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## **Rye Development Pledges to Use Union Labor to Construct Swan Lake Energy Storage Project**

*~ Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council Inks MOU with Developer ~*

PORTLAND, Oregon, February 18, 2020—The Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council, which represents a diverse membership of skilled labor, and Rye Development, a leading developer of new low-impact hydro power energy generation and energy storage in the United States, announced today the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding construction of the Swan Lake Energy Storage Project.

“Swan Lake Energy Storage will create an estimated 1,440 full-year equivalent construction jobs and almost 2,000 induced jobs in supporting industries during its 4-year construction period,” remarked Drew Waits, Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council. “This represents a tremendous number of well-paying local construction jobs in southern Oregon, as well as valuable apprenticeship opportunities for the next generation of skilled tradespeople.”

[Swan Lake Energy Storage](#) is a proposed \$800 million, 394 megawatt pumped hydro facility that could help support Oregon’s transition toward 100 percent renewable energy by powering almost 400,000 homes with clean energy when running at full power. The project will be located 11 miles northeast of Klamath Falls, Oregon, where the community has welcomed the facility as a unique opportunity for the region.

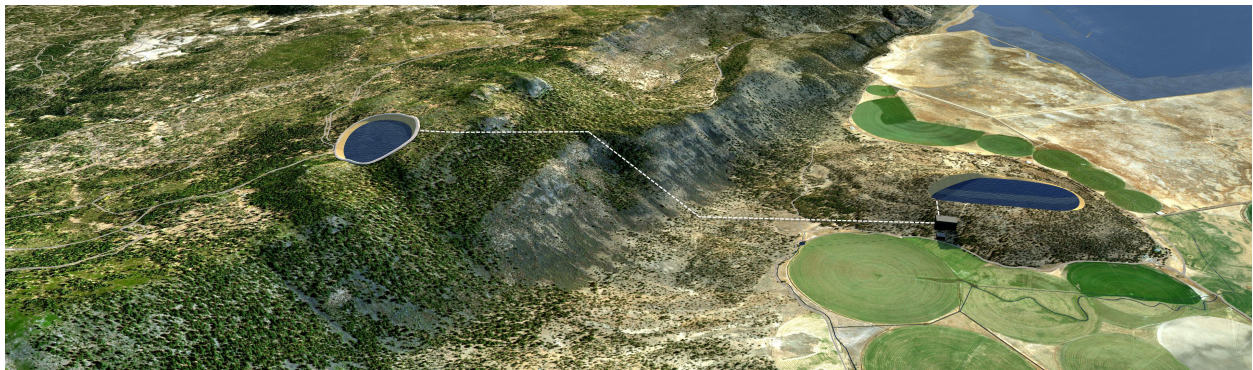
“We’re extremely pleased to have this commitment from Rye Development,” said Robert Camarillo, Executive Secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council. “Oregon needs more clean energy infrastructure, and our highly skilled members are ready, willing and able to build the Swan Lake Energy Storage project.”

Oregon has set ambitious goals to decarbonize the state’s electricity supply. Successfully meeting them hinges on the ability to replace retiring coal plants with clean capacity resources that can produce energy when needed to ensure reliable electricity service even during extremely hot or cold weather conditions. Recent studies have found that the Pacific Northwest could face significant capacity resource shortages of 7,000 megawatts by 2025, and as much as 10,000 megawatts by 2030, and that currently planned resource additions are insufficient to fill the gap.

“Swan Lake can be online by 2025 and help ensure Oregon and other states can achieve their aggressive climate targets,” explained Erik Steimle, VP of Project Development with Rye Development. “Pumped hydro facilities like Swan Lake offer a proven, reliable energy storage technology that can serve as a clean capacity resource and produce zero-carbon power regardless of time of day, weather conditions or other restrictions. In addition, pumped hydro facilities have 50 to 100-year operational lifespans, which makes them the most cost-effective energy storage technology available.”

Signed on February 6, the MOU stipulates that the Swan Lake Energy Storage project will be built pursuant to a project labor agreement (PLA) between the Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council and the project's contractor, and that contractors and subcontractors on the project will recognize the Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council as the sole and exclusive bargaining representative of the employees who perform the work defined in the scope of the PLA. In exchange, the Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council and its member unions agree to prioritize and support the Swan Lake project as one of its key opportunities to provide jobs to union members.

In 2019, the Oregon Legislature passed a [joint resolution](#) in support of environmentally appropriate pumped storage and calling for Oregon utilities to consider integrating it into their systems. Portland General Electric has identified pumped storage as one of the key technologies it will pursue to meet its increasing capacity needs.



*Artist's rendition of the planned Swan Lake Energy storage project, courtesy of National Grid Ventures.*

### **About the Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council**

The Southern Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council is one of six regional councils that comprise the [Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council](#), which represents 30 member unions and more than 40,000 highly skilled tradeswomen and tradesmen across the state. These women and men are an intricate part of Oregon's workforce and economy and are at the cutting edge of using the latest in renewable and sustainable technologies and practices, including unmatched understanding of LEED® building and certifications.

### **About Rye Development**

[Rye Development](#) is a leading developer of new low impact hydro power energy generation and energy storage in the United States. Rye is committed to the responsible development of untapped hydropower resources while maintaining rivers' balance of environmental and commercial requirements. Rye brings communities around the country substantial infrastructure, job creation, and a local source of renewable, non-consumptive energy.

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