

HB3247

Presentation

Oregon Citizens for Energy Security
Capt. Robert Weeks
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Both House Bill 3336 and this Bill 3247 make reference to Public Utility approval of steps taken by Electric Companies. By definition in ORS 757.600 those Electric companies exclude “consumer owned” companies such as the Eugene Water and Electric Board.

Eugene Water and Electric board plan to remove the Leaburg Dam and Hydro Electric Plant by the end of their license period in 2040. A part of the decision to remove that plant was driven by more stringent requirements imposed by regulation.

The loss of that power plant was analyzed by EWEB independently from State and Regional needs. Leaburg plant, according to EWEB was capable of supplying power to some 13,000 homes. EWEB has been obtaining replacement power from BPA since 2018.

There are relatively few lines supplying power to the whole state of Oregon, and very few generators. The Department of Energy is already involved in better strategic planning of State electric resources.

Leaburg power plant loss degrades reliability due to longer lines being needed from Bonneville. Its loss harms resiliency and capability in a major emergency. These aspects have received much more attention in the past year by the State, but were not part of the discussion by EWEB in making the decision to remove the dam.

There appears to be a gap in the regulation of Oregon defined consumer owned utilities and privately owned entities.

Work which may prove irreversible, is slated to commence within months, we would urge a timely gap analysis to ensure an opportunity is not lost.

Thank you