



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor



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Government to Government Report Oregon Department of Energy—2011 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.

2011 has seen an increasing interest in energy facility siting, specifically two major proposed transmission lines. ODOE called on Karen Quigley to help with the agency's outreach to tribes as we work through the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) process on the initial phases of the Cascade Crossing and Boardman to Hemingway transmission lines. The Oregon Department of Energy is staff to EFSC.

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 wind farms, natural gas-fired power plants and electric transmission lines.

The Boardman to Hemingway transmission line is being proposed by Idaho Power and Cascade Crossing by PGE. The projects involve state, federal and tribal governments. The ODOE siting officers reviewing the projects have been attending meetings of state and federal cultural resource experts to determine a common basis of information, how the information feeds into the EFSC process and keeping the cultural information confidential.

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. The CTUIR is also represented on the Hanford Cleanup Board.

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

Since 2001, 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. The BETC ended July 1, 2011 following passage of HB 3672. Three new incentive programs will replace BETC, but the pass-through option will continue.

ODOE is working with the CTUIR on achieving successful completion of a conservation project at the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute that began before legislative changes to the BETC program. The project will help the museum save a large amount of energy and reduce energy bills.

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. A member of the siting division also attended the Working in Indian Country training at the CTUIR.