Agenda Item B Staff Report Attachment 2:
Comments on Draft Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 1 of the Boardman Solar Energy Facility Site Certificate

September 24, 2021 EFSC Meeting
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September 1, 2021

Chase McVeigh-Walker, Senior Siting Analyst
Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol Street N.E., 1st Floor
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Boardman Solar Energy Facility, Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1)

Dear Mr. McVeigh-Walker,

Morrow County appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Boardman Solar Energy Facility Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1). It is our understanding that RFA1 seeks only to extend the permit timeline and construction period, and that no other changes are proposed for the approximately 798-acre project.

The Department issued its Draft Proposed Order recommending approval of the amendment. The Energy Facility Siting Council is accepting comments until September 6, 2021.

Morrow County, acting as both the Board of Commissioners and the Special Advisory Group, does not object to the proposed extension. The change, if approved, would make the new construction commencement deadline February 23, 2024 and the new construction completion deadline February 23, 2027.

The Planning Department authorized an extension of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP-N-33-2018). That extension expires November 21, 2021. If approved by EFSC, the amended Site Certificate will likewise require an amended Conditional Use Permit. A Zoning Permit will also be required for each individual tax lot within the project boundary.

Additionally, we request the facility owners and developers coordinate in advance of the construction to secure a Road Use Agreement from Matt Scrivner, Morrow County Public Works Director.

As always, Morrow County appreciates the opportunity to coordinate with you and other Department staff. Should you have any questions about this comment letter, or need additional
information, please do not hesitate to contact Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, 541-922-4624.

Sincerely,

Don Russell  
Chair

Jim Doherty  
Commissioner

Melissa Lindsay  
Commissioner

Cc:  Gilliam County Court  
    Michelle Colby, Gilliam County Planning Director  
    Port of Morrow  
    Mike McArthur, Director, Community Renewable Energy Association (CREA)  
    Matt Scrivner, Morrow County Public Works Director  
    Mike Gorman, Morrow County Assessor  
    Tamra Mabbott, Morrow County Planning Director
TO: Chase McVeigh-Walker, Senior Siting Analyst  
Oregon Department of Energy  
550 Capitol St N.E., 1st Floor  
Salem, OR 97301

FROM: Seth Thompson, Aviation Planner  
Oregon Department of Aviation  
3040 25th Street, SE  
Salem, OR 97302-1125  
503-378-2529  
Seth.Thompson@aviation.state.or.us

DATE: September 3, 2021

RE: Oregon Department of Aviation Agency Report on the Draft Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1) and Complete RFA1 of the Boardman Solar Energy Facility

The Oregon Department of Aviation (ODA) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1) and Complete RFA1 of the Boardman Solar Energy Facility. The ODA has reviewed the proposal and provides the following report and comments.

The site certificate amendment request seeks to extend the construction commencement and completion deadlines by three years each. The ODA has no comment regarding the site certificate amendment request. However, the Boardman Solar Energy Facility is positioned between the Boardman Airport in Morrow County and the Arlington Municipal Airport in Gilliam County. For this reason, the ODA wishes to address the potential impacts of glare caused by the solar energy facility to aviation safety.

In the 2018 Boardman Solar Energy Facility Application for Site Certificate Final Order, the “Applicant describes in ASC Exhibit L (and elsewhere in the ASC), that it would use solar modules that incorporate anti-reflective technology, which would substantially reduce glare from the facility.” In addition, the Applicant performed a "glare/glint analysis using the Sandia Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Tool" and also received a "determination of no hazard to air navigation" from the FAA.

The ODA appreciates the applicant’s efforts to address the potential impacts of glare caused by the solar energy facility. However, due to the positioning of the energy facility, the ODA further encourages the applicant to mitigate the impacts of glare caused by the solar energy facility to prevent interference with aircraft or airport operations at the Boardman Airport and the Arlington Municipal Airport.

The ODA appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposal. The Department requests to be identified as a party of record for any future applications. If you have any
questions or need clarification on these comments, please feel free to contact me at 503-378-2529 or Seth.Thompson@aviation.state.or.us.

Sincerely,

Seth Thompson, Aviation Planner

CC: Heather Peck, Planning & Projects Manager
Oregon Department of Aviation


BEFORE THE
ENERGY FACILITY SITING COUNCIL
OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of Request for Amendment 1 for the Boardman Solar Energy Facility Site Certificate

DRAFT PROPOSED ORDER ON REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT 1 TO THE SITE CERTIFICATE

ODOE contact: Chase McVeigh-Walker
energy.siting@oregon.gov
Public comment opposed to delaying solar farm construction in Boardman

Our Oregon legislature passed HB 2021 which “Requires retail electricity providers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity sold to Oregon consumers to 80 percent below baseline emissions levels by 2030”.

According to OPB this bill includes:
- includes $50 million in grants for community renewable energy projects in cities other than Portland, which has its own fund for such projects
- allows cities in Oregon to create so-called “green tariffs,” where they agree to pay utilities more money for power from a cleaner mix of sources in order to meet their own climate goals

PGE Vice President of Public Affairs Dave Robertson said in an emailed statement that the bill’s passage is "an important step toward the clean energy future we have been pursuing for Oregon and our customers."

If we are to make this reduction in this period of time, fossil fueled electricity production must be replaced by clean energy production. This Boardman solar facility is a step in the right direction. Why would we want to wait an additional 2 years to build this clean electricity producing facility?

The proposed facility owner, Invenergy, wants the delay because they do not have contracts for the electricity to be produced. This is where the grants and green tariffs of HB 2021 should be called on. Existing fossil fuel electric generation contracts should be bought out and a generation contract made with this solar facility, now.

Do not allow a 3-year extension of this permit. We need the clean energy now to reduce the impacts of Climate Change.

Julia Pommert
5425 NW Lianna Way
Portland, OR 97229
juliapommert@yahoo.com
(541) 556-3483