



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: July 10, 2026

Subject: Agenda Item J (Information Item and Possible Action Item):
Executive Order 25-29 – Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Advancing Oregon’s Clean Energy Future – Continued Review of Oregon Department of Energy Draft Reports, for the July 24, 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*

BACKGROUND

At the June 26, 2026 Council meeting staff provided an overview of Executive Order 25-29 (EO 25-29), the two ODOE draft reports required by EO 25-29 and held a specific public comment period. At the conclusion of the agenda item the Council directed staff to include an agenda item in the July meeting for further review and possible comments and official statements by Council on the two draft reports.

This Staff Report is a shortened version of the June 26, 2026 Staff Report. If Council members would like more detail the June report can be found [here](#).

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.

DRAFT REPORT ON SITING AND PERMITTING LARGE-SCALE ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE

EO 25-29 section I(2)(c) 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.*

The more relevant sections of the draft report for Council are:

- 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).

Key Takeaways:

- The state Siting Program was designed to consolidate multiple state and local reviews into a single, standards based, quasi-judicial process. This approach ensures consistency, transparency, robust environmental and public health protection and reduces duplication across agencies. While on balance it is more efficient than a disaggregated review approach, because of its design, it takes more time than advocates for projects would like.
- Beginning shortly after its creation, the state Siting Program has been frequently evaluated and changed procedurally, substantively and in terms of which types and sizes of projects are within state jurisdiction. Over the last decade, EFSC and ODOE have established a culture of continued process improvement and have undertaken

significant modernization through rulemaking, process improvements, digital tools, and clearer public guidance resulting in more predictability and more efficient reviews.

- In addition to process improvement efforts that are already underway, the report identifies several additional process improvement opportunities:
 - Evaluating the Contested Case process for potential refinement, removal of steps, or clearer time expectations.
 - The use of Artificial Intelligence for administrative tasks.
 - Further evaluate the opportunity to use the same application materials for specific standards when projects require a simultaneous state and federal review.
 - Evaluate the Siting Division's funding model and management structure.
 - Evaluate the ability to streamline the review of certain requirements that are more frequently consistent across projects.
 - Evaluate opportunities to increase the value of the Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment online mapping tool.
 - Continue to improve the understanding, clarity and accessibility of the Siting Program for all participants.

DRAFT REPORT ON REDUCING BARRIERS TO CLEAN ENERGY DEPLOYMENT

EO 25-29 section I(2)(a) requires:

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 sections of the draft report for Council are:

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

Key Takeaways:

- 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).
- Based on ODOE's ongoing research and analysis of public comments, the draft report provides an initial inventory of seven barriers to permitting, construction, and interconnection faced by proposed facilities after receiving siting approval from EFSC or a county:
 - 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)
- Many of the recommended policy actions in the Oregon Energy Strategy aim to address the barriers described in this report. (page 6)
- The draft report provides four additional recommendations:
 - 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)

COUNCIL REVIEW AND COMMENTS

The Council is encouraged to ask questions and provide comments on any portion of either draft report. If Council determines it would like to make a formal statement to be included in either final report, it may do so by consensus or through a formal vote.