

**HB 3336 A    STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**Senate Committee On Energy and Environment**

**Carrier:** Sen. Golden

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**Action Date:** 05/21/25  
**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)  
**Vote:** 4-1-0-0  
**Yeas:** 4 - Golden, Pham, Smith DB, Sollman  
**Nays:** 1 - Robinson  
**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 5/12, 5/21

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure requires electric companies, when filing a resource or grid investment plan with the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) proposing additions, improvements, or modifications to an electric transmission system, to conduct an analysis to determine the cost-effectiveness and timetable of multiple strategies, including strategies that use grid enhancing technologies to increase electricity transmission capacity in Oregon. It also requires electric companies to file a strategic plan for using grid enhancing technologies, when cost-effective, and, establishes a process for local governments to make a decision on an application for upgrading existing transmission lines with grid enhancing technologies.

Detailed summary:

**Defines** "advanced reconductoring" as using a carbon fiber or composite core conductor or superconductor that has a specified decrease in direct current electrical resistance and a specified increase in energy carrying capacity. Defines "electric company" as an electric company that owns and operates an electric transmission system and sells more than two million megawatt hours of electricity in a calendar year to retail electricity consumers in Oregon, but does not include a consumer-owned utility. Defines "grid enhancing technology" as any hardware or software technology that enhances the performance or improves performance efficiency of an electric transmission system including, but not limited to, dynamic line rating, advanced power flow control technology, topology optimization, advanced reconductoring, flexible alternating current transmission systems, or energy storage when used as a transmission resource.

Declares legislative policy. Requires electric companies, when filing a **resource or grid investment plan** with the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) proposing additions, improvements, or modifications to an electric transmission system, to conduct an analysis of alternatives to determine the cost-effectiveness and timetable of multiple strategies, including strategies that use grid enhancing technologies, to:

- increase transmission capacity;
- increase transmission reliability;
- reduce transmission system congestion;
- reduce curtailment of renewable and non-emitting energy resources; and
- increase capacity to connect new renewable and non-emitting energy resources.

Requires electric companies to file and include, as part of the electric company's clean energy plan and the electric company's integrated resource plan filed with the PUC on or after the effective date of this Act, a separate section that provides a **strategic plan for using grid enhancing technologies** where doing so is cost-effective and specifies content requirements. Requires electric companies to update the strategic plan concurrent with the development of each integrated resource plan and make the strategic plan publicly available. Requires an electric

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company's first filed strategic plan to identify short term actions that can be carried out no later than January 1, 2030 and longer term actions.

Establishes that **decisions** regarding applications to upgrade existing transmission lines be made by local governments with jurisdiction over the transmission line, if the upgrade:

- is sited entirely within the existing right-of-way or private easement;
- entails only deployment, construction or instillation of grid enhancing technologies and associated modifications as required to meet national electrical safety standards;
- does not expand the footprint of transmission lines if sited within areas designated for certain statewide land use planning goals; and
- does not include adding additional transmission lines or substations; or modifications to substations or transformers unless within existing footprint.

Stipulates that application decisions:

- must be subject only to clear and objective standards, conditions and procedures;
- may be conditioned upon obtaining necessary approvals;
- do not constitute a land use decision;
- may not be subject to public hearing; and
- may not be appealed except by writ of review.

Excludes transmission line upgrade applications filed on or before effective date of Act. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- 2023-24 interim workgroup process regarding transmission
- Examples of grid enhancing technology
- Process necessary to evaluate when and if grid enhancing technology is the appropriate tool

### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment modifies timing requirements regarding an electric company's strategic plan for using grid enhancing technologies. The amendment also establishes a process for a local government to make a decision on an application to upgrade an existing transmission line with grid enhancing technologies with certain limitations.

#### Detailed Summary:

Expands the stated **policy of the state** to include that electric companies reduce wildfire risk. Modifies requirement that that electric company conduct an **analysis of alternatives** to determine cost-effectiveness and eliminates requirement that analysis include strategies that use grid enhancing technologies to reduce risk of wildfires consistent with comprehensive wildfire plan.

Adjusts the requirement for submitting a **strategic plan** (Plan) for using grid enhancing technologies to require Plans to be submitted concurrent with the development of each integrated resource plan rather than every two years. Clarifies that an electric company's first strategic plan identifies both short term actions that can be carried out no later than January 1, 2030, and longer-term actions.

Establishes that a **decision** on an application for an upgraded to an existing transmission line be made by local government with jurisdiction over the transmission line, provided that the upgrade is:

- sited entirely within the existing right-of-way or private easement;
- entails only deployment, construction or instillation of grid enhancing technologies and associated modifications as required to meet national electrical safety standards;
- does not expand the footprint of transmission lines if sited within certain areas;
- and does not include adding additional transmission lines or substations; or modifications to substation or transformer unless within existing footprint.

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Stipulates decision on application: may be subject only to clear and objective standards, conditions and procedures; conditioned upon obtaining necessary approvals; is not a land use decision; may not be subject to public hearing; and may not be appealed except by writ of review.

Stipulates process in Act does not apply to any upgrade to a transmission line for which an application was filed on or before effective date of Act.

### BACKGROUND:

The need to build more electric transmission lines in Oregon has increased as energy demand and the need to transport more energy to existing and new uses have also increased. According to a 2023 report by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), only 251 miles of high-voltage electricity transmission lines across the country were completed in 2023.

Instead of building new electric transmission lines, utilities can use grid enhancing technologies (GETs) to expand the capacity of the existing lines and improve their performance, capacity, and reliability. Example GETs include **dynamic line rating**, which adjusts power flows in real time based on local weather conditions (such as wind and temperature) to increase the line's capacity; **power flow controllers** that actively manage power flows along specified paths to balance load, improve resiliency, and reduce renewable energy curtailment; and **topology optimization**, which uses software to reconfigure grid circuits, directing electricity around congested lines, improving reliability, and minimizing outages.

A workgroup met during the 2023–24 legislative interim to discuss electric transmission issues and draft potential bill language on related topics.