

HB 2215 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Sub-Referral To: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Repeals Oregon Revised Statutes relating to nuclear-fueled thermal power plants (ORS 469.590, 469.593, 469.594, 469.595, 469.597, 469.599 and 469.601). Requires the Act to be referred to the people for their approval or rejection.

- Fiscal: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued
- Revenue: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

Subsequent Referral to *Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Nuclear reactors generate electricity when thermal energy is released from the fission of nuclear fuel. According to the Oregon Department of Energy, the Columbia Generating Station in Washington State provides Oregon's nuclear power and the Bonneville Power Administration markets the electricity it produces. In 2004, Portland General Electric decommissioned its 1,130-megawatt Trojan nuclear-fueled power plant located in Columbia County.

Oregon's Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) may issue site certificates for nuclear-fueled thermal power plants, but only after finding that an adequate repository for the disposal of the high-level radioactive waste produced by the plant has been licensed to operate by the appropriate agency of the federal government (ORS 469.595). If an adequate repository exists and is licensed, the nuclear-fueled thermal power plant site certificate proposal must be approved or rejected by Oregon voters at the next available statewide general election (ORS 469.597).

House Bill 2215 would repeal Oregon Revised Statutes relating to nuclear-fueled thermal power plants and require the Act to be referred to the people for their approval or rejection.