Ocean Renewable Energy Conference - Offshore Wind Energy

Mark Thompson – Commissioner

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Oregon Public Utility Commission

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Mission: *Our mission is to ensure Oregonians have access to safe, reliable and fairly priced utility services that advance state policy and promote the public interest. We use an inclusive process to evaluate differing viewpoints and visions of the public interest and arrive at balanced, well-reasoned, independent decisions supported by fact and law*.

PUC Intersections with Offshore Wind:

- Integrated Resource Planning
- Resource Acquisition Processes – Competitive Bidding
- Member of Bureau of Ocean Management's Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force
- Interactions with ODOE and other agencies
- Being educated and engaged enough to anticipate trends, opportunities, risks, and challenges of the resource, and to gauge application of regulatory model

Challenges and Opportunities

How do new and nascent resources and technologies fit into existing processes? (IRPs, RFPs)

How do new processes need to be adapted, and will they give us the insights needed to best protect customers and meet mandates and goals of the state?

How will we get a clear picture of the opportunity Offshore Wind represents for Oregon?

Challenges and Opportunities (cont'd)

Whether and how economic development opportunities and non-energy benefits and costs are factored into Oregon's overall approach (through non-OPUC processes)

What unique risks and challenges do the infrastructure needs for offshore wind present, and will they be addressed? (supply chain, work force, etc.)

What lessons can we learn from others? (European and other efforts to date).

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Some Forums to Watch

- Integrated Resource Plans
- Clean Energy Plans
- Northern Grid transmission studies
- Western Resource Adequacy Program implementation
- Western market discussions
- New forums outside of the OPUC (likely)
- California’s efforts