

January 11, 2022



## HB 2021 Investigation into Clean Energy Plans Investigation Launch Announcement

This announcement describes Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) Staff's plan to launch an investigation into the Clean Energy Plans required under Oregon House Bill 2021, which was passed during the 2021 regular legislative session. The announcement covers the following topics: a description of the investigation, an invitation to an Investigation Launch Workshop **February 9, 2022**, and an opportunity to provide preliminary scoping input through a written questionnaire.

### HB 2021 Overview

House Bill (HB) 2021 establishes an ambitious emissions-based clean energy framework for electricity providers in Oregon. The bill requires the state's large investor-owned utilities (IOUs), Pacific Power and Portland General Electric, and electricity service suppliers (ESSs) to decarbonize their retail electricity sales by 2040 in a manner that provides direct benefits to local communities to the extent practicable.

Major parts of the bill include:

- Greenhouse gas reduction targets for large IOUs and ESSs
  - By 2030, 80 percent below baseline emissions level
  - By 2035, 90 percent below baseline emissions level
  - By 2040 and beyond, 100 percent emissions-free.
- Clean Energy Plans that demonstrate progress towards/compliance with HB 2021
- Utility Community Benefits and Impacts Advisory Groups
- A Customer Supported Renewables program for local governments
- A Community Renewable Energy Project Grant program
- Labor standards for certain energy projects
- Increases to the state's small-scale renewable energy project requirement
- Prohibition from siting fossil fuel generation

The full language of the bill can be found [here](#).

A bill summary developed by the OPUC executive office can be found [here](#).

OPUC Staff's Gantt Chart of anticipated HB 2021 activities can be found [here](#).

### Clean Energy Plan Investigation Docket

Clean Energy Plans are foundational to HB 2021's decarbonization framework.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, OPUC Staff has identified Commission guidance for the Clean Energy Plans as a near-term focus area for HB 2021 implementation.<sup>2</sup>

The OPUC has opened Docket No. UM 2225 Investigation into Clean Energy Plans. The docket will serve as the official record for the investigation.

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<sup>1</sup> IOUs are required to file Clean Energy Plans as a part of or within 180 days of their Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Clean Energy Plan requirements are found primarily in Section 4 and Section 5 of HB 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Energy service suppliers (ESSs) are also required to provide regular forward-looking reporting on HB 2021 targets. These reports are being addressed separately in [Docket No. AR 651 Direct Access Rulemaking](#).

The initial phase of this investigation will focus on two key questions:

- What near-term OPUC guidance is required to incorporate HB 2021's Clean Energy Plan requirements into utility planning and associated procurement activities?
- What near-term changes could the OPUC make to the IRP<sup>3</sup> and/or competitive bidding process<sup>4</sup> to help position the utilities to meet the HB 2021 targets?

Staff's goal for the initial phase is to facilitate a process that is collaborative, efficient, and responsive to the discussions that occur. Staff looks forward to discussing the scope, process, and outcomes of this phase at the Investigation Launch Workshop. Staff is targeting completion of this phase in the third quarter of 2022 (Q3 2022) to align with the utility IRP filing timelines to the extent feasible.

To receive schedule updates, meeting notices and agendas, review comments and other materials related to the investigation, please send an email to [puc.hearings@puc.oregon.gov](mailto:puc.hearings@puc.oregon.gov) and ask to be added to the service list for Docket No. UM 2225.

### Investigation Launch Workshop

The first step in the Investigation into Clean Energy Plans is an Investigation Launch Workshop:

- **Date:** February 9, 2022
- **Time:** 9a – 3p\*
- **Location:** Zoom (details will be provided in the agenda)
- **Purpose:** To review the HB 2021 requirements, identify issues, discuss prioritization, and discuss the process to address them.

A detailed agenda will be shared with the UM 2225 distribution list prior to the workshop.

*\*Please consider this a tentative hold; the detailed agenda will include a more precise end time, which may be earlier.*

### Questionnaire

OPUC Staff is seeking preliminary scoping input in preparation for the February 9, 2022 Investigation Launch Workshop. Those interested in helping Staff identify issues and questions before the workshop are invited to answer some or all of the questions at the link below by **January 28, 2022**.

**SURVEY LINK:** <https://forms.office.com/g/25sc159YYt>

Staff does not plan to publish individual responses. Opportunities to submit public scoping comments can be discussed at the February 9, 2022 Investigation Launch Workshop.

As an alternative to using the online survey, written responses to any of the questions can be emailed directly to Caroline Moore at [caroline.f.moore@puc.oregon.gov](mailto:caroline.f.moore@puc.oregon.gov). Please limit emailed responses to 5 pages total per individual or organization.

**If you have questions about the investigation, workshop, or questionnaire, please contact:**  
Caroline Moore at [caroline.f.moore@puc.oregon.gov](mailto:caroline.f.moore@puc.oregon.gov) or 503-480-9427.

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<sup>3</sup> The OPUC's IRP Guidelines can be found in Commission Order Nos. [07-047](#) and [08-339](#).

<sup>4</sup> The OPUC's Competitive Bidding Rules can be found in [Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 860, Division 89](#).