

Military Economic Advisory Committee
January 18, 2018
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, Boardman, Oregon

Attendees: Kathleen Cathey, Courtney Crowell, Bob Guertin, Kym Erevia, Carla McLane, Jake Madison, Jeff Maffuccio, Thomas Wolff. By phone: Tucker Billman, Melissa Lindsay, Laura Miner, Kim Peacher, Jerry Rietman, Manuel Robledo, Kellen Tardaewether.

Introductions were made and the meeting notes were accepted.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Record of Decision (ROD): Issued prior to thanksgiving. Waiting for USFS ROD (not effecting Morrow County). Carla handed out a copy of a letter from the Board of Commissioners to Senator Ron Wyden requesting an "Expeditious Decision on Easement Application". Kim said that the BLM Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been released; Navy has submitted their requirements and requested an in-person meeting with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Idaho Power subject experts to discuss a phased removal plan for BPA to vacate the easement before they can submit an easement application. Jeff said that Idaho Power has met all of the Navy's requests, and expects that a revised schedule for the Navy ROD is being written now, but still no clear time frame for release. Carla is concerned that this delayed timeline could affect other projects around the county; Morrow County needs to be assured that the integrity of the Boardman to Hemmingway (B2H) line will be retained for incoming wind power integration.

White Paper: Carla handed out a draft paper based on a potential land use solution, it does not address Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) or transmission impacts within the airspace. It was also written for wind energy only, so it needs expansion to address solar energy, economic impact by military presence, and the airspace around renewable energy. Bob and Jerry concur that there needs to be a mechanism to maximize economic impact to county and landowners in terms of military operations in the area. Bob also commented that there needs to be a timely conflict resolution process built in with a solution-driven focus going forward. Courtney mentioned that there is time to apply for a federal funding opportunity (FFO) and that the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) can be started. Carla said that the Morrow County Planning Department can create mapping for proposed go/no-go Military Training Route areas. Kim said the Range Air Installation Compatibility Use Zone Study (RAICUS) has been deemed in need of modifications by the Navy; the Navy is still working through their response to questions, and is pushing for a 3rd pre-final review with a final release estimated for summer time. Kathleen will work with legislative staff involved in defense issues to compile a list of funding options and federal decision makers available before the group pursues a higher level of problem solving forum at the Department of Defense (DoD) level. A deliverable for next meeting will be a bullet list by each member before the revised white paper is started. Courtney will initiate a meeting with local and federal partners, Kathleen will bring back the CRS information as requested. Carla will work on releasing the proposed quote for going forward; if it becomes the mission statement the group can respond on how to achieve the mission.

Items for the Good of the Order: Jake gave a REPI update; he thinks the program is workable despite the non-agricultural input. Need to determine what's allowed and not allowed in the easement, anything not addressed should be considered "not" at this time. Currently there is no clear delineation of this between landowners and the Navy. There is still no value established yet because of the mitigation aspects; the value can't be determined until the easement can be agreed upon, and without

knowing the value of what is being given up it can't be decided. There needs to be transparency on the valuation process, particularly for the developers going forward as well as providing a concept of future value to landowners. Navy is using a boilerplate easement they are wanting to import, but it isn't appropriate for high value agricultural lands, and they are not providing the landowners with a copy of the appraisal for the wind component. Kim said landowners will get a summary but not the full appraisal, which resides with the Trust for Public Lands (who uses a third-party appraisal agent). She will follow up with the Trust for Public Lands. Jake believes there should also be a rebuttal process.

Oregon National Guard (ONG) representative LTC Manuel Robdelo said that an update of the local activities is being developed, the ONG is currently looking at investment and impacts and asked what benefit for the white paper this might provide, including the provision of construction project milestones. Carla said this would be beneficial particularly for the counties (Umatilla and Morrow), and she thought that the ONG might be able to present the information to interested parties as well as county elected officials, including Gilliam County.

Kellen said that they are still in the completeness review process for B2H at the state level; she said there will still be up to 2 months for this process before they finish.

Energy Project Updates:

Wheatridge - Has submitted their Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to Morrow County Planning Department, who will be issuing the permit. Carla will be working on that review process now that she has some level of recovery from her accident. The interconnect needs to be addressed. Tommy Wolff said that Columbia Basin Electric (CBE) is still working with stakeholders to assure an interconnect is formalized within the next 60 days. CBE has completed their requirements for easement for the transmission through their service territory and it has been recorded at the county.

Orchard Wind - Project is moving forward.

Boardman Solar - Kellen said that the contested period closes on February 2; if no requests are received the final decision before council will be at the February meeting in Boardman.

Carty Solar - All Carty requests have been withdrawn and a revised amendment will be completed to read only solar expected within the next month or so.

Nolin Hills - This project has no direct impact; it's approximately 6 miles east of Wheatridge, they are currently working on determining a transmission line route.

Carla commented that there are 3 additional local projects: 20 mw (2-10's) Mariah Wind approved 5 years ago they are needing to re-apply for permits, but Carla anticipates it will be several months before their application is submitted to the Planning Department. There have also been two pre-application meetings for solar recently. They both interconnect to the current BPA line. Will have to go through CUP and goal 3 exception process, and needs to go before the Planning Commission and Morrow County Board of Commissioners. Both expect to submit late winter early spring. There is a solar project proposed in industrial zone as well. Rulemaking around Health & Safety wind turbine interaction question has prompted a "no change" decision to the rule at the Energy Facility Siting Counsel. Discussion was had about generating good policy for the rule going forward.

Next meeting scheduled for February 15, 2018 at the same location. Adjourned at 11:13 a.m.