



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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To: Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Maxwell Woods, Senior Policy Advisor

Date: May 2, 2019

Re: Agenda Item B: Appointment of Special Advisory Groups for the Madras Solar Project (Action Item) – For May16/17, 2019 EFSC Meeting.

On May 1, 2019, the Oregon Department of Energy (Department) received the Notices of Intent (NOI) payment for the proposed Madras Solar Project (facility), and anticipates submittal of the NOI document soon. The proposed facility would be a photovoltaic solar energy facility located in Jefferson County, west of Madras.

The Madras Solar Project would be located on approximately 270 acres and would connect with a PGE transmission line that crosses the site boundary. The site is designated as “high value farmland” because it is located within an irrigation district and in an exclusive farm use zone, and in accordance with ORS 195.300(c)(B), it is therefore defined by statute as high value farmland; however, the Department understands that the land does not have a water right and is not now nor has it ever been irrigated. Solar photovoltaic facilities located on high value farmland and using more than 100 acres are subject to EFSC jurisdiction.

While the facility would be under 100 MW and therefore eligible for the EFSC expedited review process, the applicant has decided to submit an NOI and proceed through the standard EFSC review. Once received, the Department will post the NOI to the Department’s website, where it will be able to be downloaded.

ORS 469.480(1) requires the Energy Facility Siting Council to designate as a special advisory group the governing body of any local government within whose jurisdiction a facility is proposed to be located. The proposed facility would be located entirely within Jefferson County. The governing body of Jefferson County is the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners.

Statute requires that Council designate the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners as the special advisory group for the Madras Solar Project to advise the Energy Facility Siting Council in any site certificate proceedings for the Madras Solar Project.