



# Oregon

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**To:** Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council

**From:** Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor

**Date:** July 5, 2023

**Re:** Agenda Item D (Action Item) – Consultant Appointment for Assistance Reviewing Materials related to the Council’s Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources for Multiple EFSC Facilities for the July 17 - 19, 2023 EFSC Meeting

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## BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 469.470(6), the Energy Facility Siting Council (Council) is authorized to appoint and utilize technical contractors in support of its review of site certificate compliance as well as materials contained in an Application for Site Certificate (ASC) or Request for Amendment of a Site Certificate (RFA). In accordance with this statute, the Oregon Department of Energy (Department) requests Council approval to appoint a contractor for technical support in review of the above-referenced types of materials related to the Council’s Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources standard (OAR 345-022-0090) for various energy facilities under review including Lone Pine to Whetstone Transmission Line, Cascade Renewable Transmission Line, Summit Ridge Wind Farm, Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III and Muddy Creek Energy Park.

## REASONS FOR REQUEST

The Department currently has several review requests pending with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), where the response time is no longer viable for timely processing of materials. The Department has been made aware of significant limitations in the availability of SHPO staff to support EFSC related review requests due to 50 percent reduction in number of personnel, increased workload and long-term staff availability limitations due to budget restrictions. Based on current and future review needs, the Department has determined that use of a consultant is currently needed and is forecasted to be needed. The Department currently maintains a contract with a consulting firm, Haley Aldrich - a professional services company with an office in Oregon, which has a team of professionals providing specialized technical consulting services, including expertise related to the Council’s Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources standard (OAR 345-022-0090) (Exhibit S). Haley Aldrich also sub consults with Historic Research Associates (HRA), a recognized consulting company specializing in

archeology and cultural resources, as well as demonstrated knowledge of SHPO's review process.

It is important to note that Council appointment of a consultant for use in review of materials provides authorization for the Department to proceed in the contracting process should it be needed at a later date. The Department is not, at this time, planning to contract for specialized services for all of the referenced facilities.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends that the Council find that Haley Aldrich/HRA are qualified and capable to serve as a consultant to assist with the Department's review of materials related to the Council's Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources standard for Lone Pine to Whetstone Transmission Line, Cascade Renewable Transmission Line, Summit Ridge Wind Farm, Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III and Muddy Creek Energy Park.