



Oregon

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To: Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Christopher M. Clark, Senior Siting Analyst

Date: May 18, 2023

Subject: Agenda Item E (Action Item): Cascade Renewable Transmission System, Appointment of Special Advisory Groups for the June 1, 2023, EFSC Meeting

Attachments: Attachment 1: Draft Orders Appointing Special Advisory Groups

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Council appoint Special Advisory Groups for proceedings related to the proposed Cascade Renewable Transmission System.

BACKGROUND

On March 7, 2023, the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE or Department) received a Notice of Intent to File an Application for a Site Certificate (NOI) for the Cascade Renewable Transmission System (Proposed Facility). The NOI was submitted by Cascade Renewable Transmission, LLC (Applicant).¹

The proposed facility would consist of a 320-kilovolt high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line that would span approximately 100 miles between The Dalles and Portland and related or supporting facilities. The majority of the HVDC line would be buried in the bed of the Columbia River using a hydro-jet cable burial machine or “jet plow.” An approximately 7.5-mile segment of the HVDC line would be buried in lands adjacent to the river in Washington State to avoid the Bonneville Lock and Dam. Additional underground segments would connect in-river transmission line segments to two converter stations proposed to be constructed at either end of the HVDC line. The underground HVDC segments would be installed primarily in the rights-of-way of public roads using a combination of trench burial and horizontal directional drilling (HDD).

The converter stations are designed to convert the DC power carried by the HVDC line to and from alternating current (AC) power at appropriate voltages for transmission to the grid. Each converter station is estimated to occupy approximately five acres. Two segments of high-

¹ Cascade Renewable Transmission, LLC is owned by PB CRTS, LLC and Sun2o Partners, LLC. PB CRTS, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of PowerBridge, LLC, is designated as the manager of the LLC.

voltage alternating current (HVAC) transmission line would connect the converter stations to the proposed points of interconnection with the grid. The eastern converter station, which is proposed to be constructed on federal land near The Dalles, would be connected to the existing Bonneville Power Administration's Big Eddy Substation by approximately 500 feet of overhead 500-kv AC transmission line. The western converter station, which is proposed to be constructed in Portland's Rivergate Industrial District, would be connected to Portland General Electric's Harborton Substation by approximately three miles of 230-kV AC underground transmission line. A portion of the 230-kV AC line would be installed under the Portland Harbor section of the Willamette River using horizontal-directional drilling.

The facility is proposed to be sited within an approximately 100-mile corridor in Wasco, Hood River, and Multnomah Counties in Oregon and Klickitat, Skamania, and Clark Counties in Washington. The majority of the corridor is proposed to be located in the Columbia River, in proximity to the navigation channel between Vancouver and The Dalles that is maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Additional segments would be installed in or near The Dalles and Portland, Oregon and Stevenson, Washington. Portions of the corridor in Oregon would be located within a proposed facility site boundary. For in-river segments, the proposed site boundary includes much of the main channel of the Oregon side of the Columbia River. The applicant has requested flexibility to site the facility and related and supporting facilities anywhere within the site boundary as needed to avoid and minimize impacts to resources. The applicant has indicated that micrositing corridors may be proposed in the Application for Site Certificate.

IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIAL ADVISORY GROUPS

ORS 469.480(1) requires the Council to designate the governing body of any local government within whose jurisdiction a facility is proposed to be located as a Special Advisory Group. The proposed site boundary includes lands or waters within the jurisdiction of Wasco, Hood River, and Multnomah Counties as well as the City of The Dalles, the City of Mosier, the City of Hood River, the City of Cascade Locks, the City of Fairview, and the City of Portland. On April 4, 2023, the Department sent letters notifying the governing body of each of the aforementioned jurisdictions that they would be designated as a Special Advisory Group in accordance with ORS 469.480(1) and requesting comments and recommendations on applicable local substantive criteria from the governing body by June 1, 2023.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION

Pursuant to ORS 469.480(1), staff recommends the Council appoint the following public bodies as Special Advisory Groups for any proceedings before the Council related to the proposed facility:

- Wasco County Board of Commissioners
- Hood River County Board of Commissioners
- Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
- The Dalles City Council
- Mosier City Council
- Hood River City Council
- Cascade Locks City Council
- Fairview City Council
- Portland City Council