1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

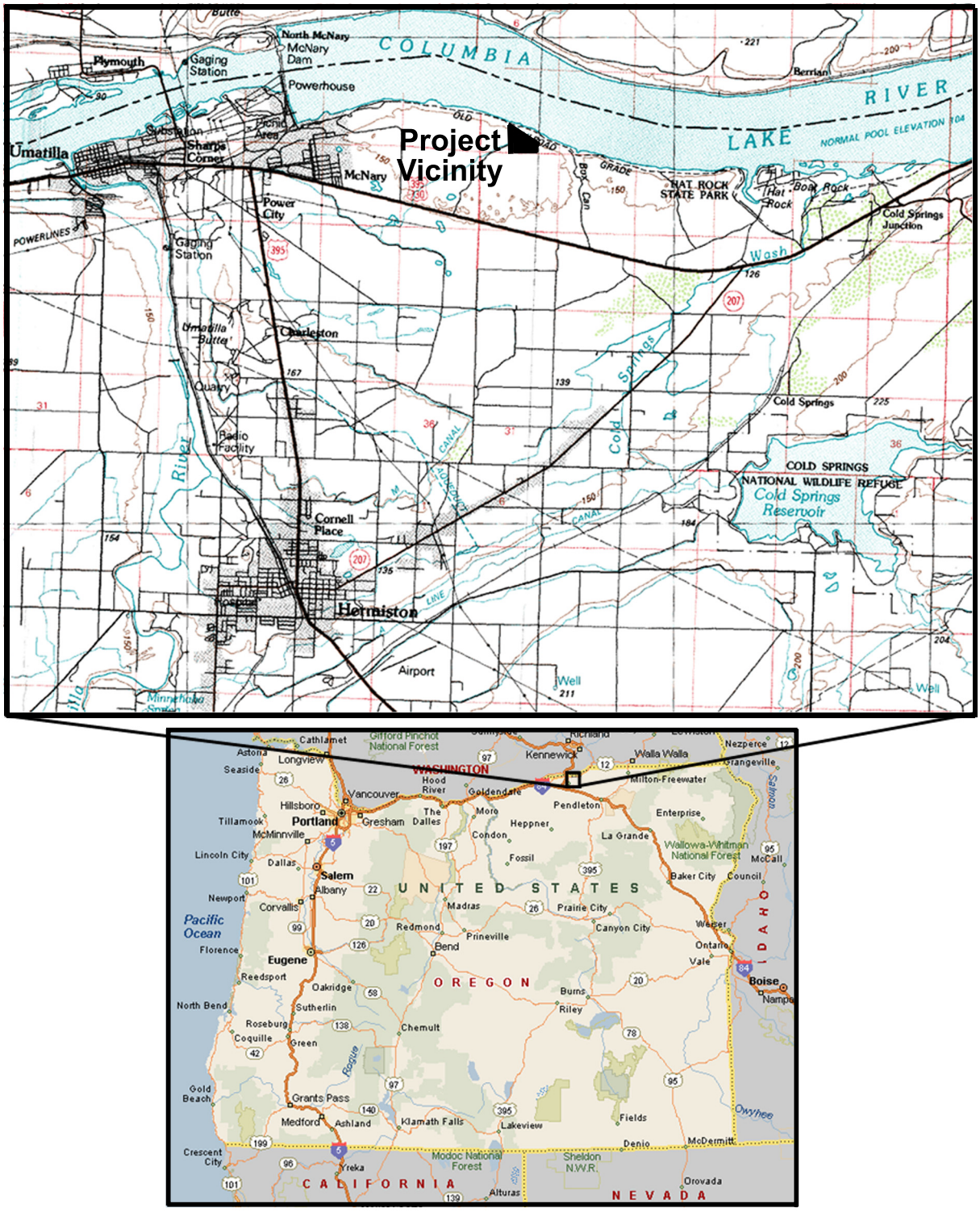
Diamond Wanapa I, LP, (DW) a Diamond Generating Corporation company, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservations (CTUIR) in conjunction with the City of Hermiston, the City of Eugene acting through Eugene Water & Electric Board, and the Port of Umatilla, entered into an agreement to develop and construct a greenfield combined cycle gas/steam turbine (CCGT) electric generating facility. The proposed combined cycle facility is to be known as the Wanapa Energy Center (the "project") and would be located on land held in trust by the United States (U.S.) Government for the benefit of the Tribes near Hermiston, Oregon.

The proposed Wanapa Energy Center would be located approximately 4 miles east of Umatilla, Oregon and 5 miles north of Hermiston, Oregon (**Figure 1.1-1**).

The project would include highly efficient combustion turbines (CTs) generators at the Wanapa Energy Center. Each CT would exhaust through a heat recovery steam generator (HRSG) that can be fired by auxiliary duct burners (DBs). The HRSGs would produce steam to be used on-site in condensing steam turbines. Natural gas would be the sole fuel for the CTs and DBs. The CTs and DBs would employ combustion control technologies (such as dry low-nitrogen oxide [NO_x] combustors) as well as post-combustion controls (such as selective catalytic reduction (SCR) and oxidation catalysts) in order to reduce air pollutant emissions.

The Wanapa Energy Center would incorporate two similar blocks of combined cycle. The nominal capacity of each block would be 600 megawatts (MW). Each block would consist of two CTs, two HRSGs (each with one exhaust stack), one steam turbine (ST), and associated plant equipment. Phase I of the project would include one complete and operable block that would operate independently of the second phase. Phase II would be installed based on market demand for power.

Natural gas would be provided from a new buried pipeline that would extend from the vicinity of Stanfield, Oregon, approximately 10 miles southeast of the plant site. A new 4.4-mile, 500-kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission line would interconnect the proposed project site to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) McNary Substation on the Columbia River. A new water supply pipeline would be constructed between the existing intake structure at the Port and the power plant site. Plant cooling water would be obtained under the City and Port existing water right



Wanapa Energy Center EIS

Figure 1.1-1

Project Location

9/24/03

(***Permit No. 49497***) from the Columbia River. ***Plant discharge water would be transported by pipeline to the Cold Springs Reservoir east of Hermiston, which is part of Reclamation's Umatilla Basin Project. The Hermiston Irrigation District would follow Oregon Water Resources Department requirements to use the water for irrigation and enter into a Warren Act Contract with Reclamation for use of excess capacity in Cold Springs Reservoir. Plant discharge water, once approved, would be utilized to supplement stored agricultural irrigation water and may become available for use as agricultural irrigation water.***

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Wanapa Energy Center Project. The BIA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) on the Wanapa Energy Center Project in the Federal Register dated October 22, 2001. The ***Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are*** cooperating agenc***ies*** for this EIS.

1.2 Purpose and Need

Tthe purpose of the power plant project is to provide a new source of revenue ***to CTUIR*** that would: 1) enhance opportunities for future economic development on the Reservation and Tribal trust lands; 2) provide a new ***diverse*** source of funding for Tribal health, education, and social services; and 3) offer the opportunity to develop a Tribal electrical distribution utility that would serve Tribal members.

1.2.1 Underlying Need for Action

Recent national and regional forecasts project increasing consumption of electrical energy to continue into the foreseeable future, requiring development of new generation resources to satisfy the increasing demand.

The Energy Information Administration provides a National forecast in its report *Annual Energy Outlook (AEO) 2003 with Projections to 2025*:

> Total electricity demand is projected to grow by 1.9 percent per year from 2001 through 2020 (the same as in AEO 2002) and 1.8 percent per year from 2001 to 2025. Rapid growth in electricity use for computers, office equipment, and a variety of electrical appliances in the residential and commercial sectors is only partially

offset by improved efficiency in these and other more traditional electrical applications; however, demand growth is expected to slow as regional and national market saturation is reached for air conditioning and some other applications (**Figure 1.2-1**)

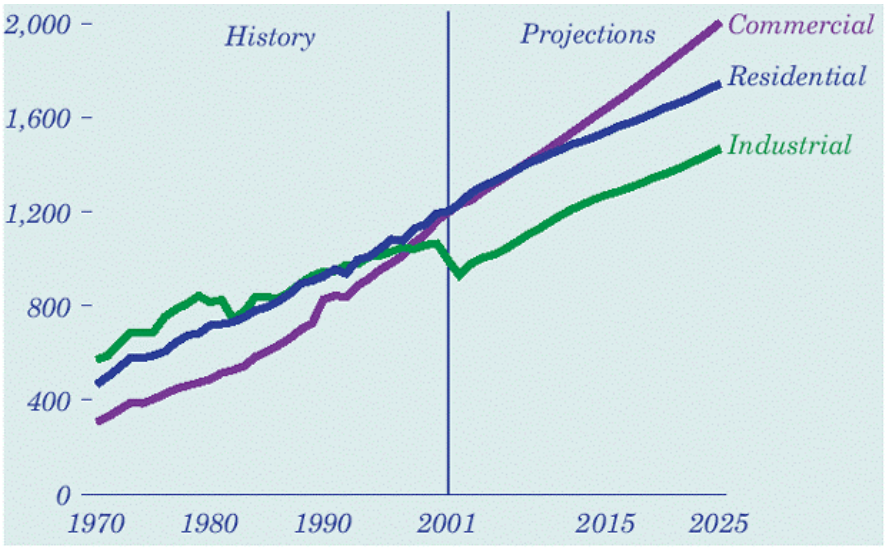


Figure 1.2-1. Annual Electricity Sales by Sector, 1970-2025 (billion kilowatt-hours)

Generation from natural gas, coal, nuclear, and renewable fuels is projected to increase through 2025 to meet growing demand for electricity and offset the projected retirement of existing generating capacity, mostly fossil steam capacity being displaced by more efficient natural-gas-fired combined-cycle capacity brought online in the past few years and still being constructed. The projected levels of generation from power plants using coal, nuclear, and renewable fuels are higher than in AEO 2002 due to higher projected natural gas prices and uprates and life extensions of nuclear plants (**Figure 1.2-2**).

The natural gas share of electricity generation is projected to increase from 17 percent in 2001 to 29 percent in 2025, including generation by electric utilities, (Independent Power Producers), and (Combined Heat and Power) generators (Energy Information Administration 2003).

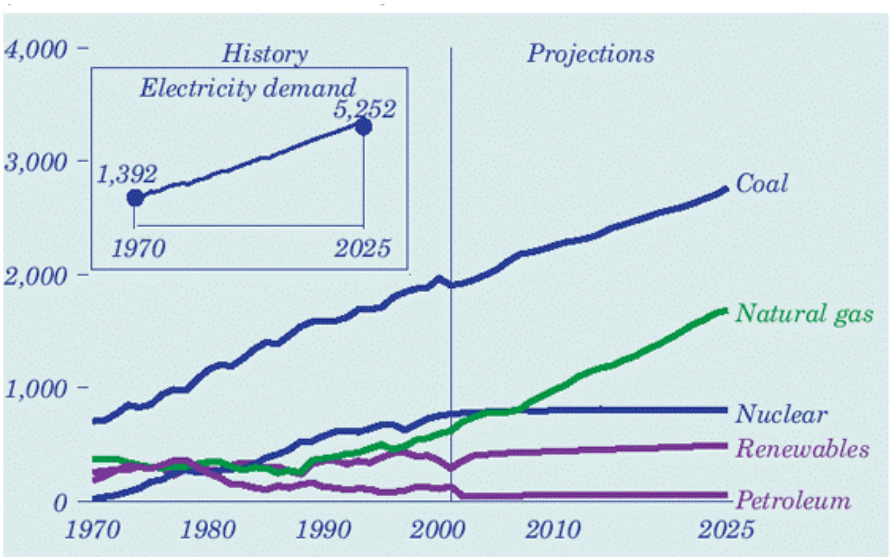
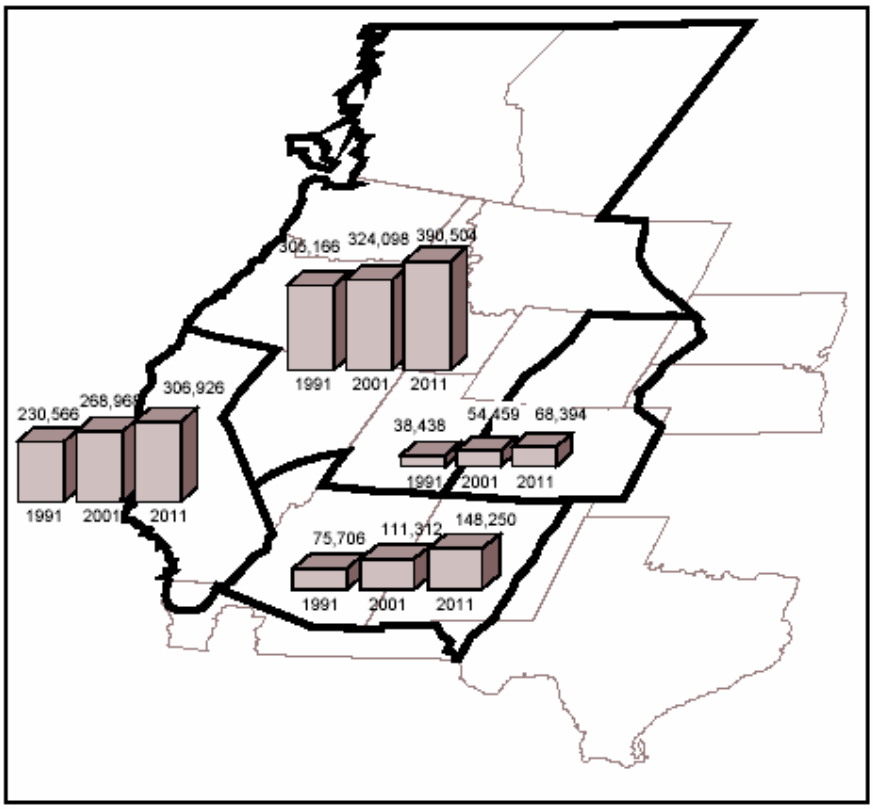


Figure 1.2-2. Electricity Generation by Fuel, 1970-2025 (billion kilowatt-hours)

The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC 2002) forecasts electricity demand in the Western U.S. System-wide, according to their most recent 10-year coordinated plan summary, "The 2001-2011 summer peak demand requirement is forecast to increase at a compound rate of 2.5 percent per year" (**Figure 1.2-3**).

For the Northwest Power Pool Area, WECC forecasts:

> For the period from 2001 through 2011, peak demand and annual energy requirements are projected to grow at respective annual compound rates of 2.5 percent and 1.9 percent (**Table 1.2-1**). With a significant percentage of hydro generation in the region, the ability to meet peak demand is expected to be adequate for the next 10 years. The ability to meet sustained seasonal energy requirements over the 10-year period is dependent on new generation additions (**Figure 1.2-4**).



1991, 2001, 2011 Annual Energy Loads

Figure 1.2-3. Electrical Energy Demand Estimates for the Northwest Power Pool Service Area (1991-2011)

Table 1.2-1
Electricity Demand Increases (2000-2025)

	Actual			Growth Rates	
	2000	**2015**	**2025**	**2000-2015**	**2000-2025**
Low	20,080	17,489	17,822	-0.92	-0.48
Medium Low	20,080	19,942	21,934	-0.05	0.35
Medium	20,080	22,105	25,423	0.64	0.95
Medium High	20,080	24,200	29,138	1.25	1.50
High	20,080	27,687	35,895	2.16	2.35

Source: Northwest Power Planning Council (NWPPC) 2003.

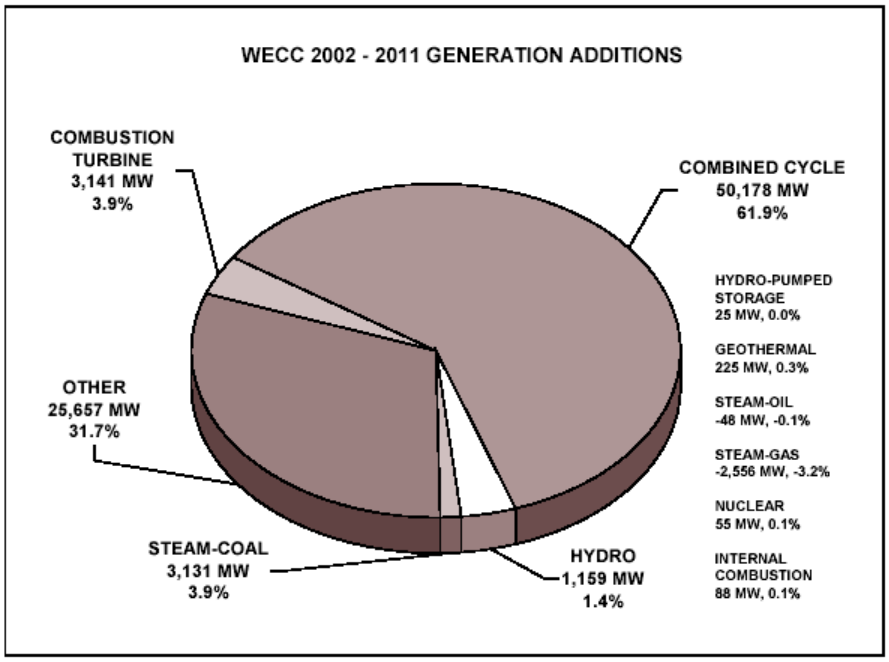


Figure 1.2-4. Predicted Power Generation Additions in the Western U.S. (2002-2011)

Finally, the NWPCC regularly prepares a 20-year forecast of electricity demand in the Pacific Northwest. Electricity demand is forecast to grow from 20,080 average MW in 2000 to 25,423 average MW by 2025 in the medium forecast. The average annual rate of growth in this forecast is just less than 1 percent per year. The most likely range of demand growth (between the medium-low and medium-high forecasts) is between 0.4 and 1.50 percent per year. However, the low to high forecast range recognizes that growth as low as -0.5 percent per year or as high as 2.4 percent per year is possible, although relatively unlikely (see **Table 1.2-1**).

Generation resources typically require interconnection with a high-voltage electrical transmission system for delivery to purchasing retail utilities. BPA owns and operates the Federal Columbia River Transmission System (FCRTS), comprising more than three-fourths of the high-voltage transmission grid in the Pacific Northwest and including extra-regional transmission facilities. BPA operates the FCRTS, in part, to integrate and transmit "electric power from existing or additional federal or non-federal generating units." Interconnection with the FCRTS is essential to deliver power from many generation facilities to loads both within and outside the Pacific Northwest.

In summary, electrical consumers served by the Northwest Power Pool and in other Western states need increased power production to serve increasing demand, and high-voltage transmission services to deliver that power.

Wanapa Energy Center Project would provide a reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally acceptable electric generation source to satisfy base and peak electricity demands within the region. The project would provide electrical power to the local and regional pool.

1.3 Federal Agency Approval Process and Authorizing Actions

NEPA requires that the environmental consequences of a proposed action be determined prior to a final decision on the action is taken by a federal agency. The EIS follows guidelines promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500 through 1508) and the Department of Interior Manual (516 DM 1-6) for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA. The following are the decisions to be made by the lead and cooperating federal agencies.

1.3.1 Bureau of Indian Affairs

1.3.1.1 Trust Responsibilities

The United States Government owes a trust obligation to Indian Tribes. This trust obligation doctrine imposes fiduciary standards on the conduct of the federal government. The Secretary of Interior, through delegation of authority to the BIA must protect and preserve Indian trust assets from loss, damage, unlawful alienation, waste, and depletion. The BIA also must assure that any management of Indian trust assets that the Secretary of Interior has an obligation to undertake promotes the interest of the beneficial owner and supports to the extent it is consistent with the government's trust responsibility the beneficial owner's intended use of the property. The BIA must decide whether to grant a lease for the proposed electrical generating plant on CTUIR trust land located in Section 7, Township 5 North (T5N), Range 29 East (R29E). ***The issuance of a NPDES discharge permit from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) for discharge of plant water would be required as a condition of the lease granted by BIA.*** *If* the BIA decides to grant a lease, the BIA also must decide which natural gas supply/waste water discharge pipeline routes, and which transmission line route to approve in the Record of Decision (ROD). These

decisions would be reached in consultation with BPA ***and Reclamation***, the other federal cooperating agenc***ies***.

Any lease between the CTUIR and the project developers must conform to the requirements provided in Title 25, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 162, Subpart F. The lease agreement must include provisions for adequate bonds and financial guarantees to ensure contractual obligations under the lease including the proper decommissioning of the proposed facility and restoration of the site. The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, the Spill Response Plan, the Emergency Response Plan, the Noxious Weed Control Plan, and the Vegetation Reclamation Plan referenced elsewhere in this document would be attached to and made a part of the lease.

1.3.2 Bonneville Power Administration

Because participants in the Wanapa Energy Center have requested to integrate power from the proposed electrical generating facility into the FCRTS at the McNary Substation, BPA must decide whether and how to grant that request. These decisions include whether to ***connect*** a transmission line ***from*** the ***Wanapa Energy*** Center to the FCRTS, and whether to enter into contracts to interconnect the Center and integrate its power into the FCRTS. If BPA should decide to grant this request, the agency preferred transmission line route ***would*** be documented in the BPA ROD. ***The BPA also would decide whether to build or not to build the transmission line, if requested by the developer.***

BPA intends to base its decision on the following objectives:

- An adequate, economical, efficient and reliable power supply to the Pacific Northwest, including FCRTS electrical stability and reliability;
- Consistency with BPA environmental and social responsibilities; and
- Cost and administrative efficiency.

1.3.3 Bureau of Reclamation

Participants in the Wanapa Energy Center have requested that plant discharge water be discharged into Cold Springs Reservoir, part of Reclamation's Umatilla Basin Project, a federal

irrigation project. Reclamation must decide whether to approve crossing of Reclamation lands and easements, and use of facilities. The decision to permit crossing of lands and easements would consider potential impacts to operations and maintenance of facilities, to irrigation, to Cold Springs National Wildlife Refuge, and to water quality. The decision to permit use of facilities to store water for irrigation use is further dependent upon the Hermiston Irrigation District complying with Oregon Water Resources Department criteria to use the water for irrigation, and then subsequently entering into a Warren Act Contract with Reclamation for use of excess capacity in Cold Springs Reservoir. Reclamation's decision would be documented in a ROD.

1.4 Non-Federal Agency Approval Process and Authorizing Actions

Before construction of an energy facility can occur in Oregon, the project must be approved by the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) by following standards to protect environmental resources under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 345, Division 22, Section 045. However, the proposed electrical generation facility (to be located on tribal land) is exempt from EFSC regulations because of tribal status as a sovereign entity. Ancillary facilities that cross public and private lands (natural gas supply/wastewater discharge pipeline) are subject to EFSC regulations, and would require a separate state-administered process. The natural gas supply/wastewater discharge pipeline appears to be consistent with the local comprehensive land use designation and zoning, subject to further review by EFSC and local jurisdictions.

1.5 Permits, Approvals, and Reviews

This project crosses multiple jurisdictions for permits, approvals, and reviews required for construction and operation. Table 1.5-1 lists federal and tribal agencies with jurisdiction over CTUIR Trust land for development and operation of the plant site. Table 1.5-2 lists federal, state, and local entities with jurisdiction or interest in non-CTUIR lands that would be used for construction and operation of ancillary facilities.

1.6 Project Land Surface Occupancy Agreements

Table 1.*6*-1 provides a summary of the major agreements that would be required to construct various Proposed Action project components depending on land ownership.

Table 1.5-1
CTUIR Trust Land (Section 7, T5N, R29E)
Permits, Approvals, and Reviews Required for Construction and Operation of the Proposed Wanapa Energy Center Project

Agency	Nature of Action	Authority
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs	Lease of CTUIR lands	25 CFR, Chapter 1, Part 84, Section 84.003
	Issue antiquities and cultural resource use permit to excavate or remove cultural resources on federal lands	Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, 16 U.S.C. Section 470aa-470mm; 43 CFR Section 7
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region X	Air Construction (PSD) Permit	40 CFR 52.21
	Acid Rain Permit	40 CFR Parts 72-75
	Title V Operating Permit	40 CFR Part 71
	Risk Management Plan	40 CFR Part 68
	Construction Phase Storm Water Discharge Permit (for facility on tribal lands) / Prepare Notice of Intent and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	40 CFR Part 122; NPDES General Permit for Discharges from Large and Small Construction Activities
	Operational Phase Storm Water Discharge Permit (for facility on tribal lands) / Prepare Notice of Termination (for construction permit), new Notice of Intent and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	40 CFR Part 122; NPDES Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP-2000)
	Prepare and implement SPCC Plan when on-site oil storage exceeds 1,320 gallons	40 CFR Part 112
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Section 7 Consultation process for endangered or threatened species	Endangered Species Act of 1973; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.
U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service	Section 7 Consultation process for endangered or threatened species	Endangered Species Act of 1973; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Review and compliance activities as requested	Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) (36 CFR Part 800)
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Planning Department	Building and Construction Permit, on Section 7	Land Use Planning Code, Umatilla Tribal Statutes (Section 3.190, Subsection 8)
	Temporary sanitation facilities and onsite sewage disposal system, on Section 7	Environmental Health and Safety Code, Umatilla Tribal Statutes (Section 5.015)
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Tribal Historic Preservation Office	Review and compliance activities	National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470-470x-6

Table 1.5-2
All Non-CTUIR Lands (Ancillary Facilities)
Permits, Approvals, and Reviews Required for Construction and Operation of the Proposed Wanapa Energy Center Project

Agency	Nature of Action	Authority
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Review and compliance activities as requested	Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) (36 CFR Part 800)
Bonneville Power Authority	Interconnection Agreement to include project in power grid as capacity allows	Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act, 16 U.S.C. Section 638
	Firm Transmission Agreement to guarantee power capacity for project	Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act, 16 U.S.C. Section 638
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Issue Land Use Authorization/Consent to use permit for discharge of plant discharge water into Cold Springs Reservoir	33 CFR, Section 208; Section 10, Reclamation Project Act of 1939
	Warren Act Contract Approval	43 U.S.C. 523-525 and 43 U.S.C. 2245
	ROW for plant discharge water pipeline crossing of federal lands and facilities	Reclamation Act of 1902; 43 CFR Parts 426 and 429
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs	Ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act	Section 106 Natural Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) (36 CFR 800)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Section 7 Consultation process for endangered or threatened species	Endangered Species Act of 1973; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.
U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (DOT)	Issue permits to cross federal-aid highways	23 U.S.C. Sections 116, 123, 23 CFR Part 645 Subpart B
U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers	Issue Section 404 permit for placement of dredged or filled material in waters of the United States	Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 (40 CFR 122-123); 33 U.S.C. Section 1344; 33 CFR Parts 323, 325
	Issue antiquities and cultural resource use permit to excavate or remove cultural resources on COE lands	Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470) (36 CFR Part 800): Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa *et seq.*)
U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service	Section 7 Consultation process for endangered or threatened species	Endangered Species Act of 1973; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.
U.S. Department of Energy / Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	*Applicable only if PGT or Williams Corp constructs/operates gas pipeline*: Blanket Certificate for authorization for construction and operation of gas pipeline	Natural Gas Act, Subpart F, Part 157

Table 1.5-2 (Continued)

Agency	Nature of Action	Authority
Oregon Office of Energy / Energy Facility Siting Council	*Applicable only if PGT or Williams does not, but another entity does, construct the gas pipeline:* Site Certificate for construction and operation of gas pipeline, water supply and plant discharge pipelines	OAR Chapter 345, Division 22
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Issue National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit for discharges	Federal Water Pollution Control Act, ORS 468B.035, and ORS 468B.050, and in accordance with OAR 340-041 and OAR 340-045.
	Construction Phase Storm Water Discharge Permit (for laterals off of tribal land) / Prepare Notice of Intent and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Submit Notice of Termination when construction is complete	NPDES Storm Water Construction Discharge Permit 1200-C; Federal Water Pollution Control Act, ORS 468B.035, and ORS 468B.050, and in accordance with OAR 340-041 and OAR 340-045.
OR Department of Transportation	Issue permits for oversize and overweight loads	ORS 740, Division 40; ORS 735
	Location of utilities within a state right of way	OAR 734, Division 55
	Highway Crossing (207 / 730)	OAR 734, Division 55
OR Division of State Lands	Issue easements to cross state lands	OAR 141-122-0010 through 141-122-0110
	Wetland delineation / removal and fill	ORS 196.795-990
OR Water Resources Department	Permit to store water in Cold Springs Reservoir	ORS 537.400
	Permit to use water (as irrigation) from CSR	ORS 537.130
OR State Historic Preservation Office	Review and compliance activities on non-tribal land. Permit individuals to test for cultural resources on non-federal public lands. Permit individuals to test a known cultural resource site on private land.	National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 – 470x-6); ORS 390.325; OAR 736-051-0000 *et seq.*
Umatilla County Commissioners	Road crossing permits, land use permits, conditional use permits and licenses for off-site laterals	Umatilla County Development Code
Umatilla County Road Department	Easement for construction within right of ways, for off-site laterals	Umatilla County Road Regulations
City of Umatilla	Permit for sanitary sewer hook-up	City of Umatilla Ordinances
Hermiston Irrigation District	Coordination on laterals crossing district canals	n/a
Stanfield Irrigation District	Coordination on laterals crossing Furnish canal	n/a
Union Pacific Railroad	Permission for laterals to cross RR property	n/a
Pacific Power / Umatilla Electric Cooperative / Qwest Telephone / Cascade Natural Gas / Charter Communications (cable)	Coordination with shared right of way	n/a

Table 1.*6*-1
Wanapa Energy Center
Land Occupancy Agreements

Component	Land Ownership	Agreement(s) for Land Occupancy by Project Components
Plant Site	CTUIR (Beneficial Owner)	BIA lease
Plant site water supply pipeline***,*** access road***, potable water pipeline, and sanitary sewer pipeline***	Port of Umatilla, BPA, CTUIR	BIA lease; BPA crossing permit; right-of-way (ROW) easement from the Port of Umatilla
Electrical transmission line; interconnection with McNary Substation	CTUIR, Port of Umatilla, BPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), private landowners	BIA lease; ROW easements from Port of Umatilla and private landowners; USACE lease
Natural gas supply/***plant*** discharge ***water*** pipelines	CTUIR, Port of Umatilla, BPA, ***Reclamation***, private landowners	BIA lease; BPA crossing permit; ROW easements from Port of Umatilla, ***Reclamation***, and private landowners

1.7 Public Participation and EIS Issues

NEPA requires that the public be provided the opportunity to participate in the EIS process, both before environmental analyses are initiated and after the Draft EIS is completed. The public scoping process was initiated by the publication of the NOI in the Federal Register on October 22, 2001. The NOI announced the commencement of a 45-day scoping period during which time public comments could be received regarding the project. Public scoping meetings were held at the CTUIR Tamastslikt Cultural Institute in Pendleton, Oregon, on October 29 and November 5 and at the Hermiston Community Center in Hermiston, Oregon, on October 30 and November 6, 2001. The meetings were presented in an open house, workshop format. Public comments were provided in written form at the meetings via mail, to the BIA.

A summary of issues resulting from oral and written comments includes the following:

- Concern with keeping financial project benefits in Umatilla County for the local economy;

- Concern about using the remaining allocation of water under the Port of Umatilla existing water rights, which could limit further development;

- Effects of power plant operation on air quality;

- Effects of the cumulative actions on air and water resources;

- Visual effects of the plant lighting at night on the surrounding viewshed; and
- Utilization of existing corridors as much as possible to minimize the effects of new disturbance on environmental resources.

Agency scoping meetings also were held to provide information about the project and identify any agency issues or concerns. Meetings were held at the CTUIR Administration Building in Pendleton, Oregon, on November 27 and the Federal Building in Portland, Oregon, on November 28, 2001. The following issues were identified at the meetings:

- If possible, avoid the Wanaket Wildlife Area in routing pipelines and the transmission line to minimize effects on wildlife species.

- If data gaps are identified for raptors or other sensitive wildlife species, conduct spring surveys to identify their presence in relation to the power plant and linear project components.

- Wetland mitigation should be required for at least a 1:1 replacement ratio.

- Effects of water withdrawal from the Columbia River on federally listed salmon species.

- Concern over the project's ability to obtain water from the Port of Umatilla due to their water withdrawal permit being on hold pending an evaluation of municipal water rights issues.

- Concern about using the remaining allocation of water under the Port of Umatilla existing water rights, which could limit further development.

- Potential impacts of the project on air quality.

- Concern over the project site being exempt from paying Umatilla County property taxes.

- Potential impacts of the project on the local economy and transportation system.

- Discuss if the project would ensure a stable energy supply at a reasonable price in Umatilla County.

- Potential impacts of the project on the present and future use of the BPA system for wind energy production within Umatilla County.
- Concern over where the produced electrical power ***would*** be used.

- Define the life of the project and explain if the facility and infrastructure could be decommissioned.

- Concern over bonding requirements to restore the site if construction of the facility is not completed or the facility is closed.

- Potential conflicts over water use for industrial, agricultural, and protection for listed fish species in the Columbia River.

- Potential impacts of waste disposal on environmental resources.

- Concern over safety risks for the power plant and other project components.

- Describe the impacts of the project on aesthetics.

- Describe how many temporary and permanent jobs would be created by the project.

- Describe the cumulative effects of the Wanapa Energy Center Project and other natural gas projects in the local area (i.e., Hermiston Generating Project, Hermiston Power Partnership, and Umatilla Generating Project) on environmental resources.

The lead agency, BIA, held formal public hearings on December 3, 2003 (Pendleton, Oregon) and December 4, 2003 (Hermiston, Oregon) on the Draft EIS. The hearings were transcribed by a court reporter. No testimony was offered by the public at either meeting.

The 45-day public period on the Draft EIS ended on December 29, 2003. Thirteen comment letters were received by BIA from the public and various state and federal agencies. The original comment letters have been scanned and are included on the left side of each page in Appendix D. The letters were carefully reviewed and responses to the substantive comments contained within each letter are provided on the right side of each page in Appendix D, opposite the applicable letter.