



Oregon

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To: Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Todd Cornett, Assistant Director for Siting/Council Secretary and Joni Sliger, Senior Clean Electricity Markets Analyst

Date: June 12, 2026

Subject: Agenda Item B (Information Item):
Executive Order 25-29 – Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Advancing Oregon’s Clean Energy Future – Oregon Department of Energy Draft Reports, for the June 26, 2026 EFSC Meeting

Attachments: Attachment 1: Executive Order 25-29
Attachment 2: *Draft Report on Siting and Permitting Large-Scale Electricity Infrastructure*
Attachment 3: *Draft Report on Reducing Barriers to Clean Energy Deployment*

OVERVIEW

The goal of this agenda item is to comply with the requirement in Executive Order 25-29 (EO 25-29) that the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) bring proposed recommendations in two draft reports to the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC or Council) for discussion. At the meeting, ODOE will provide a presentation of both reports, hold an agenda item specific comment period, and then invite EFSC to discuss the proposed recommendations.

BACKGROUND

EO 25-29 directs action by various agencies, including ODOE, to foster the transition to a clean energy economy. Section I(2) of EO 25-29 directs agencies to:

...develop and implement a coordinated, proactive approach to streamline land use and environmental reviews, siting and permitting, and interconnection processes for clean energy projects, energy storage, and associated transmission and distribution infrastructure, with particular focus on those that contribute to energy affordability and reliability.

Section I(2) then describes six initiatives for this purpose, two of which are the draft reports ODOE will present as part of this agenda item.

First, ODOE will present on the *Draft Report on Siting and Permitting Large-Scale Electricity Infrastructure*, which is required by EO 25-29 section I(2)(c). That section requires:

Agencies identified in Section II.1.b of this Order [which includes ODOE] shall evaluate and recommend actions to update siting and permitting processes to facilitate deployment of renewable energy, energy storage, and grid infrastructure needed to deliver reliable and affordable clean energy to Oregon consumers.

- i. Agencies shall evaluate existing authorities, rules, and practices to identify opportunities to streamline or increase the efficiency of siting and permitting processes within their jurisdiction for projects that:
 - 1. Benefit Oregon ratepayers and enable clean energy projects to interconnect onto the grid; or*
 - 2. Involve upgrades to existing grid infrastructure and transmission expansion or co-location of renewable energy resources in existing rights of way.**
- ii. Where opportunities are found to exist, agencies shall recommend actions to:
 - 1. Streamline existing processes;*
 - 2. Establish parallel paths that enable required studies, reviews, and approval processes to occur contemporaneously; and/or*
 - 3. Facilitate or accelerate interconnections for projects that reduce emissions, improve reliability, and benefit Oregon ratepayers.**
- iii. Agencies shall bring recommended proposed actions for discussion with their Boards or Commissions and will report their findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than September 1, 2026.*

Second, ODOE will present on the *Draft Report on Reducing Barriers to Clean Energy Deployment*, which is required by EO 25-29 section I(2)(a). That section provides:

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), in coordination with the [Public Utility Commission (PUC)] and the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), shall inventory, assess, and analyze barriers to the permitting, construction and interconnection of clean energy projects and associated infrastructure. ODOE will recommend actions to overcome those barriers while balancing opportunities for public participation with the state’s interest in accelerating deployment of clean energy infrastructure that benefits Oregon ratepayers. Recommended actions will be brought for discussion by ODOE to the Energy Facility Siting Council. ODOE will report its findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than September 1, 2026.

The other four initiatives in section I(2) of EO 25-29 will not be discussed. However, for contextual awareness, they are:

- DLCD report on “opportunities and barriers to clean energy development under Oregon’s land use planning goals,” which is due to the Governor’s Office by July 1, 2026;
- A future convening by PUC staff, in partnership with ODOE and the Governor’s Office to “review progress toward achieving [HB 2021’s](#) clean energy targets and explore opportunities for public-private partnerships to facilitate development of clean energy

infrastructure that is needed to achieve clean energy targets and will provide benefits to Oregon ratepayers”;

- A framework for strategic transmission siting from ODOE, in coordination with the PUC and the Governor’s Office; and
- A goal of deploying 8 gigawatts of energy storage capacity in Oregon by 2045.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

ODOE is actively seeking additional public comments on both draft reports.

- ODOE published the *Draft Report on Reducing Barriers to Clean Energy Deployment* on June 1, 2026 and is seeking public comment by July 2, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- ODOE published the *Draft Report on Siting and Permitting Large-Scale Electricity Infrastructure* on June 12, 2026 and is seeking public comment by July 24, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Written comments may be submitted through an online comment portal. Oral comments may be provided during the designated public comment period associated with this agenda item at the June 26, 2026 Council meeting or during the public listening session scheduled for Monday, June 29, 2026, beginning at 4:30 p.m. More information is available on ODOE’s website.

SUMMARY OF DRAFT REPORT ON SITING AND PERMITTING LARGE-SCALE ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The *Draft Report on Reducing Barriers to Clean Energy Deployment*, Attachment 2, includes the following main sections:

- 2-page Executive Summary (pages i-ii);
- Siting Program Overview (pages 2-31);
- Renewable Energy Projects (pages 31-35);
- Transmission Line Projects (pages 36-44);
- Siting Program Streamlining Efforts (pages 45-73); and
- Placeholder for Council Statement (page 75).

Siting Program Overview

In order for readers to understand where there may be opportunities to streamline parts of application and amendment reviews, it is necessary to understand how the program is designed to: 1) evaluate the effects to identified resources; 2) incorporate the requirements of numerous agencies that would otherwise have been required to conduct independent reviews of projects; 3) incorporate the review and comments by Tribal governments, state agencies, and local governments; and 4) include meaningful opportunities for public review, comment and challenge. This section describes all aspects of the siting program and includes local land use and National Environmental Policy Act comparisons to each. These include:

- Decision Authority (page 3)
- Standards Based Review (pages 3-8)
- Participation by Other Agencies/Consolidated Review (pages 8-10)
- Participation by the Nine-Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon (pages 10-11)
- Participation by the Public (pages 11-12)

- Appeal Path (page 12)
- Funding (pages 12-14)
- Siting Program Review Steps (pages 15-26)
- Compliance (pages 27-28)
- Rulemaking (pages 28-31)

Renewable Energy Projects

Since 2000, renewable energy projects have increasingly become the predominant type of projects reviewed by EFSC. This section includes the following subsections to provide an understanding of Council's authority and history of reviewing these projects.

- Statutory Authority. The legislature has decreased the Council's authority and increased that of local governments numerous times since 2013. (pages 31-32)
- Wind Energy Standards (pages 32-33)
- Timelines. The average timelines for all renewable energy projects broken out by phase and whether there was a full contested case (pages 33-34)
- Overview of Projects (page 35). Some of the key takeaways from this section:
 - 13,275 MW – Total amount of electrical production of active EFSC jurisdictional projects
 - 7,967 MW – Total amount of storage capacity of battery energy storage components associated with active EFSC jurisdictional projects. Note that one of the EO 25-29 goals is deploying 8,000 MW of energy storage capacity in Oregon by 2045.
 - 3.5 years – The average time for projects to begin construction after approval, for those that begin construction.
 - 9,363 MW – Total amount of electrical production of EFSC jurisdictional projects that either terminated their site certificates without constructing, or withdrew prior to a final decision
- Appendix A – Detailed Status of all Renewable Energy Projects includes a more detailed description of all EFSC jurisdictional renewable energy projects (pages 77-84)

Transmission Line Projects

In the last several years there has been a lot of focus on the need for more bulk transmission projects in Oregon to get electricity from renewable energy generation projects to where the electricity is used. This section includes the following subsections to provide and understanding of Council's authority and history of reviewing these projects.

- Authority (page 36)
- Transmission Line Standards - Also includes local land use and National Environmental Policy Act comparisons (pages 36-37)
- Transmission Line Review Processes - Also includes local land use and National Environmental Policy Act comparisons (page 38)
- Transmission Line Projects Overview – This briefly describes all EFSC jurisdictional transmission line projects (pages 39 – 41)
- Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Review Chronology – This provides a more detailed description of the state and federal reviews for this project (pages 42-44)

Siting Program Streamlining Efforts

There have been numerous and consistent internal and external streamlining efforts related to the siting program since it was created in its current form in 1975. As described in the report, the siting program is designed to balance many competing interests. Streamlining efforts must therefore be approached thoughtfully to avoid negative implications or decrease the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the process.

- Previous Streamlining Efforts – Included are mainly external efforts dating back to 1995 (pages 45-54)
- Rulemaking - Since 2013 there has been a consistent effort to update EFSC’s rules to improve the siting program for all participants. The change that occurred in 2013 and the notable rulemaking projects since 2017 are included. (pages 55-60)
- Siting Program Process Improvement Activities – Like the rulemaking program, the Siting Division has identified and implement process improvement activities since 2013. The structure of this program and specific process improvement projects are included. (pages 61-67)
- Opportunities for Further Improvement – After describing the purpose and intent of the siting program, how it is implemented, and all of the past streamlining efforts, the following additional ideas are identified:
 - Contested Case Step Review – While this is an important step in the review process, when there are parties and issues in the contested case step, it takes an average of 427 days. (page 68-70)
 - Artificial Intelligence – There are numerous aspects of the siting program review that could utilize artificial intelligence to create efficiencies. (pages 70-71)
 - Streamlining Information Requirements to Meet Important Resource Standards (page 71)
 - Modernization of Staff Organizational Structure for Siting Division (page 72)
 - Meaningful Engagement on Focused Issues (page 72)
 - Recommended Policy Actions in the Oregon Energy Strategy (page 73)
 - ODOE’s 2026-2029 Strategic Plan (page 73)

Placeholder for Council Statement (page 75)

If after reviewing the report and hearing public comments, the Council wished to include a specific statement, it may do so.

SUMMARY OF DRAFT REPORT ON REDUCING BARRIERS TO CLEAN ENERGY DEPLOYMENT

The *Draft Report on Reducing Barriers to Clean Energy Deployment*, Attachment 3, includes the following:

- 4-page Executive Summary (pages 4-7);
- 21-page main report (pages 11-31); and
- 6 appendices with additional information (pages 32-88).

The following summary is a further abbreviated version of the executive summary, annotated with the specific page numbers in the report where more information may be found. Please

note these are the page numbers when viewed in a PDF reader, not the page numbers in the document itself. For the document's page numbers, please see the Table of Contents on page 10.

Key Takeaways: Overview

- Oregon's current supply of electricity generating facilities will not be sufficient to meet rapidly rising demand for electricity from various sources, including data centers and electrification. More resources are needed. (pages 11-12).
- This report focuses on accelerating the development of new clean energy facilities, specifically by identifying and addressing barriers to permitting, construction, and interconnection faced by proposed facilities after receiving siting approval from EFSC or a county. For example, it includes consideration of barriers that may arise in certain federal permitting requirements. However, it does not examine any aspect of EFSC's processes nor any aspect of Tribal consultation requirements that must be met before EFSC issues a site certificate or a county issues a land use permit. (pages 12-13).
- Supporting public engagement and the participation of wide range of voices is critical for this report's success and for ODOE's implementation of the Equity and Justice Framework. ODOE appreciates the input received so far and looks forward to further engagement on this draft report. (pages 13-14).
- While the barriers to clean energy deployment are substantial, overcoming them has the potential to deliver significant benefits to Oregonians. (pages 15-16).

Key Takeaways: Barriers to Clean Energy Deployment

- Based on ODOE's ongoing research and analysis of public comments, this draft report provides an initial inventory of seven barriers to permitting, construction, and interconnection for proposed clean energy facilities that have obtained siting approval from EFSC or a county. (pages 11-12).
- A summary table of the initial inventory is on page 5. The order in which each barrier is listed is not indicative of the magnitude of the barrier. In brief, the seven barriers identified so far are:
 - Cost (pages 17-19)
 - Unexpected delays (pages 19-20)
 - Limited cross-jurisdictional coordination (page 20)
 - Limited availability of equipment and supplies (page 21)
 - Limited staffing capacity (page 21)
 - Unmet workforce needs (pages 21-22)
 - Limited grid capacity (pages 22-25)

Key Takeaways: Recommendations to Overcome Barriers

- Many of the recommended policy actions in the Oregon Energy Strategy aim to address the barriers described in this report. Several of these policy actions are already underway. A summary table of five of these recommended policy actions is on page 6. It indicates the barriers each might help address.
- This draft report provides four additional recommendations to overcome the barriers identified above. A summary table on page 7 lists these additional recommendations in

approximate chronological order of potential implementation and indicates the barriers each might help address. In brief, the additional recommendations are:

- Encourage interconnection applicants to voluntarily report plans to withdraw from any generator interconnection process before withdrawing. This would offer an opportunity for other interested persons to pay to avoid the withdrawal when that is preferred to facing potential delays due to a withdrawal. (pages 28-29)
- Convene an annual or semi-annual forum to discuss and evaluate opportunities to improve alignment across different processes, including permitting, interconnection, and construction. Issue a forum report summarizing potential concerns and any recommended near-term actions that were identified at the event. (pages 29-30)
- Analyze new day-ahead market operations data to inform potential mechanisms for the state to support the prioritization and funding of different interconnection costs (page 30)
- Undertake similar investigations into the barriers affecting the deployment of clean energy facilities in Oregon under 20 MW in size, including rooftop solar and behind-the-meter storage resources, and into the barriers affecting the continued operations of existing small-scale energy resources, including small-scale hydroelectric and biomass facilities. (page 31)
- At this time, ODOE believes these are all potential actions that could be undertaken pursuant to existing agency authority, but they might not be feasible with existing agency resources.