

AGENDA ITEM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING () Discussion only
(X) Action

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): County Counsel

SUBJECT: UEC Letter of Support

<p>Background:</p> <p>Umatilla Electric Cooperative is applying to Department of Energy for a cybersecurity grant to upgrade operational networks. A letter of support from the County has been requested. A proposed support letter is before the Board for review and approval.</p>	<p>Requested Action:</p> <p>Approve Letter of Support for UEC grant and authorize the Chair to sign</p>
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ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Letter

*****For Internal Use Only*****

Checkoffs:

- () Dept. Heard (copy)
- () Human Resources (copy)
- (X) Legal (copy)
- () (Other - List:)

To be notified of Meeting:

Needed at Meeting:

Scheduled for meeting on: June 5, 2024

Action taken:

Follow-up:

Board of Commissioners



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Pendleton, OR 97801

Daniel N. Dorran
541-278-6201

John M. Shafer
541-278-6203

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June 5, 2024

Puesh M. Kumar, Director
Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Re: County Support Letter - Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance (RMUC) Program (DE-FOA-0002986), Topic Area 1

Dear Mr. Kumar,

Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC) aims to improve the cybersecurity of its three operational networks by removing cellular communications channels that are exposed to public networks and conduct a phased building out of dark fiber. Grant funding will cover the costs of fiber installation labor, equipment, and training for two UEC employees.

The project involves strategic replacement of vulnerable cellular communications channels in Umatilla County with a more robust and secure dark fiber infrastructure for approximately 19 miles to UEC's Weston Mountain, Mission, Blalock, and Freeway substations. The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners mission is to allocate resources in a transparent manner that effectively and efficiently serve residents of Umatilla County. The proposed UEC RMUC project aligns well with this mission and also addresses the following key county strategic goals: (#2) prioritize county wide communication and information platforms and (#10) recognize and invest in the challenges of maintaining Umatilla County's infrastructure and assets.

This project is a key lever in advancing countywide cybersecurity and grid resilience. On behalf of the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners, we hope it will receive your every consideration for funding. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John M. Shafer
Chair, Board of Commissioners

JMS:bt