



**Washington State
Energy Facility Site
Evaluation Council**

**Cascade Renewable Transmission
Project Informational Meeting
and Land Use Hearing
November 17, 18, and 19, 2025**

Cascade Renewable Transmission, LLC proposes to construct and operate a high-voltage direct current (HVDC) 400-kilovolt (kV), 1,100-megawatt (MW) electric transmission facility located primarily in the bed of the Columbia River in both Oregon and Washington, with approximately 40.2 route miles located in Washington and approximately 58 route miles and two converter stations located in Oregon.

Commenter Information: (please print)

Name: MARY REPAR Organization: (optional) CONCERNED CITIZEN

Street address: (optional) PO Box 103 Add to project email list? (If yes, please provide email address.) Yes No

Apt # _____ City: STEVENSON Yes No

State: WA Zip Code: 98648

Email: repar@saw.net

RECEIVED

NOV 18 2025

Comment Subject/Issue: CRT

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Comment:

I WILL BE SENDING IN MORE COMMENTS!

- THE COLUMBIA RIVER KEEPER COMMENTS REFLECT MY OWN CONCERNS

- THE COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY TRUMPS THIS PROJECT - "IMPROVING THE ECOSYSTEM" IS A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE TREATY, THIS PROJECT WOULD NOT DO THIS!!

Commentor Signature:

Mary Repar

11/18/2025

Cascade Renewable Transmission informational hearing and land use consistency hearing - Skamania County

This meeting in Stevenson, WA will address our application review of Cascade Renewable Transmission. See the planned activities and learn how you can participate.

Start date

11-18-25 Start time 5:00 pm

End date 11-18-25 End time 8:00 pm

These comments mirror my own concerns. Mary Repare 11/18/25

COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER:

Cascade Renewable Transmission is a proposed 400-kilovolt (kV) high-voltage direct current (HVDC) electric transmission facility spanning about 100 miles between the BPA Big Eddy substation near The Dalles, Oregon, and the PGE Harborton substation in Portland, Oregon. The project would be built primarily within the Columbia River bed in both Oregon and Washington, with approximately 40 miles in Washington and 58 miles in Oregon, including about 7.6 miles of underground cable in Skamania County to bypass the Bonneville Locks and Dam.

To date, very little is known about the actual impacts of this project on the health of the Columbia. We are concerned with the short-term and long-term impacts of dredging a giant trench through the river. Issues we are tracking include, but are not limited to:

- Impacts on salmon and other aquatic species
- Concerns about the projected 40- to 50-year lifespan of the project
- Lack of clarity on the project's decommissioning, maintenance, and repairs, especially in sensitive ecological areas
- Impacts from potential seismic events or vessel strikes
- Water quality concerns, particularly heat pollution from the in-water cable

The Bigger Picture

This project could set a staggering precedent: allowing developers to turn the Columbia River itself into a transmission corridor. This region and river are unlike any in the world and contain a rich, vibrant history. Turning the Columbia into a utility corridor could vastly alter the use of the Columbia River and impact the species and communities that rely upon it.

Prioritizing a Just Transition

We approach all our energy work by advocating for a just transition away from fossil fuels. New energy development should not repeat the mistakes of old energy systems. In the Pacific Northwest, these mistakes include placing disproportionate burdens on salmon and the communities that rely on them.

Our energy system must be upgraded if we are to achieve our climate goals, and many energy experts believe that more and better electrical transmission is key to realizing the promise of wind and solar energy. However, it remains unclear whether, and how much, the Cable Under the Columbia would actually transmit or support clean, renewable energy. And assuming that more transmission lines are helpful, we are not convinced that the Columbia River is the best place for them—especially because this massive power line could be sited in the existing transportation or electrical corridors that already exist on both sides of the river.

For all energy projects, Columbia Riverkeeper aims to understand how development will impact Tribal Nations and all people who rely on the Columbia River for salmon, clean water, and beyond. Please see CRITFC's Energy Vision for the Columbia River Basin for more information about how our energy future can support salmon recovery.

Resources:

- EFSC 2023 NOI Scoping comments
- 2024 404 Permit Application Comments
- CRITFC Energy Vision

<https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-western-hemisphere-affairs/columbia-river-treaty>

The United States and Canada began negotiations to modernize the **Columbia River Treaty** regime in May 2018. As of January 2023, the two countries have held fifteen rounds of negotiations, working together to develop a modernized treaty regime that serves the people of the Columbia River Basin on both sides of the border, including members of several Tribal and Indigenous Nations.

The Columbia River's drainage basin is roughly the size of Texas and includes parts of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and British Columbia. The Treaty's hydropower operations and management of flood risk provide substantial benefits to millions of people on both sides of the border. Treaty regime operations have also yielded environmental benefits in the Columbia River Basin.

History and Background

Signed in 1961, the Columbia River Treaty calls for two "entities" to be designated to implement the Treaty — a U.S. Entity and a Canadian Entity. The U.S. Entity, designated by the President, consists of the Administrator (Chairman) of the Bonneville Power Administration and the Northwestern Division Engineer (member) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Canadian Entity, appointed by the Canadian Federal Cabinet, is the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (B.C. Hydro).

The year 2024 is a significant date for the Treaty, as the current flood risk management provisions change to a less-defined approach.

The U.S. Entity forwarded its recommendation concerning the future of the Columbia River Treaty with Canada to the U.S. Department of State on December 13, 2013. Known as the "Regional Recommendation," the U.S. Entity developed this recommendation in collaboration and consultation with the region through an extensive, multi-year Columbia River Treaty Review. The U.S. entity reached this important milestone thanks to the constructive involvement of the region's states, federally recognized tribes, and hundreds of stakeholders. With the conclusion of the Regional Recommendation process, the U.S. government conducted a review concerning the post-2024 future of the Treaty. (See also the cover letter sent to the U.S. Department of State regarding the Regional Recommendation.)

Pressing Forward

1MP/ The U.S. Department of State is leading the U.S. team in negotiations with Canada to modernize the Treaty regime. Our key objectives include continued, careful management of flood risk; ensuring a reliable and economical power supply; and improving the ecosystem in a modernized Treaty regime.

Our discussions with Canada are focused on water flowing across the border, namely from the Canadian Treaty projects—Keenleyside (also known as Arrow), Duncan and Mica dams—and from Libby Dam in the United States. These projects together are collectively known as the “Treaty Projects.”

Public Inquiries

Should you wish to submit feedback on the Treaty modernization effort and receive announcements regarding upcoming town halls, please send us an email at ColumbiaRiverTreaty@state.gov.