Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

550 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-378-4040
Toll Free: 1-800-221-8035
FAX: 503-373-7806
www.oregon.gov/energy

March 16, 2017

TO: Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative Brad Witt, Co-Chair
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

FROM: Michael Kaplan, Director
Oregon Department of Energy

RE: HB 5009 Oregon Department of Energy Follow-up Questions

- **Where in the state are the uranium mines located? (Sen. Frederick)**

  There were two uranium mines in Oregon; the White King and Lucky Lass. These mines are located about 17 miles northwest of Lakeview and are about a mile apart. Both mines had a relatively low grade of ore and mining occurred only from about 1955 to 1965.

  The mines sat for several decades, the pits filling with acidic water, and contained elevated levels of radioactive materials. The stockpiles of overburden and the water threatened nearby Auger Creek. EPA added the two mines to its National Priorities list in 1995, and cleanup occurred over the next decade or so, ending in 2005. ODOE was involved with oversight of the cleanup and participates in annual inspections to ensure that the cleanup activities that were conducted remain robust and the cover over the mill tailings does not erode. We also monitor the water sampling that occurs at the mine sites.

- **Where are the nuclear research reactors located and how are they holding up? (Sen. Frederick)**

  There are research reactors at Oregon State University in Corvallis and at Reed College in Portland.

  The OSU reactor has operated since 1967. It received new nuclear fuel in 2009. It has an operating level of just 1 megawatt. It is expected to operate for the next several decades.

  The Reed reactor has operated since 1968. It received new nuclear fuel in 2011. It has an operating level of just 250 kilowatts. It is expected to operate for the next several decades.

- **Is NuScale transporting any radioactive material?**

  No. NuScale is in the process of getting its first reactor licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It will be built on the Idaho National Laboratory in eastern Idaho. Power generated by the reactor will be used by customers of Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems. NuScale hopes to have the reactor operational in 2024.

- **In the case of a Cascadia event, what is the seismic stability of the spent fuel at the Trojan Nuclear site? (Rep. Witt)**

  The 34 large concrete and steel containers which hold Trojan's spent fuel were licensed for use by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC has evaluated potential impacts from a variety of accident scenarios involving these and other storage systems, including a severe earthquake. A container could potentially be damaged or topple over, but the impacts would still be limited within the Trojan site boundary (the fuel is in a solid form and inside a steel container inside the outer concrete and steel structure).