

Oregon RPS Low-Impact Hydro provisions

Topic Outline

- A. RPS – low-impact hydro
- B. LIHI
- C. Rulemaking Steps
- D. Non-utility low-impact

A. RPS – low-impact hydro

469A.020 Qualifying electricity; age of generating facility.

(4) ... electricity from a hydroelectric facility that is owned by an electric utility and that became operational before January 1, 1995, may be used to comply with a renewable portfolio standard if the facility is certified as a low-impact hydroelectric facility on or after January 1, 1995, by a national certification organization recognized by the State Department of Energy by rule. [2007 c.301 §3]

469A.025 Renewable energy sources.

(5) Up to 50 average megawatts of electricity per year generated by an electric utility from certified low-impact hydroelectric facilities described in ORS 469A.020 (4) may be used to comply with a renewable portfolio standard, without regard to the number of certified facilities operated by the electric utility or the generating capacity of those facilities. A hydroelectric facility described in this subsection is not subject to the requirements of subsection (4) of this section.

Note that “electric utility” means a utility that serves Oregon customers.

“National certification organization” points to the Low Impact Hydropower Institute. Are there other entities providing this?

This is a unique exception for hydro in the Oregon RPS; hydro is the only renewable resource with a compliance path for pre-1995 facilities.

Implication is that low-impact delivers significant additional benefits and those benefits warrant RPS credit.

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B. Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) w/ Fred Ayer, by phone

Background, and process (<http://lowimpacthydro.org/>)

Certifications issued (first one, total to date, in process)

Steps to Certify

Size of facilities

Costs

General discussion.

C. Rulemaking Steps

Consider other issues, related to low-impact or peripheral, for rulemaking.

OHWG information reviewed by ODOE staff in preparation of draft rule and for Renewable Energy Work Group.

Rulemaking workshop to review draft rules for identified and new issues.

Revise draft rule as needed.

Formal Hearing.

Rules adopted.

D. Non-utility low-impact

Equity question, in-state, utility vs. independent.

Legal question, out-of-state exclusion.

RPS Requirements and estimated pre-1995 Oregon hydro capacity (derived from Northwest Power & Conservation Council documents).

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Large Utility (PGE, Pacific Power, EWEB)															
		RPS Requirements ('Large Utility')													
		2011	2015												
		2020													
aMW	210	660	1,210												
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Actual Low Impact totals not considered in estimates.

Total output of Oregon utility-owned, Oregon-sited hydro.

Oregon utility, Oregon-sited hydro with existing RPS limit of 50 aMW/yr per utility.

Total output of Oregon utility-owned, Oregon-sited hydro.