Power Technologies Office is prepared to advise and assist on that study, as appropriate and useful. It might make sense to make those connections more formally, if that has not yet happened.
- We’ve heard that the NWPCC is scoping out a possible LSR study—though we have not sought any recent updates on that front. Would be curious to hear BPA’s thoughts on that study scope, and any relationships between that possible study and the E3 work.

We’d be happy to set up a brief call to discuss, or start with a short email exchange on the E3 study status.

Let us know, and all the best,

Ryan Wiser

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Ryan Wiser  
Senior Scientist