



Oregon

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Government to Government Report Oregon Department of Energy—2013 Summary

The mission of the Oregon Department of Energy is to reduce the long-term costs of energy for Oregonians.

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The Oregon Department of Energy acknowledges the long-standing working relationship it has had with Oregon's tribes. The agency's executive and management teams are responsible to inform the agency's tribal liaison about issues and opportunities related to tribal interests. New employee orientation also provides a venue for discussing state-tribal relations.

Energy Facility Siting Council

The Energy Facility Siting Council has seven members. They are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate. Its members may not be employed by a company that has a facility or proposed facility under the council's jurisdiction; nor can they have ever worked for a company that owned a large energy facility.

The council is responsible for overseeing the development of large energy facilities. A proposed facility must undergo a thorough review process and must meet the council's siting standards to receive a site certificate. The site certificate authorizes the developer to construct and operate the facility.

All council members are volunteers.

Hanford Cleanup Board

The Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board is a 20-member advisory group and includes 10 citizen members, six state legislators, and representatives from the Governor's Office, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and two state agencies.

The Board provides input to the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) and its regulators on the Hanford cleanup.

The Board and its staff at the Oregon Department of Energy also:

- keep key cleanup issues visible;
- hold the USDOE and its contractors accountable;
- bring Hanford issues to the public; and
- convey that the cleanup is a regional issue and that Oregon has a stake in the outcome.

Oregon's primary role at Hanford is to ensure that cleanup decisions are protective of the Columbia River.

Ongoing Efforts

Energy Infrastructure Siting

The Oregon Department of Energy, as staff to the Energy Facility Siting Council, works with tribes regarding the proposed siting of new energy facilities and pipelines. Some of the proposals include wind farms, natural gas-fired power plants and an electric transmission line.

The proposed Boardman to Hemingway 500-kV single circuit transmission line would cross Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Baker and Malheur counties. Idaho Power submitted the Notice of Intent on July 15, 2010, but due to routing changes the department did not issue the Project Order until March 2, 2012. The applicant submitted a preliminary Application on February 29, 2013. The department issued the first Request for Additional Information on May 23, 2013 and the applicant submitted its response on

July 8, 2013. The applicant has indicated it will be modifying its application to reflect some alternate route segments identified by BLM “preliminary preferred” alternatives. The applicant and the department continue to meet to discuss specific aspects of the project and the preliminary application.

Tribal governments help review siting projects, but reimbursement for those efforts is not in statute and tribes have asked the department to address this. In the Energy Department’s *Report to the 77th Legislature on Study Results and Recommendations from HB 2105* (2013) it says:

“The EFSC process for siting energy facilities is based on ORS 469.310, which establishes the policy that all energy facilities will be evaluated through a coordinated, consolidated process. To facilitate that consolidated review, ORS 469.350 requires participation in the EFSC process by any *state agency that has regulatory or advisory responsibility with respect to the facility and any city or county affected by the application*. All state reviewing agencies and local governments are statutorily required to respond to reviews from Siting Council staff.”

“The department has mechanisms in place for reimbursement with most state agencies and local governments associated with each project. However, that authority does not allow agencies to seek reimbursement for valuable planning work prior to the Notice of Intent when requested by an applicant, nor does it extend to allow reimbursement for work done to ensure compliance during the projects construction and operation. In addition, there is no express authority to allow Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribal governments to seek reimbursement for the work they do in evaluating proposed facilities for the presence of cultural or archeological resources.”

“A legislative concept should be considered to allow for reimbursement agreements with state agencies and local governments to cover expenses incurred prior to submittal by the applicant of the Notice of Intent and after approval; and explicitly allow for reimbursement for expenses in participating in the state siting review process by tribal governments similar to state agencies and local governments.”

Protecting the Columbia River

The Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State used to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. The production process resulted in large amounts of chemical and radioactive waste. These wastes pose a long-term threat to the Columbia River. The Oregon Department of Energy is responsible for the technical review of the Hanford cleanup and assessment of potential impacts on the Columbia River and Oregon.

The State of Oregon continues to work closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) regarding Hanford policy and technical issues. This is done under a Memorandum of Understanding coordinating efforts related to the Columbia River, groundwater protection, radioactive material transport, public information and emergency preparedness. The CTUIR is also represented on the Hanford Cleanup Board.

Energy staff consults and coordinates with CTUIR staff regularly on Hanford technical and policy issues. The Oregon Department of Energy also works with the CTUIR as a member of the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council.

2013 Legislation

SB 583 created the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Revolving Fund. The bill authorizes the Oregon Department of Energy to provide loans to public entities and tribes to assist in the purchase of new alternative fuel vehicles and for the conversion of existing vehicles that use gasoline or diesel to alternative fuel vehicles.

Training

In July, Energy Facility Siting Division staff provided information and training to tribal governments, state agencies and local governments about how to participate in the siting review process. The seminar was held at the Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute in Pendleton.

Agency Participation

The agency attends the Natural Resource Working Group and Cultural Resource Cluster meetings, along with Tribal Information Day at the Capitol.