

PUBLIC NOTICE

Golden Hills Wind Project

Revised Proposed Order on Amendment No. 3

Date Issued: December 2, 2016

Proposal: Amendment No. 3 to the Site Certificate for a 400-megawatt (MW) wind-energy generation facility

Facility Location: Northern Sherman County. The facility has not been built.

Deadline: Comments on the revised proposed order or requests for a contested case must be received by the Oregon Department of Energy by January 6, 2017 at 5 p.m.

Introduction

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), staff to the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), received a Request for Amendment No. 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 revised proposed order recommends EFSC approval of the RFA. The revised proposed order is available on the ODOE website at:

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

Background

ODOE issued an initial proposed order on September 6, 2016. Due to insufficient information in the RFA and proposed order related to a transmission line land use evaluation under ORS 215.274 and request by the certificate holder, ODOE withdrew the proposed order. This will allow opportunity for the certificate holder to provide for ODOE to review and members of the public to comment on the evaluation. ODOE's evaluation of the certificate holder's transmission line land use assessment pursuant to ORS 215.274 is included in the revised proposed order.

Changes from the initial proposed order to the revised proposed order include: administrative change to reference proposed order as revised proposed order; Attachment B renamed from Comment Index to Index of Comments Received on Request for Amendment 3; Section I.B *Description of*

the Approved Facility updated to reference previously approved related and supporting facilities; Section III.B *Procedural History* updated to reflect process between issuance of initial proposed order and revised proposed order; Section IV.A.5 *Land Use* updated to present evaluation of ORS 215.274 and modify findings related to ORS 215.275.

Description of the Facility

The Golden Hills Wind Project is a wind-energy generation facility with electric capacity up to 400 MW. The facility, as approved, would include as related and supporting facilities: two substations; an underground power-collection system; a 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line; a 230-kV transmission line; an operations and maintenance building; access roads; meteorological towers; supervisory control and data acquisition system; and, temporary laydown areas.

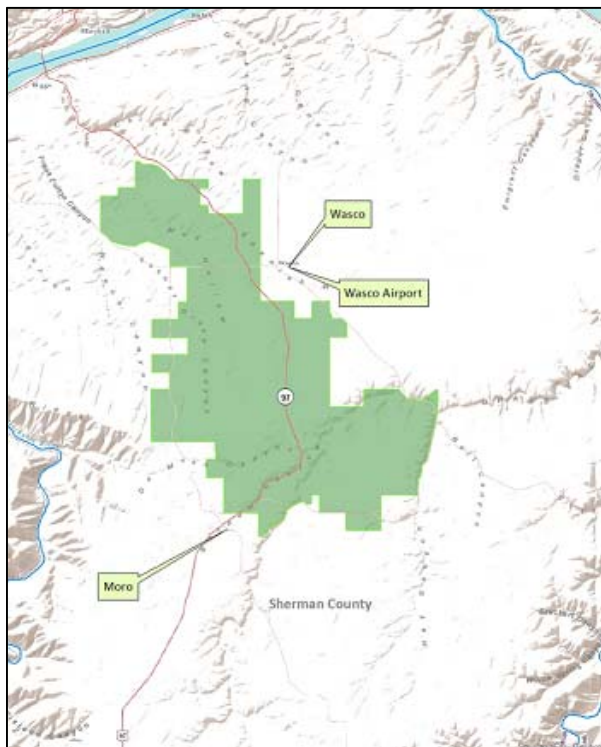
Amendment Request

RFA No. 3 requests to extend the construction start and completion dates by two years; reduce the maximum number of wind turbines from 267 to 125; increase the maximum turbine tower height at the rotor hub to 312 feet from 263 feet (95 meters from 80 meters); increase the maximum rotor sweep area to 413 feet from 315 feet (126 meters from 96 meters); and increase the maximum allowed total turbine height, including rotor blades, to 518 feet from 420 feet (158 meters from 128 meters). The RFA also requests to remove previously approved related and supporting facilities, including 11 miles of 500-kV transmission line, and one of two substations. The RFA would also adjust the site boundary to remove 2,800 acres of land previously included in the site boundary, and add 122.5 acres of land not previously included in the site boundary to allow for construction of two short segments of 230-kV transmission line.

As amended, the facility would transmit power to the Bonneville Power Administration grid via a 230-kV transmission line to an interconnection point just north of the existing BPA Klondike substation.

Location of Facility

The facility would be located on privately owned land in northern Sherman County, east and west of Highway 97, between the cities of Wasco and Moro. A map of the site boundary, as amended, is below:



See RFA No. 3 Exhibit B on the ODOE-Golden Hills website for detailed maps of the facility and components included in the amendment request.

Public Comments and Right to Request a Contested Case

Any person may submit written comments on the revised proposed order or request that EFSC hold a contested case proceeding on the revised proposed order. Under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 345-027-0070(6), a contested case request must be in writing and include (1) a description of the issue(s) the person is contesting; (2) a statement of the facts the person believes to be at issue; and (3) the person's mailing and email addresses. Issues identified must be within EFSC's jurisdiction and relate to an applicable siting standard.

A contested case is not automatic. Under OAR 345-027-0070(7), EFSC will approve a request for a contested case only if the request raises a significant issue of fact or law within EFSC's jurisdiction that may affect its determination that the facility, as amended,

meets an applicable standard. The ODOE website includes a description of EFSC's standards: www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/SITING/PAGES/standards.aspx

EFSC Review and Decision Process

If there is a request for a contested case proceeding, EFSC will first decide whether to grant the request, based on the analysis required under OAR 345-027-0070(7), summarized above. If EFSC conducts a contested case proceeding, EFSC will issue its decision on the amendment request at the conclusion of the contested case proceeding. If EFSC denies the request, or if there are no requests for a contested case proceeding, EFSC will consider the revised proposed order and any comments received during the comment period prior to making a final decision on the request for an amended site certificate.

EFSC will make all decisions at public meetings. ODOE will provide public notice of the dates, times and locations of all EFSC meetings.

Comment Period

Public comments and requests for a contested case must be received by ODOE by January 6, 2017 at 5 p.m., and must be submitted *in writing* by mail, email, hand-delivery, or fax. Any person who commented or submitted a request for contested case on the initial proposed order, issued on September 6, 2016, may submit the same comment or request or may submit a revised comment or request for contested case by January 6, 2017. Please send comments to:

Maxwell Woods
Oregon Department of Energy
625 Marion Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
Email: maxwell.woods@oregon.gov
Fax: 503-373-7806

Even if you have commented earlier in the process, you must submit a request for contested case in writing that is received by ODOE by the January 6, 2017 5 p.m. deadline to be eligible to participate in a contested case, if granted.

More Information

Please contact Maxwell Woods at the email or mailing address listed above, or call 503-378-5050. More information about the facility and updates on the review process is available using any of the options below.

1) ODOE's webpage

More details on the Golden Hills Wind Project, including the Request for Amendment No. 3 and the revised proposed order, 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 EFSC jurisdiction. GovDelivery is an automated email system that allows interested members of the public to manage subscriptions to information received about ODOE projects and events. For more information, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/EFSC-email>.

3) In hardcopy

Copies of the revised proposed order and Request for Amendment No. 3 are available for public inspection at:

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

Oregon Department of Energy (before 12/10/16)
625 Marion Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Oregon Department of Energy (after 12/10/16)
550 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Accessibility information

ODOE 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 Esther Kooistra at 503-373-2294, toll-free in Oregon at 800-221-8035, or email to esther.kooistra@oregon.gov.