



Oregon

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To: Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator

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Subject: Agenda Item G (Action Item):
2023 Legislative Session Preview for the November 17-18 EFSC Meeting

The next Oregon Legislative Session starts Tuesday, January 17th and that means planning and preparation are in full swing. As it will be an odd-numbered year, it will be a long session – lasting around six months. While the election results are unknown as this packet is sent to EFSC members, we know that there will be a new Governor for the first time in nearly eight years and many new legislators. By the time session starts, there will be at least one new presiding officer as longtime Senate President Peter Courtney is retiring from elected office. Change will certainly be one theme for the 2023 session, regardless of what happens when the votes are counted. Another clear theme is continued attention to the global economy and how it is affecting the state budget.

Ahead of the official start of the legislative session, the legislature has committee meetings December 7th-9th. These meetings usually cover issues expected to come up in session and often include a chance for legislators to share what bills they plan to bring forward that are relevant to the committee. Then, December 21st is the deadline for filing bills presession; most bills are filed by this date, including all agency bills.

In January, legislators will gather for swearing-in and organizing on January 9th. This process includes the adoption of rules and the selection of presiding officers. Then, session officially kicks off and committees start to meet on January 17th. The session has to end by June 25th unless a supermajority of legislators vote to continue the session past that date. Throughout session, there are deadlines that keep bills moving and to allow for adequate time for each chamber to consider each bill and to weigh budget considerations. For example, all bills have to move out of committee in the first chamber by April 4th and then they have to move out of committee in the second chamber by May 19th. Generally speaking, policy committees are mostly closed after that date and the Ways and Means Committee takes on agency budgets and bills with a fiscal impact to the state. Current legislative leaders are aiming to complete the session by June 15th, though they have an additional ten days under the state constitution.

On November 18th, EFSC members will receive a legislative update from Oregon Department of Energy Government Affairs Coordinator Christy Splitt. Since election results will be known, there will be more information to share about what to expect and who will be in office at that time.