

# PUBLIC NOTICE



## Notice of Intent for Echo Solar Project

### Summary:

Date Issued: June 10, 2022

(NOTE: This version contains a corrected webinar link for the July 27, 2022, Informational Meeting.)

Proposal: Up to 1,250-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic power generation facility located within an approximately 10,900 acre (17 sq. mile) site boundary on private land zoned for Exclusive Farm Use.

Location: Morrow County, approximately 15 miles northeast of Lexington on Highway 207.

Public Comment Deadline: August 5, 2022

Public Informational Meeting: July 27, 2022, 5:30 pm (Details provided below.)

**Introduction:** On May 10, 2022, the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE or Department) received a Notice of Intent to File an Application for a Site Certificate (NOI) for a 1,250-megawatt solar photovoltaic power generation facility in Morrow County, Oregon. The NOI was submitted by Echo Solar, LLC (applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of Pine Gate Renewables, LLC.

Because the proposed facility would occupy more than 1,280 acres of predominately cultivated land, the applicant must obtain a Site Certificate from the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) prior to the construction and operation of the proposed facility. The applicant expects to submit its preliminary Application for Site Certificate (ASC) in early 2023.

ODOE is now accepting public comments on the NOI. Comments must be submitted by August 5, 2022, to be considered. Additional information on the proposed facility and location, and how to participate in the review of the NOI are provided in this Notice.

**Proposed Facility Description:** As described in the NOI, the Echo Solar Project would consist of up to solar photovoltaic arrays with up to 1,250 megawatts of generating capacity, 7,500 megawatt hours of distributed battery storage capacity, substations, an

operations and maintenance building, and other structures including roads, perimeter fencing and gates. The proposed facility would interconnect with the existing Umatilla Electric Cooperative 230-kV Blue Ridge Transmission Line.

**Proposed Facility Location:** The proposed facility would be located within an approximately 10,900 acre (17 sq. mile) site located adjacent to Highway 207 approximately 4 miles west of Butter Creek Junction and 15 miles northeast of Lexington. The site consists entirely of private land zoned for Exclusive Farm Use in Morrow County.

A map of the proposed facility site boundary is attached to this notice. An online map of the proposed site and a full copy of the NOI is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/ESP.aspx>

**EFSC Review Process:** ODOE serves as staff to EFSC and conducts much of the EFSC review process. Before submitting an ASC, each applicant must submit an NOI providing information about the proposed facility and site. The information provided in the NOI, and any comments provided by state and local agencies, tribal governments and the general public are used to prepare a Project Order outlining the requirements for the ASC.

The review of an ASC is a consolidated process to determine whether a proposed facility meets the EFSC standards established under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) chapter 345, divisions 22 and 24; other Oregon statutes and administrative rules applicable to the issuance of a site certificate; and Oregon's statewide land use planning goals adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

Under ORS 469.504(4), an applicant must elect to demonstrate compliance with the statewide planning goals either by obtaining land use approval from the affected local government, or by obtaining EFSC's determination of compliance. At this time, the applicant has indicated that it intends to obtain the EFSC's determination of compliance. The Morrow County Board of Commissioners will be appointed as

the Special Advisory Group for the EFSC review. If the applicant later elects to obtain local land use approval for all or part of this facility, any person interested in land use issues should participate in that land use process.

**Public Participation:** There are several opportunities for public participation and comment during the EFSC process.

The first is the public comment period on the NOI, which is currently open. As described below, the Department and applicant will also provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments and ask questions about the proposed facility and review process at an informational meeting on the NOI. Public comments on the NOI will be used to inform the Project Order, which establishes the legal and study requirements for the ASC.

After the ASC is submitted and determined to be complete, the Department will issue public notice and hold another public informational meeting. Following the issuance of the Department's Draft Proposed Order (Department's first recommendation to EFSC about whether or not the application meets all applicable requirements), a public hearing and comment period will be scheduled to provide an opportunity for the public to provide oral and written testimony on the application and Draft Proposed Order.

After reviewing testimony given at the public hearing on the Draft Proposed Order, the Department shall issue a Proposed Order recommending approval or rejection of the application. EFSC will then conduct a contested case hearing on the ASC before issuing its Final Order approving or rejecting the application.

Public Notice will be given prior to any future public comment periods, informational meetings, or hearings.

**Public Comments:** Public comments on the NOI are encouraged to help ODOE and the applicant identify issues and concerns early in the process. This notice initiates the public comment period on the NOI.

**Comments must be received by August 5, 2022, to be considered in the development of the Project Order.**

ODOE has a new online portal for submitting public comments. The goal of the online portal is to provide members of the public with another convenient option to participate in Council rulemaking proceedings. The portal can be accessed at:

<https://odoe.powerappsportals.us/SitingPublicComment/>

To comment on this project, select "Echo Solar Project" from the drop-down menu and follow the instructions. You will receive an email confirmation after submitting your comment.

Written comments may be submitted in writing by mail, e-mail, or by fax. Please send comments to:

Oregon Department of Energy  
ATTN: Christopher Clark, Senior Siting Analyst  
550 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: (503) 871-7254  
Fax: (503) 373-7806  
Email: [christopher.clark@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:christopher.clark@energy.oregon.gov)

**Please Note:** The submission of comments does not automatically register you to receive notices. If you would like to receive notices for this proposed facility or any other EFSC project, please sign up here: <http://web.energy.oregon.gov/cn/a6n53/subscribe>

**Informational Meeting:** The Department and applicant will also host a public informational meeting to provide an additional opportunity for the public to provide comments and ask questions about the proposed facility and review process.

**Date and Time:** July 27, 2022, 5:30 pm

**Join in Person:**

Port of Morrow Riverfront Center  
Riverfront Room  
2 East Marine Drive  
Boardman, Oregon 97818

Join via WebEx at ([corrected link](#)):  
<https://odoe.webex.com/odoe/onstage/g.php?MTID=e72376096e72723512e3d739831985252>

Event number: 2349 256 7808

Event password: EFSC

Join by Phone: +1-844-992-4726 (Toll Free), Access Code: 2349 256 7808

Oral comments on the NOI will be accepted at the informational meeting. The informational meeting is not a public hearing, and participation in the informational meeting is not required to establish eligibility to participate in the contested case during the review of the ASC.

**Receipt of this Notice:**

You are receiving this notice because:

1. You own property within or adjacent to (within 500 feet) the property on which the proposed facility would be located. You will automatically receive all future EFSC notices for this facility if the site boundary remains the same.
2. You have previously signed up to receive notices from ODOE and EFSC. You will automatically receive all future email notices per your request, unless you unsubscribe. You may unsubscribe at: <http://web.energy.oregon.gov/cn/a6n53/subscribe>
3. You have been identified by ODOE as a person with a potential interest in a resource that could be affected by the proposed facility. If you do not wish to receive future notices on this facility, please contact the Department.

**More Information:**

Additional information about the proposed facility and the EFSC review process can be obtained:

Online: More details on the Echo Solar Project, including an electronic copy the NOI are available online at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/ESP.aspx>

Resources describing the State Siting Process, including “Oregonians Guide to Siting and Oversight of Energy Facilities” are available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/>

By Email: Subscribe to receive email updates on the proposed facility or other energy facilities at: <http://web.energy.oregon.gov/cn/a6n53/subscribe>

To receive notices by U.S. Mail, please contact Christopher Clark and request to be added to the paper notice list.

At the Oregon Department of Energy: The NOI and other materials are available for public inspection at the following location at no cost:

Oregon Department of Energy  
550 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Please contact the Department to arrange viewing of the NOI. Printed copies will be provided at reasonable cost upon request to the Department.

**Accessibility information:**

The Oregon Department of Energy is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. If you require any special physical or language accommodations, or need information in an alternate format, please contact Nancy Hatch at 503-428-7905, toll-free in Oregon at 800-221-8035, or by email at [nancy.hatch@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:nancy.hatch@energy.oregon.gov).

ATTACHMENT: FACILITY SITE BOUNDARY VICINITY MAP

