



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

To: Co-Chair Kate Lieber and Co-Chair Tawna Sanchez
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator

Date: February 17, 2026

Re: Response to Questions on US DOE Collaborations Advancing Rapid Load Additions Funding Opportunity

Please accept this memo in response to the conversation on the Oregon Department of Energy's application for US Department of Energy's Collaborations Advancing Rapid Load Additions funding opportunity – called CARLA - at the Ways and Means meeting on February 13, 2026. Specifically, there were questions and comments about the role of Oregon's consumer-owned utilities and future locations of data centers.

Oregon's data center growth is some of the fastest in the country and until recently, there has not been much analysis of both what this means and what it will mean for the energy sector as data center growth continues. ODOE is working on several endeavors now to help understand and best address the varied impacts the growth of data centers will have on our state. This includes being part of Modeling Energy Growth Associated with Data Centers (MEGA-DC), an Oak Ridge National Lab-led effort to develop a new digital, geospatial platform intended to fill knowledge gaps about data centers; supporting the Governor's Statewide Data Center Advisory Committee; writing a Biennial Energy Report Policy Brief on data centers; working with data centers on their implementation of the state's Building Performance Standard; developing our own map of where data centers are located; and, if USDOE accepts the application, being part of the DOE CARLA effort.

The nature of the CARLA opportunity involves a cohort model including a state agency, a utility, a data center entity, and technical consultants. While the state agency serves as lead applicant, the grant would fund Baringa, an energy consultancy, to carry out the work. Baringa led the development of the cohort and partnered with PGE as the utility partner. PGE then brought the project concept to ODOE; ODOE did not design the cohort, though our role in the project will include supporting cohort engagement with a variety of entities in Oregon, which can include any interested utilities.

If the COUs are interested in participating directly in the CARLA opportunity, we would be happy to work with Baringa to incorporate their data and facilitate their participation. This may also require data and engagement from the Bonneville Power Administration. Regardless, the

recommendations that come from this work will be made available publicly and can inform other utilities and entities.

In response to the conversation regarding data center development in certain areas, ODOE does not have visibility on where future projects will be located at this point. Much of what ODOE is doing on this topic involves determining what impact data centers are already having on state resources including electricity and water, and where they can best be located in the future to mitigate their impact. It will be a team effort involving a variety of entities across the state to both gauge where we are and where we are going as data centers continue to operate and expand. This team effort will include consumer owned utilities that wish to engage; ODOE is committed to including consumer owned utilities in all our work.