

## **Exhibit D** **Organizational Expertise**

### **Umatilla-Morrow County Connect Project**



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*Application for Site Certificate*

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

kV	kilovolt
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rule
POWER	POWER Engineers, Inc.
Project	Umatilla-Morrow County Connect Project
Project Order	Administrative Rules, and Other Requirements Applicable to the Proposed Umatilla-Morrow County Connect Project (First Amended Project Order; April 04, 2024)
UEC	Umatilla Electric Cooperative

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Exhibit D provides information regarding Organizational Expertise of Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC) to construct, operate, and retire the Umatilla-Morrow County Connect Project (Project) as required by Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 345-021-0010(1)(d).

## 2.0 EXPERIENCE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING TRANSMISSION LINES

(A) OAR 345-022-0010(1): To issue a site certificate, the Council must find that the applicant has the organizational expertise to construct, operate and retire the proposed facility in compliance with Council standards and conditions of the site certificate. To conclude that the applicant has this expertise, the Council must find that the applicant has demonstrated the ability to design, construct and operate the proposed facility in compliance with site certificate conditions and in a manner that protects public health and safety and has demonstrated the ability to restore the site to a useful, non-hazardous condition. The Council may consider the applicant's experience, the applicant's access to technical expertise and the applicant's past performance in constructing, operating and retiring other facilities, including, but not limited to, the number and severity of regulatory citations issued to the applicant.

(B) OAR 345-021-0010(1)(d)(A): The applicant's previous experience, if any, in constructing and operating similar facilities.

UEC has constructed multiple 230 kilovolt (kV) projects over the last five years in varying lengths up to 22 miles in both Umatilla and Morrow Counties in Oregon. The projects listed in **Table D-1** are 230 kV projects similar in complexity and length to the Umatilla-Morrow County Connect Project. In addition to these projects, UEC has built over 100 miles of 115 kV transmission projects over the last 10 years. The expansive requirements for each of the projects have given UEC a wealth of knowledge and expertise.

TABLE D-1. RECENT UEC 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT LOCATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Wheatridge	Morrow County Oregon	22 miles, completed in 2020
Olson Road	Morrow County Oregon	5.5 miles, completed in 2022
Longwalk	Morrow County Oregon	5.0 miles, completed in 2022
Wagon Wheel	Morrow County Oregon	1.0 mile, completed in 2023
Kelli Boulevard	Umatilla County Oregon	5.5 miles, completed in 2024
Rockpile	Umatilla County Oregon	5.0 miles, completed in 2024

UEC maintains over 44 miles of 230 kV transmission lines and has over 87 years of experience in transmission line maintenance. These existing transmission lines have similar maintenance requirements to the proposed Project.

## 2.1 Technical Expertise

(C) Under OAR 345-021-0010(1)(d)(B) and (C), Exhibit D must describe the qualifications of the applicant's personnel who will be responsible for constructing and operating the facility, and the qualifications of any architect, engineer, major component vendor, or prime contractor upon whom the applicant will rely in constructing and operating the facility, to the extent that the identities of such persons are known when the application is submitted.

### 2.1.1 Qualifications of UEC's Personnel

UEC engineering team of 14 engineers have over 180 collective years of experience in the electrical utility industry with expertise in construction and operation of distribution, transmission, fiber optic, and substations.

The following is a summary of UEC engineering team experience:

**Robert Echenrode** – As General Manager/CEO of the largest electric cooperative in Oregon state, Robert Echenrode has worked to strategically guide UEC as an economic keystone, supporting growth for Oregon communities. Robert assumed the lead role at UEC in March 2016 after joining the cooperative as Manager of Engineering in 2013. In April of 2024 Robert was awarded the Northwest Public Power Association's Excellence in Engineering or Operations Award. The distinguished award honors a utility employee that has made a significant contribution to the industry as a whole. Robert has over 40 years of engineering experience and is an incredible asset to UEC.

**Josh Lankford** - As Assistant General Manager of Engineering and Operations, Josh helps lead UEC's 128 dedicated employees in their continued service to more than 10,000 members over 50 substations and 2,200 miles of power lines in northeastern Oregon, extending from Boardman to the Blue Mountains. During his tenure, Josh has seen members invest in multi-billion-dollar developments and expansions for the region's irrigation, food processing, technology, and renewable energy sectors. Businesses reliant on UEC power supported 23,500 jobs and generated over \$1.25 billion in labor income in 2020, with UEC itself generating a payroll of more than \$20 million annually. To help the communities grow and prosper, UEC gives grants, rebates, and loans to members in excess of \$2 million annually. Josh is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Oregon.

**Cole Bode** – As Vice President of Engineering at UEC, Cole oversees an engineering department of over 30 employees. Cole came to UEC in the fall of 2018 and has 12 years of experience. Cole manages UEC's Engineering department and has been instrumental in making UEC Oregon's largest consumer-owned utility, and the largest electric cooperative in the 10 western states in terms of power sales. Cole is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Oregon.

**Chad Campfield** – As Superintendent of Engineering, Chad is responsible for budgeting, planning, and managing construction projects and Land Use. He manages projects from concept to completion - including concept development, design review, constructability review, contract review, RFP process, material procurement, contract execution, contract management, change management, schedule management, quality control and assurance, energization, and

closeout. He has over 13 years of project management experience. Prior to UEC, Chad held roles as an estimator/project manager for companies specializing in substation electrical construction, drilled pier, and pad foundations for electrical substations and transmission lines.

### **2.1.2 Qualifications of UEC's Contractors**

UEC will select a prequalified contractor. This previous experience and proven performance will ensure quality and efficiency throughout the construction process. Rural Utility Service specifications and standards for structures and framing will be followed for the Project design and construction.

POWER Engineers, Inc. (POWER) is contracted for transmission design services and environmental permitting. POWER was founded in 1976, currently has over 3,800 employees and specializes in the planning, permitting, design, and construction support of electrical transmission projects.

### **2.2 Past Performance**

(D) OAR 345-022-0010(1): . . . The Council may consider . . . the applicant's past performance in constructing, operating and retiring other facilities, including but not limited to, the number and severity of regulatory citations issued to the applicant.

(E) Under OAR 345-021-0010(1)(d)(D), Exhibit D must describe the compliance history of the applicant, its parent company or co-owner(s) and their subsidiaries, and other participating entities, including disclosure any regulatory citations in any jurisdiction received by the past 10 years and a description of the status or resolution of those citations.

UEC prioritizes safety and compliance standards and has not received any citations for federal or Oregon state standards on previous projects.

### **2.3 Mitigation**

(A) OAR 345-021-0010(1)(d)(G), Exhibit D must include evidence that the applicant can successfully complete any mitigation proposed to demonstrate compliance with any applicable Council standards, including a description of past experience with other projects and the qualifications, experience, and contact information of personnel upon whom the applicant will rely, to the extent that the identities of such persons are known at the date of submittal. The applicant must provide evidence that past mitigation projects required as part of a land use approval or other permitting process were completed successfully, such as final reports submitted to the permitting agency.

While removal of the proposed line is not projected, UEC has experience with removal and mitigation that ensures their ability to remove the Project if deemed necessary. UEC has successfully decommissioned substations back to preconstruction conditions, resulting in land was able to be returned to farm use.

Recently UEC has completed the removal and mitigation of transmission and distribution line projects in the proposed Project area. Consideration is consistently given to cultural resources, wetland avoidance, and mitigation. These recent projects are listed below in Table D-2 and specifically Josh Lankford, Chad Campfield, and Cole Bode (biographical information above) were key contributors to these projects.

**Table D-2** outlines a list of mitigation projects which UEC has completed in the past five years:

**TABLE D-2. MITIGATION EXPERIENCE**

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE
Wanapa Substation – 12 kV Decommissioned line for Wanapa Substation at request of Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Oregon Trail to Butter Creek, Juniper Canyon West, Oregon - Bird guard mitigation
McNary to Wanapa - Visualization studies to minimize impacts
Wanapa - 115 kV Cultural Visual Assessment
Hermiston East Substation - Community Garden, project pending
Hermiston East to Columbia – 115 kV through wetland. Included erosion control, working strategy, mitigation of crops, improved access, and the site was returned to as-built or better.

### **3.0 COMPLIANCE CROSS-REFERENCES**

**Table D-3** identifies the location within the application for site certificate of the information responsive to the application submittal requirements OAR 345-022-0010, the application submittal requirements in OAR 345-021-0010(1)(d), and the relevant Project Order provisions.

**TABLE D-3. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS AND RELEVANT CROSS-REFERENCES**

REQUIREMENT	LOCATION
<b>OAR 345-021-0010(1)(d)</b>	
Exhibit D. Information about the organizational expertise of the applicant to construct and operate the proposed facility, providing evidence to support a finding by the Council as required by OAR 345-022-0010, including:	Exhibit D
(A) The applicant's previous experience, if any, in constructing and operating similar facilities.	Exhibit D, Section 2.1
(B) The qualifications of the applicant's personnel who will be responsible for constructing and operating the facility, to the extent that the identities of such personnel are known when the application is submitted.	Exhibit D, Section 2.1.1
(C) The qualifications of any architect, engineer, major component vendor, or prime contractor upon whom the applicant will rely in constructing and operating the facility, to the extent that the identities of such persons are known when the application is submitted.	Exhibit D, Section 2.1.2

REQUIREMENT	LOCATION
<b>OAR 345-022-0010</b>	
(1) To issue a site certificate, the Council must find that the applicant has the organizational expertise to construct, operate and retire the proposed facility in compliance with Council standards and conditions of the site certificate. To conclude that the applicant has this expertise, the Council must find that the applicant has demonstrated the ability to design, construct and operate the proposed facility in compliance with site certificate conditions and in a manner that protects public health and safety and has demonstrated the ability to restore the site to a useful, non-hazardous condition. The Council may consider the applicant's experience, the applicant's access to technical expertise and the applicant's past performance in constructing, operating, and retiring other facilities, including, but not limited to, the number and severity of regulatory citations issued to the applicant	Exhibit D, Section 2.1
(2) The Council may base its findings under section (1) on a rebuttable presumption that an applicant has organizational, managerial, and technical expertise, if the applicant has an ISO 9000 or ISO 14000 certified program and proposes to design, construct, and operate the facility according to that program.	Not Applicable
(3) If the applicant does not itself obtain a state or local government permit or approval for which the Council would ordinarily determine compliance but instead relies on a permit or approval issued to a third party, the Council, to issue a site certificate, must find that the third party has, or has a reasonable likelihood of obtaining, the necessary permit or approval, and that the applicant has, or has a reasonable likelihood of entering into a contractual or other arrangement with the third party for access to the resource or service secured by that permit or approval.	Not Applicable
(4) If the applicant relies on a permit or approval issued to a third party and the third party does not have the necessary permit or approval at the time the Council issues the site certificate, the Council may issue the site certificate subject to the condition that the certificate holder shall not commence construction or operation as appropriate until the third party has obtained the necessary permit or approval and the applicant has a contract or other arrangement for access to the resource or service secured by that permit or approval.	Not Applicable
<b>First Amended Project Order</b>	
Regarding the ability to successfully construct the project "in accordance with site certificate conditions," the Council's review is not limited to UEC's ability to construct a transmission line. The application must also demonstrate that UEC can honor all commitments and conditions regarding minimization and mitigation of impacts on the resources protected by Council standards and applicable regulations of other agencies.	Exhibit D Section 2.0
Exhibit D shall include a safety and environmental regulatory compliance history for the last three years that is focused on similar facilities owned or operated by the applicant, such as transmission lines and substations. Evidence of successful completion of mitigation projects shall also be provided.	Exhibit D, Section 2.3