



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

Portland General Electric (PGE) Project Update

June 10, 2025. 1:30 PM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Kevin Cameron, and Colm Willis.

Board's Office: Chad Ball, Chris Eppley, Heather Inyama, Toni Whitler, Trevor Lane, and Matt Lawyer.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga, and Marissa Terwilliger

PGE: Larry Bekkedahl, Shaun Foster, Wendy Veliz

Warm Springs Power and Water: Cathy Ehli

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Warm Springs Power Pathway Overview

- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises manages the tribe's energy interests.
- Currently owns 49.99% of Pelton Round Butte hydro project.
- Option to become majority owner by 2036.
- Views itself as an energy tribe with a long-term, seven-generation approach to development.
- Consists of three tribes: Warm Springs, Wasco, and Paiute.
- Seeks to develop renewable energy opportunities on reservation lands.
- Proposed transmission line upgrade from 230 kV to 500 kV.
- Spans approximately 100 miles from Round Butte to Salem.
- Secured \$250 million Department of Energy (DOE) grid resilience grant.
- Utilizes existing right-of-way through tribal, federal, and private lands.
- Aims to increase grid capacity to approximately 2,000 megawatts.
- Potential to support new energy generation, including solar and geothermal.
- Will enable transmission of renewable energy across the Cascades.

Other

- Potential for attracting data centers and high-tech companies to Marion County.
- Opportunity for economic development in rural areas.
- Possible fiber optic infrastructure expansion.
- Collaborative approach with multiple utilities (Bonneville, Pacific Power, PGE).
- Minimal environmental impact due to using existing transmission corridor.

Next Steps

- Conduct preliminary studies in current year.
- Begin permitting process.

- Establish community advisory group.
- Engage with local stakeholders, including neighborhood associations.
- Develop economic development strategy.
- Target construction start in 2030.
- Continue multi-utility coordination and planning.

Adjourned – time: 2:22 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White