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Grant PUD and Obsidian Renewables announce agreement to collaborate on developing hydrogen renewable solutions

The Joint Development Agreement will leverage renewable solar and hydrogen to help Grant PUD meet the growing demand for clean energy

Grant County, Wash. – Grant County Public Utility District (Grant PUD) and Obsidian Renewables will collaborate to design a potential power plant fueled by renewable hydrogen. The project includes a renewable hydrogen production and storage facility to fuel the power plant and help meet Grant County’s growing demand for power.

The hydrogen would be produced by a solar power plant connected to an electrolyzer that will split water into hydrogen and oxygen. The proposed power plant design will use an onsite storage pipeline to hold enough hydrogen so that the plant can operate for up to one week on the stored renewable energy.

“We’re excited to pursue this promising technology with Obsidian and for its potential to provide needed power generation resources for our customers, while also meeting Washington’s clean-energy goals,” Grant PUD CEO Rich Wallen said.

Grant County has several industrial hydrogen users, including developers of an experimental hydrogen-powered aircraft and rocket engines. Surplus renewable electricity generated by the project will potentially create affordable renewable hydrogen for these users.

“This project kicks off the development of Obsidian’s Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub plan to make low-cost renewable hydrogen available to large parts of Oregon and Washington,” Obsidian Director of Hydrogen Development Ken Dagoon said. “Renewable hydrogen will play an important role in the region’s decarbonization goals, and we are proud to take this step towards a green energy future.”

The Obsidian Pacific NW Hydrogen Hub is one of the 33 projects around the nation encouraged to seek funding from the United States Department of Energy (DOE). Obsidian will submit a complete funding application in April, which includes funding for the Grant PUD project.

The DOE plans to select six to 10 hydrogen hubs to receive between \$400 million and \$1.25 billion to connect large-scale clean hydrogen production to consumers. Applications will be evaluated based on several critical factors, including technical merit, financial viability and community benefits. DOE is expected to make final funding awards in the Fall of 2023.

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About Obsidian Pacific NW Hydrogen Hub

The [Obsidian Pacific NW Hydrogen Hub](#) intends to be one of the federally funded renewable hydrogen hubs selected by the U.S. Department of Energy. It will include industrial parks in Oregon and Washington that will be home to new renewable nitrogen/ammonia fertilizer plants supplied through a new dedicated renewable hydrogen storage pipeline.

Obsidian Renewables is proud to have been a leader in bringing large-scale solar to Oregon and promoting it as a reliable and low-cost form of energy. We see exciting possibilities for solving our energy issues with renewable energy storage, hydrogen and other technologies.

About Grant PUD

Grant PUD was founded in 1938 by local residents who envisioned the benefit of affordable electricity for the entire county. It is a public utility providing power and fiber services for Grant County. Grant PUD owns and operates the Priest Rapids Project on the Columbia River in Central Washington. The Priest Rapids Project, comprising Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams, has the capacity to produce more than 2,000 megawatts of clean, renewable and reliable electricity.

Grant County is a rural, predominantly agricultural region. Local ownership and control of power resources have helped the county grow and prosper. Grant PUD's low-cost power has allowed the county to attract new businesses and create more jobs to help drive regional and state economies.