



Oregon

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To: Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor

Date: December 4, 2020

Re: Agenda Item G – Consultant Appointment for Assistance Reviewing Materials related to the Council’s Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources for Multiple EFSC Facilities for the December 18, 2020 EFSC Meeting (Action Item)

BACKGROUND

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 site certificate compliance as well as 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 the above-referenced types of materials related to the Council’s Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources standard (OAR 345-022-0090) for various Council energy facilities including Blue Marmot Solar, Bonanza Energy Facility, Wagon Trail Solar, Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III, Golden Hills Wind Project and Montague Solar Facility.

REASONS FOR REQUEST

The Department currently has several review requests pending with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), where the response time is no longer viable for timely processing of materials. The Department has been made aware of significant limitations in the availability of SHPO staff to support EFSC related review requests due to 50 percent reduction in number of personnel, increased workload and long-term staff availability limitations due to budget restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department anticipates review requests in the near future for several projects in the Notice of Intent (NOI) Phase (Blue Marmot Solar, Bonanza Energy Facility and Wagon Trail Solar) and as referenced above currently has pending review requests for facilities planning for preconstruction or under construction. Based on current and future review needs, the Department had determined that use of a consultant is currently needed and is forecasted to be needed. The Department currently maintains a contract with a consulting firm, Hart Crowser - a professional services company with an office in Oregon, which has a team of professionals

providing specialized technical consulting services, including expertise related to the Council's Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources standard (OAR 345-022-0090) (Exhibit S). Hart Crowser also sub consults with HRA, a recognized consulting company specializing in archeology and cultural resources, as well as demonstrated knowledge of SHPO's review process.

It is important to note that Council appointment of a consultant for use in review of materials provides authorization for the Department to proceed in the contracting process should it be needed at a later date. The Department is not, at this time, planning to contract for specialized services for all of the referenced facilities, particularly those in the NOI phase. However, the Department intends to develop scope of work/contract documents for review of preconstruction compliance submittals related to Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III, Golden Hills Wind Project and Montague Solar Facility.

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 materials related to the Council's Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources standard for Blue Marmot Solar, Bonanza Energy Facility, Wagon Trail Solar, Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III, Golden Hills Wind Project and Montague Solar Facility.