



# Oregon

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## Government to Government Report Oregon Department of Energy--2007 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.

ODOE technical staff consults and coordinates with CTUIR technical staff on nearly a weekly basis on Hanford issues. On Hanford policy, we also coordinate and consult with the CTUIR.

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.

## **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 division has provided information, presentations and technical assistance to a number of tribal meetings and conferences.

We met with the Coquille Tribe on a proposed biomass facility. Information included the increase in the Business Energy Tax Credit for renewable energy projects, the benefits in woody biomass utilization, and the outcomes of sustainable, successful forest biomass recovery.

We are currently working with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation regarding tribal greenhouse gas emissions inventories. The State is developing reporting requirements on greenhouse gas emissions under the Governor's climate change strategy; maintaining an inventory is part of that process.

The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians are participating in an Oregon Solutions process to develop this wave energy near Reedsport. Concerns have included the protection of tribal and cultural resources.

Wave energy was the topic when staff gave a presentation at Tribal Energy in the Northwest conference in Seattle.

The Governor's Renewable Energy Working Group (REWG) meets 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.

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 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.

Staff attended the Hydropower for Community Development training hosted by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana. The session included the history of Indian Water and Hydropower.

### **Public Information and Outreach**

In 2007, 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, and at the Oregon State Fair in Salem. Scott gave out more than 1,000 Teachers' Energy Packets.

In October, we sponsored and provided logistical support for Scott's Second Annual Tribal Energy Conference in Spokane. The topics included tax credits 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.

### **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.

SELP is working with a number of tribes on funding of potential renewable energy projects. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation have been looking at 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 the transmission line for their new wood-fired cogeneration plant sited at their lumber mill.

SELP has been working on a number of possible biodiesel production facilities, which would diversify the tribes' economic activities.

### **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.