



# Oregon

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**To:** Energy Facility Siting Council

**From:** Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor

**Date:** January 30, 2026

**Subject:** Agenda Item F (Action Item): Hearing Officer Appointment for Saddle Butte Energy Facility, Speedway Energy Facility and Well Springs Solar Project for the February 13, 2026 EFSC Meeting

**Attachments:** Attachment 1: Draft Order Appointing Hearing Officer for Saddle Butte Energy Facility  
Attachment 2: Draft Order Appointing Hearing Officer for Speedway Energy Facility  
Attachment 3: Draft Order Appointing Hearing Officer for Well Springs Solar Project

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Oregon Department of Energy (Department) recommends that the Energy Facility Siting Council (Council or EFSC) appoint Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) from the Oregon Office of Administrative Hearings as hearing officers for EFSC contested case proceedings on Proposed Orders on Applications for Site Certificate (ASC).

## BACKGROUND

In accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 345-015-0320, the Department requests that Council appoint a hearing officer to conduct the future contested case proceedings on the Proposed Orders on ASCs for:

- Saddle Butte Energy Facility, a proposed 488 megawatt (MW) wind power generation facility, to be located in Gilliam County.
- Speedway Energy Facility, a proposed 1,400 MW solar and wind power generation facility, to be located in Sherman County.
- Well Springs Solar Project, a proposed 750 MW solar power generation facility, to be located in Morrow County.

## HEARING OFFICER EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

For the Saddle Butte Energy Facility ASC, the Department recommends Council appoint ALJ Jennifer Rackstraw. ALJ Rackstraw has a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Georgia and a J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School. ALJ Rackstraw joined Oregon's Office of

Administrative Hearings in 2003. She presides over contested case hearings for state agencies, boards, and commissions, with extensive experience hearing cases for the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, Child Care Licensing Division, Employment Department, Board of Nursing, Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Department of Environmental Quality, and the Public Employees Retirement System. She is a member of the Oregon State Bar's Administrative Law and Disability Law sections and previously served on the Executive Committee of the Administrative Law section.

For the Speedway Energy Facility ASC, the Department recommends Council appoint ALJ Bradley Schmidt. He has a J.D. from Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School. He has worked as an ALJ with OAH since 2018, presiding over contested case proceedings involving factual and legal issues of high complexity in professional licensing, regulatory, and resource management issues requiring a breadth and depth of knowledge of subject-matter specific law and advanced principles of administrative law

For the Well Springs Solar ASC, the Department recommends Council appoint ALJ Elizabeth Jarry. She has a J.D. from Indiana University Maurer School of Law and is a member of the Oregon State Bar. She joined OAH in March 2009 and has presided over a variety of contested case hearings, including cases for health professional regulatory boards, the Division of Financial Regulation, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Public Employees Retirement System, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, the Child Support Program, the Oregon Health Authority, the Child Care Licensing Division, and the Employment Department. She served as the Lead Child Support ALJ from December 2013 to June 2021 and as an interim presiding ALJ in July 2015 and from October 2016 to January 2017. She currently serves as a specially appointed ALJ for the City of Portland, Bureau of Fire and Police Disability and Retirement cases.