



CALL FOR INFORMATION

State of Alaska Land Use Authorizations for Large-Scale Renewable Energy Development

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

June 20, 2024

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR, department), pursuant to Governor Dunleavy's May 2, 2024 Administrative Order No. 355, is conducting a thorough review of current state statutes and regulations that govern the authorization of the use of state land for large-scale renewable energy project development. The department is seeking information on this matter as described in this notice. We will accept information at any time, but encourage you to submit information by Friday, August 16, 2024, so that it can be incorporated into the final report. Please note that any information you provide will be subject to inspection, copying, and distribution as public records under Alaska Statute 40.25.110-40.25.220.

What is Administrative Order No. 355?

Administrative Order No. 355 (AO 355), issued May 2, 2024, acknowledges that because Alaska's workforce is already skilled in large-scale energy project development, opportunities exist to expand development of the state's abundant renewable resources. In the order, Governor Dunleavy articulates goals of lowering energy costs for Alaskans and increasing the state's global competitiveness by investing in Alaska energy projects and fostering an environment that is conducive to renewable energy project development across the state.

In support of these goals, AO 355 directs DNR to conduct a thorough review of current state leasing and permitting statutes and regulations applicable to large-scale renewable energy project development in Alaska. During this review process, DNR will host a forum with stakeholders including energy developers that will be open to the public. The review will culminate in the development of a report due to the Governor's Office by October 1, 2024. The report will include a strategic plan with recommendations aimed at ensuring the state's leasing and permitting statutes and regulations applicable to large-scale renewable energy project development are efficient, effective, and competitive. The report is informational and is not a decision-making document. The report will not address the development of specific renewable energy projects. Any future decisions regarding

the use of state land or resources for renewable energy project development will follow the state's permitting and leasing procedures, including opportunity for public comment.

To read the full text of AO 355, visit the Governor's website: <https://gov.alaska.gov/admin-orders/administrative-order-no-355/>

What information is DNR requesting?

DNR is requesting information from the industry, subject matter experts, and the public regarding the statutes, regulations, and policies related to authorizing the use of state land and resources for the development of large-scale renewable energy projects. Specifically, we invite industry, subject matter experts, and the public to respond to the following prompts:

- What changes to the existing statutes, regulations, or policies that authorize the use of state land for large-scale renewable energy development are needed to foster future development in Alaska?
- Describe current processes and industry needs for project investigation, feasibility study, and development of large-scale renewable energy projects.
- Identify authorization process hurdles currently encountered during large-scale renewable energy project development.
- What common hurdles to large-scale renewable energy project development exist in other states? What policies, statutes, or regulations in other states are supportive?
- Do DNR authorization timeframes (time between initial identification of an area to authorizations issued) align with those of other similar authorizations (e.g., other state, federal, or municipal authorizations)?
- How should we define "large-scale" in the context of renewable energy feasibility assessment and development?
- Would it be useful for DNR to present existing processes at the August forum?

How will DNR use the information I provide?

AO 355 requires DNR to develop and submit a report to the Governor by October 1, 2024, detailing the findings and proposed recommendations that emerge from the review process. This report will also include a strategic plan for implementing the recommended changes. The department will use information provided by industry, subject matter experts, and the public to inform our review of existing statutes, regulations, and processes and development of the report.

Information provided to the department will be subject to inspection, copying, and distribution as public records under Alaska Statute 40.25.110 – 40.25.220. Do not include information that is not appropriate for public consumption.

What is the current authorization process for the use of state land for large-scale renewable energy projects in Alaska?

A summary of current land and resource use authorization procedures are posted on the DNR website at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/ao355/>. This website also provides links to relevant state statutes and regulations.

How do I submit information to DNR?

Send information to:

By mail: Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land & Water
Program Support Section
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1070
Anchorage, AK 99501-3579

By email: DNR.RenewablesReport@alaska.gov

Please note that information provided will be subject to inspection, copying, and distribution as public records under Alaska Statute 40.25.110 – 40.25.220.

To allow sufficient time for DNR to incorporate your information into the final report, we encourage submittal by 5:00 pm on Friday, August 16, 2024. We will accept information submitted after this deadline, but information received after this date may not impact the final report.

When providing information, please be as specific as possible. For example, if the information is from a published study, please provide a copy of the study or a complete reference citation so DNR staff can obtain a copy for consideration. The State of Alaska, Department

of Natural Resources, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who needs special accommodation to participate in this process, please contact the Division of Mining, Land and Water at 907-334-2683 no later than July 19, 2024, to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided for the public forum.

How can I find out more information?

Website

Visit the DNR website for background information and links to current statutes and regulations:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/ao355/>

Forum Open to the Public

DNR will host a forum open to the public on August 2, 2024, from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Atwood Conference Center in Anchorage (Robert B. Atwood Building, 550 West 7th Avenue, Room 106, Anchorage, AK 99501)

The format of the forum will be an informational exchange between DNR and invited industry and subject matter experts working in large-scale renewable energy development. The public is invited to observe and learn; there will be no in-person public testimony or comment opportunity at the forum.

If you would like to be considered for an invitation to present information at the forum, send an email with your name, organization, and a description of the information you can provide in a short presentation to DNR.RenewablesReport@alaska.gov by July 12, 2024.

You do not have to attend in person. A virtual option will be available for participation or observation. For a virtual forum link and for location and parking information, visit the DNR website at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/ao355/>.