



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



550 Capitol St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Phone: 503-378-4040

Toll Free: 1-800-221-8035

FAX: 503-373-7806

www.oregon.gov/energy

Energy Advisory Work Group

DATE: October 5, 2022

TIME: 3 – 4pm

Oregon Department of Energy – via WebEx

Meeting Attendees		
EAWG Members	ODOE Staff	Guests
Brooke Brownlee, Portland General Electric (alternate for Sunny Radcliffe) Fred Heutte, NW Energy Coalition Jana Gastellum, Oregon Environmental Council Kerry Meade, NW Energy Efficiency Council Kevin Lynch, Avangrid Renewables Kyle Roadman, Emerald People’s Utility District Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest Nora Apter, Oregon Environmental Council (alternate for Jana Gastellum) Sarah Buchwalter, Pacific Power (alternate for Annette Price) Silvia Tanner, Multnomah County Tom Wolf, bp Tony Schacher, Salem Electric	Janine Benner, Director Alan Zelenka, Asst Director Planning & Innovation Amy Schlusser, Senior Clean Energy Policy Analyst Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator Jenny Kalez, Communications Director Jessica Reichers, Energy Technology & Policy Manager Kaci Radcliffe, Program Analyst Linda Ross, P&I Division Assistant Michael Williams, Asst Director Central Services	Alec Shebiel Danelle Romain Hannah Cruz Jennifer Joly Jordan Bice Kellye Dundon Laura Tabor Leah Navarro Noemi Ortiz Paul Hawkins Riley Peck Tim Davis

Welcome and Director’s Update *(Janine Benner, Director)*

- Janine welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Tom Wolf, bp America’s US West Coast Senior Government Affairs Manager, as the newest member of EAWG.
- Janine shared that USDOE moved the deadline to submit grid resilience applications from September 30 to March 2023. ODOE staff testified in front of the Emergency Board to ask for resources to help put together a robust application proposal and the request was approved with bipartisan support. ODOE is working on a request for information that will be sent to utilities and other interested stakeholders to better understand how ODOE can design a program to help support existing efforts. ODOE will also hire a consultant to help with stakeholder and public outreach and to develop the application.
- ODOE held meetings in September ahead of formal rulemaking for the heat pump programs. Draft rules are in the works and staff have been hired to work on the programs.
- Awardees for the Community Renewable Grant Program will be announced this month.
- ODOE submitted the [Floating Offshore Wind Study](#) on September 15 and the [Small-Scale and Community Renewable Energy Projects Study](#) on September 30 to the Legislature. Due to the number of studies required by the legislature, ODOE asked for and received an extension for the Renewable Hydrogen Study. That study will be

submitted on November 15. The Biennial Energy Report is being finalized and parts of the report will be shared with EAWG members at the October 17 meeting.

- The Boardman-to-Hemingway transmission line project was approved by the Energy Facility Siting Council. This project still has a ways to go before construction can start, but this marks a significant milestone.
- The developer of a proposed natural gas plant, Perennial Wind Chaser, withdrew its request for a site certificate, which was granted by EFSC. The plant will no longer be built.
- ODOE's Nuclear Safety and Preparedness team conducted an emergency exercise in preparation of the FEMA-graded exercise later in October.

Questions and feedback:

Jennifer Joly asked if the Community Renewable Energy Grant awards would be announced before the next meeting of the EAWG. Janine answered that she is unsure, and it will depend on when the final selections are made. The C-REP advisory committee meets on October 13 so that may be too close to make an announcement.

EAWG Roundtable

Fred Heutte, NW Energy Coalition

- Curious about the upcoming elections and how the new Governor will view ODOE's work. Fred said that he wished the department well and wants to support ODOE because that in turn helps all of them.
- Not really involved in the legislative session but will be watching and will update EAWG with any priorities that come up.
- Fred said he was pleased with the latest reports from ODOE, specifically the Floating Offshore Wind study. He thinks this report represents how the department can provide guidance and context for different issues and people may begin to lean on ODOE for more like it.
- Fred sees transmission as the constraint to new renewables being added to the power grid.
- How to site new transmission in Oregon that takes advantage of the diverse resources and is also compatible with community values and provides benefits to everybody in the state in a timely manner are the questions that should be asked. There should be a more streamlined process between federal and state review.

Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest

- Renewable Northwest finished their annual retreat. Workforce development in the renewable industries was an important topic that was discussed.
- Working with a coalition on siting issues for the upcoming session.
- Working with legislators to develop a concept around an energy strategy that will implicate ODOE and aims to help provide funding for more planning and research around the state.
- Focusing on implementation of HB 2021.

Brooke Brownlee, Portland General Electric (alternate for Sunny Radcliffe)

- Pacific Power has convened a coalition of various stakeholders to look at workforce development. It is critical to have people available to build the projects that are needed to meet decarbonization goals.
- They will be moving forward a concept at the next legislative session. Sunny Radcliffe will be able to share more about that at an upcoming meeting.

Kerry Meade, NW Energy Efficiency Council

- NWECC is going through strategic planning process. There will be a focus on buildings, new renewable power, transmission lines, and distribution systems. They want to make sure that there is a focus on maintaining efficiency around the consumption of energy while also thinking about the role that buildings will play from a demand flexibility perspective and helping to maintain a reliable grid and enable the clean electricity and decarbonization needs.
- No legislative priorities in place yet.

Silvia Tanner, Multnomah County Office of Sustainability

- Will be hiring a resiliency-focused position.
- Getting ready to launch the wood stove exchange program where you can exchange for a heat pump. Information on that will be out soon.
- There is a rulemaking component for CEI hub related to the future of the site.
- Gearing up to start climate justice planning process. This will be a very community-centered process.
- Wrapped up Division 21 work. Silvia said she was very proud of the work that the coalition and her office did to change the rules around disconnections and related practices to be less penalizing to low-income customers.
- Continue work on HB 2021 implementation and trying to engage and support the work of community-based organization partners to make sure that energy justice is not put on the back burner.
- They are beginning to see more conversations and activities related to Commercial Property Assessment Clean Energy and hopes to see more coordination among the programs.
- Will be paying attention to the Wildfire Rebuilding task force this session.
- Sylvia said she is very happy to see the position in ODOE's budget to help communities with grant applications.

Tom Wolf, bp America

- Engaged on LCFS rulemaking. On January 1 there will be an LCFS in Washington state. They will be watching to see how Washington's LCFS affects Oregon and California.
- They are following the Climate Protection Program's legal activities.
- bp does offshore wind in Europe and has an offshore wind track off the coast of New York and they are looking at the California bidding process. They are also following offshore wind activities in Oregon.

- Same conversations are happening in Washington about transmission issues. The 10-15 years it takes to build is too long and hopefully the two states can work together to find solutions.

Kyle Roadman, Emerald PUD

- Currently working to put together their 2023 budget which is challenging this year due to inflation. They haven't had a rate increase since 2019 and are very happy and proud that there will not be one in 2023.
- Dealing with market activities and pricing. They had a good risk management program in place when prices went up last month, but it highlights how there is not enough capacity in the region.
- Monitoring the resource adequacy program and looking at participating through some type of capacity acquisition in the next couple of years.
- Supply chain issues remain making it hard to keep inventory in place. They have found some workarounds that and so far so good.
- Monitoring economic conditions.

Jana Gastellum, Oregon Environmental Council

- OEC is also working on strategic planning and is focused on water, toxics, climate, and transportation and how to have sustainable economies, healthy landscapes, resilient communities, while embedding equity into their work.
- Excited about discussions around buildings for the 2023 legislative session. Engaging on the Resilient Efficient Buildings Task Force.
- OEC is serving on the Global Warming Commission and finishing out the Roadmap to 2035.
- Looking forward to continuing the implementation of the Climate Protection Program, including how DEQ will stand up the Equity Advisory Committee and the Community Climate Investments program.
- Watching transportation conversations for the upcoming session, including eBikes and micromobility, as well as the big picture conversations like funding and what those dollars are spent on.
- Water remains a big issue. Water scarcity is increasing and issues with ground water contamination need to be managed in a more integrated way between quality and quantity.
- Looking at how Oregon can harness the federal funding and part of that will be making sure Oregon is well set up, including having the FTE to really think about how to use that money.

Kevin Lynch, Avangrid Renewables

- Hosted the Governor at the Golden Hills Wind Farm in Sherman County and the Montague solar project that is under construction in Gilliam County. Workforce, siting, and transmission were the issues that were brought up most often during her visits.

Sarah Buchwalter, Pacific Power (alternate for Annette Price)

- Tracking the IIJA and IRA funds.
- Pacific Power is participating in various work groups with a host of issues ahead of the 2023 session

Closing Comments/Q&A

- Janine shared that she and Tom Wolf sit on the Board of the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association. This is a public-private partnership that is pursuing a regional hydrogen hub through USDOE funding.
- Nicole Hughes announced that the Clean Energy Transition Institute is updating their Net-Zero Northwest study. This is a deep decarbonization study for the entire Northwest and is the base model that was used for the Oregon Clean Energy Pathway study. They are looking for funding to build in clean fuels modeling into the study and Nicole asked members if there were ideals for organizations that might be interested in helping.
- Tom Wolf asked members if anyone has been talking about sustainable aviation fuels in Oregon. There are conversations in Washington and California, and he is hopeful that there will eventually be a Pacific coast market for the production and use of sustainable aviation fuel. Jessica Reichers (ODOE) said that DEQ's Clean Fuels has a pathway for renewable aviation fuel and knows there are a few developers that have been interested in potentially building renewable aviation fuel facilities in the state and can meet with Tom to discuss more.
- Alec Shebiel said that, from a consumer-owned utility perspective, the jobs available versus workers with utility experience is a challenge. They have been losing employees. Janine said that workforce development is an eligible use of the grid resilience funding and asked members if there are projects or proposals that they could put together to help with that issue.
- Fred Huette said that he hears about workforce issues from everyone and it is a real challenge. (Fred's audio was cutting out here.)
- Janine reminded members that the next meeting of the Energy Advisory Work Group will be October 17.