

Pacific Offshore Transmission Solutions

October 2021



Background

In May 2021, POET assembled a group of advisers to assist in establishing a forum where interested parties could share information, discuss, and potentially act on future development of offshore transmission infrastructure to access northern California and southern Oregon offshore wind resources. The initial group recommended that POET initiate a forum with an organizational framework that will: 1) provide sufficient formal structure to support fruitful initial discussions and engagement, and 2) anticipate the likely future need to pivot and grow as the OSW industry develops and opportunities for action emerge. POET has subsequently initiated the Pacific Offshore Transmission Solutions (POTS) Forum, and prior to that the establishment of a steering committee tasked with guiding the formation and direction of the POTS Forum.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the POTS Forum is to provide a mechanism for key parties to share information, facilitate discussion, and potentially act with regard to opportunities, obstacles and solutions associated with future development of shared offshore transmission infrastructures in southern Oregon and northern California.

Guiding Principles

Topics that the POTS Forum may consider include:

- Subsea transmission technologies and systems.
- Sharing relevant past, current, and future studies, research efforts, and advocacy activities.
- Offshore infrastructure development needs, with a secondary focus on considering the linkage with onshore transmission.
- Identifying and addressing additional issues that will be crucial to engagement by key parties in the region to plan for and procure OSW.
- Encouraging entities with transmission planning responsibilities in southern Oregon and northern California to become active in the discussions.
- Identifying new studies, research efforts, and advocacy activities that are needed to advance the policy objective.
- Identifying barriers to OSW generation and transmission development.
- Ownership and financing models for shared regional and interregional offshore transmission infrastructure.
- Identifying key elements of offshore transmission infrastructure solutions that could be considered in future studies and research efforts.

- Identifying linkages between offshore infrastructure planning and opportunities for participation by disadvantaged communities, communities of color, tribes, and local governments.
- Identifying linkages between offshore infrastructure planning and environmental assessments.

Role of POET

POET is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission to promote ocean-based climate solutions. POET is positioned to receive funding from a variety of sources to advance POTS Forum objectives and provide administrative and analytical functions as required to support the Forum's activities. As the convener and administrator of the POTS Forum, POET will:

- Facilitate meetings and encourage dialogue while ensuring that all perspectives are heard.
- Establish clear meeting goals, objectives, and agendas.
- Record and distribute meeting minutes.
- Produce work products such as summaries and findings from POTS Forum activities, and other items as needed to support future actions of the Forum.
- Create a website page dedicated to sharing information relevant to the POTS Forum.

Standing Agenda Items. POTS Forum meetings will generally include the following items:

- Learning session to educate POTS Forum members about offshore transmission technologies, systems, or policies. Presentations may come from POTS Forum members or invited guests.
- Information sharing session for POTS Forum members or invited guest presenters.
- Discussion session to advance collaboration among POET and POTS Forum members.
- POTS Forum administration, including charter revisions, member additions, etc.

Meeting agendas will be created by POET in consultation with Forum members as needed. Agendas will be distributed to members one week prior to each meeting. Forum members may suggest or request items for POET to include in a future agenda at any time.