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Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment (ORESAs) – Summer 2020 Update

Project Overview

The Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment project is funded through a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment. The grant team includes Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) working closely with Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and Oregon State University's Institute for Natural Resources (INR). The project will also be reaching out and incorporating expertise within state and tribal government through interagency agreements, input from technical advisors, and cross-sectoral stakeholder engagement.

The project will collect data and information through three topic-focused compatibility assessments and develop a mapping and reporting tool. The project aims to create a transparent, consistent collection of information about renewable energy and transmission development opportunities and constraints, without recommendations or endorsements, and noting where information may be imprecise or uncertain. Policy makers and stakeholders can use this collection of data to inform discussions related to the development of renewable energy facilities in a way that minimizes conflict and supports economic development opportunities.

Overall Project Update

- **Completed:** Project initiation tasks including formation of the grant project steering team and work team which include ODOE, DLCD, and INR staff.
- **Completed:** Procurement tasks including executing agreement with grant sub-recipients and agreements for reimbursement to state and tribal partners. Completed procurements for three competitive solicitations (see details below) as Request for Proposals using the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN).
- **Ongoing:** Project management tasks continue commensurate with the task and timeline. The project manager continues to ensure project coordination and reporting activities are completed.

Project Components

Renewable Energy Market and Industry Assessment

This assessment will collect and analyze data used in projecting the future opportunity for cost-effective development of renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure in Oregon. It will develop cost-optimized, renewable energy build out scenarios for Oregon over the next 15 years (by 2035). It will also build an understanding from the renewable energy industry of the constraints and opportunities that come with renewable energy development.

Assessment Update

- **Completed:** ODOE issued a Request for Proposals with a 5-month Scope of Work and Not-to-Exceed budget amount of \$200,000. The RFP (19-073) was issued on January 21, 2020 and closed on February 20, 2020. One proposer, Energy + Environmental Economics (E3), was selected and an agreement was executed on April 16, 2020.
- **Initiated:** E3 hosted a kick-off meeting to review the scope of work and discuss the draft work plan with project team members. As part of the work plan, E3 will now conduct outreach to engage stakeholders in development of the assessment.

Military Needs and Impact Assessment

This assessment will collect and analyze data and information regarding Oregon's military assets including: Department of Defense (Oregon Military Department/Oregon National Guard, and Navy), and Coast Guard; Current and anticipated future use of Oregon's airspace, including offshore training and operating airspace, by the Department of Defense and Coast Guard; Current and anticipated future use of Oregon's territorial sea and navigable waters by the Department of Defense and Coast Guard.

Assessment Update

- **Completed:** ODOE issued a Request for Proposals with a 5-month Scope of Work and Not-to-Exceed budget amount of \$120,000. The RFP (20-014) was issued on April 2, 2020 and closed on May 4, 2020. One proposer, Epsilon Systems Solutions, was selected and an agreement was executed on June 29, 2020.
- **Initiated:** The project team has finalized the assessment work plan. As part of the work plan, Epsilon Systems Solutions will conduct outreach to engage stakeholders in development of the assessment.

Natural Resources, Environment, and Development: Opportunities and Constraints Assessment

This assessment will collect and assess renewable energy development opportunity data and information such as the presence of strong renewable energy resources, incentives, and novel opportunities for renewable energy development. It will also collect and assess information regarding the presence of valuable natural and environmental resources, regulatory structure and jurisdictional protections as they exist across Oregon's landscape and other development constraints. It will build an understanding of renewable energy opportunities and constraints in Oregon and where the state can support renewable energy growth and economic development while protecting important natural resources.

Assessment Update

- **Completed:** ODOE issued a Request for Proposals with a 5-month Scope of Work and Not-to-Exceed budget amount of \$100,000. The RFP (20-015) was issued on April 2, 2020 and closed on May 4, 2020. One proposer, Conservation Biology Institute (CBI), was selected and an agreement was executed on July 10, 2020
- **Initiated:** The project team has finalized the assessment work plan. As part of the work plan, CBI will conduct outreach to engage stakeholders in development of the assessment.

Procedures Review

This review will analyze geographically relevant federal, military, state and local government regulations and project review processes as they relate to notification, identification, and evaluation of potential impacts to military facilities and training/operating areas. Subsequent analysis will include military procedures for seeking and responding to renewable energy proposals. The report will provide a summary of federal, state, and local government regulations and processes, along with existing practices related to project review and coordination.

Review Update

- **Initiated:** The project team is developing an approach to accomplish the procedures review concurrent with the compatibility assessment. The scoping and workplan is currently under development.

Mapping and Reporting Tool

Informed by the compatibility assessments and data collection, the project will provide a Mapping and Reporting Tool. Leveraging the Oregon Explorer platform, this tool will serve as a centralized location to access best available data and inform decision making and stakeholder discussions. This work will collect and generate relevant layers related to military, generation and transmission, natural resources, land uses and zoning, economic development areas/opportunities, and public infrastructure and energy resources, and renewable energy.

Mapping Update

- **In Progress:** The project team completed kick-off for internally scoping the functionality of the mapping tool, including preliminary data and information needs. Scoping conversations will be broadened through the stakeholder engagement occurring in each of the compatibility assessments.
- **Initiated:** The project team has developed a basic framework to inventory data and tools that may be of use in the mapping tool. Next steps will be integrated in the compatibility assessments – including collection of existing datasets, examples of other mapping tools, and use cases.

Outreach and Education

The project includes outreach to broad audiences and general public through project updates, requests for stakeholder feedback, and packaging of information about the project and process. Outreach tools will include multiple communication channels, with an emphasis on various approaches such as social media and listservs. With completion of major project deliverables, the project team will provide specific outreach to key stakeholders, including military stakeholders, renewable energy developers and utilities, local governments, and non-governmental organizations to encourage use the assessment report and mapping tool.

Outreach Update

- **Completed:** Completed initial outreach and materials to summarize key information for kick-off of the project. A public website is now hosted on the ODOE website (<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Pages/ORESAs.aspx>) which includes a project summary, hyperlinks to project partners, and a PDF handout. Parties interested in the project can sign up for project updates and there is a Point of Contact on the website to respond to individual request. The project team has also created presentations, visuals, and project documents to share with stakeholders, and share project information through the ODOE newsletters.
- **Ongoing:** The project team will continue to share project updates throughout the course of the project. As the compatibility assessments and mapping tools are developed it is expected that the project team will continue to communicate regularly with interested stakeholders.

Questions or comments? Visit [ODOE's website](#) for further information and points of contact.

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