

# **Klamath Falls Irrigation – PV Demonstration Project Project Briefing**

November 8, 2005

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## **Summary**

Staff is working with PacifiCorp to install a 23-kW DC solar PV system on the Hartman Farm in the Lower Klamath Basin in south central Oregon. The PV project will demonstrate how renewable energy can be used to help meet the needs of irrigators and will serve as a potential model for other solar projects. Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc. is teaming with PacifiCorp and Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (Northwest SEED) in its support of this effort. This briefing is intended to inform the RAC that staff is pursuing this opportunity with PacifiCorp, and to solicit input on the general model of cooperation that is described below.

## **Background**

For almost 50 years, PacifiCorp has served irrigators located in the Klamath Basin under two historic contracts that provide rates well below what other irrigators in Oregon served by PacifiCorp pay. These contracts will be expiring in 2006 and new contract rates proposed by PacifiCorp are 10 to 15 times greater than the current rates.

Energy Trust has launched an energy efficiency program that offers assistance to Klamath Basin irrigators. The program consists of a nozzle exchange program, pump testing and pump repairs and upgrades. By adding renewable energy to an energy efficient farm, the goal would be to demonstrate a viable, long-term operational model for the region.

Energy Trust has committed up to \$40,000 in funding for the project. Funding from the Energy Trust for this project will be capped at the above-market cost of energy delivered into the PacifiCorp grid from this PV system, net of any available state or federal tax credits and other subsidies. PacifiCorp will be contributing approximately \$64,000 and Harold Hartman will be contributing \$30,000 to the project.

Harold Hartman has been awarded a USDA 9006 grant of \$49,335 for the solar PV project. The grant application was written by Northwest SEED with input from Energy Trust and PacifiCorp. Financial assistance to Northwest SEED for the grant writing was provided by Energy Trust.

Energy Trust will participate with PacifiCorp in an RFP process to select a solar electric contractor that will design and install Mr. Hartman's system. The RFP is anticipated to be released in December 2005, with installation of the system taking place in the spring of 2006, prior to the start of the irrigation season.

The PV system will be required to meet Energy Trust technical requirements for solar electric installations and the installation will be performed by either a (i) Solar Trade Ally contractor, or (ii) a licensed electrician that has completed a solar installation training course approved by Energy Trust

### **Committee and Public Review**

Staff requested comments on this proposal from the RAC on November 16, 2006. The project will be presented to the Board for informational purposes on December 14, 2005.