



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor



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Government to Government Report Oregon Department of Energy--2006 Summary

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The mission of the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is to ensure Oregon has an adequate supply of reliable and affordable energy and is safe from nuclear contamination, by helping Oregonians save energy, develop clean energy resources, promote renewable energy, and clean up nuclear waste.

Nuclear Safety and Energy Siting Division

Part of the work of this division is to protect Oregonians from potential threats from the Hanford Nuclear Site, and its potential to leak chemical and radioactive waste into 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. Water testing of the Columbia River determined that there is no current radioactive threat.

Through this division, the State of Oregon continues to work closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) regarding Hanford policy and technical issues. This is done under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) coordinating efforts related to the Columbia River, groundwater protection, radioactive material transport, public information and emergency preparedness. The division has been working to update its MOU with the CTUIR on cooperation on Hanford issues.

We supported CTUIR in their efforts to establish an office and nursery on the Hanford site.

Working under contract to the Oregon Department of Energy, the Oregon Department of Human Services' Public Health Division provided radiological emergency responder training to the CTUIR Fire Department in July.

We worked closely with CTUIR in our joint decision to intervene in the Yakama Nation's Natural Resource Damage Assessments lawsuit. The Yakama Nation says the federal government has not adequately assessed damage to natural resources caused by nuclear contamination at Hanford.

Acting as staff to the siting council, the Oregon Department of Energy consults with tribes regarding the proposed siting of new energy facilities and pipelines.

State Energy Loan Program (SELP)

The Oregon Department of Energy Loan program offers low-interest, long-term loans for energy efficiency and renewable resource projects to tribes, individuals, businesses and non-profits.

In early 2006, SELP worked with Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation regarding financing a possible investment in a wind energy project.

Several discussions have been held with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs regarding the financing of their new wood-fired cogeneration plant sited at their lumber mill.

SELP has been working with Mike Burton regarding a possible biodiesel production facility. He is representing several tribal interests in looking at diversifying the tribes' economic activities.

Renewable Energy Division

The Renewable Energy Division focuses ODOE's efforts on developing renewable energy projects and helps projects use state incentives, federal funds, and utility and other incentives more extensively.

The Governor's Renewable Energy Working Group (REWG) began meeting in 2006 to help implement the Governor's Renewable Energy Action Plan. Jim Manion of Warm Springs Power Enterprises (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs) is a REWG member and participant in developing renewable energy policy and legislation.

Larry Potts of the Warm Springs Forest Products Industries is a member of the Forest Biomass Working Group, which is looking at barriers and opportunities for forest biomass development that will expand Oregon's energy independence, promote healthy forests, improve air quality, and benefit the state's economy, especially in rural areas.

The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians are participating in a wave energy working group looking to develop this new technology near Reedsport.

We hired an intern from the CTUIR to produce a renewable energy community planning template to assist tribes in developing biomass, wind, geothermal and other renewable resources.

The Oregon Department of Energy heads up the Oregon Wind Working Group (OWWG), which helps identify and overcome obstacles to wind development. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians have attended OWWG meetings.

The Oregon Geothermal Working Group, through the federal GeoPowering the West effort, is reaching out to tribes. Geothermal energy has numerous direct uses in Oregon including home heating, and the potential for electricity generation.

Conservation Division

The Residential and Business Energy Tax Credit programs make tax credits available for tribes and others without a tax liability through the pass-through provision. The State Home Oil Weatherization (SHOW) program provides incentives for homes heated with oil and wood. We also help schools cut energy costs by reviewing new school plans and older building facilities.

Siletz Tribal Energy Fair:

A presentation from the Oregon Department of Energy included Resource Conservation Management basics for tribal facilities, opportunities to improve efficiency in the design and construction of tribal housing projects, and how to utilize utility incentive programs.

NW Tribal Energy Coordinators Association Annual Energy Conference:

Topics included financing energy efficiency projects using utility incentives, Oregon and Federal tax credit programs and weatherization programs. Opportunities for energy cost savings through scheduling of operating hours.

Public Information and Outreach

In 2006, we again signed an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (Scott Hansen) to setup, advertise and hold energy fairs. Booths, workshops and information were presented in July at SolWest in John Day, at Tsalila (the Umpqua River Festival) in Reedsport, in Astoria, and at the Oregon State Fair in Salem. Scott gave out more than 1,000 Teachers' Energy Packets. We could not do this public outreach without his efforts.

In December, we sponsored and provided speakers and logistical support for Scott's First Annual Tribal Energy Conference in Portland. The topics included weatherization and renewable energy.

The agency also attends the Natural Resource Working Group meetings, the annual Government-to-Government Summit and Tribal Information Day at the Capitol.