



Oregon

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To: Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Katie Clifford, Senior Siting Analyst

Date: August 7, 2020

Re: Agenda Item H – Consultant Appointment for Assistance Reviewing Materials related to the Council’s Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources for Request for Amendment #4 to the Eugene to Medford Transmission Line Site Certificate for the August 21, 2020 EFSC Meeting (Action Item)

Introduction

Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 469.470(6), the Energy Facility Siting Council (Council) is authorized to appoint and utilize technical contractors in support of its review of materials contained in an Application for Site Certificate (ASC) or Request for Amendment of a Site Certificate (RFA). In accordance with this statute, the Oregon Department of Energy (Department) requests Council approval to appoint a contractor for technical support in review of application materials related to the Council’s Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources standard (OAR 345-022-0090) for Request for Amendment 4 (RFA4) 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. In its amendment request, the certificate holder requests approval from the Council to amend the site certificate to authorize the following modifications:

- Add approximately 488 acres to the site boundary (increasing overall site boundary area from approximately 23,975 to 24,463 acres);
- Replace an existing 115 kV transmission line with a new 17.6-mile 230/115 kV double-circuit transmission line (Grants Pass-Sams Valley Transmission Line);
- Construct and operate a new 500/230 kV substation (Sams Valley substation)
- Reconductor a 4.9-mile segment of existing 230 kV transmission line; and

- Make temporary improvements to existing access roads.

Discussion

At the April 27, 2018 Council meeting the Council appointed Golder as a consultant to assist with the Department's review of RFA4. Golder subsequently assisted the Department with review of RFA Exhibit X (Noise) and successfully completed the associated work order contract.

The Department's previous master services agreements with consultants, including Golder, have since expired. The Department has a new master services agreement with Hart Crowser, a technical consulting firm that leads a team of firms offering services to assist the Department in review of materials contained in applications for site certificates and requests for amendment. Hart Crowser's geotechnical and environmental engineers and scientists are located throughout the Pacific Northwest, including in Portland. One member of the Hart Crowser team is Historical Resource Associates (HRA), an archaeological, historic, and cultural resources consulting firm with Oregon offices. HRA has previously supported the Department's review of site certificate applications.

The Department has determined that the assistance of a consultant may be necessary to assist in its review of application materials related to the Council's Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources standard in the event that this support is needed at a time when SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) has limited available staff time. Based upon the qualifications provided by the firms, Hart Crowser and HRA have a team of professionals providing specialized technical consulting services, including expertise related to the Council's Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources standard.

Staff Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Council find that Hart Crowser is qualified and capable to serve as a consultant to assist with the Department's review of application materials related to the Council's Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources standard for RFA4 to the Eugene to Medford Transmission Line Site Certificate.