

# Oregon Department of **ENERGY**

## **Nuclear Power Presentation**

House CEE Committee

**Maxwell Woods**  
Assistant Director for  
Nuclear Safety and Energy  
Security

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# NUCLEAR POWER HISTORY IN OREGON

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- 1980 Ballot Measure 7 requiring permanent disposal facility for spent nuclear fuel before allowing new nuclear power plants, and statewide vote on future facility. Passed 53 to 47 percent
- PGE Trojan Nuclear Power Plant (Columbia County)
  - Operated from 1976 to 1992
  - Decommissioned and demolished in 1990s and 2000s
  - Reactor and other components shipped offsite for disposal
  - Spent nuclear fuel still safely sitting onsite today
- No national disposal location for spent nuclear fuel; all 90 or so nuclear power plants in USA store spent fuel onsite
- Hanford ≠ commercial nuclear power plant



# NUCLEAR POWER TODAY

- About 3 percent of the electricity Oregonians use comes from nuclear power
- One operating nuclear power plant in the region: Energy NW's Columbia Generating Station, near Richland, WA
  - ODOE leads Oregon's nuclear safety program, specifically focused on the Columbia Generating Station
  - Coordination with state, local, and federal partners
  - Safety is a result of physical design and administrative procedures, including well-trained people, up-to-date plans, and regular exercises
- Nationally, about 20 percent of all electricity produced is from nuclear power
- Investment and interest in nuclear power nationwide: federal, states, private sector



*ODOE sets up an Agency Operations Center to respond to nuclear emergency exercises – as it would in the event of a real emergency.*

# NUCLEAR POWER TOMORROW

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- Investment and technology advances in ‘new nuclear,’ including small modular reactors (SMRs)
  - NuScale from OSU, many other companies advancing new technologies
- Nuclear power: heavily regulated industry, today and tomorrow, this will continue
- Costs of facilities and future power, as well as timelines, are important questions and unknowns
- Tech companies investing in nuclear power technology
  - Amazon investment in “X-Energy,” an SMR firm, to build in Washington State at the existing Columbia Generating Station



**Maxwell Woods**  
Assistant Director, Nuclear Safety and Energy Security  
[maxwell.woods@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:maxwell.woods@energy.oregon.gov)

**Christy Splitt**  
Government Relations Coordinator  
[christy.splitt@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:christy.splitt@energy.oregon.gov)

**For more information:**  
[www.oregon.gov/energy/safety-resiliency](http://www.oregon.gov/energy/safety-resiliency)