

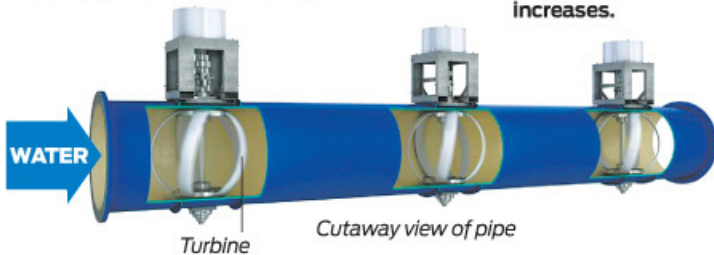
INCENTIVIZING MUNICIPAL CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

HB 3097



ENERGY FROM A WATER PIPELINE

- 1** Water flows through the pipe in either direction.
- 2** The water spins the hydrodynamic turbine.
- 3** As water velocity increases, power production increases.



THE IMPACT

Streamlining the administrative process for obtaining a certificate from WRD to use water for hydroelectric purposes will make it more likely that municipal water systems across the state move forward with in-pipe hydroelectric projects – reducing carbon emissions, creating clean energy, and supporting state and local climate action goals.

BACKGROUND

Utilizing excess pressure within municipal water systems to create renewable energy is an emerging technology that helps local government's meet their climate action goals. Referred to as "in-pipe" or "in-conduit," these projects use a micro-hydro system to transform excess water transmission pressure into clean energy. These projects can generate 200,000+ kWh of carbon-free electricity per year – enough to power 20 homes for a year and reduce more than 162,000 pounds of carbon annually, which equates to over 240,000 driven miles off the road every year.

PROBLEM

ORS 543.765 requires water right holders to apply to the Water Resource Department (WRD) for a certificate to use water for hydroelectric purposes within a water system under the applicant's existing water right. Yet many municipal systems do not own their own water rights. If a municipal water system wants to construct an in-pipe hydroelectric project, it must rely on the water right holder to apply to WRD for a certificate to use water for hydroelectric purposes. The application process requires time and resources from the water right holder – which makes it challenging for a municipal water system that does not own a water right but wants to do an in-pipe hydroelectric project.

SOLUTION

Amending ORS 543.765 to allow municipalities and utility districts to apply directly to WRD for a certificate to use water for hydroelectric purposes within an in-pipe system so long as the applying jurisdiction obtains a written statement of approval from the water right holder will meaningfully reduce barriers to in-pipe hydroelectric projects in communities across the state.

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