



*ODOE has numerous emergency preparedness responsibilities, including nuclear, radioactive material transportation, petroleum shortages, and LNG terminal operations.*



**The Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant near Richland, Wash. is about 35 miles north of the Oregon border.**

Oregon Department of Energy  
625 Marion St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-378-4040 or toll-free in  
Oregon 1-800-221-8035  
[www.oregon.gov/energy](http://www.oregon.gov/energy)

November 2011

## **A variety of emergency preparedness responsibilities**

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is responsible for preparing for and responding to nuclear emergencies, the transport of radioactive materials, petroleum disruptions or shortages, and emergencies related to the operation of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal.

### **Nuclear emergency preparedness**

About 26,000 Oregonians live in the communities of Boardman, Irrigon, Hermiston and Umatilla, which are located within the 50-mile nuclear emergency planning zone for both the Hanford nuclear site and the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) nuclear power plant.

A fire, explosion, or other accident involving Hanford's contaminated facilities or underground waste storage tanks could cause an airborne release of radioactive materials. Similarly, an accident at CGS could also cause an airborne radioactive material release.

The State's primary concern in either instance would be to protect Oregonians from consuming contaminated food products and restricting movement of these products into the marketplace. ODOE works with Morrow and Umatilla counties and with several state agencies to regularly test the nuclear emergency preparedness program. Biennial reviews by the Federal Emergency Management Agency have consistently found that Oregon's nuclear emergency preparedness program can:

- effectively alert and mobilize emergency responders;
- provide timely and accurate information to the public and news media;
- issue and implement appropriate protective action recommendations to protect public health and safety; and
- sample, process and analyze potentially contaminated soil, vegetation, air and water.

### **The safe transport of radioactive material**

Radioactive materials travel in and through Oregon on a daily basis. Carriers transport small amounts of radioactive materials on Oregon highways for industry and medicine. Most of these shipments pose a low risk because of the nature of the cargo. Also transported on state highways are radioactive waste shipments going to and from the Hanford nuclear site and associated commercial facilities located in the same area. On average, there are 400 to 500 such shipments each year.

ODOE works with local emergency responders and other state and federal agencies to ensure the safe transport of these materials. Emergency responders receive training and radiation detection equipment along the transportation corridors. Because of the proximity of the Hanford site, by far the largest numbers of radioactive material shipments in Oregon occur in the

northeast part of the state, on Interstates 82 and 84. Trucks transport most of the radioactive material shipments in Oregon.

### **Ensuring petroleum for emergency uses**

Oregon receives more than 90 percent of its refined petroleum products from four refineries in the Puget Sound area of Washington state. The refineries transport their products to Oregon through the Olympic Pipeline and via barge. The bulk of Oregon's oil enters through the Port of Portland to eight petroleum delivery stations located on the Willamette River near Swan Island. While the current system of supplying and distributing petroleum products in Oregon is effective, the state has virtually no refining capacity and no crude oil reserves; therefore, Oregon faces unique challenges in the event of a petroleum shortage.

ODOE developed and maintains a statewide contingency plan in response to severe or long-term petroleum shortages or disruptions that affect the state. Oregon's Petroleum Contingency Plan includes a fuel allocation program that provides gasoline and diesel to state emergency services such as law enforcement, fire, and medical services and to essential service providers that include utilities, telecommunications, public works, public transit and sanitation services. An ODOE official or a state designee (as appropriate) would implement the plan by coordinating a rapid response from industry, federal, state, and local organizations with a goal to restore the fuel supply and distribution system while minimizing the effect to Oregonians.

ODOE implements the plan or portions of the plan as appropriate.

### **Liquefied natural gas terminal operations**

ODOE is responsible for developing and operating an emergency response plan that protects Oregonians during the operation of an LNG terminal within the state. Two such proposed facilities—one in Coos Bay and one near Astoria on the Columbia River—remain active in the federal siting process. ODOE works with the LNG developers, the U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) and state and local emergency response organizations to develop and implement a comprehensive emergency response plan prior to the operation of an LNG terminal.

The plan will include alert and notification procedures as well as emergency response measures and actions to protect the public during an LNG emergency. The plan will also ensure a consistent federal, state and local response to an LNG emergency in Oregon, regardless which import terminal and local community is impacted. ODOE also works with the USCG to assess waterway suitability for the transit of LNG shipments and reviews facility security plans to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations.



**Oregon relies on Puget Sound-area refineries for nearly all of its petroleum products**