

*VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL*

January 13, 2026

Epsita Priye, Chair  
WECC Studies Subcommittee (StS)

Doug Tucker, Senior Staff Engineer  
WECC Studies Subcommittee (StS)

**Subject: Cascade Transmission Project - HVDC Transmission Line: 2026 Annual Supplemental Progress Report**

Dear Ms. Priye and Mr. Tucker:

This letter is the 2026 Annual Supplemental Progress Report for the Cascade Transmission Project (Cascade Project). Cascade Renewable Transmission, LLC (CRT) has a Phase 3 WECC Path Rating for the Cascade Project.

Cascade Project Description

The Cascade Project's 1,100 MW Path Rating is based upon the following Plan of Service:

1. Cascade Project Eastern HVDC Converter Station
  - a. VSC – IGBT based converter rated for 1,100 MW plus line losses for withdrawal at the BPA Big Eddy 500 kV AC substation and conversion to +/- 320 kV<sup>1</sup> DC for transmission.
2. HVDC Transmission Line
  - a. Approximately 98 miles of ±320 kV<sup>1</sup> power cable, symmetrical monopole, in a series combination of submarine and underground cables that connect both the east and west voltage source converter stations.
3. Cascade Project Western HVDC Converter Station
  - a. VSC – IGBT based converter, +/- 320 kV<sup>1</sup> DC to 230 kV AC, rated for 1,100 MW delivered to the Point of Interconnection, injection to the PGE Harborton Substation at 230 kV AC

<sup>1</sup> Recent developments in DC cable manufacturing have led to a +/- 400 KV design which may be a viable solution for the Cascade Project. At this stage CRT is maintaining flexibility to consider both voltage options. The utilization of the +/- 400 KV DC cable would not in any way impact the WECC modeling results for the Cascade Project, however, it may reduce costs. Maintaining flexibility to utilize either voltage may increase cable supplier options, helping to alleviate global supplier constraints.

## Cascade Project Status

### Permitting:

During 2025, the Cascade Project moved forward with its permitting efforts in Oregon and Washington as well as with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and has completed numerous environmental studies to support these efforts. In June 2024, CRT filed an application for permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act with the USACE. The USACE is the lead agency for NEPA review, and on January 5, 2026, determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) is required.<sup>2</sup> While not a guaranteed permitting timeline, statutorily, once an EIS determination is made, the USACE has a 2-year window to complete its review and render its Record of Decision. While NEPA contemplates timeframes for EIS completion, schedules can vary. If approvals are obtained on that timetable, permit issuance could occur in early 2028.

Further, USACE has initiated formal Section 106 consultation with Native American Tribes. In 2025 CRT completed extensive cultural resource surveys in the project area. CRT filed its siting application in Washington (EFSEC) in October 2025, and intends to file its Oregon (EFSC) application in the first quarter of 2026. CRT continues to host all-agency coordination meetings intended to coordinate the delivery of project information and encourage inter-agency cooperation in reviewing the project.

### Interconnection – BPA Big Eddy 500 kV substation and PGE Harborton 230 kV substation:

PGE completed their System Impact Study in 2023, their Facilities Study in 2024, and drafted the Interconnection Agreement for LLIR 22-003 in 2025. The results from the PGE SIS study caused BPA to review and revise their initial SIS study, which they completed in 2024. BPA then started their Facilities Study which is scheduled to be completed in Q1 2026. CRT will need to see the results from the BPA facilities studies to better understand how the Cascade Project Plan of Service completion date of 2032 fits into the bigger scheme of things. At this stage it remains unclear how these estimated dates for completing required system upgrades may impact the Cascade Project’s Plan of Service date.

### Real Estate:

One of the largest challenges for any linear transmission project is the potential for a significant number of real estate counterparties. However, for the Cascade Project, along the 100 mile route, only approximately 20 separate real estate counterparties are required for the terrestrial portion of the Project, the majority of which are public entities.

- Converter Station Sites: For the western converter station CRT has executed an Option Agreement with the Port of Portland for a long-term lease of a parcel of land suitable for the converter station site in close proximity to PGE's Harborton substation. For the eastern converter station, CRT has had discussions with BPA to locate its converter station on land owned by the US Federal Government in close proximity to BPA's Big Eddy Substation. BPA will begin evaluating this siting plan and discussions will continue upon completion of the Facilities Study, expected in Q1 2026.
- Submarine ROW: Approximately 83 miles of the Cascade Project route are in the Columbia River. The rights to lay the cables in the River are granted through the USACE permitting process discussed above and easements with Oregon and Washington.
- Terrestrial ROW: The Cascade Project has obtained easements from the most critical private counterparties along its route and has provided a draft easement application to the USACE for review.

WECC Path Rating:

CRT, being in Phase 3, continues to move forward with development activities, with a strong focus on permitting and interconnection studies with multiple Agencies as evidenced in this Supplemental Progress Report.

Plan of Service:

CRT initially planned to have the first elements of the Cascade Project placed in service at the end of 2027. Based on the feedback from both BPA System Impact Study and PGE Facilities Study Reports regarding the timing of completing required system upgrades, permitting timelines and anticipated global supply constraints, the current development timeline is pointing towards a planned in service date in 2032.

Contact Information:

Any questions about this report or the Cascade Renewable Transmission Project can be directed to:

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Sincerely,

*Bryan Sanderson*

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Cascade Renewable Transmission, LLC