

PUBLIC NOTICE

Golden Hills Wind Project

Request for Amendment #3

Summary

Date Notice Issued: December 29, 2015

Request: Amendment to the Site Certificate for a 400-megawatt (MW) wind energy generation project.

Location: Northern Sherman County, on both sides of Highway 97, between the cities of Wasco and Moro (see map). The facility has not yet been built.

Facility: The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), staff to the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), received a Request for Amendment #3 (RFA) to the Golden Hills Wind Project Site Certificate from the certificate holder, Golden Hills Wind Farm, LLC, a subsidiary of Orion Renewable Energy Group LLC.

The RFA would extend the construction start and completion deadline by two years, adjust the site boundary, change the type of wind turbines, reduce the number of turbines, and make changes to related and supporting facilities.

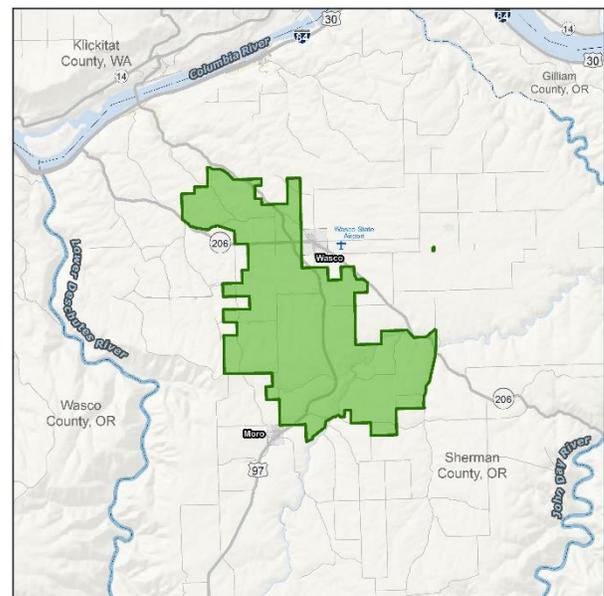
Background and Description of the Facility

In 2009, EFSC issued a site certificate for construction and operation of the Golden Hills Wind Project, a wind energy generation facility with electrical capacity of up to 400 megawatts. EFSC approved the first amendment to the site certificate in 2012 and the second amendment in 2015. The RFA would reduce the total number of wind turbines at the site from a maximum of 267 to 125. The RFA would also increase the maximum turbine tower height to 95 meters (312 feet), from the current permitted maximum height of 80 meters (263 feet) at the rotor hub, and increase the maximum rotor sweep area to 126 meters (413 feet), from 96 meters (315 feet).

The certificate holder would site the turbines within 900-foot micro-siting corridors. The facility would be located on private land subject to long-term leases that the certificate holder has negotiated with the landowners. The project would also include related and supporting facilities,

including a substation, an underground power-collection system, approximately five miles of 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect to an existing 230 kV transmission line, an operation and maintenance building, access roads, and meteorological towers. The approved site certificate allows for 11 miles of 500 kV transmission line and a second substation; the RFA would eliminate both of these features. The RFA would also adjust the site boundary to remove 2,800 acres of land previously included in the site boundary, and add 200 acres of land not previously included in the site boundary.

Project Site Boundary Map



Location of Proposed Project

The project site boundary would be approximately 27,400 acres of privately owned, exclusive farm use-zoned land in northern Sherman County, east and west of Highway 97, between the cities of Wasco and Moro. As amended, the project would transmit power to the BPA grid via a 230 kV transmission line to an interconnection point just north of the existing BPA Klondike substation. The RFA eliminates a previously approved 500 kV transmission line and second substation.

The Siting Council's Review Process

After reviewing the RFA and any comments received, ODOE will prepare a proposed order that will recommend to EFSC approval, modification, or denial of the amendment request. Upon the release of the proposed order, ODOE will issue a public notice and open a 30-day period for comments or requests for a contested case hearing. The notice will explain the right to request a contested case hearing on the proposed order.

Extended Review Process

ODOE has determined that the RFA requires extended review. As such, ODOE expects to release the proposed order in 180 days from date of this notice.

Comment Period

The deadline to submit comments on the RFA is **March 4, 2016**. Orion Renewable Energy Group has informed ODOE that it intends to submit additional information regarding the RFA in January, 2016. ODOE will provide notice of this additional information as soon as it is available. At this time, ODOE does not anticipate a change to the comment deadline based upon the submittal of additional information. However, you will be notified if the comment period is extended.

Comments must be submitted *in writing* by mail, email, hand-delivery or fax. Please send comments to:

Maxwell Woods, Siting Analyst
Oregon Department of Energy
625 Marion Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
Email: maxwell.woods@state.or.us
Fax: 503-373-7806

Please Note: This is only the first opportunity to comment on the amendment request. The department will also solicit comments after issuing the proposed order.

More Information

Please contact the energy analyst above if you have questions. The public can also receive more information about the facility and updates on the review process by using the options below:

1) Oregon Department of Energy's webpage

More details on the Golden Hills Wind Project, including the certificate holder's Request for Amendment #3, are available at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/energy/Siting/Pages/GHW.aspx>

2) Updates by email

Subscribe to GovDelivery for email updates on the Golden Hills Wind Project or other energy facilities under Council jurisdiction.

GovDelivery is an automated email system that allows interested members of the public to manage subscriptions to information received about the department's projects and events.

For more information, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/EFSC-email>.

3) In hardcopy

Copies of the amendment request are available for public review at:

Sherman County Public/School Library
65912 High School Loop
Moro, OR 97309

Oregon Department of Energy
625 Marion Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

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 Matt Lawyer at 503-378-3895, toll-free in Oregon at 800-221-8035, or email to matthew.lawyer@state.or.us.