

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Digest: Allows the use of a third party to study or evaluate a request to connect a project to a power system. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.6).

Allows a person to contract with a third-party consultant to conduct a study or engineering evaluation that a public utility requires for an application to interconnect a community renewable energy project or microgrid.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to the interconnection process; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 757.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Community renewable energy project” has the meaning given that term in section 29, chapter 508, Oregon Laws 2021.

(b) “Microgrid” means an interconnected system of loads and energy resources appropriately sized to meet customer needs within clearly defined electrical boundaries that can function as a single, controllable system independent from a utility transmission or distribution system.

(c) “Public utility” means a utility regulated by the Public Utility Commission under ORS chapter 757 that provides electric power to consumers.

(2) When a person applies to a public utility for authority to interconnect a community renewable energy project or microgrid with the

1 **public utility’s transmission or distribution system and the public**
2 **utility concludes that the proposed interconnection requires a study**
3 **or engineering evaluation, the person shall have the option to:**

4 **(a) Agree to have the public utility conduct the study or evaluation;**
5 **or**

6 **(b) Contract with a third-party consultant to conduct the study or**
7 **evaluation, subject to the public utility’s reasonable review and ap-**
8 **proval of the study or evaluation.**

9 **(3) A person who agrees to have the public utility conduct the study**
10 **or engineering evaluation under subsection (2) of this section shall**
11 **reimburse the public utility for the reasonable costs incurred by the**
12 **public utility in performing the study or evaluation.**

13 **(4) A public utility may, as a technical collaborator, contract with**
14 **a third-party consultant to conduct the study or engineering evalu-**
15 **ation requested under subsection (2) of this section.**

16 **(5) A report that is produced from a study or engineering evaluation**
17 **conducted under subsection (2) of this section and has received a pro-**
18 **fessional engineer stamp of approval shall be considered a final report**
19 **for purposes of review by a public utility of an application to inter-**
20 **connect a community renewable energy project or microgrid with the**
21 **public utility’s transmission or distribution system.**

22 **(6) This section does not apply to an interconnection between a**
23 **community renewable energy project or microgrid and a public utility**
24 **that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory**
25 **Commission.**

26 **SECTION 3. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date**
27 **on which the 2025 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative As-**
28 **sembly adjourns sine die.**

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