



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor



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## Government to Government Report Oregon Department of Energy—2010 Summary

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*The mission of the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is to ensure Oregon has an adequate supply of reliable and affordable energy and is safe from nuclear contamination, by helping Oregonians save energy, develop clean energy resources, promote renewable energy, and clean up nuclear waste.*

### **New Opportunities**

2010 has seen an increasing interest in the development of Oregon's biomass resources for energy production. The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) has been working with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs on their biomass project. We are also exploring other opportunities with Warm Spring Forest Products Industries.

Renewable energy proposals, such as wind turbine installations, have been the topic of discussions with other tribes.

### **Ongoing Efforts**

#### ***Siting of Energy Infrastructure***

The Oregon Department of Energy works with tribes regarding the proposed siting of new energy facilities and pipelines. Some of the proposals include electric transmission lines and wind farms. With many of these set to be located east of the Cascades, the Oregon Department of Energy opened a small field office in Hermiston to better serve the public in that area. The transmission line projects under review include Boardman to Hemingway, proposed by Idaho Power and Cascade Crossing from PGE.

With the proposed siting of bulk transmission lines in the state, the Department anticipates greater involvement and communication with the effected tribes and tribal lands, including coordination of decision processes between Tribal Nations, federal land

managers and the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). The Oregon Department of Energy is staff to EFSC.

### ***Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness***

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 (ODOE) 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.

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

### ***Incentives***

The Oregon Department of Energy, through the pass-through option of its Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) program, has been able to help fund both conservation and renewable energy tribal projects.

A conservation BETC has been awarded to the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde for an efficient transportation project. Two tax credit applications from the Coquille Indian Tribe are under review. The projects would save energy for the Coquille Community Center by providing solar electricity and water heating. The center houses the Head Start and afterschool programs, along with the recreation hall for the reservation.

### ***Public Information and Outreach***

The agency attends the Natural Resource Working Group meetings, the Government-to-Government Summits and Tribal Information Day at the Capitol.