



# Oregon

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**To:** Oregon Energy Siting Council

**From:** Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor

**Date:** November 16, 2020

**Subject:** Agenda Item D (Action Item):  
Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility I, Request for Amendment 1 –  
Council Review of Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 1 for the  
November 19-20, 2020 EFSC Meeting

**Attachments:** Attachment 1: Draft Proposed Order (Available via hyperlink:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/WREF-II.aspx>)  
Attachment 2: Proposed Order (see Attachment B for DPO Comments)

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Oregon Department of Energy (Department) recommends Council approve Request for Amendment 1 of the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility Site Certificate and issue an amended site certificate and two original site certificates, based on allocation of previously approved facility components, site certificate conditions and mitigation plans for the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III and Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East.

## BACKGROUND

The Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility II (WREFII) Site Certificate was issued through Council's approval of the *Final Order on Amendment 5 of the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility Site Certificate* (May 2020), which authorized a split of the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility Site Certificate into two original site certificates for newly named facilities, WREFII and Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility I.

The Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility Site Certificate was authorized under the *Final Order on the Application for Site Certificate* (Final Order on ASC) on April 28, 2017. The site certificate became effective on May 24, 2017. On June 14, 2017, Wheatridge Wind Energy, LLC and Swaggart Wind Power, LLC (certificate holder owner in 2017) submitted Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1) of the site certificate, requesting to transfer certificate holder ownership from Swaggart Wind Power, LLC to a new parent company, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC. The Council issued *Final Order on Amendment 1* and the first amended site certificate on July 27, 2017. The first amended site certificate became effective on August 17, 2017.

On May 18, 2018, the certificate holder submitted Request for Amendment 2 (RFA2) and Request for Amendment 3 (RFA3). RFA2 requested approval for construction and operation of two battery storage systems, to be located in Wheatridge East and one in Wheatridge West. RFA3 requested approval to modify wind turbine specifications for maximum blade-tip height. The Council issued *Final Order on RFA3* and second amended site certificate on November 16, 2018; Council issued the *Final Order on RFA2* and a third amended site certificate on December 14, 2018. On July 1, 2019 the certificate holder submitted Request for Amendment 4 (RFA4) seeking approval to add 1,527 acres to the site boundary for construction and operation of 150 MW of photovoltaic solar power generation equipment and up to 41 distributed energy storage (battery) systems. The Council approved *Final Order on RFA4* and issued the fourth amended site certificate on November 22, 2019.

On April 16, 2020 the certificate holder submitted Request for Amendment 5 (RFA5). RFA5 requested approval to amend the existing site certificate by creating two original site certificates based entirely on the existing Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility site certificate, but including only 40 of the previously approved 292 wind turbines (totaling approximately 100 MW capacity) into one site certificate, with all remaining facility components in another site certificate, with new facility names - Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility I (WREFI) and Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility II (WREFII). The certificate holder owner, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC was maintained for WREFI and WREFII. The Council approved *Final Order on RFA5* and issued two original site certificates on May 22, 2020.

### **PROPOSED FACILITY MODIFICATIONS**

The certificate holder requests Council approval to allocate previously approved facility components and site certificate conditions into an amended and two original site certificates based entirely on the previously approved WREFII site certificate. The amendment request is limited solely to the allocation of previously approved facility components into a first amended site certificate for WREFII and original site certificates for facilities named Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III (WREFIII) and Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East (WREFE).

- WREFII would include 200 MW wind energy generation within a 7,850 acre site boundary in Morrow County - under existing certificate holder ownership;
- WREFIII would include 150 MW of solar photovoltaic energy generation within a 2,294 acre site boundary in Morrow County - under new certificate holder ownership, Wheatridge Solar Energy Center, LLC; and,
- WREFE would include 200 MW wind energy generation within a 4,582 acre site boundary in Umatilla and Morrow counties - under new certificate holder ownership, Wheatridge East, LLC.

### **SUMMARY OF DRAFT PROPOSED ORDER COMMENTS**

On the record of the draft proposed order, the Department received comments from four local, state and Tribal Government agencies including the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Morrow County Board of Commissioners as the Special Advisory Group, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; and the certificate holder. Substantive comments were received from the certificate

holder, requesting modification of several site certificate conditions previously imposed under the Council's Public Services standard and Public Health and Safety Standard for Wind Facilities. The Department will present issues raised in comments received and modifications to be incorporated into the proposed during the November 19, 2020 EFSC meeting.

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