CLEAN ENERGY SITING COUNCIL

Date: December 13, 2023, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Council Co-leads:

Ecology: Diane Butorac, Brenden McFarland

Commerce: Glenn Blackmon, Nora Hawkins

Council members: *DAHP:* Allyson Brooks; *EFSEC:* Sonia Bumpus, Stewart Henderson; *EJ Council:* Jonathan Chen; *ORIA:* Dan McConnon; *UTC:* Payton Swinford; *WDFW:* Michael Garrity; *WSDA:* Gary Bahr; *WSDOT:* Ahmer Nizam, Gretchen Coker

ACTION ITEMS			
Responsible	**Action**	**Start Date**	**Due Date**
ECY/COM	Provide council with update on the joint legislative committee on energy supply, energy conservation and energy resilience	12/13/23	1/10/24

MEETING SUMMARY

Cultural and Historic Resources *(Dr. Allyson Brooks, DAHP)*

Allyson provided a historical overview cultural and historic resources and federal and state regulatory requirements. She discussed the importance of cultural and historic resources and tools for conducting impact analysis. These resources are of critical importance to Tribes and including them early in project review and permitting processes is vital. Tribes may be involved through informal engagement or formal government-to-government consultation and agencies need to be mindful of Tribal needs and interests. Allyson provided best practices for agencies and discussed the role of DAHP, as well as the use and limitations of the cultural and historic databases. She let the group know that the DAHP predictive model update is in progress and is scheduled to be completed in June 2024.

During the discussion on mitigation for cultural resources, she discussed the challenges in mitigating for impacts to these nonrenewable resources. Early engagement with Tribes is important and involvement with the Tribal Historic Preservation office. In-person meetings may be the best way to discuss mitigation with some Tribes so this should be offered. Funding and staff capacity for Tribes to be involved in the discussions and environmental review and permitting can be an issue so agencies should be aware of that. Funding was provided in the last legislative session for Tribal capacity grants, but some Tribes may choose to not apply.

After Allyson's presentation, the agencies discussed how cultural and historic resources are considered and analyzed. They recognized these are complex issues which require coordination and consultation with Tribes. They also recognized that Tribes may not choose to share details

of the resources due to their concerns about sensitive information which may complicate discussions on mitigation. They discussed the importance of providing information when projects are in the pre-application phase and in following up on issues.

The group discussed that projects sited on existing industrial land or contaminated sites may have fewer potential impacts to cultural and historic resources. Commerce is looking at options for siting already disturbed areas. DAHP is conducting surveys of cultural and historic resources on public lands using legislative funding. This is being coordinated with Tribes, Oregon agencies, and State Parks and while it is start, there is much more to be done. DAHP told the group about work being planned by the Bureau of Land Management to conduct a cultural landscape study and predictive model with Tribes in the California Desert Conservation Area. This will help identify and better understand impacts of renewable energy development on Tribal lands.

When working with federal agencies on reviews or permits, cultural and historic resource impact analysis and mitigation may pose additional challenges. Federal agencies follow the National Historic Preservation Act. Tribes have raised concerns with the Federal Energy Regulatory process. US Department of Energy is expected to lead resource review under the National Environmental Policy Act for the proposed green hydrogen hub projects.

Agency updates

Agencies provided information on clean energy work. Several agencies are working to hire staff.

- WDFW said they are coordinating with Tribes on Columbia River efforts related to decarbonization goals. They will be contracting to update solar power and wind power guidelines over the next year.
- EFSEC said they expect to finish their review of the Horse Heaven wind project soon.
- WSDOT is working on clean fuels issues with support from DNR, State Parks, and DES.
- WSDA provided an update on the Climate Smart committee. Requests for proposals are expected in January for dairy digester projects and in-field management to reduce greenhouse gases.
- DAHP is working on their predictive model with Central Washington University. There has also been interest in creating strategies for surveying cultural and historic resources.
- COM will be hiring a consultant to work on the siting report required in HB 1216 and will present on this to the council in April.
- ECY continues to move forward with programmatic environmental impact statements for solar, onshore wind, and green hydrogen. Scoping is planned for green hydrogen

PEIS in March 2024. They are also developing outreach and guidance materials for the new coordinated permit process.