Exhibit L
Protected Areas

Umatilla-Morrow County Connect Project

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Application for Site Certificate

May 2025

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TABLES

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
dBA	A-weighted decibels
EFSC or Council	Energy Facility Siting Council
Hwy	Highway
kV	kilovolt
NSR	Noise Sensitive Receptor
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rule
ODEQ	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Project or UMCC	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)
ROW	right-of-way
SWA	State Wildlife Area
UEC	Umatilla Electric Cooperative
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Exhibit L provides an analysis of potential impacts of the Umatilla-Morrow County Connect Project (Project or UMCC) on protected areas in compliance with Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 345-021-0010(1)(L) and OAR 345-022-0040. OAR 345-022-0040 requires that the Project address impacts to protected areas, as set forth in OAR 345-022-0040(1)(a)-(b). While the Project does not cross a protected area (see Figure L-1 at the end of this report), the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC or Council) must find that, taking into account mitigation, the design, construction, and operation of the Project are not likely to result in significant adverse impacts to protected areas. Exhibit L demonstrates the Project will avoid all protected areas within the buffer zone as required by OAR 345-022-0040(2) and demonstrates that the Project will not result in significant adverse impacts to the protected areas within the analysis area.

2.0 ANALYSIS

2.1 Analysis Area

The analysis area for Exhibit L is the area within the site boundary and two (2) miles from the site boundary (see Umatilla-Morrow County Connect First Amended Project Order, April 4, 2024, pages 43 through 46). The site boundary is defined as "the perimeter of the site of a proposed energy facility, its related or supporting facilities, all temporary laydown and staging areas, and all corridors and micro-siting corridors proposed by the applicant" (OAR 345-001-0010(54)). The Project features are fully described in Exhibit B, and the location of the Project features and the site boundary is provided in Exhibit C.

2.2 Methods

The initial step in assessing the potential impacts of the Project on protected areas was to identify the protected areas occurring within the analysis area. The protected areas were identified using existing geographic information system (GIS) data, maps, reports, and other information on the categories of protected areas listed in OAR 345-022-0040(1)(a)-(p). Table L-1 provides a list of all the protected areas within the analysis area with their distance and direction to the Project site boundary. Once the protected areas were identified, the next step was to evaluate and describe "significant potential impacts of the proposed facility, if any, on the protected areas including, but not limited to, potential impacts such as:

(i) Noise resulting from facility construction or operation;
(ii) Increased traffic resulting from facility construction or operation;
(iii) Water use during facility construction or operation;
(iv) Wastewater disposal resulting from facility construction or operation;
(v) Visual impacts of facility structures or plumes; and
(vi) Visual impacts from air emissions resulting from facility construction or operation, including, but not limited to, impacts on Class 1 Areas as described in OAR 340- 204-0050."[1]

[1] OAR 345-021-0010(1)(L)(C).

2.2.1 Noise Impacts

As discussed in detail in Exhibit Y, Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC) conducted an acoustic analysis of the Project that included analysis of Project-related construction and operation impacts. Further details on noise impacts are provided in Exhibit Y. This analysis was used to support conclusions in this and other Exhibits regarding noise related impacts.

2.2.2 Traffic Impacts

In order to evaluate potential impacts on protected areas from Project traffic, as required by Exhibit L, UEC analyzed the Project description as set forth in Exhibit B and the description of anticipated traffic impacts identified in Exhibit U. UEC defined impacts as follows:

- No Impact – No impact to traffic during construction or operation. Traffic will remain low volume, free-flow operation, low density, and remain at desired speed.
- Negligible Impact – During operational phase, impact is so small it will not affect volume, free-flow operation, density, or speed.
- Temporary Impact – During construction, temporary impact may result from increased traffic volume, large trucks, entering/exiting multi-use area onto roadway, and road closure during stringing operations across roadway. These impacts will be temporary during construction and may increase volume and density, reducing speed and free-flow operation. No or negligible impact during operation. Temporary traffic impacts are considered to be impacts that would not persist longer than the construction period.

UEC assessed potential traffic impacts for all protected areas and determined that temporary traffic impacts would not constitute a significant impact as defined by OAR 345-001-0010(53), because the magnitude and intensity of impacts will not have a significant adverse impact that precludes protected areas from providing the functions, experiences, or opportunities for which they were designated. UEC analyzed potential traffic impacts to protected areas to reach the conclusions set forth in the impacts analysis below in Section 2.5.3.

2.2.3 Water Use, Wastewater, and Visual Impact from Plumes

In order to evaluate potential impacts on protected areas from Project water, wastewater disposal, and visual impacts from plumes, as required by Exhibit L, UEC analyzed the Project description as set forth in Exhibit B, the discussion of anticipated water use in Exhibit O, and the discussion regarding the treatment of wastewater in Exhibit W. Because the water use and wastewater impacts will have no impact to protected areas, a detailed methodology for analyzing impacts was not developed as it was found to not be applicable to this Project. Likewise, due to the nature of the Project, plumes will not result from operation of the Project, and therefore will not result in visual impacts relative to plumes. UEC analyzed potential water and wastewater impacts to protected areas to reach the conclusions set forth in the impacts analysis below in Section 2.5.4.

2.2.4 Visual Impacts

Visual impacts to protected areas were evaluated using the methodology developed for Exhibit R (Scenic Resources). The methodology considers the combined outcome of context of the impact, impact intensity and the degree to which the possible impacts are caused by the

proposed action to determine whether impacts are potentially significant as described in Exhibit R and summarized in Section 2.5.5.

2.2.5 Other Potential Impacts

In order to evaluate other potential impacts on protected areas from the Project, as required by Exhibit L, UEC reviewed the Project description and other Exhibits to reach the impact conclusions provided below.

2.3 Resources Identified in Analysis Area

OAR 345-021-0010(1)(L)(A): A list of the protected areas within the analysis area showing the distance and direction from the proposed facility and the basis for protection by reference to a specific subsection under OAR 345-022-0040(1).

Within the analysis area, there are three protected areas. Figure L-1, Table L-1 includes the distance and direction of each protected area from the Project site boundary and the basis for protection by reference to a specific subsection under OAR 345-022-0040(1). Protected areas are summarized by category in Table L-2, below.

TABLE L-1. PROTECTED AREAS WITHIN TWO MILES

CATEGORY	PROTECTED AREA NAME	APPROXIMATE DISTANCE TO SITE BOUNDARY (MILES)	DIRECTION FROM FACILITY
National and State Wildlife Refuges OAR 345-001-0010(26)(e)(o)	Umatilla NWR (United States Fish and Wildlife Service)	1.7 miles	North
State Wildlife Areas (SWAs) and Wildlife Management Areas	Coyote Springs State Wildlife Area (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)	0.6 mile	West
State Land Trust / State Resources Management	SPC Stewardship	2 miles	South

TABLE L-2. SUMMARY OF PROTECTED AREA BY CATEGORY

PROTECTED AREA CATEGORIES	IN ANALYSIS AREA	CROSSED	ANALYZED FOR VISUAL IMPACTS*
National Parks	0	0	0
National Monuments	0	0	0
Wilderness Areas	0	0	0
National and State Wildlife Refuges	1	0	1
National Coordination Areas	0	0	0
National and State Fish Hatcheries	0	0	0

PROTECTED AREA CATEGORIES	IN ANALYSIS AREA	CROSSED	ANALYZED FOR VISUAL IMPACTS*
National Recreation and Scenic Areas	0	0	0
State Parks and Waysides	1	0	1
State Natural Heritage Areas	0	0	0
State Estuarine Sanctuaries	0	0	0
Scenic Waterways, Wild and Scenic Rivers and Waterways, and Rivers Listed as Potential for Designation	0	0	0
Experimental Areas	0	0	0
Agricultural Experimental Stations	0	0	0
Research Forests	0	0	0
Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Outstanding Natural Areas and Research Natural Areas	0	0	0
State Wildlife Areas (SWAs) and Wildlife Management Areas	1	0	1
TOTAL	**3**	**0**	**3**

*Protected areas were analyzed for visual impacts if they are within 2.0 miles of the site boundary.

2.4 Map Showing Protected Area Locations

OAR 345-021-0010(1)(L)(B): A map showing the location of the proposed facility in relation to the protected areas listed in OAR 345-022-0040 located within the analysis area.

Figure L-1 includes a map showing the location of the Project site boundary relative to the protected areas within the analysis area for Exhibit L.

2.5 Description of the Significant Potential Impacts

OAR 345-021-0010(1)(L)(C): A description of significant potential impacts of the proposed facility, if any, on the protected areas including, but not limited to, potential impacts such as:

(i) Noise resulting from facility construction or operation; (ii) Increased traffic resulting from facility construction or operation; (iii) Water use during facility construction or operation; (iv) Wastewater disposal resulting from facility construction or operation; (v) Visual impacts of facility structures or plumes. (vi) Visual impacts from air emissions resulting from facility construction or operation, including, but not limited to, impacts on Class 1 Areas as described in OAR 340-204-0050.

2.5.1 Protected Areas Crossed

The Project site boundary does not cross protected areas identified within the analysis area.

2.5.2 Noise Impacts

Noise during construction and operation are evaluated below.

Construction Noise

Noise produced during the construction of the Project will be temporary and short term and limited to relatively small portions of the Project site at any given time as construction progress along the line. Project -related activities that will periodically generate audible noise during construction include vegetation clearing, grading, drilling or auguring holes for the foundations, tower erection, wire pulling, and construction vehicle traffic. From a regulatory perspective, Project-related construction noise is exempt from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (ODEQ's) noise standards and regulations[2]. Nonetheless, Project-related construction noise will not result in significant adverse impacts to recreational resources in the analysis area because construction activities will progress along the corridor; therefore, no single area will be exposed to construction noise for the entire construction period.

Exhibit Y provides a baseline sound measurement at noise sensitive receptors (refer to Attachment Y-1 in Exhibit Y) and an assessment of the predicted construction and operational noise levels. The methodology for noise modeling is discussed in detail in Exhibit Y. Based on sound levels of the anticipated equipment for Project construction and given that the recreational opportunities identified in the analysis area are located more than 3,000 feet from the site boundary, construction noise will not likely be distinguishable from existing background noise levels.

Exhibit Y provides ambient baseline sound levels and compared the baseline with predicted future Project sound level contributions. The results of this analysis indicate that during typical fair-weather conditions, the Project is anticipated to comply with the ambient antidegradation standard. Attachment Y-3 includes a summary table of the acoustic modeling output by receptor location, unique receptor identification number, identification of transmission line noise sources evaluated, the distance to the noise source(s), the baseline monitoring position associated with each noise sensitive receptor (NSR), and the modeled results in A-weighted- decibel (dBA). As illustrated in Table Y-5, Coyote Springs State Wildlife Area (SWA) and Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) are not expected result in an increase in dBA during bad weather conditions. It is anticipated that Coyote Springs SWA will receive up to 61 dBA decibels, at the loudest, at the eastern borders of the recreational area (i.e., the closest portion to the site boundary); this sound level is approximately equivalent to that of a normal conversation.

Therefore, Project-related construction noise will not preclude the ability of Coyote Spring SWA and Umatilla NWR to provide wildlife-oriented recreational and educational opportunities. Project-construction will not result in a significant adverse impact on important recreational areas.

[2] OAR 340-035-0035(5)(g) and (h).

Operational Noise

Following construction, the Project's noise sources will be limited to vegetation management, regular maintenance activities, and corona noise.

Vegetation Management

Vegetation in work areas around all structures will be managed appropriately to allow access to the structures and height of vegetation within the right-of-way (ROW) will be limited for safety and to maintain clearances.

ROW vegetation management in the vicinity of Coyote Springs SWA is expected to be minimal, but the use of a chainsaw may be required in limited areas. The amount of sound energy generated by a chainsaw depends on several factors including size rating, manufacturer, and equipment condition. Typically, a larger chainsaw necessitates a larger engine due to stronger friction force and this effect may result in a somewhat higher sound source level. Chainsaw activities would occur in many different locations throughout the analysis area, but all of these locations would not be known until site clearance and maintenance activities begin. Assuming a 110 dBA sound power level, or L_w, for a typical chainsaw, at a linear distance of 50 feet sound would attenuate to approximately 78 dBA. As a result of safety requirements, chainsaw activities will be limited to daylight hours only. From a regulatory perspective, sounds resulting from the Project's vegetation management activities are exempt from ODEQ's noise standards and regulations. Even so, vegetation management noise will not result in any significant adverse impacts to any protected areas because vegetation management will occur infrequently and only for short durations.

Regular Maintenance Activities

Routine inspections and maintenance will include patrol and safety inspection of the line and structure and conductor maintenance, as needed. Noise sources will typically be limited to vehicles (e.g., pickup trucks) used to access the equipment. From a regulatory perspective, sounds resulting from the Project's operation and maintenance activities are exempt from ODEQ's noise standards and regulations. Nonetheless, noise from regular maintenance activities will not result in any significant adverse impacts to any protected areas because the regular inspections and maintenance will occur infrequently and only for short durations.

Corona Noise

A corona discharge is an electrical discharge brought on by the ionization of a fluid such as air surrounding a conductor that is electrically charged. Audible noise on transmission lines and structures is due to the effects of corona. Any newly constructed transmission line will initially generate a higher level of noise for a short period (typically one year) and will then level off to a lower audible noise level. This is due to what is called a "burn in period," which is the time required for any dirt or oil that might have been inadvertently placed on the line because of the construction process to wash or wear off (EPRI 2006). Corona typically becomes a design concern for transmission lines at 345 kilovolt (kV) and above.

The highest levels of corona and, hence, audible noise will occur during rain when the line conductors are wet. During these wet or foul weather conditions, the conductor will produce the greatest amount of corona noise. However, during heavy rain, the ambient noise generated by the rain typically will be greater than the ambient noise generated by corona. Audible noise from

the transmission line during typical fair-weather conditions is not predicted to exceed noise limits set by the State of Oregon.

Under most conditions, corona noise from the Project transmission line will be unperceivable or insignificant in the analysis area. However, during infrequent foul weather events, noise associated with corona may be perceptible. Accordingly, corona noise associated with foul weather is the focus of this discussion.

Expected audible noise levels resulting from corona generated during foul weather conditions were calculated for the Project using the CAFE program. Predictions at an operating voltage of 230 kV show that, during fair weather conditions, typical operational noise levels for the Project double-circuit 230 kV tangent monopole structure transmission lines are 7 A-weighted decibels dBA at the edge of the ROW with a maximum of 8.6 dBA within the ROW. The 7 dBA sound level at the edge of the ROW is considered a low-level sound and received sound levels at NSRs would continue to decrease due to distance attenuation between sound source and receiver. However, during foul weather conditions, sound levels are expected to be approximately 32 dBA at the edge of the ROW, increasing to approximately 33.6 dBA under the transmission line. Operational noise levels at each identified noise sensitive receptor in the analysis area are included in Exhibit Y, Attachment Y-3. The vehicle exteriors also provide some noise dampening, thereby lessening the impact of the corona noise as the vehicle travel along the road, while noise from the vehicle itself will dilute the impacts of any corona noise; therefore, the Project will not result in any significant adverse impacts to protected areas within the analysis area.

2.5.3 Traffic Impacts

The Project will not result in significant traffic impacts during construction or operation.

Construction Traffic

The Project has the potential to result in short-term impacts on transportation from increased traffic generated by construction vehicles, as well as disruptions to traffic from potential single lane closures during line work (i.e., string line across the highway). Construction vehicles will access the Project area via existing access roads and county, state, or private roads. Transport of construction materials and equipment into the Project area from labor and material source locations would primarily occur on I-84, Interstate 82, and Highway 730.

Coyote Springs SWA is the only recreation site for which a temporary traffic impact is likely because it is located off of I-84, access to this recreational area will experience higher traffic levels during construction, and visitor travel may be disrupted or delayed for brief periods due to delivery of materials or construction equipment, and single lane closures during line work. These delays will occur sporadically and will be accompanied by traffic control teams. Potential impacts will be intermittent and temporary, and traffic levels will return to normal following construction. The temporary volume of construction-related traffic would represent a small increase in daily traffic compared to the ADT volumes for roads in the analysis area, traffic impacts are therefore expected to be low (refer to Exhibit U). Traffic resulting from construction of the Project will not result in significant impacts.

Operational Traffic

During Project operation, no increased traffic resulting from Project operation is anticipated because Project operations will not involve significant vehicle traffic (typically limited to approximately two vehicle trips per year). Therefore, traffic resulting from operation of the Project will not result in significant impacts.

2.5.4 Water Use and Wastewater Impacts

Increased water use and wastewater disposal will not result in significant impacts due to the construction and operation of the Project.

Water Use Impacts

Exhibit O demonstrates that water use associated with the Project will be provided from adequate municipal supplies, and accordingly will not impact water sources for protected areas or water resources within protected areas. Coyote Springs SWA and Umatilla NWR provide wetland and water for migrating and nesting waterfowl as well as habitat for upland birds. The Project site boundary does not cross a protected area in the analysis area; therefore, the Project will not impact water resources within a protected area.

Water use will primarily be for dust control and concrete mixing. Water will be transported to the Project via water trucks and used only as needed. UEC will minimize water use by implementing appropriate best management practices to reduce water use to the greatest extent feasible.

Wastewater Impacts

Exhibit W demonstrates that the Project will not impact wastewater facilities. Construction of the Project will generate only minimal amounts of wastewater. Operation of the Project will not generate any wastewater, and no on-site sewage treatment system will be needed for the construction or operation of the Project.

2.5.5 Visual Impacts

No significant visual impacts are anticipated as a result of this Project. The visual resources are further evaluated below.

Visual Impacts of Plumes

The Project will not generate any air emissions or plumes. During construction, fugitive dust may be generated, but it will be localized, temporary, and easily mitigated by applying water to areas of surface disturbance from construction or operations of the Project.

Visual Impact of Facility Structures

Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge

Umatilla NWR Established in 1969 as mitigation for habitat lost through flooding from the construction of the John Day Dam. The approximate 23,555 acres refuge is a made up of waters, islands, shores, and uplands in and around the Columbia River. The natural and managed wetlands, mixed with native shrub-steppe, provide homes for an abundance of Columbia Basin species. The refuge attracts visitors, hunters, anglers, and birdwatchers (USFWS 2024).

Umatilla NWR is located on and around the Columbia River about 15 miles northwest of Hermiston, Oregon. The Project is within the middleground distance zone from Umatilla NWR located within the analysis area, approximately 1.7 miles (8,976 feet) north of the site boundary. The visual impact assessment indicates moderate to low potential for Project visibility. Intervening views consist of natural open space, agricultural land and uses, railroad tracks, Highway (Hwy) 730, existing transmission lines and the Highway 730 Switchyard. There would be views of the Project from various locations within NWR that would minimally affect the landscape character and visual quality of the site and surroundings; however, Project visibility, and views across agricultural, industrial uses, existing transmission lines and Hwy 730 indicate that the Project would not be a prominent feature in the viewshed. Views of the Project will not interfere with Umatilla NWR uses and will not compromise the purpose of the refuge. The effects would be a moderate to weak contrast, one that may attract attention but is co-dominate in the existing landscape because the setting is located in a wildlife area but is influenced by a built environment. Impacts would be moderate due to distance (middleground) and intervening landscape features and other built conditions occurring within the analysis area that limits visibility and viewing durations. Therefore, moderate to low impacts are anticipated that would not be significant from this location.

Coyote Springs State Wildlife

Coyote Springs Wildlife Area is situated along the Columbia River in the Columbia Basin. This wildlife area is open to wildlife-oriented public use compatible with the goals and objectives contained in the 2008 Columbia Basin Wildlife Area (OAR 635-008-0070). Coyote Springs Wildlife Area is one of the four wildlife areas managed by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) in the Columbia Basin (ODFW 2024).

This wildlife area is located within an active agricultural area with railroad tracks to the north, Interstate 84 (I-84) to the south, and an existing transmission line transects the wildlife area. site. The Project is within the middleground distance zone of the Coyote Springs State Wildlife Area located within the analysis area, approximately 0.6 mile (3,168 feet) to west of the site boundary. Intervening views consist of natural open space (consisting of vegetation including trees and shrubs), agricultural uses, Hwy 730, existing transmission lines, and the Highway 730 Switchyard. There would be views of the Project from various locations within the wildlife area that would affect the landscape character and visual quality of the site and surroundings; however, potential views would be consistent with the existing surrounding environment. While Project elements may be visible, these elements would be perceived in massing, form, line, and texture. The Project components would cause moderate to weak contrasts that may attract attention but are co-dominate in the existing landscape views are influenced by a built environment. Impacts would be moderate to low because of distance (middleground),

intervening vegetation and other built conditions occurring that limits visibility and viewing durations. Therefore, moderate to low impacts are anticipated that would not be significant from this location.

SPC Stewardship

SPC Stewardship is a State Resources Management area located within the analysis area approximately two miles (10,560 feet) south of the Project. The Project is within the middleground distance zone of the of the SPC Stewardship. Intervening views consist of agricultural uses, I-84, and railroad uses. There would be views of the Project from various locations within the State Resources Management area that would affect the landscape character and visual quality of the site and surroundings. While Project elements may be visible, these elements would be perceived in massing, form, line, and texture. The Project components would not create a distinctive contract within the existing environment when viewed from this location. The effects would be a moderate to low contrast, one that may attract attention but is co-dominate. Impacts would be moderate due to distance (middleground) and distance from the site boundary. Therefore, moderate to low impacts are anticipated that would not be significant from this location.

Visual Impacts to Class I Areas from Air Emissions

There are no Class I Areas in the analysis area,[3] The Project will have no visual impact associated with Project facilities or fugitive dust relative to Class I Areas therefore no significant impact would occur.

2.5.6 Other Impacts

As directed by the requirements for Exhibit L, UEC did consider potential impacts from the Project on protected areas other than those discussed above (noise, traffic, water/wastewater, visual), and concluded that all other potential impacts from the Project are adequately analyzed in the following exhibits: Exhibit P (Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Species), Exhibit Q (Threatened and Endangered Plant and Animal Species), Exhibit S (Historic, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources), and Exhibit T (Recreation).

2.6 Mitigation

> OAR 345-022-0040(1): Except as provided in sections (2) and (3), the Council shall not issue a site certificate for a proposed facility located in the areas listed below. To issue a site certificate for a proposed facility located outside the areas listed below, the Council must find that, taking into account mitigation, the design, construction and operation of the facility are not likely to result in significant adverse impacts to the areas listed below. References in this rule to protected areas designated under federal or state statutes or regulations are to the designations in effect as of May 11, 2007.

[3] The 1977 Clean Air Act Amendments set forth federally designated Class I areas, which include national parks greater than 6,000 acres, wilderness areas and national memorial parks greater than 5,000 acres, and international parks that existed in 1977.

As described in Section 2.3, there are no significant or important scenic resources in the analysis area. Therefore, no mitigation measures are proposed.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

The analysis conducted in Exhibit L demonstrates that the design, construction, and operation of the Project will not result in significant adverse impacts to protected areas and therefore complies with the protected areas standard under (OAR) 345-021-0010(1)(L) and OAR 345-022-0040.

4.0 COMPLIANCE CROSS-REFERENCES

Table L-3 identifies the location within the application for site certificate of the information responsive to the application submittal requirements OAR 345-021-0010(1)(L), the Protected Area Standard at OAR 345-022-0040, and the relevant Project Order provisions.

TABLE L-3. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS AND RELEVANT CROSS-REFERENCES

REQUIREMENT	LOCATION
OAR 345-345-021-0010(1)	
Exhibit L. Information about the proposed facility's impact on protected areas, providing evidence to support a finding by the Council as required by OAR 345-022-0040, including:	
(A) A list of the protected areas within the analysis area showing the distance and direction from the proposed facility and the basis for protection by reference to a specific subsection under OAR 345-022-0040(1).	Exhibit L, Section 2.3 and Figure L-1
(B) A map showing the location of the proposed facility in relation to the protected areas listed in OAR 345-022-0040 located within the analysis area.	Exhibit L, Section 2.4 and Figure L-1
(C) A description of significant potential impacts of the proposed facility, if any, on the protected areas including, but not limited to, potential impacts such as: (i) Noise resulting from facility construction or operation; (ii) Increased traffic resulting from facility construction or operation; (iii) Water use during facility construction or operation; (iv) Wastewater disposal resulting from facility construction or operation; (v) Visual impacts of facility structures or plumes; (vi) Visual impacts from air emissions resulting from facility construction or operation, including, but not limited to, impacts on Class I Areas as described in OAR 340-204-0050.	Exhibit L, Section 2.5 and Figure L-1
OAR 345-022-0040	
(1): Except as provided in sections (2) and (3), the Council shall not issue a site certificate for a proposed facility located in the areas listed below. To issue a site certificate for a proposed facility located outside the areas listed below, the Council must find that, taking into account mitigation, the design, construction and operation of the facility are not likely to result in significant adverse impact to the areas listed below. References in this rule to protected areas designated under federal or state statutes or regulations are to the designations in effect as of May 11, 2007.	Exhibit L, Section 2.5 and Section 2.6

REQUIREMENT	LOCATION
(2) Notwithstanding section (1), the Council may issue a site certificate for a transmission line or a natural gas pipeline or for a facility located outside a protected area that includes a transmission line or natural gas or water pipeline as a related or supporting facility located in a protected area identified in section (1), if other alternative routes or sites have been studied and determined by the Council to have greater impacts. Notwithstanding section (1), the Council may issue a site certificate for surface facilities related to an underground gas storage reservoir that have pipelines and injection, withdrawal or monitoring wells and individual wellhead equipment and pumps located in a protected area, if other alternative routes or sites have been studied and determined by the Council to be unsuitable.	Not applicable
(3) The provisions of section (1) do not apply to transmission lines or natural gas pipelines routed within 500 feet of an existing utility right-of-way containing at least one transmission line with a voltage rating of 115 kilovolts or higher or containing at least one natural gas pipeline of 8 inches or greater diameter that is operated at a pressure of 125 PSGI.	Exhibit L, Section 3.5.1.2
(C) A description of significant potential impacts of the proposed facility, if any, on the protected areas including, but not limited to, potential impacts such as: (i) Noise resulting from facility construction or operation; (ii) Increased traffic resulting from facility construction or operation; (iii) Water use during facility construction or operation; (iv) Wastewater disposal resulting from facility construction or operation; (v) Visual impacts of facility structures or plumes; (vi) Visual impacts from air emissions resulting from facility construction or operation, including, but not limited to, impacts on Class I Areas as described in OAR 340-204-0050.	Exhibit L, Section 3.5 and Attachment L-1

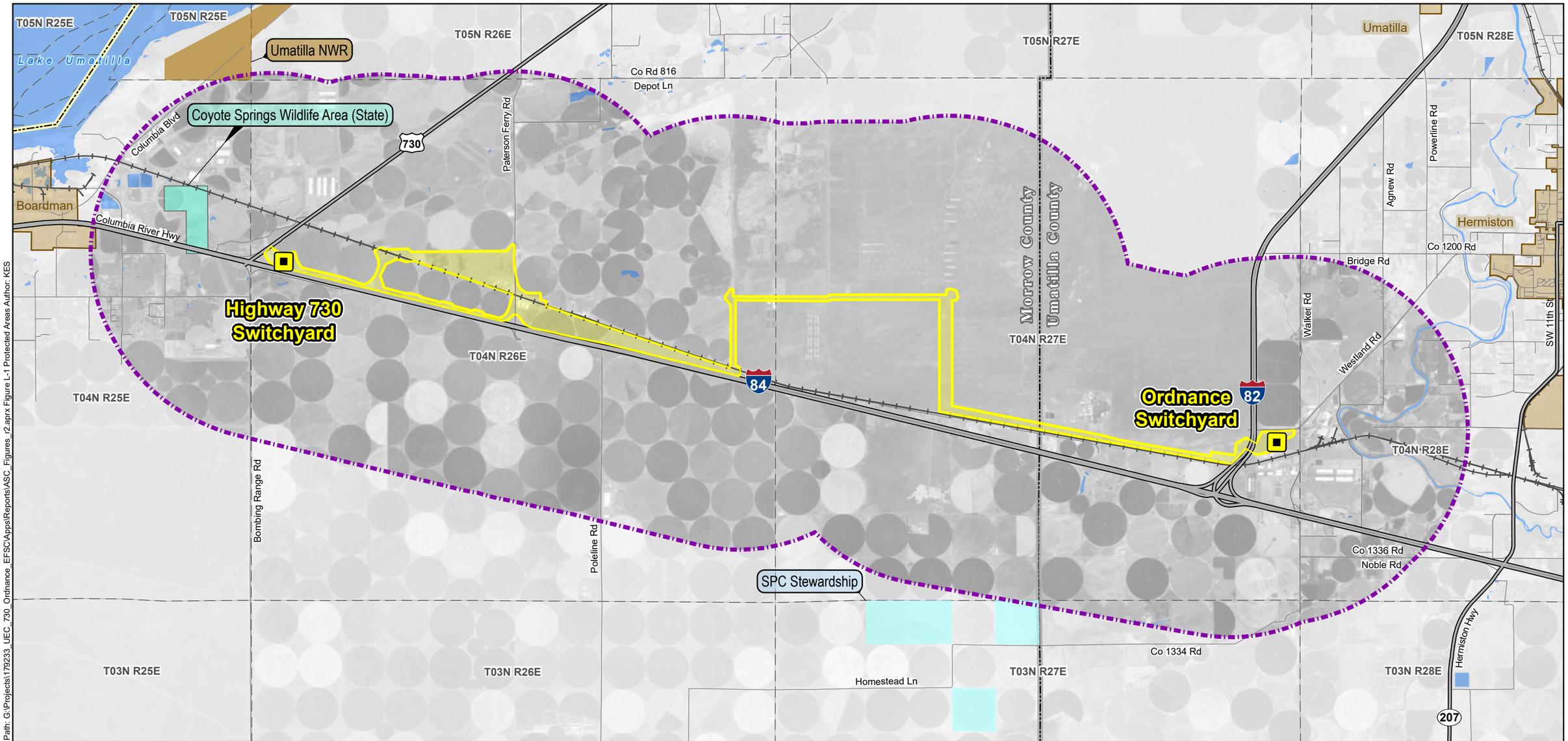
5.0 REFERENCES

Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). 2006. https://www.epri.com/. Accessed: April 2024.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). 2024. Available at: Coyote Springs Wildlife Area Visitors' Guide | Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (myodfw.com). Accessed: April 2024.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2024 Available at: Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (fws.gov). Accessed: April 2024.

FIGURE L-1 PROTECTED AREAS



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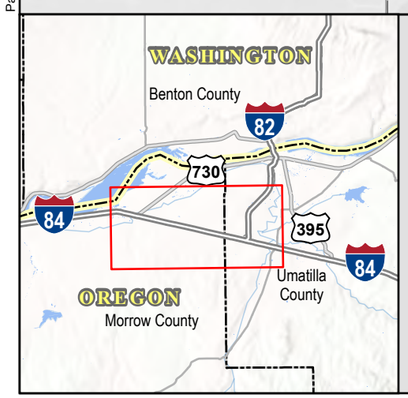

Project Components

- Project Endpoint
- Project Site Boundary
- Protected Areas Analysis Area (2 miles)

Protected Areas

- National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
- State Conservation Area
- State Resource Management Area

Transportation

- Highway
- Local Road
- Railroad

Water Resources

- River or Waterbody

Boundaries

- State
- County
- Township
- Town Boundary

UMATILLA-MORROW COUNTY CONNECT PROJECT
APPLICATION FOR SITE CERTIFICATE

Figure L-1
Protected Areas

0 1 2 3
Miles

N

POWER ENGINEERS MEMBER OF WSP

UEC UMATILLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Date: 2/11/2025

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