

Military Economic Advisory Committee
February 15, 2018
Port of Morrow Riverfront Center, Boardman, Oregon

Attendees: Kathleen Cathey, Larry Lindsay, Melissa Lindsay, Carla McLane, Kim Peacher, Stephen Wrecsics. By phone: Courtney Crowell, Darrell Green, Bob Guertin, Steve Meyers, Kellen Tardaewether.

Introductions were made.

Review and Approval of Meeting Notes: Kim Peacher presented clarification regarding the January meeting notes; the Navy does not consider the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) application complete as the Navy has requested and is anticipating additional information from BPA as stated in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Record of Decision (ROD). Also, one typographical error from the second paragraph regarding Range Air Installation Compatibility Use Zone; change RAICUS to RAICUZ, this change was made.

Energy Project Updates moved to the front of the agenda to accommodate member schedules.

Energy Project Updates:

Boardman to Hemmingway - Kellen Tardaewether provided comments and updates on the Boardman to Hemmingway (B2H) project regarding completeness review of the Amended Preliminary Application; Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) has forwarded the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) Request for Additional Information (RAI) to Idaho Power and estimates that ODOE may deem the Idaho Power application complete in the next four to six weeks.

Wheatridge – Carla commented that the Wheatridge Conditional Use Permit(CUP) is still pending and Morrow County is still anticipating a Land Use Decision Application for the Green Energy Corridor Transmission Line. Both Morrow and Umatilla have approved the Strategic Investment Program agreements for the project.

Orchard Wind – Project is moving forward and construction is anticipated end of 2018 early 2019 with operations beginning end of 2019.

Boardman Solar – The contested case closed on February 2nd with no requests received. At the Boardman EFSC meeting on February 23rd the Final Order and Site Certificate will be presented before the siting council for approval.

Carty Solar – No updates, amended amendment application is still pending.

Nolin Hills – This project has no direct impact. It's approximately 6 miles east of Wheatridge in Umatilla County. They are currently working on determining a transmission line route.

Harp, Solar Star, and POM – Local Land Use applications are anticipated for Harp and Solar Star. Both are 10mw projects located on approximately 100 acres of lands zoned for EFU. Neither are impacting greater than 12 acres of high-value farmland, however, both projects are seeking Goal 3 exceptions as they are impacting greater than 20 acres of arable lands. Carla gave a historical overview of the POM solar project, no real updates were mentioned. Carla raised questions over the 320-acre EFSC threshold and if it would be applied to the Port of Morrow (POM) solar project as it is sited on lands zoned for industrial use and not agriculture use.

Mariah Wind – All local permits have expired. Developers are re-engaging in the permitting process with applications anticipated this spring.

Kim Peacher gave some clarification as to her previous request to amend the January meeting notes regarding B2H. The Navy would like to gain a comprehensive understanding of the statement in the BLM Record of Decision regarding the removal of the 69kv line. This request for clarification was transmitted via letter to IPC on December 21st 2018. Navy cannot move on actions until they have a complete application.

Small discussion about local project timelines and the ability of the Navy to accommodate.

Carla made comments about POM investments into the pipeline to the Madison properties, will try and have figures on pipeline, reservoir, UEC project investments for substation and related powerline, and property owner investments. Will try and forward this information to the Navy.

Comments were made about controlled burns along the bombing range to mitigate tumbleweeds.

White Paper: Two papers were handed out, one pertaining to an email titled “MEAC Homework” discussing a MEAC Vision Statement, and the 2013 Scope of Work for the Military Airspace Advisory Committee (MAAC). Carla provided a brief historical overview of the MAAC/MEAC and discussed anticipated growth of Oregon National Guard (ONG) operations which will bring both positive and negative economic impacts to the county. Comments were made that the MEAC is a good forum to continue to address the airspace concerns as well as economic and land development impacts related to increased military operations within Morrow and Umatilla Counties. The MEAC needs to refine its mission statement to better reflect the intention of this committee going forward. Kathleen Cathey commented that the MEAC gives her office the opportunity to get a comprehensive view on development and interagency communication within the community. Kim Peacher agreed that there is a need to address positive and negative economic impacts in the MEAC Mission Statement as well as the desire to foster compatible air and land use. Kim added that this could be achieved by implementing a transparent and repeatable notification process between the counties and military. Kim mentioned the creation of the Northwest Department of Defense Mission Assurance Regional Coordination Team with the purpose of coordinating regional projects between the Armed Services in the Northwest region that impact more than one branch of service as well as fostering public outreach. After the Range Air Installation Compatibility Use Zone(RAICUZ) study is completed, there could be a Joint Land Use Study(JLUS) that should bring the Army and Navy to the table and focus on the Boardman and Umatilla areas. It would also be advantageous to invite the Navy and ONG to an Association of Oregon County Planning Directors meeting to increase the visibility between the counties and the Military. A letter from Rear Admiral Mayes USN to Governor Brown from July 28 2017 was provided regarding the Navy’s concern for the sustainability of low altitude flight training in designated military training routes(MTR) in and around NWSTF Boardman. Courtney Crowell mentioned that her office was drafting a response to Admiral Mayes’ letter. Commissioner Lindsay commented that any amendments to the MEAC Mission Statement should be broad yet inclusive enough to keep groups engaged while not needing to be revisited every year.

Items for the Good of the Order: Courtney Crowell mentioned that herself and others from her office are going to be meeting with the Deputy Director of the Oregon Military Department to discuss the ONG involvement with the MEAC.

Next meeting scheduled for March 15, 2018 at the same location. Adjourned at 10:38 a.m.