Background

Obsidian Renewables, LLC, is developing the Obsidian Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub (Hub) to bring large-scale green hydrogen production, storage and distribution infrastructure to Oregon and Washington. The Hub will leverage dedicated renewable generation assets with opportunistic purchases of surplus renewable grid power to produce green hydrogen via electrolysis. The project design is for up to 360 metric tons (MT) per day of hydrogen and 150 hours of hydrogen storage to provide reliable supplies from variable renewable resources for backup power, industrial feedstock and reliability services.

On April 5th, the Hub applied for $700 million in federal funds to support the project, including investments to enrich rural community wealth and health through sustainable clean energy economies. If awarded, funds would be directed toward enhanced rural workforce diversification and development, rural and minority business and technology innovation and incubation, accelerated equitable access to renewable hydrogen, and net benefits to local health, water supplies and ecosystems. The Hub is projected to reach independent financial viability once the first production sites begin producing hydrogen.

Regardless of federal funding status, the Hub is committed to contributing to a Just Energy Transition by engaging early and often with labor and community leaders to collaboratively identify community benefit priorities and site suitability.

Labor and Workforce Development

On December 12, 2022, Obsidian Renewables signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council, the Oregon Building Trades Council and the Pendleton Building and Construction Trades Council. The MOU affirms Obsidian’s commitment to negotiate with the councils to develop project labor agreements for the project.

Estimated Federal Funding Timeline

- Pre-Selection Interviews
  Summer 2023

- DOE Selection Notifications
  Expected Fall/Winter 2023

- Award Negotiations
  Expected Winter 2024

To learn more, visit https://pnwhydrogenhub.com
Contact Obsidian Government and Community Liaison: Shannon Souza, P.E.
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Enhanced Community Benefits Enabled by Federal Match Funding

ENVIRONMENT

- Accelerating local air quality improvements and reduced greenhouse gas emissions through the replacement of emitting fossil fuels.
- Supporting regional university and non-profit-led projects focused on water conservation and aquifer recharge.
- Reusing effluent (wastewater) streams to reduce stresses on community source and water treatment systems.
- Investing in aquifer infrastructure to protect human health and Columbia Basin ecosystems.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- Culturally tailored early education through post-secondary outreach and training including bilingual materials, outreach, and instruction.
- Investing in community wealth by extending access to hydrogen and high paying jobs to disadvantaged, rural communities.
- Ongoing consultation and coordination with Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians on site suitability, workforce development, ownership models, Columbia Basin energy vision alignment, among others.

EDUCATION

- Rural workforce diversification and development through capital investment in hydrogen integrated training facilities and professional development classes.
- Support for working adults transitioning to skilled and well-paid jobs supported by the Hub.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Promote rural renewables and hydrogen innovation including business incubators, technical assistance for hydrogen integration, and support for new vendors in the supply chain.
- Collaborating with local economic and workforce development organizations on procurement strategies that result in a minimum of 40% of career opportunities, tax revenue, and air quality improvements flowing to the communities in these areas.

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