

DATE: March 27, 2020
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DOCKET: UM 2005



Workshop 3 Notes

On February 26, 2020, the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) hosted the third workshop in the Investigation into Distribution System Planning (UM 2005). The workshop focused on current utility distribution systems, the role of energy efficiency and small-scale renewables, and stakeholder perspectives on the distribution system planning process. Gridworks provided facilitation support to the OPUC.

Approximately 30 participants were in attendance in person and on the phone. Organizations represented include Community Energy Project, Energy Trust of Oregon, Idaho Power, Northwest Energy Coalition, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board, Oregon Department of Energy, Oregon Public Utility Commission, Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association, Pacific Power (PacifiCorp), Portland General Electric, Renewables Northwest, Spark Northwest, Verde, Vote Solar, and Wallowa Resources.

With regard to next steps, OPUC staff will leverage the presentations and information shared to formally document current distribution system practices, plans, and operations.

The next workshops will be held on ~~April 8 and 15 at the PacifiCorp Learning Center in Portland (Lloyd Center Mall, 2201 Lloyd Center, Suite 2265)~~. **[NOTE: THESE MEETINGS HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN POSTPONED. ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE POSTED AS SOON AS IS PRACTICAL.]**

Staff would also like to recognize stakeholder feedback that there was a lack of adequate time for questions during Workshop 3, and acknowledge that more time will be allocated for questions and discussion in the forthcoming workshops.

Utility Distribution System Presentations: Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, and Idaho Power each presented on their existing distribution systems. Presentations are posted to the UM 2005 docket. There was informal discussion and questions after each presentation.

During these discussions a question was asked about allocation of the costs for infrastructure upgrades necessary to serve increased load, versus allocation of interconnection costs of new distributed generation, specifically, whether the individual customer is responsible for infrastructure upgrade costs. To the facilitator's understanding, the utility conducts modeling to calculate future revenue streams and, on occasion, the customer is responsible for infrastructure upgrade costs. This point warrants further clarification from Staff.

Role of Energy Efficiency and Small-Scale Renewables: Energy Trust of Oregon and Idaho Power presented on existing processes and programs to procure energy efficiency and small-scale renewables. Presentations are posted to the UM 2005 docket. There was informal discussion and questions after each presentation.

During these presentations it was noted that Energy Trust of Oregon funds small-scale renewable projects, while Idaho Power does not.

Stakeholder Presentations: Stakeholders were invited to present the issues they believed to be the most important for Staff and other stakeholders to consider in the Investigation into DSP. Examples included vision, principles, and recommendations. Presentations are posted to the UM 2005 docket. There was informal discussion and questions after each presentation.

Workshop three completed the baseline stage of the investigation, the primary purpose of which was to develop amongst stakeholders a shared, baseline understanding of the current state of distribution system planning, and distribution systems, in Oregon. Staff will review the key questions developed during workshop two, as well as the presentations from workshops two and three, and note which questions have been addressed. The new opportunities stage of the investigation begins with workshop 4.