



Oregon

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To: Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Todd Cornett, Assistant Director for Siting / Council Secretary

Date: March 6, 2026

Subject: Agenda Item I (Action Items): Hearing Officer Appointments for Future Contested Case Proceedings for the March 19-20, 2026 EFSC Meeting

Attachments: Attachment 1: Draft Orders Appointing Hearing Officer

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:

- Umatilla Morrow County Connect Project, a proposed 14-mile, 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line traversing Morrow and Umatilla counties.
- Heppner Wind Energy Project, a proposed 190 megawatt (MW) wind power generation facility within a 31,477 acre site boundary in Morrow County.
- Klamath Falls Energy Center, a proposed 400 MW solar photovoltaic power generation facility within an 8,600 acre (13.4 sq. mi) site boundary in Klamath County.
- Sunrise Solar and Storage Project, a proposed 800 MW solar photovoltaic power generation facility within a 6,981 acre (10.9 sq. mi) site boundary in Morrow County.
- Buckley Solar Facility, a proposed 1,200 MW solar photovoltaic power generation facility within a 7,852 acre (12.3 sq. mi) site boundary in Sherman County.
- Cascade Renewable Transmission System, a proposed 100 mile high-voltage, direct current transmission line, predominately located in the bed of the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington.
- Muddy Creek Energy Park, a proposed 199 MW solar photovoltaic power generation facility within a 1,588 acre (2.5 sq. mi.) site boundary in Linn County.
- Deschutes Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Facility, a proposed 1,000 MW solar photovoltaic power generation facility within a 14,418 acre (22.5 sq. mi) site boundary

in Wasco County.

HEARING OFFICER EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

For the Umatilla Morrow County Connect Project ASC and Buckley Solar Facility ASC, the Department recommends Council appoint ALJ Joe Allen. ALJ Allen obtained a BA in Business Administration from the University of La Verne and a Juris Doctor from Trinity Law School in Santa Ana, CA in 2004. His experience includes employment as a litigation attorney and managing partner of a small boutique firm in Southern California, Woodson & Allen, LLP. The firm focused on Labor and Employment law and Business litigation. ALJ Allen has litigated cases in both federal and state courts throughout Southern California. He currently presides over Due Process Hearings for the Oregon Department of Education.

For the Heppner Wind Energy Project ASC, the Department recommends Council appoint ALJ Triana. ALJ Triana received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Colorado State University, and a J.D. from Willamette University College of Law. She is an active member of the Oregon State Bar. She has extensive experience conducting contested case hearings for OAH with various state agencies, boards, and commissions, including the Department of Human Service, the Oregon Health Authority, the Employment Department, the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Education, the Department of Revenue, the Department of State Lands, the Public Employees Retirement Board, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Consumer and Business Services, the Board of Pharmacy, the Oregon Youth Authority, and the Environmental Quality Commission.

For the Klamath Falls Energy Center 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 Sunrise Solar and Storage Project ASC, the Department recommends Council appoint ALJ Samantha Fair. She received her J.D. from the Lewis and Clark's Northwestern School of Law in 1990. ALJ Fair is responsible for conducting hearings involving agencies, boards, commissions, and departments that regulate various professions and businesses. These hearings include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) license denial or revocations for such agencies as the Oregon Board of Nursing, Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, and the Real Estate Agency; (2) assessment of civil penalty actions for law violations brought by Department of Environmental Quality, Department of State Lands, and Department of Consumer and Business Services; (3) orders for correction issued by Department of Agriculture and Department of State Lands; and (4) applications for, and enforcement of, water permits by the Oregon Water Resources Department and National Pollutant Disposal Elimination System Permits by Department of Environmental Quality.

For the Cascade Renewable Transmission System ASC, the Department recommends Council appoint 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 Muddy Creek Energy Park, the Department recommends Council appoint ALJ Dove Gutman. She graduated from Willamette University College of Law in June 1994. She presides over cases involving various state agencies, boards, commissions and departments, including: the Department of Human Service, the Oregon Health Authority, the Employment Department, the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Revenue, the Department of State Lands, the Public Employees Retirement Board, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Consumer and Business Services, the Board of Pharmacy, the Oregon Youth Authority, the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission, the Oregon Board of Nursing, the Oregon Department of Energy, the Environmental Quality Commission, the Secretary of State Elections Division, the Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care, Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, Veterinary Medical Examining Board, Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Board of Optometry, and the Department of Education.

For the Deschutes Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Facility, 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.