Oregon

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Government to Government Report
Oregon Department of Energy—2014 Summary

The mission of the Oregon Department of Energy is to reduce the long-term costs of energy for Oregonians.

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The Oregon Department of Energy acknowledges the long-standing working relationship it has had with Oregon's tribes. The agency's executive and management teams are responsible to inform the agency's tribal liaison about issues and opportunities related to tribal interests. New employee orientation also provides a venue for discussing state-tribal relations.

Energy Facility Siting Council

The Energy Facility Siting Council has seven members. They are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate. Its members may not be employed by a company that has a facility or proposed facility under the council's jurisdiction; nor can they have ever worked for a company that owned a large energy facility.

The council is responsible for overseeing the development of large energy facilities. A proposed facility must undergo a thorough review process and must meet the council's siting standards to receive a site certificate. The site certificate authorizes the developer to construct and operate the facility.

All council members are volunteers.

Hanford Cleanup Board

The Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board is a 20-member advisory group and includes 10 citizen members, six state legislators, and representatives from the Governor's Office, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and two state agencies.

The Board provides input to the United States Department of Energy and its regulators on the Hanford cleanup.

The Board and its staff at the Oregon Department of Energy also:

- keep key cleanup issues visible;
- hold the USDOE and its contractors accountable;
- bring Hanford issues to the public; and
- convey that the cleanup is a regional issue and that Oregon has a stake in the outcome.

Oregon's primary role at Hanford is to ensure that cleanup decisions are protective of the Columbia River.

Ongoing Efforts

Energy Infrastructure Siting

The Oregon Department of Energy, as staff to the Energy Facility Siting Council, works with tribes regarding the proposed siting of new energy facilities and pipelines. Some of the proposals include wind farms, natural gas-fired power plants and an electric transmission line.

The proposed Boardman to Hemingway 500-kV single circuit transmission line would cross Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Baker and Malheur counties. Idaho Power submitted a preliminary Application on February 29, 2013. Siting staff issued a first Request for Additional Information on May 23, 2013 and a second Request for Additional Information on Sept. 25, 2014. ODOE expects to receive an amended preliminary Application in late 2015.

Jordan Cove Energy LP has proposed a 420 MW natural gas-fired power plant in Coos County to provide power to the planned Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas export facility. Approval of the LNG facility is under federal jurisdiction through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, but the South Dunes Power Plant is under the State's EFSC jurisdiction. ODOE has made two Requests for Additional Information from the applicant. The historic and cultural resource information provided by the applicant in the preliminary Application can be found on ODOE's website at: http://www.oregon.gov/energy/Siting/docs/SDP/pASC/SDP%20pASC%20Exhibit%20S.pdf

Tribal governments help review siting projects, but reimbursement for those efforts is not in statute even though the definition of "reviewing agency" under OAR 345-001-001(52)(n) is "any tribe identified by the Legislative Commission on Indian Services as affected by the proposed facility." The tribes have asked the Oregon Department of Energy to address this issue.

For the 2015 legislative session, LC 577 - Tribal Government Reimbursement – will be introduced because ORS 469.360 does not expressly authorize EFSC to compensate a tribe identified as a reviewing agency for the tribe's necessary expenses related to reviewing the NOI or application. The concept also proposes to amend ORS 469.360 to authorize EFSC to compensate any tribe identified by the Legislative Commission on Indian Services as affected by the proposed facility for the tribe's identified expenses.

Protecting the Columbia River

The Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State used to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. The production process resulted in large amounts of chemical and radioactive waste. These wastes pose a long-term threat to the Columbia River. The Oregon Department of Energy is responsible for the technical review of the Hanford cleanup and assessment of potential impacts on the Columbia River and Oregon.

The State of Oregon continues to work closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation regarding Hanford policy and technical issues. This is done under a Memorandum of Understanding coordinating efforts related to the Columbia River, groundwater protection, radioactive material transport, public information and emergency preparedness. The CTUIR is also represented on the Hanford Cleanup Board.

Energy staff consults and coordinates with CTUIR staff regularly on Hanford technical and policy issues. The Oregon Department of Energy also works with the CTUIR as a member of the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council.

Legislation

SB 583 (2013) created the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Revolving Fund. The bill authorizes the Oregon Department of Energy to provide loans to public entities and tribes to assist in the purchase of new alternative fuel vehicles and for the conversion of existing vehicles that use gasoline or diesel to alternative fuel vehicles.

Training
The Energy Facility Siting Division conducted its annual Reviewing Agency Training in September at the ODFW office in Salem and by webinar. Sally Bird and Melissa Liebert of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs participated.

Agency Participation
The agency regularly attends the Natural Resource Working Group and Cultural Resource Cluster meetings, along with Tribal Information Day at the Capitol. In 2014, ODOE gave a presentation on incentives to the Economic Development Cluster.

Technical and Business Support
ODOE's solar and industrial specialists visited the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs in November to conduct a walk-through energy audit. Staff learned how the Kah-Nee-Ta facility is operated and what is planned for the future. The resort was built in the 1970s and is heated and cooled solely by electricity. The heated pool has its own electric boiler. The roof structures in the vicinity of the pool are flat (with new roof membranes) and may be suitable for solar water heating. ODOE will receive additional information and develop a report on energy efficiency and renewable energy concepts for Kah-Nee-Ta to consider.

In July, ODOE's loan manager attended the USDOE Tribal Leader Forum on Renewable Energy Opportunities and Strategies in Portland and explained how the tribes can use the Small-scale Energy Loan Program. The first loan SELP made was to the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs in 1981. That $15.3 million loan helped build a 19.5 megawatt hydroelectric plant at the Pelton Reregulating Dam.

ODOE provided letters of support to the Klamath Tribes for their grant applications to the US Department of Energy. The Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency on Indian Lands grant applications covered residential energy-efficiency measures and community-scale solar.

Incentives
The Oregon Department of Energy offers several programs for which tribes may qualify, including a renewable energy development grant program. Projects may receive up to 35% of eligible project costs, with a maximum grant of $250,000. Any entity planning to install a renewable energy production system at a business site in Oregon can apply. The grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

For the conservation tax credits, ODOE selects projects on a competitive by technology. The opportunity announcements usually offer tax credits for the following types of projects: sustainable buildings, building systems, and commercial, agricultural and industrial processes. It also has a prescriptive path for small projects with project costs less than $20,000 that also meet the technical requirements. Some available options include LED lighting, ductless heat pumps, and weatherization.

The Tamástslikt Cultural Institute received a Business Energy Tax Credit in 2014 for energy conservation measures, including high efficiency pumps. The project has improved the comfort of the building.