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Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment (ORESAs) – Winter 2021 Update

Project Overview

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

Data and information is being collected through three topic-focused compatibility assessments, and the team will be conducting a siting procedures review and developing a mapping and reporting tool. The ORESAs 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.

Project Update

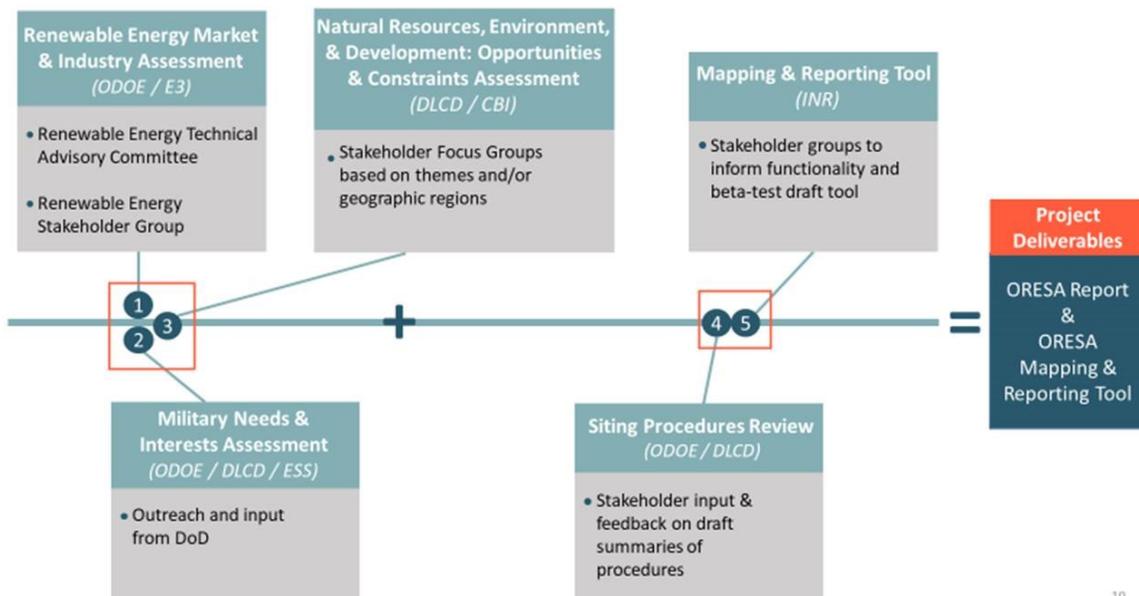
Ongoing:

Continue to offer and initiate agreements for reimbursement to state agencies, local governments, and tribal partners participating in the project. Please contact kaci.radcliffe@oregon.gov to set up a cost reimbursement agreement for staff time, if cost is a barrier to participation.

Project management continues to be commensurate with tasks and timeline. The project manager continues to ensure project coordination and reporting activities are completed.

In progress:

The project team continues to address external challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff transitions, and a remote working environment. In partnership with the DOD project manager and in recognition of the “impacts due to COVID-19”, grantees were provided a 12-month no-cost time extension. The project team is developing revised project plans in response, with the majority of the ORESA project to be **completed by Summer 2021**.



10

1) Renewable Energy Market and Industry Assessment

Energy + Environmental Economics (E3) is collecting and analyzing data used in projecting the future opportunity for cost-effective development of renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure in Oregon. E3 is working with stakeholders and developing cost-optimized, renewable energy build out scenarios for Oregon over the next 15 years (by 2035). This assessment is also building an understanding from the renewable energy industry of the constraints and opportunities that come with renewable energy development.

Assessment Update

Completed:

E3 incorporated final comments on geographic and land use screens into the scenario model. E3 presented preliminary modeling results for the market assessment to both the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as well as stakeholders at large via webinar during January 2021 (recording [posted on project website](#)).

In progress:

E3 will provide the draft report to the TAC for initial review in February. ODOE, the ORESA team members, state agencies participating in the project, and stakeholders interviewed for the industry assessment will also have an opportunity to comment on the draft report.

2) Military Needs and Impact assessment

Epsilon Systems Solutions (ESS) is collecting and analyzing data and information regarding Oregon's military assets including: Use of Oregon's air, land, and sea including offshore training and operating areas utilized by the Department of Defense (Oregon Military Department/Oregon National Guard, Air Force, Army, and Navy) and US Coast Guard; and use of Oregon's territorial sea and navigable waters by the Department of Defense and US Coast Guard.

Assessment Update

Completed:

Conducted stakeholder engagement and data collection, in coordination with ORESA military advisor, as key components of the assessment report and delivery of data for the mapping and reporting tool. Completed draft assessment report for initial review and feedback.

In Progress:

Compiling summary of data collection methods and efforts. Continue discussion and feedback on draft assessment report. Developing public brochure and supplemental materials.

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

Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) is collecting and assessing 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 is also collecting and assessing 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:

CBI conducted outreach to stakeholders via an online survey to learn about data and information sources that can help with understanding renewable energy opportunities and constraints, and to gather ideas from the stakeholders for how the mapping tool could be most useful for them. CBI engaged with stakeholders through 1:1 interviews to further explore potential gaps and other data concerns discovered via the survey. CBI also conducted six regional webinars (recordings [posted on project website](#)) to continue the assessment of renewable energy opportunities and constraints, relevant data and information, and mapping tool and reporting functionality needs.

In Progress:

CBI will work with ORESA team to conduct targeted outreach after regional webinars including tribes and local government. CBI is also reviewing all input received to date as part of creating a draft assessment report.

4) 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

Completed:

Initial process maps for siting procedures at the state and county level.

In Progress:

Process map for siting marine hydrokinetic projects in state waters.

Initiated:

Review of relevant military review processes and activities.

5) Mapping and Reporting tool

Informed by the compatibility assessments and data collection, the project will create 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 relevant layers related to military, generation and transmission, natural resources, land uses and zoning, economic development areas and opportunities, public infrastructure and energy resources, and renewable energy.

Mapping Update

Completed:

Scoping conversations and listening sessions during stakeholder engagement occurring during the course of the compatibility assessments.

In Progress:

Creation of tool mockups and a scoping document to outline functionality.

Initiated:

Integration with the compatibility assessments – including collection of existing datasets, examples of other mapping tools, and use cases. Formation of a User Group to provide input during tool development. Identification of beta testers.

Outreach and Education

The project includes outreach to broad audiences 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 NGOs to encourage use of the assessment report and mapping tool.

Outreach Update

Completed:

Updated postings of [stakeholder engagement opportunities](#) including registration links and recordings of project webinars. Posted a project [“Mapping & Reporting Tool” Summary](#) document describing objectives, use case examples, functionality, and timelines.

Ongoing:

Continue to make presentations and project documents available on project website and through the listserv, along with sharing project milestones and upcoming events through ODOE newsletters.

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

Oregon Department of Energy

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