



**City of Portland, Oregon**  
**Bureau of Development Services**  
**Land Use Services**  
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

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**To:** Mayor Wheeler  
Commissioner Gonzalez  
Commissioner Mapps  
Commissioner Rubio  
Commissioner Ryan

**From:** Rebecca Esau, Director *RE*  
Bureau of Development Services

**Regarding: Proposed Ordinance**

**I. RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the proposed ordinance to designate the Director of the Bureau of Development Services to represent and act on the City's behalf as the Special Advisory Group for the purposes of the Cascade Renewable Transmission System Facility.

**II. BACKGROUND**

On March 7, 2023, Cascade Renewable Transmission, LLC submitted a Notice of Intent to File an Application for a Site Certificate (NOI) to the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). The proposal is for a 320-kilovolt high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line that would span approximately 100 miles between a Bonneville Power Administration substation near The Dalles and an existing Portland General Electric substation in Northwest Portland. Most of the transmission line would be under the Columbia River.

Under ORS 469.504, in addition to seeking federal approval for the project, the applicant may choose to seek land use approval from affected local governments or seek a determination of compliance from the EFSC. In the NOI, the applicant indicated that it intends to seek a determination from the EFSC. This means the City of Portland and other local governments along the transmission route will not have regulatory authority over the project. However, local governments including the City of Portland are designated as Special Advisory Groups for the state's review of the project.

On April 4, 2023, the Oregon Department of Energy sent notice to the City of Portland seeking comments on the NOI, specifically to identify land use regulations and local permit requirements that would apply to portions of the project within the City of Portland if regulatory authority were not preempted. The City's deadline to submit comments is July 15, 2023.

### **III. SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE**

This ordinance would authorize the Director of the Bureau of Development Services or her designee to act on the City of Portland's behalf coordinating with City bureaus on relevant regulations and permit requirements and responding to the Oregon Department of Energy's request for comments.