



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 4, 2024

SUBJECT: Newberry Geothermal Project Update

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

None—information only.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Since 2012, AltaRock Energy of Seattle has conducted research at the Newberry National Volcanic Monument in the Deschutes National Forest to determine the feasibility and viability of enhanced geothermal systems for renewable energy production. The purpose of the project is to develop and test geothermal reservoir technology and its potential to generate electricity in areas that have underground heat but little or no natural water.

The Bureau of Land Management issued a lease for this research, which involves a 10,000-foot deep geothermal well. Other project partners are the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Oregon State University.

A significant amount of data has already been collected at this site. New work, which is scheduled to commence the second week of September, will aid in developing advanced modeling scenarios for further research and development.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

None

ATTENDANCE:

David Stowe, The Ardell Group