



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



550 Capitol St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-378-4040  
Toll Free: 1-800-221-8035  
FAX: 503-373-7806  
[www.oregon.gov/energy](http://www.oregon.gov/energy)

**To:** Energy Facility Siting Council

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

**Date:** September 11, 2020

**Subject:** Agenda Item D (Action Item):  
Montague Wind Power Facility – Council Review of Proposed Order and  
Decision on Request for Amendment 5 of the Site Certificate for the September  
25, 2020 Meeting

**Attachments:** Attachment 1: Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 5  
(via hyperlink: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/MWP.aspx>)  
Attachment 2: Draft Final Order on Request for Amendment 5

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Oregon Department of Energy (Department) recommends the Energy Facility Siting Council (Council) approve the Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 5 of the Montague Wind Power Facility Site Certificate (proposed order) as the final order and grant issuance of an amended and two original site certificates, subject to compliance with existing and recommended new and amended site certificate conditions (see Attachment 2 of this staff report).

## BACKGROUND

Montague Wind Power Facility is an approved 404 megawatt (MW) wind and solar energy generation facility in Gilliam County, to be developed in two phases; Phase 1 (actual) includes 201 MW of wind energy generation equipment consisting of 56 wind turbines and related or supporting facilities and commenced commercial operation in October 2019. Phase 2 (approved) includes 203 MW of wind and solar energy generation equipment consisting of up to 81 wind turbines, up to 1,189 acres of solar photovoltaic energy generation components, and related or supporting facilities. Construction of Phase 2 must commence by August 30, 2022.

## PROPOSED FACILITY MODIFICATIONS

Montague Wind Power Facility, LLC (certificate holder) seeks Council approval for the following site certificate changes: split existing site certificate and previously approved facility components into one amended site certificate for Montague Wind Facility (201 MW; 56 wind turbines) and two original site certificates for facilities named Montague Solar Facility (162 MW; up to 1,496 acres of solar photovoltaic energy generation equipment) and Oregon Trail

Solar Facility (41 MW; up to 16 wind turbines or 1,228 acres of solar photovoltaic energy generation equipment, or any combination not to exceed 41 MW), to be owned by limited liability companies created by Avangrid Renewables, LLC, the existing certificate holder owner. The amendment request also seeks approval to reduce site boundary area from 47,056 to 42,946 acres; expand solar micro-siting area from 1,189 to 2,725 acres (includes a “reasons” exception request to the statewide policy embodied in Goal 3, *Agricultural Lands*); construction and operation of a new switching station (includes circuit breakers, switches, and other auxiliary equipment) on a 2-acre site to link Montague Solar Facility to the Phase 1 collector substation (Montague Wind substation); approval to use an alternative route for a segment of previously approved 230 kV transmission line; and, administrative and substantive site certificate condition amendments.

The certificate holder requested that the amendment be reviewed by the Department under the Type B review process. However, based on review of the factors under OAR 345-027-0357(8), the Department determined that Type A review be maintained.

### **PROCEDURAL HISTORY SUMMARY**

The Department issued the Draft Proposed Order (DPO) on Request for Amendment 5 of the Montague Wind Power Facility Site Certificate (RFA5) on June 26, 2020, with a Public Notice of a July 23, 2020 Public Hearing on the DPO, conducted in-person and via webinar, and a 27-day public comment period. On the record of the DPO public hearing, the Department received comments from five state agencies (Oregon Department of Aviation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Transportation, and State Historic Preservation Office), one local government (Morrow County Planning Department), two members of the public, and the certificate holder. On July 24, 2020, Council reviewed the DPO and comments received and provided recommendations to staff for revisions to be incorporated into the Proposed Order. The Department issued a Proposed Order and Notice of Proposed Order, with a 30-day opportunity for individuals that commented on the record of the DPO public hearing (June 26 through July 23, 2020) to submit a request for a contested case proceeding on issues raised on the record of the DPO. There were no requests for contested case proceeding received by the Department on or before the August 31, 2020 deadline.

At the September 25, 2020 meeting, Council will receive a presentation from staff on the draft Final Order and will adopt or modify the Proposed Order and issue a Final Order, which would grant approval of an amended and two original site certificates; or, the Council may reject the Proposed Order and deny approval of RFA5.

### **SUMMARY OF CHANGES – PROPOSED ORDER TO FINAL ORDER**

The draft Final Order on Request for Amendment 5 of the Montague Wind Power Facility Site Certificate is provided as Attachment 2 of this staff report, and presents changes in red-line (track changes) format. Changes proposed are administrative and include updating staff recommendations to Council findings and procedural history. There are no proposed substantive changes from the Proposed Order to draft Final Order. Substantive changes incorporated between the Draft Proposed Order to Proposed Order are presented in underline format for Council reference.

**RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION**

The Department recommends Council adopt the Proposed Order as the Final Order and grant issuance of an amended and two original site certificates.

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