

HB 4046 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/10, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), subject to the availability of funding, to conduct a study and make a report that addresses the certain subjects as related to nuclear energy. It establishes the Nuclear Energy Study Fund, and declares an emergency, effective on passage.

Detailed Summary:

SECTION 1

Requires ODOE, subject to the availability of funding, to conduct a study and make a report that addresses the certain subjects as related to nuclear energy. Requires ODOE to conduct the study in consultation with:

- (a) The Public Utility Commission;
- (b) The Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Planning Council;
- (c) The Department of Land Conservation and Development; and
- (d) Oregon State University.

Requires ODOE to engage with the federally recognized Indian tribes located in Oregon, relevant state agencies and stakeholders, meet certain consultation criteria, and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly no later than February 15, 2027. Requires ODOE to conduct the study and consult with other entities only if moneys and existing resources from federal, private, or other public sources are available. Requires ODOE to deposit any moneys the department accepts into the Nuclear Energy Study Fund.

SECTION 2

Establishes the Nuclear Energy Study Fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund, with moneys in the fund continuously appropriated to ODOE for duties outlined in this Act.

SECTION 3

Repeals study and consultation requirements and fund on January 2, 2028.

- *FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement issued yet*
- *REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement issued yet*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Stakeholders and Tribes engaged during bill development
- Oregon's current and future energy needs
- Potential benefits and risks of nuclear energy
- Funding sources of nuclear study
- History of nuclear energy in Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment modifies and adds study and report requirements ODOE has to follow related to nuclear energy. It modifies which entities ODOE has to engage—and how they do it—during the consultation process. The amendment adds deadlines for reporting moneys received for conducting the study and changes study reporting deadline and changes the repeal date of the study and consultation requirements and fund.

- *FISCAL: Fiscal impact statement issued*
- *REVENUE: No revenue impact*

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).