



# Oregon

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**To:** Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council

**From:** Sarah Esterson, Senior Siting Analyst

**Date:** March 13, 2019

**Subject:** Agenda Item B (Information Item):  
Montague Wind Power Facility  
Construction Update and Results of Wildlife Surveys

## INTRODUCTION

The Energy Facility Siting Council (Council) issued an original site certificate for the Montague Wind Power Facility (facility), to be located in Wasco County, in September 2010. The Council subsequently issued three amended site certificates, including two deadline extensions, with the most recent amendment approval in July 2017. Construction of the facility commenced on September 14, 2017 and must be completed by September 14, 2020.

The facility, currently under construction and referenced as “Phase 1,” includes 56 wind turbines, a 230 kV transmission line, one collector substation, collector lines and collection system, access roads, public roadway modifications, and temporary construction areas. This staff report provides Council an update on the status of construction activities and summarizes pre-construction and construction conditions related to habitat and wildlife surveys. Staff will describe the protocols, including survey area and methods, and results of these surveys during its presentation to Council on March 22, 2019.

## PHASE 1 CONSTRUCTION STATUS UPDATE

Construction commenced on or before September 14, 2017 in accordance with Condition 25. Construction activities and schedule are presented in the table below.

Date	Activity
September 2017	Meteorological tower installation
December 2018	Road construction, wind turbine foundations; electrical system
January- April 2019	Wind turbine deliveries and installation
July 2019	Interconnections energized
October 2019	Commissioning complete
December 2019	Commence Operation

## PRE-CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS

As described above, Council approved two deadline extensions for this facility prior to construction commencement. At the time of the second deadline extension, concerns were raised regarding outdated survey information, as the most recent 2015 deadline extension relied upon 2008-09 habitat and wildlife surveys conducted during the Application for Site Certificate (ASC) phase. For this facility, Council concluded that the issue of outdated surveys was addressed by pre-construction requirements obligating the certificate holder to, prior to construction, conduct new habitat, wildlife and raptor nest surveys. In addition, to address the issue of outdated survey information, Council imposed Condition 10 requiring that the Department present results of those surveys to Council for its review and consideration. This staff report and staff's presentation at the March 22, 2019 Council meeting is intended to meet this condition requirement.

Council previously imposed Conditions 31, 94, 95 and 96 requiring updated habitat and wildlife surveys prior to construction. Specifically, Condition 31 requires completion of a pre-construction habitat assessment based on final facility design. Condition 94 requires completion of a pre-construction protocol-level survey for Washington ground squirrel (WGS). Condition 95 requires completion of pre-construction State-sensitive species surveys. Condition 96 requires completion of pre-construction and ongoing construction raptor nest surveys, in accordance with an ODFW-approved protocol.

The certificate holder completed the habitat assessment and rare plant survey, to satisfy Conditions 31 and 95, between May and June 2017. To satisfy Conditions 94 and 95, the certificate holder completed protocol-level WGS surveys, which were also used to detect other potential State-sensitive species, from March 1 to May 31, 2017. To satisfy Condition 96, the certificate holder conducted raptor nest surveys between March 1 and April 15, 2017 and during the same season during each subsequent year of construction. Results of these surveys will be presented to Council during staff's March 22, 2019 presentation.