

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Central Lincoln Awarded Nearly \$10 Million in Federal “Smart Grid” Funds**

The U.S. Department of Energy has announced that the Central Lincoln People’s Utility District has been chosen to receive \$9,894,450 in grant funding in a highly-competitive national process. Central Lincoln is the only utility in Oregon to be selected for negotiations for federal Smart Grid funding—the only other Oregon recipient is a cooperatively-owned power service serving portions of several western states.

The federal Smart Grid funds will expand Central Lincoln’s power system reliability efforts which have been underway for some fourteen years with the installation of fiber optic cable throughout the Central Lincoln service area, installation of test meters, and upgrading computer systems. Central Lincoln will be installing “smart meters” at homes and businesses, empowering customers to manage their energy use more efficiently via in-home digital displays, and control of their electrical appliances. The project will allow Central Lincoln workers to improve on the utility’s more than 99% reliability rate by electronically monitoring lines and equipment, identifying potential problems to prevent outages, and electronically pinpointing outages when they do occur so repairs can be made quickly.

“Through careful budgeting and savings, Central Lincoln had budgeted \$9 million for a much-needed Smart Grid project,” said Central Lincoln general manager Paul Davies. “While we haven’t received the final details, the federal funds will nearly double our project’s size, providing greater benefits to our customers.

I am proud the U.S. Department of Energy chose our application for funding. Our staff worked very hard to ensure our application was top-notch, and this award shows we competed quite favorably on a national level. I want to thank U.S. Senators Wyden and Merkley and Representative Schrader for their support of our grant request, as well as Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, the Oregon Department of Energy, State Senator Joanne Verger, Representative Jean Cowan, and our mayors and other folks who wrote letters of support for our Smart Grid application.”

Oregon State University is a partner in Central Lincoln's federal grant application—OSU faculty will analyze data generated and methodologies used during the effort to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of Central Lincoln's federal Smart Grid efforts during the next four years.

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability plans a briefing for all grant recipients in mid-November. Detailed discussions and negotiations with grant recipients will begin after the briefing.

The Central Lincoln People's Utility District is Oregon's fourth-largest electric utility, serving some 700 square miles and approximately 83,500 people in portions of Douglas, Coos, Lane, and Lincoln counties. Central Lincoln is not-for-profit, and is publicly-owned, meaning it was created by voters to serve the public.

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