



Oregon

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To: Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Christopher M. Clark, Siting Policy Analyst

Date: November 7, 2019

Subject: Agenda Item I (Action Item) – Port Westward Generating Project – Council Review of the Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 11 for the November 21-22, 2019, EFSC Meeting

Attachments: Attachment 1: Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 11 to the Port Westward Generating Project Site Certificate

BACKGROUND

The Port Westward Generating Project (the facility) is a natural-gas fired electric generating plant located in Columbia County, Oregon, owned and operated by Portland General Electric (PGE). The Council issued its Final Order on the Application for Site Certificate for Port Westward Generating Project on November 8, 2002. The facility consists of two generating units and related and supporting facilities. Unit 1 is a 411-megawatt (MW) base load natural gas-fired combined cycle combustion turbine plant that went into commercial operation in June 2007. Unit 2 is a 220 MW non-base load, natural gas-fired power plant comprised of 12 reciprocating internal combustion engines. Unit 2 went into commercial operation in December 2014.

On April 23, 2019, Portland General Electric submitted a preliminary Request for Amendment 11, which requests that Council amend the site certificate to allow construction and operation of a 4 to 6 MW battery energy storage system (BESS) as a related or supporting facility within the existing facility site boundary. If approved, the certificate holder expects construction of the BESS to begin no later than the third quarter of 2020 and to be completed within one year of its start. The certificate holder requests approval to construct the facility using either lithium-ion or flow battery technology. The certificate holder proposes several additional modifications to the site certificate that are not specific to the BESS, including administrative corrections to the facility description and modification of conditions related to spill containment, revegetation success criteria, wetland buffers, and wildlife. The amendment is being processed as a “Type A” amendment request.

The Department received the complete Request for Amendment 11 to the Port Westward Site Certificate on July 12, 2019. On July 18, 2019, the Department posted the complete request on

its website and posted an announcement on the project website informing the public that the complete request had been received and is available for viewing. The Department received comments on the request from Columbia County (Special Advisory Group) on July 11, 2019; and from ODFW on July 26, 2019. These comments were incorporated into the Department's analysis of the Council's standards and are provided in Attachment B to the Draft Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 11.

On August 29, 2019, the Oregon Department of Energy (Department) released its draft proposed order (DPO) on the amendment request and issued public notice of a public comment period on the amendment request and DPO. A public hearing on the DPO was held on September 26, 2019, at the Clatskanie River Inn in Clatskanie, Oregon. Council considered comments provided at the hearing and the certificate holder's response the following day. The Department made several administrative changes and clarifications in response to public comments but did not make substantive revisions to the recommended findings contained in the Draft Proposed Order.

The Department issued a Proposed Order and Notice of Proposed Order on October 3, 2019. On the same day, ODOE issued a Notice of the Opportunity to Request a Contested Case to all persons who commented on the record of the public hearing of the DPO and provided their contact information. The deadline to request a contested case on the proposed order was November 4, 2019. The Department did not receive any requests for a contested case.

STAFF EVALUATION OF AMENDMENT REQUEST AND SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ORDER

The Proposed Order addresses each of the Council's standards and recommends that the Council find that the amendment request would comply with, or, based on compliance with existing, recommended new and amended site certificate conditions would comply with each of the standards. These recommendations were also included in the Draft Proposed Order.

Pursuant to OAR 345-027-0350(4)(a), the Department assessed the amendment request to determine whether the facility components proposed to be added in Request for Amendment 11 could result in a significant adverse impact that affects a resource or interest protected by a standard that the Council has not addressed earlier, and whether the facility, with the proposed changes, would remain in compliance without new or amended conditions. As noted, in the proposed order the Department made several administrative changes and clarifications in response to public comments but did not make substantive revisions to the recommended findings contained in the Draft Proposed Order.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on compliance with existing, recommended new and amended conditions, as described in the Proposed Order, the Department recommends that Council conclude that the facility, with proposed changes, would comply with all applicable Council standards and other applicable rules and statutes, and that the Council should approve the final order and issue an amended site certificate.