On January 2, 2018, the Oregon Department of Energy (Department) received a preliminary request for amendment #4 to the Eugene to Medford Transmission Line Site Certificate. The Eugene to Medford Transmission Line is a 137-mile, 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between PacifiCorp’s Meridian Substation near Medford and PacifiCorp's Spencer Switching Station south of Eugene. The amendment request is known by PacifiCorp as the “Sams Valley Reinforcement Project” and would be located in Josephine and Jackson Counties and the City of Rogue River. The proposed project consists of the following primary components: decommissioning of an existing 115 kV transmission line; construction and operation of a new 17.6-mile 230 kV transmission line to be double circuited with the existing 115 kV transmission line; a new 500/230 kV substation (“Sams Valley substation”); upgrading of the existing Grants Pass substation to accommodate the termination of the new proposed 230 kV transmission line; reconductoring a 4.9-mile segment of existing 230 kV transmission line; and substantial modification of existing access roads.

The Department has determined that the assistance of a consultant may be necessary to assist in its review of the site certificate amendment request materials. The Department has identified the technical consulting firm, Golder, as the most qualified to assist with review of select amendment request materials. Golder is an international firm with an office in Lake Oswego. Based upon the qualifications provided by the firm, Golder has a team of professionals providing specialized technical consulting services, including expertise related to a number of the Council standards. The Department has preliminarily identified a potential need for consultant support in reviewing documents associated with Exhibit X (noise impact analysis) and Exhibit Q (threatened and endangered species), specifically related to threatened and endangered plant species. It is possible, though not currently planned, that the Department
may also contract with Golder to provide other services, such as document production support, or general staff augmentation.

The Council is authorized to appoint and utilize technical contractors in support of its review of site certificate applications and amendment requests, in accordance with ORS 469.470(6).

**Staff Request and Recommendation**

The Department recommends that the Council find that Golder is qualified and capable to serve as a consultant to assist with the Department’s review of the request for amendment to the PacifiCorp Eugene to Medford Transmission Line Site Certificate (“Sams Valley Reinforcement Project”).