April 19, 2024, EFSC Meeting, Item E
Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East
Request for Amendment 1 DPO Review

Attachment 2 - Public Comments

Updated 4/12/2024

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ENERGY FACILITY SITING COUNCIL (EFSC)

Date: March 21, 2024 Hermiston Or

Registration for Public Comment on Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Name: Wendy King

Address: 1337 SW Pumice Ave #303 Redmond OR 97756

I represent (if applicable) Myers Family Farm

Print your name OR your organization/business name.

☐ Send me future notifications about Council meetings via email.
My email address is: _____

☒ I wish to address the Energy Facility Siting Council and/or

☐ I wish to submit the following written comment:

_____

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PLEASE NOTE: If there are a large number of speakers, it may be necessary to limit the amount of time each speaker is allowed.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITING COUNCIL (EFSC)

Date: March 21, 2024 Hermiston Or

Registration for Public Comment on Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Name: Sam Myers

Address: 68453 Little Butter Cr. Rd, Heppner, OR 97836

I represent (if applicable) _____

Print your name OR your organization/business name.

☒ Send me future notifications about Council meetings via email.
My email address is: sam.myers84@gmail.com

Added to email list by CMC 3/26/24

☒ I wish to address the Energy Facility Siting Council and/or

☐ I wish to submit the following written comment:

PLEASE NOTE: If there are a large number of speakers, it may be necessary to limit the amount of time each speaker is allowed.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITING COUNCIL (EFSC)

Date: March 21, 2024 Hermiston Or

Registration for Public Comment on Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Name: James Cutsforth

Address: 425 Ventus Street Richland WA 99352

I represent (if applicable) Myself

Print your name OR your organization/business name.

☐ Send me future notifications about Council meetings via email.
My email address is: _____

☐ I wish to address the Energy Facility Siting Council and/or

☐ I wish to submit the following written comment:

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PLEASE NOTE: If there are a large number of speakers, it may be necessary to limit the amount of time each speaker is allowed.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE COUNCIL ASSISTANT

*See reverse for tips on giving testimony

ENERGY FACILITY SITING COUNCIL (EFSC)

Date: March 21, 2024 Hermiston Or

Registration for Public Comment on Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Name: Lloyd Piercy

Address: 33927 Riverview Dr., Hermiston, OR

I represent (if applicable) _____

Print your name OR your organization/business name.

☒ Send me future notifications about Council meetings via email.
My email address is: lloydpiercy51@gmail.com

Added to email list by CMC 3/26/24

☐ I wish to address the Energy Facility Siting Council and/or

☐ I wish to submit the following written comment:

PLEASE NOTE: If there are a large number of speakers, it may be necessary to limit the amount of time each speaker is allowed.

From: HATCH Nancy * ODOE
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:31 AM
To: CLARK Christopher * ODOE
Subject: FW: Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Public Hearing. Hermiston Meet March 21-22.

From: Hale, Kelly (RBC Wealth Mgmt) <kelly.hale@rbc.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 7:36 AM
To: HATCH Nancy * ODOE <Nancy.Hatch@energy.oregon.gov>
Subject: FW: Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Public Hearing. Hermiston Meet March 21-22.

Good Morning Nancy-
Oregon Department of Energy
Please feel free to read our comments in support of the project.

Title
Kelly Kilkenny Hale/Russell Kilkenny
Co-trustees of the Robert J Kilkenny Trust
We are unable to attend your public hearing. We both have prior commitments. I currently serve on the OHSU Foundation Board. We have a scheduled conference in the desert.
The trust if the sole owner of Robert Kilkenny's two farming LLCs.
Kilkenny Land Co. LLC, and RJK Family LLC.
Each LLC is also the lessor under a Wind Energy Lease.
Each LLC is also the lessor under a Solar Energy Lease although only RJK Family LLC has solar panels on its property.
The two entities consist of 5600 acres.
Our working relations with NextEra have been extremely productive. I honestly can't imagine a better partner. The farming entities are more productive with the partnership.
NextEra honors our Dad's legacy by supporting Morrow County. It created 300 construction jobs at the peak of the Wind Turbine development and 9 permanent jobs. Next Era engages local business in development and ongoing services in the community.
The wind/solar developments have added significant taxes benefiting schools and local business.
The additional land payments enable the local land owners to support the county.

Thanks again for taking the time to support Morrow County and Green Energy.
Please reach out with any additional questions.

Kelly Kilkenny Hale | Senior Vice President –Financial Advisor, Senior Portfolio Manager – Portfolio Focus / Firm CA License # 0C38863
RBC Wealth Management, a division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC |
805 SW Broadway, Suite 1800, Portland, OR 97205
Phone 503-833-5244 | Toll Free 800-319-6144 | Cell 503-780-5133 | Fax 503-295-5832
Kelly.hale@rbc.com | https://www.rbcwmfa.com/gall_hale/

Verbal Comment at the Wheatridge RFA1 DPO Hearing: March 21, 2024

Good evening, my name is Fuji Kreider, 60366 Marvin Rd, La Grande.

Most of you know me as a member of the Stop B2H Coalition. I'd like to speak tonight as a community-minded Oregonian.

We have a huge collective problem-- it's called climate change. We also have long-standing traditions and laws in our state for land-use planning and protection of our natural and cultural resources. Can these be addressed with the same solutions or is one ordained to overshadow the others?

My comment tonight is not exclusive of this RFA1—but I will get there.

First, I want to address the Council with a plea that I am sure the staff will say is out of your jurisdiction, nonetheless I am compelled to share. Have you driven around Umatilla-Morrow counties in a while? I urge you to do so!

You will see the willy-nilly stringing of transmission lines and access roads, obviously a product of piecemeal facility siting, then trying to stitch it all together with transmission lines and substations.

Once the developer gets a site certificate, the amendments just keep coming. There is a lack of certainty that the county planners can get from EFSC, and agencies keep approving projects and allowing amendments to expand facilities so that multiple ones overlap each other. Essentially, poor energy siting!

What can you, as an Energy Facility Siting Council, do: to help Oregon reach its decarbonization goals and ensure an adequate energy supply while safeguarding Oregon's environment, public health and safety? (the latter as your mission states.)

Unfortunately, you are limited in your ability to accomplish this mission. I have come to the conclusion (having engaged with EFSC for years) that you are too limited in your standards-based decision making to make the best decisions for the people, wildlife, and even developers.

Your decision-making approach is too silo-ed within these standards. You cannot talk about cumulative impacts—because you don't have standards for that. You can't discuss climate change or climate related impacts to soils or other resources—because you don't have standards for that.

The solutions we need, to assure our energy supplies, are complex. Too complex for decision making to operate in a silo of rules and standards. We need at least one additional standard asap and that is: cumulative impact. The fed's have it in their NEPA processes and many other agencies consider it as well, but EFSC does not. Without it, you can see the results – fragmentation -- just drive around like I said.

To be fair, some of this has also been a result of the counties' and individuals' quest for revenue from siting energy facilities and data centers. Umatilla Electric Coop has become the state largest carbon-based electrical supplier per customer in the state. Almost all for the data centers, with their green environmental standards. Ironic … renewable energy facilities next to data centers and we need to import carbon based energy. Now that's planning!

It's not all your siting decisions that got us to this place. However now, with this RFA1, I urge you to re-consider this silo-ed thinking and analysis, for the good of the people and our resources.

The Wheatridge East facility has not been built. The Boardman to Hemingway transmission project has not been built. B2H has amendments pending -- and there will likely be more, for both of these projects-- before they break ground. They are both working in the same area.

What would be in the best interest-- of possibly all developers in the area—but certainly in the public's interest—would be to direct them to communicate (at a minimum), share information as much as possible, and/or at best, actually try to work out a win-win-win-win situation with the developers, the landowners, the interest groups, and the state. For example, possibly more co-locating of transmission corridors, or other ways they could reduce the cumulative impacts to both fragmented farms and natural resources.

Thank you for listening.

Fuji Kreider

March 26, 2024

Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council

Dear Council Members:

I am sending this letter to show my support for the NextEra Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East project and towers on Gleason Butte.

As a resident of Morrow County, and a landowner in the project area, I believe this project will benefit both our local economy as well as the landholders involved. The construction of wind towers creates jobs in our local communities and because of the influx of people in the community, it benefits our local businesses as well.

Gleason butte is not a landmark, it is land, like all the rest of the land that is proposed for wind towers and if you look, it already has towers on it anyway.

As a landowner, I feel I have the right to make decisions about my property, just as each of you have the right to make decisions about your own property. By participating in this project, I have the option to lease a portion of my land for wind towers. This provides a steady income for me, but also allows me to contribute actively to the local economy for the rest of Morrow County.

There have been wind towers in Morrow and Umatilla counties for quite some time now. And I haven't heard of any issues from them. Also, if you drive by them you can see that the roads are very well maintained. With the wind company maintaining roads along with Morrow County, it can only help with weed and fire control.

These wind turbines will not interfere with the land use at all, for me, or for my neighbors. The viewshed is all around and beauty is in the eye of the beholder. You can't pick one property out of thousands and say you don't like the looks of it therefore it shouldn't be there.

I urge you to consider the long-term advantages of this wind farm and vote in favor of this project.

Sincerely,

Scott Dougherty

Scott Dougherty
270 N C Street
Lexington OR 97839
541-379-4564
stephen-68@live.com

Subject: Supporting the Wheatridge Wind Energy Project

Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council 3/25/24

We are writing to express our strong support for the proposed wind energy project within our community. As a resident and landowner in the project area, we believe this project holds significant benefits for both our local economy and the energy environment.

1. **Economic Opportunities and Local Boost:**
    - The construction and operation of wind turbines will create jobs for our community. Skilled laborers, technicians, and support staff will find employment.
    - Local businesses will benefit from increased economic activity, as workers and contractors spend money on goods and services. This boost to our local economy is essential for our community's prosperity.
2. **Landowner Rights and Income Diversification:**
    - As a landowner, we have the right to make informed decisions about our property. By participating in this wind energy project, we can lease a portion of your land for turbine installation. This not only provides a steady income stream but also allows us to contribute actively to the local economies of Morrow County.
    - The lease agreements typically include fair compensation, ensuring that landowners are fairly rewarded for hosting wind turbines. These agreements are designed to protect our rights and interests as stewards of the land in continuing to farm.
3. **Environmental Benefits:**
    - Wind energy is a renewable resource. By harnessing the power of the wind, we reduce our reliance on fossil fuels contributing to Oregon green power initiatives.
    - The project aligns with Oregon's commitment to environmental stewardship and helps to meet the high green power need that current industry in Morrow County demands in an ever-increasing way.
4. **Agricultural Resilience:**
    - Integrating wind turbines into our agricultural landscape diversifies land use. For dry land wheat farmers, this diversification is crucial.
    - Wind energy revenue can serve as a buffer/stabilizer during challenging agricultural seasons, providing stability when crop yields, input costs and commodity prices are uncertain. This stabilizing income helps retain ownership locally.

Morrow County has established itself as a green power provider. NextEra has worked to create minimal disturbance and given many farmers in the area needed diversification. Arbitrarily changing the rules on individual view sheds or otherwise, would merely be choosing winners and losers unfairly in the farming community.

In conclusion, I urge the Council to carefully consider the long-term advantages of this wind energy project amendment. Our community stands to gain economically, environmentally, and socially.

Todd and Melissa Lindsay
75655 Baseline Lane,
Heppner Or 97836
Turnerranch1@gmail.com

March 26, 2024

Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council

Dear Council Members:

I am sending this letter to show my support for the NextEra Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East project and towers on Gleason Butte.

As a resident of Morrow County, I believe this project will benefit both our local economy as well as the landholders involved. The construction of wind towers creates jobs in our local communities and because of the influx of people in the community, it benefits our local businesses as well.

Gleason butte is not a landmark, it is land, like all the rest of the land that is proposed for wind towers and if you look, it already has towers on it anyway.

There have been wind towers in Morrow and Umatilla counties for quite some time now. And I haven't heard of any issues from them. Also, if you drive by them you can see that the roads are very well maintained. With the wind company maintaining roads along with Morrow County, it can only help with weed and fire control.

These wind turbines will not interfere with the land use at all. The viewshed is all around and beauty is in the eye of the beholder. You can't pick one property out of thousands and say you don't like the looks of it therefore it shouldn't be there.

I urge you to consider the long-term advantages of this wind farm and vote in favor of this project.

Sincerely,

Michelle Dekker

Michelle Dekker
270 N C Street
Lexington OR 97839
541-303-3728
michelled1232010@hotmail.com

March 26, 2024

Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council

Dear Council Members:

We are writing to show our support for the NextEra Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East project, towers on Gleason Butte, and wind energy in general.

We all know that wind energy is clean, it's renewable and it's effective. The project will generate 300 megawatts of power. That's pretty impressive. If our piece of land can be part of something with such a great impact for Morrow County, we are all in.

Our land is part of Gleason Butte that is being objected by the Myers family. It is not a landmark; it is simply farm ground. For the most part, it is grazed by our cattle. Fire based models show that cattle grazing reduces fuel load enough to lessen fire hazards in many grazed areas. This grazing on the rangeland only adds extra layers of protection against fire. For them to pick a particular spot that they determine is going to affect their enjoyment of their property is not practical. All they have to do is to look North or East and they see wind towers already. And if they look South, there are already other 200-foot towers that have been on Gleason Butte, our property, for many decades.

As for concerns for weed control or fire hazards, this can only help. All of the wind tower roadways we have seen are kept very clean and free from weeds. This can only help Morrow County in their efforts to control weeds along roadways. These new roadways will give access to areas that were not accessible to these steep higher elevations that are on Gleason Butte. We live there, this is our land, we know the

terrain, and fire trucks would not normally be able to access a large portion of this area. These roads will enhance the ability of fire departments, local farmers, and rural fire personnel to access this area, if a fire were to break out.

A lot of our neighbors and friends have turbines on their farmland and have had no issues whatsoever. The turbines provide a reliable source of income in an industry that can change in an instant based on weather patterns. It doesn't interfere with their land use at all, and the wind farms have been open and honest with their communication. There are wind farms already in Morrow and Umatilla counties, which have proven to be beneficial to their communities.

Wind farms make sense to me, and they make dollars for our local businesses and our community.

Please don't let a few people make the decision for others. We urge you to support this wind project.

Sincerely,

Cliff and Dawna Dougherty
65450 Spur Loop Rd,
Heppner OR 97836
541-676-5491
candddougherty@hotmail.com
cjd5491@hotmail.com

LOCAL 701 International Union of Operating Engineers
555 E. First Street, Gladstone, OR 97027
Office: 503-650-7701 | Dispatch: 503-650-7721
Fax: 503-650-7715 | Trust Office: 503-657-9740
JAMES ANDERSON
Business Manager & Financial Secretary

April 1, 2024

Energy Facility Siting Council
Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol St. NE, 1st Floor.
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Public Comment in Support of Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Amendment 1

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wheatridge project's amended request to increase the number of wind turbines, increase battery storage system capacity, and expand the site boundary, along with other improvements to the original plans.

I am the Business Manager for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 701. Our union covers nearly 4,000 heavy equipment operators and stationary members in Oregon and SW Washington — over 50 of which live in Morrow and Umatilla County and would likely secure work on the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East project.

Local 701 is strongly in favor of this project and the proposed amendments. By increasing the number of wind turbines and the necessary infrastructure for them, this project will not only improve Oregon's environmental wellbeing, but it will also provide more jobs for workers close to their homes.

Through this expansion, more heavy equipment operators will be able to secure steady income without traveling far from their families. The proposed changes will also extend the construction work by three years, ensuring operators will have reliable and ongoing work.

The length and size of the Wheatridge project will allow apprentices to complete the required hours to graduate into full-fledged journeymen on a single jobsite, helping address Oregon's concerns about an aging construction workforce. This project is also an excellent opportunity for increasing diversity in the construction industry and expanding opportunities for workers of all experiences. Approving these amendments will only augment the benefits to all of Oregon and its vital workforces.

I strongly urge the Energy Facility Siting Council to approve the request for Amendment 1 to bolster Oregon's environmental welfare and the welfare of workers in Morrow and Umatilla County.

Respectfully,

James Anderson
Business Manager
IUOE Local 701

March 29, 2024

To: The Energy Facility Council

Re: Wheatridge Energy Project

I am writing this letter to address the issue that the Myers Family has with the NextEra Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Project.

I am a landowner of Gleason Butte, which is the same area that they are objecting to. This ground has been in our family for years. It is used to graze cattle mainly, which promotes weed control and lessen's the fire hazard. The construction of wind turbines on that butte will only help those very concerns. I have seen other wind farms in our area, and the roads they build—the weed control management that is used—it only helps the property owners and the community.

As far as the landmark objection—Gleason Butte has never been designated as a landmark.

As far as "wrecking" the enjoyment of the Myers property, they are surrounded by other wind turbines that can be seen from their property, so it doesn't make a lot of sense to me to designate Gleason Butte as a problem.

Wind Farms are a good thing for our communities. They benefit our economy and the energy environment. I'm glad that our land can be used for a good purpose.

Thank you,

Cindy Raymond

Cindy Raymond

541-278-2400

Cindyl1960@live.com

March 26, 2024

Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to express my concern about the opposition to the NextEra Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East project and towers on Gleason Butte and to express my support for the wind energy project.

I am a landowner in the project area and a resident of Morrow County. These wind projects have been proven to help our local economy. The people this construction project brings in helps our local businesses as well. This kind of activity is essential for our small towns.

I want to point out that Gleason butte is not a landmark, it is my land that I have the right to make decisions about. This lease agreement allows me to have additional income when ag income becomes challenging.

There have been wind towers in Morrow and Umatilla counties for quite some time now. And I haven't heard of any issues from them. Also, if you drive by them you can see that the roads are very well maintained. With the wind company maintaining roads along with Morrow County, it can only help with weed and fire control.

I have been an owner of this property for many decades now. We take very good care of our land/property. We get along well with all of our neighbors. Our hopes are to continue our agricultural way of life and

supplementing our operation with the wind turbines. Integrating wind turbines into our agricultural operation diversifies our land use and for dry land farming, this is crucial and can stabilize farming for the future.

I urge you to consider the long-term advantages of this wind farm and vote in favor of this project.

Sincerely,

Patricia Dougherty
66317 Spur Loop Rd
Heppner OR 97836
541-676-9737
patriciadou09@gmail.com

From: Terrie Cutsforth
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 9:22 AM
To: CLARK Christopher * ODOE
Subject: Fwd: Wheatridge East Comment Letter

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Terrie Cutsforth <tercuts@gmail.com>
Date: April 1, 2024 at 4:23:54 PM PDT
To: cristopher.clark@energy.oregon.gov
Subject: Wheatridge East Comment Letter

Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Facility Siting Council

Re: Wheatridge Wind Energy Project

Dear Council Members,

We are writing to lend our support to the proposed Wheatridge Wind Energy Project. Our family farmed in Morrow County for over 60 years. Including some of the land in the proposed project. About three years ago we made the hard decision to sell our farm. It was important to us that we sell to a farm family. So much so we passed on a higher offer from an investor. Our strong support is not only for the proposed wind project but also for the continuation of the family farm and our rural community. These projects provide farmers and ranchers with a stable revenue stream. A drought resistant cash crop that can protect from commodity price fluctuations in the lean years and a chance to hire more employees, update equipment and modernize an operation, which is good for the environment.

Adding wind farming to traditional farming and ranching operations is a natural for farmers as stewards of the land. Farmers protect and

enhance natural resources and the environment. Windmills provide a renewable energy source that reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. Wind farms also expand the tax base, provide jobs that may entice our young people to stay. Some that will stay to farm. All of which will support our community. The Wheatridge Wind Energy project will also contribute to Oregons green power initiatives.
We still consider Morrow County home, visit often and maintain a residence there. This is why we strongly urge the council to carefully consider the positive impact this project will provide to the environment, the family farm and so many others in the rural community.

Mark & Terrie Cutsforth
11003 Summit View Ct.
Kennewick, Wa. 99338

From: welchdj@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 10:18 AM
To: CLARK Christopher * ODOE
Subject: Comments on Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365

I am submitting comments for the Oregon-California Trails Association, Northwest Chapter. I am the acting preservation officer for the chapter.

The Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East project does not appear to directly impact the Oregon Trail which runs east-west north of the project. However, the original project and the proposed expansion appear to have significant visual impact to an observer on the trail in the range or at the kiosk on the south side of Immigrant Road. Interpretive signs in the area date to the 1990s and are in terrible shape. Assistance in the rehabilitation of these signs would be greatly appreciated.

David Welch
Oregon-California Trails Association
Northwest Chapter
welchdj@comcast.net

April 1, 2024

Christopher Clark, Senior Siting Analyst
Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol St. NE, 1st Floor
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Certificate Holder Comments and Clarifications to the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East RFA1 Draft Proposed Order

Dear Mr. Clark:

Wheatridge East Wind LLC (Wheatridge East), a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources LLC (the Certificate Holder), is providing the following comments and clarifications on conditions GEN-GS-02, GEN-CE-01, PRE-FW-01, PRE-FW-02, PRE-TE-02, and PRE-TE-03 in the Draft Proposed Order to the Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1) to the Site Certificate for the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East (Facility).

GEN-GS-02

> *The certificate holder shall complete construction of the wind facility components and its related or supporting facilities by May 24, ~~2023~~2025. The certificate holder shall promptly notify the Department of the date of completion of construction.*
> *[Final Order on ASC (2017), General Standard Condition 2 ~~(2018)~~; AMD2 (2018); AMD4 (2019); AMD5 (2020); AMD1 (2024)]*
> *[Mandatory Condition OAR 345-025-0006(4)]*

Certificate Holder Comment: The Certificate Holder understands that the Oregon Department of Energy (the Department) is proposing a two-year extension to the construction completion deadline as opposed to a three-year extension, as requested in the RFA1. The Certificate Holder assumes that this is due in part to the language outlined in OAR 345-027-0385(5)(d), which applies to facilities "not yet in construction":

> *(5) For requests for an amendment to the site certificate to extend construction deadlines for facilities, or portions/phases of facilities, not yet in construction, but already approved for construction in the site certificate or amended site certificate prior to October 24, 2017:*
>
> *(d) If a request for amendment for a deadline extension made under this section is granted, the Council must specify new deadlines for beginning or completing construction that are not more than two years from the deadlines in effect before the Council grants the amendment.*

However, the Department has indicated that Site Certificate Condition GEN-GS-01 (i.e., start of construction) has been satisfied for the Facility (RFA1 Draft Proposed Order, page 28):

> *Under OAR 345-025-0006(4) the Council must impose a condition requiring the certificate holder to begin and complete construction of the facility by the dates specified in the site certificate. The Council previously imposed site certificate conditions GEN-GS-01 and GEN-GS-02, specifying the deadlines for the beginning and completion of construction, respectively.*
>
> *Site certificate condition GEN-GS-01, required the certificate holder to begin construction of the facility by May 24, 2020. On January 9, 2020, Wheatridge Wind Energy, LLC notified the Department that it would begin construction of the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility on January 15, 2020. Because this occurred prior to the administrative division of the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility under Final Order on Request for Amendment 5 of the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility Site Certificate, the Department has treated this condition as having been satisfied for the successor facilities, including Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East. Accordingly, the Department recommends the Council delete site certificate condition GEN-GS-01.*

Due to the Facility already considered to be "under construction", the two-year limit on extensions should not apply. Therefore, the Certificate Holder requests a three-year extension from the prior construction completion deadline, which would allow the certificate holder to complete construction of the Facility by May 2026 instead of May 2025. As outlined in RFA1, the Certificate Holder intended to begin construction on the amended facility in April 2024. However, the Certificate Holder cannot proceed with construction of the amended portions of the Facility until the Council approves an amended site certificate. Under the Council's proposed review schedule, the Council would issue an amended site certificate in late May 2024 at the earliest. Accordingly, this change to the proposed condition will give the Certificate Holder sufficient time to meet the construction completion deadline with construction currently planned to last a minimum of 18 months.

GEN-CE-01

> *All wind turbines shall be setback at least the following distances from the active raptor nest locations identified in pre-construction raptor nest surveys required under Condition PRE-FW-01:*
>
> *a. 0.25 miles from active Swainson's hawk nest locations;*
> *b. 0.5 miles from active ferruginous hawk nest locations; and*
> *c. 2 miles from active eagle nest locations.*
> *d. At least 0.8 miles from Butter Creek and Little Butter Creek.*
> *[AMD1 (2024)]*

Certificate Holder Comment: The Certificate Holder requests that the binding turbine setback from Butter Creek and Little Butter Creek be reduced to 0.5 miles to allow flexibility in turbine

siting during final design while still maintaining turbine avoidance of the areas with the highest wildlife use.

CON-FW-02

a. Prior to construction, the certificate holder shall develop a construction plan that demonstrates construction activities will not occur within ~~0.25-mile of~~ the buffer zones established in section b for previously identified active nest sites ~~are scheduled to avoid~~ during the sensitive nesting and breeding season. ~~Previously identified active nest sites are those identified through the pre-construction raptor nest survey as required through Condition PRE-FW-01 and may also include any previously identified active nest sites from previous surveys.~~

b. During construction within the time periods listed below, the certificate holder shall implement buffer zones around active nest sites of the species listed below. Active nest sites shall be identified based on the pre-construction raptor nest survey required under Condition PRE-FW-01 and previous ~~pre-construction nest~~ surveys and be monitored during construction by a biological monitor, both of which shall be based on a protocol approved by the Department in consultation with ODFW- specifying methodology and frequency of monitoring. No ground-disturbing activities within the buffer zone shall occur during the seasonal restrictions. The construction workforce and facility employees must be provided maps with the locations of the buffer zones and be instructed to avoid ground-disturbing activity within the buffer zone during construction activities.

Sensitive Status Species	Buffer Size (Radius Around Nest Site):	Sensitive Nesting and Breeding Season :
Western burrowing owl	0.25 mile	April 1 to August 15
Ferruginous hawk	0.~~25~~6 mile	March ~~1~~5 to August 15
Swainson's hawk	0.25 mile	April 1 to August 15

c. If avoidance within the buffer restrictions cannot be maintained, the certificate holder may request approval from the Department in consultation with ODFW on a mitigation and conservation strategy for condition compliance. [Final Order on ASC (2017), Fish and Wildlife Habitat Condition 5; AMD3 (2018); AMD4 (2019), AMD1 (2024)]

Certificate Holder Comment: Condition CON-FW-02 includes seasonal restriction for three sensitive raptor species but there is no release date listed in the case that the nest is not occupied for the year. Please clarify if there is a date (e.g., May 31) after which these restrictions can be dropped if the nest is unoccupied for the year.

PRE-TE-02

Prior to construction, ~~I~~in accordance with ~~Fish and Wildlife Habitat~~ Condition 4PRE-FW-02, ~~prior to construction,~~ the certificate holder shall finalize and implement the Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (WMMP) provided in Attachment ~~F-2~~G of the Final Order on Amendment 1 of the Site Certificate for Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility ~~II Site Certificate~~East (~~November 2020~~Date), based on the final facility design, as approved by the department in consultation with ODFW. The final WMMP shall include a program to monitor potential impacts from facility operation on Washington ground squirrel. Monitoring shall be of any known colonies and shall be completed on the same schedule as the raptor nest monitoring for the facility. The monitoring surveys shall include returning to the known colonies to determine occupancy and the extent of the colony as well as a general explanation of the amount of use at the colony. If the colony is not found within the known boundary of the historic location a survey 500 feet out from the known colony will be conducted to determine if the colony has shifted over time. Any new colonies that are located during other monitoring activities, such as raptor nest monitoring surveys, shall be documented and the extent of those colonies should be delineated as well. These newly discovered colonies shall also be included in any future WGS monitoring activities.

[Final Order on ASC (2017), Threatened and Endangered Species Condition 2, AMD1 (2024)]

Certificate Holder Comment: Condition PRE-TE-02 requires the Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (WMMP) to be finalized prior to construction. However, updated Condition PRE-FW-02 requires the WMMP be finalized prior to operations, and include updated fatality thresholds of concern which are to be developed by the Department in consultation with ODFW. Please clarify when the WMMP should be finalized.

PRE-TE-03

~~To avoid potential impacts to Laurent's milkvetch, the certificate holder must:~~

a. Before beginning construction of the facility, facility component, or phase, as applicable, the certificate holder must ~~C~~conduct preconstruction plant surveys for ~~Laurent's~~ Lawrence's milkvetch in all areas within 100-feet of temporary and permanent disturbance from all facility components, unless extent of survey area within suitable habitat from temporary and permanent disturbance is otherwise agreed upon by the Department on consultation with Oregon Department of Agriculture.

b. Except as provided in section e, ~~If the species is found to occur,~~ the certificate holder must install protection flagging ~~around the plant population~~ at least 100 feet from the outer boundaries of all Lawrence's milkvetch occurrences that fall within the preconstruction survey area established under section a. The certificate holder must ~~and~~ avoid any ground disturbance within ~~this~~ the flagged zone.

c. ~~Ensure that any~~ Any plant protection zones ~~established under (i) above is~~ shall be included on construction plans showing the final design locations.

d. If herbicides are used to control weeds at the site, the certificate holder shall follow the manufacturer's guidelines in establishing a buffer area around confirmed ~~populations~~

occurrences of ~~Laurent's~~ Lawrence's milkvetch. Herbicides must not be used within the established buffers.

~~e.~~ The certificate holder may not conduct ground disturbing activities within 100-feet of any Lawrence's milkvetch occurrence until a final Lawrence's milkvetch mitigation plan has been approved in accordance with Condition PRE-TE-04.

~~If avoidance cannot be maintained, the certificate holder may request that the Department consider an avoidance exception, authorized through Council concurrence as further described below. The exception request must include an impact assessment and mitigation plan for the affected species including but not be limited to:~~

~~Literature review and/or field studies that inform the current status of the species within the survey area or region, if survey area does not contain sufficient information to develop a statistically viable approach for determining impact significance;~~

~~A description of the individual(s) or population(s) identified within the survey area that would be avoided and impacted;~~

~~An evaluation of facility impacts on the survival or recovery of the species, in accordance with the Threatened and Endangered Species standard;~~

~~Proposed mitigation measures such as: funded studies that improve understanding of reproductive biology and pollination; development of seed germination, propagation, and transplanting protocols; and/or, compensatory mitigation project including conservation easement(s) and species propagation, protection, and habitat enhancement measures, and/or other proposed mitigation measures that would benefit the affected species.~~

~~The Department's review and determination of the exception request shall be conducted in consultation with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, or a third-party consultant. The Department's determination on the exception request must be concurred with by Council. Council retains authority to reject, modify or concur with the exception request.~~

[Final Order on ASC (2017), Threatened and Endangered Species Condition 3; AMD3 (2018); AMD4 (2019), AMD1 (2024)]

Certificate Holder Comment: Condition PRE-TE-03 states that before beginning construction of the facility, facility component, or phase of construction as applicable, the Certificate Holder must conduct preconstruction plant surveys for Lawrence's milkvetch in all areas within 100-feet of temporary and permanent disturbance. The Certificate Holder intends to survey these areas that have not previously been surveyed before commencing construction in those areas. However, Condition PRE-TE-03 further states that the Certificate Holder may not conduct ground disturbing activities within 100-feet of any Lawrence's milkvetch occurrence until a final Lawrence's milkvetch mitigation plan has been approved in accordance with Condition PRE-TE-04. The Certificate Holder requests that construction be allowed to commence in areas previously identified as areas of impact to Lawrence's milkvetch, as accounted for in the Lawrence's milkvetch mitigation plan provided with RFA 1, prior to the date that the Lawrence's milkvetch mitigation plan can be updated following surveys in summer 2024 (when this threatened plant is identifiable) in areas not previously surveyed within 100 feet of disturbance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Lawlor

Executive Director Development

NextEra Energy Resources

Copy: Ryan Hill, NextEra
Sara Twitchell, NextEra
Carrie Konkol, Tetra Tech
Sarah Stauffer Curtiss, Stoel Rives

EFSC

Wheatridge

To Whom It May Concern,

My comments concern the Wheatridge complex, specifically the effects on Gleason Butte.

I attended the live meeting that was held at the Oxford Suites in Hermiston to begin learning about how this whole process works for energy projects. During the meeting, I listened to the comments by people in direct attendance, and over the phone as callers attended in that manner. It was very interesting to see the process.

I live in Hermiston and enjoy the fact that where I live, I can see for miles. That is changing rapidly as more and more projects come in to the area. Instead of clear views of the hills, the viewshed is getting cluttered by windmills and power lines. It is obvious that this process is going to continue.

I have a couple of concerns that I share with people who spoke in some way at that meeting. The first big concern is the overall big picture. It appears that each project is being viewed piecemeal instead of looking at how each project will fit into the whole landscape. I fear that every single ridge in eastern Oregon will be covered by an energy project with little regard to magnificent viewsheds, a rural way of life, and long-term farming and ranching.

In regards to Gleason Butte, please do remove a few of the windmills to keep the scenic viewshed as open as possible for the people in our area to enjoy. Also, please look at our state as a whole, especially our eastern side of the state. It simply cannot all be completely covered with the various energy projects. Farmers still need to farm, so that we all may have reasonably priced food. Let us enjoy our open spaces without all the transmission lines and blinking lights covering the ridges as far as the eye can see. Our region is unique and it should be allowed to stay that way. I understand that there needs to be improvements to the energy grid but please do it in a thoughtful way.

Jennifer Miller

Hermiston, Oregon

From: PIKE Brandon
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:35 PM
To: CLARK Christopher * ODOE
Cc: ESTERSON Sarah * ODOE
Subject: RE: Email Summary of Public Notice of Complete Request for Amendment 1 for Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Site Certificate, Draft Proposed Order, Public Comment Period, and Public Hearing

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Good afternoon Christopher,

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV) to comment on this application. We have reviewed the proposal and prepared the following comment(s):

1. In accordance with FAR Part 77.9 and OAR 738-070-0060, the proposed wind turbines may be required to undergo aeronautical evaluations by the FAA and ODAV. The aeronautical evaluations are initiated by the applicant providing separate notices to both the FAA and ODAV to determine if the proposal poses an obstruction to aviation safety. The applicant should receive the resulting aeronautical determination letters from the FAA and ODAV prior to approval of any building permits.

Please reach out if you have questions or concerns.

Best,

BRANDON PIKE
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION
AVIATION PLANNER

PHONE 971-372-1339
EMAIL brandon.pike@odav.oregon.gov
3040 25TH STREET SE, SALEM, OR 97302
WWW.OREGON.GOV/AVIATION

From: ESTERSON Sarah * ODOE <Sarah.ESTERSON@energy.oregon.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 6:11 PM
Subject: Email Summary of Public Notice of Complete Request for Amendment 1 for Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Site Certificate, Draft Proposed Order, Public Comment Period, and Public Hearing

of the information you share if you respond.

Good evening,

The Department provides an email summary of the Public Notice of Complete Request for Amendment 1 for Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Site Certificate, Draft Proposed Order, Public Comment Period, and Public Hearing below, and also attached.

Thank you,
Sarah and Chris

Click here if you are having trouble viewing this message.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ENERGY FACILITY SITING COUNCIL

Email Summary of Public Notice of Complete Request for Amendment 1 for Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Site Certificate, Draft Proposed Order, Public Comment Period, and Public Hearing

On February 29, 2024, the Oregon Department of Energy issued its Draft Proposed Order (DPO) on Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1) of the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Site Certificate. On the same date, the Department issued a Public Notice of a public comment period on the Complete RFA1, DPO, and public hearing. These documents and the notice are available on the Department's website.

RFA1 seeks Council approval for: An expanded site boundary from 74,403 acres, to 78,985 acres, an expanded micrositing corridor from 10,058 acres, to 14,640 acres, the construction of up to 41 additional turbines for a total of 107 wind turbines and generating capacity of 300 megawatts (MW), modification of the collection system to consist of approximately 95 miles of underground 34.5kV line, an expansion of the Battery Energy Storage capacity by 10 MW, realignment of the 230-kV transmission line along a newly proposed corridor, construction of an additional 56 miles of new permanent access

roads, expansion of facility substation, a new temporary construction yard with up to 60 acres of temporary disturbance area, revised site certificate conditions, and an extension of the construction completion deadline by 3 years, from May 24, 2023, to May 24, 2026.

Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East is an approved, but not yet-constructed, 200-MW wind energy generation facility located within a 4,582-acre site boundary in Umatilla and Morrow Counties, approximately 16 miles northeast of Heppner, Oregon.

The certificate holder is Wheatridge East Wind LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources LLC.

Comment Period:

The public comment period is February 29 through April 4, 2024. Written comments on the DPO and RFA1 must be received by ODOE **by the public comment deadline of April 4, 2024** and must be submitted in writing through the public comment portal, by mail, email, or fax to the address listed below, or via oral or written comments submitted at the public hearing.

Christopher M. Clark, Senior Siting Analyst
Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol Street NE, 1st Floor
Salem, OR 97301
Email: Christopher.CLARK@energy.oregon.gov
Fax: 503-373-7806

The goal of the online comment portal is to provide a convenient option to submit input on projects. To get started, choose the "Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East RFA1" project from the drop-down menu. Click "Next" and follow the instructions on screen. You will receive an email confirmation after submitting your comment.

ODOE also has a new docket system available which displays comments that have been submitted. Comments for this RFA1 and DPO will be posted to the docket and will normally be available to view within 3 business days of receipt.

Public Hearing:

A Public Hearing on the RFA1 and DPO will be held on March 21, 2024 at the Oxford Suites in Hermiston to provide the public

opportunity to provide oral or written comments. It will be held both in person and remotely. Details on how to participate remotely are included in the Public Notice that is posted to the project website.

In Person/Webinar Public Hearing Information:
Date: March 21, 2024
Start Time: 6:00 p.m. PDT
Location: Oxford Suites (Oxford Room)
1050 N. First Street
Hermiston, Oregon

Additional Information:
Public Notice on Request for Comments on the Complete Request for Amendment 1, and Draft Proposed Order, and Public Hearing are available online.

You received this notice either because you previously signed up for email updates related to specific siting projects or all Energy Facility Siting Council activities. You will automatically receive all future notices unless you unsubscribe via ClickDimensions or by contacting ODOE.

If you have any questions or comments about ClickDimensions please feel free to contact ODOE's Administrative Assistant Nancy Hatch at 503-428-7905, toll-free in Oregon at 800-221-8035, or email to Nancy.Hatch@energy.oregon.gov

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Oregon Department of Energy
Leading Oregon to a safe, equitable, clean, and sustainable energy future.

The Oregon Department of Energy helps Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. We advance solutions to shape an equitable clean energy transition, protect the environment and public health, and responsibly balance energy needs and impacts for current and future generations.

Share Share Share

AskEnergy@oregon.gov | 503-378-4040 | 550 Capitol St. NE in Salem

From: SOMERS Lindsay N * ODFW
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 11:59 AM
To: CLARK Christopher * ODOE
Cc: ESTERSON Sarah * ODOE; THOMPSON Jeremy L * ODFW
Subject: WREFE DPO

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hi Chris,

I reviewed the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East DPO on the Request for Amendment 1 and have one comment on the revisions included.

- Page 171, Recommended Amended Site Certificate Condition CON-FW-02: Ferruginous hawk buffer is listed as 0.6 miles and should be 0.5 miles.

Have a great week,

Lindsay

Lindsay Somers
Habitat Biologist-John Day Watershed
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
73471 Mytinger Ln
Pendleton, OR 97801
Office: 541-388-6294
Cell: 541-314-1236

MORROW COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

110 N Court St. • P.O. Box 788
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David Sykes, Chair
Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner
Roy Drago Jr., Commissioner

April 3, 2024

Christopher M. Clark
Senior Siting Analyst, Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol Street N.E., 1st Floor
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East (WREFE), Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1)
Comments on Draft Proposed Order (DPO)

Dear Mr. Clark:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. It is our understanding that WREFE seeks Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) approval for a 200-megawatt wind energy facility. Specifically, the amendment will do the following:

- Expand the site boundary by approximately 75,000 acres, to 79,424 acres total.
- Expand the micro siting corridor by approximately 11,000 acres, to 15,341 acres.
- Construct up to 40 additional turbines, for a total of up to 106 turbines; maximum blade-tip height of 499.7 feet; and a combined generating capacity of up to 300 megawatts (MW).
- Modify the proposed collection system to consist of approximately 94.7 miles of underground line.
- Expand the battery energy storage capacity by 10 MW, for a total of 30 MW.
- Realign the proposed transmission lines along two newly proposed routes that partially overlap with previously approved corridors.
- Add 44 miles of new access roads, for a total of 64 miles.
  Note: Page 294 appears to authorize up to 76 miles of permanent and 15 miles of temporary roads.
- Expand the project substation to accommodate the new generating capacity.
- Add a new temporary construction yard with up to 60 acres of temporary disturbance area.
- Extend the construction completion deadline by three years, from May 24, 2023, to May 24, 2026. *[permit only approves a two-year extension]*
- Morrow County Conditional Use Permit CUP-N-328, approved September 7, 2018, recognized Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility as being made up of two distinct wind farms, Wheatridge Energy Facility West (WREFW), and Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East (WREFE). WREFW is currently constructed and operational under CUP-N-328 (now known as Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility I, II, and III). WREFE, also approved under CUP-N-328, has not yet been constructed and is not operational.

As noted in the county's August 2023 letter, a new Conditional Use Permit will be required for WREFE upon EFSC's review and approval of a Site Certificate for WREFE RFA1. Conditions PRE_LU-01 and PRE LU-02 require the certificate holder to obtain a CUP for the project and a

Zoning Permit for each individual tax lot, a requirement that also helps county identify project components.

Several issues were raised at the EFSC public hearing in Hermiston on March 21, 2024, that county would like to underscore and request the DPO be updated accordingly. Topics include weed abatement, impacts to county roads, fire suppression and visual impacts.

Weed Abatement

The DPO includes a weed plan, however, implementation is not clear. Where weed abatement has been a significant challenge, and given the size and scale of the project, including approximately 74 miles of new roads, this project will require significantly more manpower to implement weed abatement measures. To that end, County requests the Proposed Order include a condition that NextEra fund a full time County employee to ensure compliance with the weed plan. County requests that the certificate holder fund the weed abatement FTE for a minimum of 3 years. After the initial 3-year period, the condition may be satisfied if the certificate holder has demonstrated sustained compliance with the weed abatement plan. If the certificate holder violates the weed abatement plan during the initial 3-year period, County requests that the certificate holder be required to fund the position for the life of the project.

Road Impacts

The record has some inconsistent information about new roads. The summary indicates 44 miles of new access roads, for a total of 64 miles. Page 294 requests EFSC authorize up to 76 miles of permanent and 15 miles of temporary roads. The roads will be located within both Morrow and Umatilla County. For Morrow County, please add a condition that requires a Road Use Agreement signed and approved by Morrow County Public Works prior to construction.

Fire Suppression – the DPO is insufficient to address potential wildfire risk and impacts to local fire districts. WREFE submitted an Operational Wildfire Mitigation Plan that does not include coordination with Heppner Rural Fire Protection District which is the underlying Rural Fire Protection District for most of the project site located in Morrow County. As such, Heppner RFPD will be the primary agency responsible for responding to fires within a large portion of the development site. The Emergency Response section of the plan only addresses how Wheatridge employees will respond to a fire (i.e. vehicles to carry fire extinguishers during fire season) and does not include any indicator of how a large-scale wildfire within the site boundary will be addressed. County requests that the DPO include a condition that the final Operational Wildfire Mitigation Plan be reviewed and approved by the fire protection districts within the site boundary and that the certificate holder be responsible for providing affected districts with additional infrastructure, personnel, or equipment necessary to adequately serve the site area. This should be required prior to construction. A fire that originates within the site area will be devastating if local fire protection districts don't have adequate equipment or capacity to respond. It also appears that the plan does not include any periodic inspection requirements.

Gleason Butte Morrow County has not made any significant revisions to the Goal 5 Element of the Comprehensive Plan since the Wheatridge Facility was originally permitted December 19, 2014. During public testimony on March 21, 2024, at the EFSC meeting in Hermiston, residents requested EFSC impose a condition that would limit the towers on Gleason Butte due to the significant impact to the view shed. County notes that Gleason Butte also hosts several communication towers for emergency response and asks EFSC ensure that new towers do not interfere with the vital function of the communication towers.

For questions or additional information, please contact Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director, at 541-922-4624 or tmabbott@co.morrow.or.us or Eric Imes, Public Works Director, at (541) 989-8584.

Sincerely,

David Sykes
Chair

Recused
Jeff Wenholz
Commissioner

Roy Drago Jr.
Commissioner

Cc: Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director
Eric Imes, Public Works Director
Corey Sweeney, Weed Coordinator
Steve Rhea, Chief, Heppner Fire District
Steve Freeland, Morrow County Emergency Manager

Wendy King
1337 SW Pumice Ave. Apt 303
Redmond, OR 97756

April 4, 2024

Energy Facility Siting Council
% Christopher M. Clark,
Senior Siting Analyst
Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Sent via EMail: christopher.clark@energy.oregon.gov

Subject: WheatRidge Renewable Energy Facility East RFA-1, Draft Proposed Order

Dear Chairwoman Condon and Members of the Council,

I am writing in opposition of WREFEAMD wind turbines on Gleason Butte that outreach the elevation of its peak elevation 3,189 feet above sea level. I am opposing on the grounds of: Scenic Resources; Historic, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources; Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation; and Cumulative Effects Standard for Wind Energy Facilities.

Scenic Resources
OAR • 345-022-0080 (2) The Council may issue a site certificate for a special criteria facility under OAR 345-015-0310 without making the findings described in section (1). In issuing such a site certificate, the Council may impose conditions of approval to minimize the potential significant adverse visual impacts from the design, construction, and operation of the facility on significant or important scenic resources.

Gleason Butte can be seen from miles away from many locations including Interstate 84 & 82, Highway 207 & 395, Butter Creek Road, Little Butter Creek Road, Myers Road, Echo Road, Oregon Trail Road, Baseline Road and Bombing Range Road to name a few. It is in clear view from our Myers century farm homestead.

After a study of Wheatridge East DPO Exhibit R, Figure R-6 Visual Simulation from KOP 4, the imposed height appears to be incorrect. I have requested from the applicant contact, David Lawlor, new illustrations of the actual turbine structures imposed to scale on the landscape showing the wind turbine heights from different viewpoints. The exhibit

visualizations and placement on the landscape lack detail. Instead, I was provided with the same figures from Exhibit R.

While Morrow County has not protected the privately owned Gleason Butte, it is adored by many in the community and beyond. No landscapes in Morrow County besides designated parks are officially protected even though some would be considered a natural scenic resource.

Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources

OAR • 345-022-0090

(1) Except for facilities described in sections (2) and (3), to issue a site certificate, the Council must find that the construction and operation of the facility, taking into account mitigation, are not likely to result in significant adverse impacts to:

(a) Historic, cultural or archaeological resources that have been listed on, or would likely be listed on the National Register of Historic Places;

The Bartholomew-Myers Farm is a historical resource. It was adopted into the Century Farm and Ranch Program (CFR1093). The approved application from the Century Farm and Ranch application completed in 2005 stated: “While farming challenges remain, all of those on the farm enjoy the beautiful countryside and respect the great heritage that we have on the Bartholomew-Myers Farm.”

The backdrop of our homestead is Gleason Butte. From the two family residences on this farm, it is often photographed for its natural beauty and looked upon for a hint of weather to come. No doubt there are recollections of it by travelers through the years. As family generations settle on our farm, the aesthetic value may take deeper roots with new ventures in Agri-tourism that will increase the Butte’s scenic value.

Wildfire Prevention and Risk Mitigation

OAR • 345-022-0115 (1) (b) (D)

Identify procedures to minimize risks to public health and safety, the health and safety of responders, and damages to resources protected by Council standards in the event that a wildfire occurs at the facility site, regardless of ignition source;

Our homesteads are located just two miles outside the analysis area; we are left vulnerable to wildfire from the project because we are downwind from the towers to our south and southwest. It is clear that Wheatridge only needs to determine the risks to assets, structures, people and property, etc. within their analysis area. However, because they are a wind farm, one would expect wildfire to be impacted and ushered by wind.

Our farmland borders a small stretch of the site boundary and is included in the analysis area but appears to have a low-moderate ranking in Figure V-1: Hazard to Potential Structures; despite having no structures. Otherwise, it has no ranking in all other maps presented. I speculate this terrain is similar to the terrain in Texas that experienced the largest fire in state history and was spread by winds.

I challenge the accuracy of the maps in the Wildfire Prevention and Risk Mitigation Plan because it appears they are from an outdated source. Figure V-4 shows no potential impact to our homesteads, equipment, buildings, shops, weigh station, hay stacks, grain elevator, irrigation pumps, and family members. Meanwhile, in our dryland wheat field just west of our homestead, there appears to be a low wildfire potential impact to people and property (where no people reside). The adjoining dryland wheat field has no ranking. It is improper to use a map that shows that a dryland wheatfield has no overall wildfire risk - inside and outside the analysis area. It appears the maps lack enough specificity to satisfy OAR 345-022-0115 (1)(a)(B) & (C). Especially agriculture resources of a dryland nature.

In Figure V-5, Wildfire Potential impacts to Infrastructure is only ranking roads. It is important to include all transmission and distribution power lines not only as a source of ignition but potential loss from wildfire.

The Wildfire Prevention and Risk Mitigation Plan has a brief description of Fire weather monitoring. How is local knowledge incorporated in monitoring? In the determination of heightened risk, it is not clear what constitutes an asset. This risk is often classified as people, structures, and businesses. However, more advanced plans incorporate livestock, cropland, and acres burned. To offer the greatest degree of safety to the landowners who are hosting facilities and the community outside the analysis area, the applicant should account for people, property and assets.

Lightning strikes account for 60-70 percent of ignitions in Morrow County. Wind turbine blades have an incredible reach to the sky, along with the nacelle. There is no discussion of a plan to monitor or alert the community of a lightning strike that has achieved ignition to satisfy OAR 345-022-0115 (1)(a)(D).

Cumulative Effects Standard for Wind Energy Facilities

OAR 345-024-0015 (5) & (6)

To issue a site certificate for a proposed wind energy facility, the Council must find that the applicant can design and construct the facility to reduce cumulative adverse environmental effects in the vicinity by practicable measures including, but not limited to, the following:

(5) Designing the components of the facility to minimize adverse visual features.

By removing the turbines from the peak of Gleason Butte and any turbine whose blade reaches below the height of 3,189 ft above sea level would achieve the minimization of adverse visual features. Movement on the landscape or horizon attracts the eye, so to say, “it would not dominate the viewshed," (EXHIBIT DD: SPECIFIC STANDARDS, 4.5 Visual Impacts Minimization page 9) appears to be a subjective opinion. Another admission to their wind turbine viewshed dominance: “the white color of the turbines is the most effective daytime warning device.” (EXHIBIT DD: SPECIFIC STANDARDS, 4.6 Lighting page 10)

The developer states: “First, the Certificate Holder has sited the Facility in a remote area of Morrow and Umatilla counties…” (EXHIBIT DD: SPECIFIC STANDARDS, 4.5 Visual Impacts Minimization page 9). This statement confirms their intention to discriminate against rural individuals that would endure the greatest visual impact. This action may also satisfy a case for environmental justice protection. The siting process also discriminates against all individuals whose viewshed is impacted between the site boundary and more than 7 miles of the project by excluding them from notification of the potential impact. It is unclear if the landowners that host the turbines encounter them in their own viewshed. Currently, Myers Farm has no views of wind turbines from their homestead.

(6) Using the minimum lighting necessary for safety and security purposes and using techniques to prevent casting glare from the site, except as otherwise required by the Federal Aviation Administration or the Oregon Department of Aviation.

The developer states, “Facility lighting impacts would be minimal.” This is another offering of a subjective opinion to persuade the reader. They go on to say: “turbines will likely be lit with an array of red flashing lights synchronized to flash simultaneously” (EXHIBIT DD: SPECIFIC STANDARDS, 4.6 Lighting page 10). I would welcome a study conducted to determine if anyone enjoys or finds pleasing the on-off-on-off of the turbine lights in unison. I believe the study would be hard pressed to find a single person who enjoyed such a display (facility developers & landowner hosts excluded).

This may be the only opportunity to ask the Council to interpret or broaden the Cumulative Effects Standard to “find that the applicant can design and construct the facility to reduce adverse environmental effects in the vicinity by practicable measures” (emphasis added). In order to reduce adverse environmental effects, the applicant should take inventory of other energy projects (some built, some approved and others proposed), seeking use of common lands, roads, airspace and scenic resources. Wheatridge East RFA-1 attempts to fulfill this standard by stating: “minimizing the creation of new roads; placing electrical collector line underground; interconnecting via

existing facilities; designing the Facility to reduce risks to raptors and other sensitive species; and designing the Facility to mitigate visual impacts including lighting effects" (EXHIBIT DD: SPECIFIC STANDARDS, 4.0 Cumulative Effects page 5). The number of energy projects in the area are converging amongst each other, and while the effects from a single one may be negligible, the cumulative impact is significant. I request that the Council review the scope of all these projects "in the vicinity" while making their determinations.

Note to the Council: Members of the Myers Farm offer their willingness to be available to the Council for any clarifications they might need to fully understand our comments.

Thank you for your Consideration,

/s/ Wendy King, Deschutes County
/s/ Sam Myers, Morrow County
/s/ John Myers, Umatilla County

Sam Myers
68453 Little Butter Creek Road
Heppner, OR 97836
(541) 376-8276
sam.myers84@gmail.com

4th April 2024

Energy Facility Siting Council
% Christopher M. Clark,
Senior Siting Analyst
Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Wheat Ridge renewable energy facility East RFA-1 draft proposed order

Dear Chairwoman Condon and members of the Council,

Scenic resources, OAR 345-022-080 & Historic cultural and archaeological resources AR 345-022-0090

I'm writing an opposition to Wheat Ridge East placement of wind turbines on or near the peak of Gleason Butte. The council may issue special conditions in the site certificate that impose different and more stringent conditions to minimize the significant adverse visual impacts. I am proposing that the council in fact does impose a more strict visual standard so that those standards improve the visual impacts to the Butte itself. Our Century Farm is located directly north of Gleason Butte which provides a wonderfully picturesque view looking to our South. The home that I live in is over 100 years old and thereby would qualify as a Historic Landmark. It is my hope that the council would provide strict standards for placing towers on Gleason Butte in a manner that would preserve the identity of the Butte.

By restricting Wheat Ridge from placing Towers any closer than a quarter mile from the Butte Peak itself I believe would provide a valuable resource to the historic nature of our farm and its view shed which has not been largely disturbed since the 1880s and earlier. I would like to be able to provide the public with a view shed that our founders to this area experienced when they first arrived. Our forefathers came to Little Butter Creek and experienced an amazing view shed. This same view shed has been mostly

undisturbed since that time. There has been a small radio tower on Gleason Butte since the early 60's at least, but those towers were tiny in comparison to what the wind turbines would be. Wind turbines would draw your eye away from the Butte and thereby diminish its Beauty and its picturesque nature. I believe it is important to preserve a view shed that our founding forefathers would have experienced as they struggled to Homestead and Farm in the early days of Little Butter Creek. Interestingly, we are not alone experiencing this beauty; while golfing at the Echo Hills course Gleason Butte is featured throughout the 9 holes.

I am depending on the council to impose conditions that would preserve this view shed. It is most unfortunate that our County officials have never thought to preserve the view shed of any location in Morrow County. In the quest for Renewables, we had no idea that Gleason Butte would be sold as a resource without any hesitation. We would have acted to preserve this view shed if we knew the destructive nature of the renewable industry. It is also important to realize that view shed destruction is one of the primary objections that communities voice when faced with wind turbines being developed in their area, both Idaho and Washington now have resistance efforts based on view shed destruction against Wind Energy Developers.

The council is our only hope to implement additional restrictions to preserve this Landmark Butte. Please preserve a part of Morrow County and save it from being prostituted as a resource. I would also like to state for the record that I am not opposed to people earning additional revenue from wind towers and I'm not seeking to limit the wind resource for those involved in this development but I am suggesting that rebundling the tower arrangements is a viable option and the developers must be forced to rebundle towers to capture the wind in such a way that does not destroy the viewshed of Gleason Butte.

Wildfire prevention and risk mitigation, OAR 345-022-0115 (1), (D) & (E)

I urge the council to create a better fire mitigation plan and/or recognition for fire potential in this area. Currently, fire mitigation plans from other transmission line developers do nothing to protect agricultural land from being burned; and do not provide any compensation by the utilities involved. Compensation for transmission line ignited fires in particular is a complete joke as it leaves the landowners completely liable for their losses. Fires can cause long-term losses from damage to soils that do not yield the same potential for a minimum of 6 years; there are no provisions to compensate for those losses. Damage is particularly high in dry land soils, which are prevalent in this

area. I don't believe that the Wheat Ridge developer has adequately analyzed the sources and consequences for fires in this area particularly when it comes to agriculture resources.

Currently, the council has not been privy to the full scope of data resources available to outline the risk of fire in this area. I suggest that they do a thorough investigation from the National Weather Service Zone 641. This is a huge area and encompasses much of B2H along with Wheat Ridge East and West and involves the transmission lines located within. Red Flag Warnings that are issued in this area zone 641 are statistically among the highest in the entire state; it should be noted that red flag warnings consist of predicting low humidity combined with a local vegetation measurement that reflects the flammability of the local residue. This calculated data point encompasses several factors before triggering a red flag warning and is one of the best indicators available and it serves as a warning as such to the possibility of a catastrophic fire sweeping through the area. Red flag warnings are the predominant indicator of a catastrophic event. Morrow County has much the same landscape as the Texas Panhandle and also Lahaina Maui; we have seen the complete devastation of those two fires. Morrow County has the same landscape conditions, making it a likely event in our area.

I believe the council should adopt a Zone-wide area of uniformity in the fire prevention and mitigation plans in addition to the universal nature that all transmission/utility/renewable projects be in uniform agreement within their Fire Mitigation Plans. I also urge the council to adopt a financial payment plan that would pay landowners a minimum one-time crop loss payment for placing transmission or renewable projects over Exclusive Farm Use ground. This payment stands as a deterrent for placing wind, solar or transmission projects over our most sacred and vulnerable ground that is Exclusive Farm Use ground (EFU). What we have currently in place is a conflict between the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture, both at odds against the use of farm ground, including EFU. No one seems to be concerned at the loss of farm ground except the Department of Agriculture. The Oregon State Department of Agriculture is outlining the outrageous loss of farm ground that the state is experiencing. Our farm ground is a most critical resource and we cannot continue to lose it.

I urge the council to review for as much time as it takes to produce a Wildfire prevention and risk mitigation Plan that adequately deals with catastrophic fires and holds Developers liable for the harm that will likely occur at some point in the project lifetime. The current Wildfire prevention and risk mitigation plans are unacceptable and reflect a perspective out of the 1950’s. We have so much more data now revealing the catastrophic nature of our area and that data must be respected and acted upon in such

a way that it limits the damages that people and landowners will incur when these projects start a fire. I urge the council to take extraordinary steps and produce the necessary rules and conditions to deal with catastrophic fires because the current Plans for our area are a failure. I have no idea how ODOE can pass this amendment. The Wildfire Prevention and Risk Mitigation Standard has NOT been met.

Structural standard, 345-022-0020 (1),(d)

I urge the council to review this structural standard. There is no public documentation of the standards used for the additional transmission lines in the amendment. I urge the council to request the structural standards including: What is the basic design wind speed of the project turbines and transmission lines? What are the wind, ice and snow and seismic coefficients used in the transmission line? The standards should be reviewed for both transmission towers and conductors. Utility companies have been granted far too big a window to design and construct their transmission line towers. This lack of oversight and transparency can lead to both structural failure and faulting, which can start fires easily. We do not know what these structural standards are and they must be provided and verified. The council must be aware that standards have increased for structural requirements issued by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The ASCE has created publications that utility companies must follow. In recent publications, those standards have increased and are very clear where enhanced reliability standards begin and older more minimum standards exist. Currently, many government agencies are requiring utility companies to harden their infrastructure against storms of a larger nature and seismic activity that could be more intense than in previous years. As a whole, the infrastructure industry is under more scrutiny to harden their projects and service territory distribution lines in order to protect citizens from collapses or failures that produce fires. It is important that the public is aware of utility companies who only build transmission lines to the minimum standards.

Soil protection, 345-022 -022

Wildfire Prevention and Risk Mitigation 345-022-0115 (1) (a) (D)

I reject the department of energy casual approval of the soil protection standard involved in the Wheat Ridge East Amendment. It is so important to recognize that fire in this area is very probable but also the soil impacts from fire on dry land cropland have long-term negative side effects. We have documented long-term soil damage from fires in the silt loam soils of Morrow County. The reduced yields from damaged soils last for 6 to 10 years and the council must recognize this long-term financial/resource loss. Generally speaking, when a fire moves through a dry land cropping system the soil is stripped of the majority of organic matter. At the same time it produces a sealing property at the soil surface which then restricts water from entering the soil; this adds to

the runoff that occurs from the rains that we receive, which causes soil erosion and the loss of soil. The damage from fire in Morrow County's silt loam soils is exacerbated by the low rainfall of this area. It is in fact the percolation of water into the soil that is one of the healing events that must take place in order to regenerate the soil. However, the fire takes away the soil's ability to regenerate because it can't accept water easily. This is actually only a small part of the damage that fires bring to the fragile soils of Morrow County. A more detailed explanation is available as to the reasons long-term fire damage is experienced by soils in our area.

Unfortunately, this soil issue was basically ignored in a separate EFSC contested case. DLCD is currently interested in this data for Oregon's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Risk Assessment. That is the Department of Land Conservation and Development, seen on Oregon.gov.

Please be advised: I am available to the Council for any additional clarifications or information surrounding these comments. sam.myers84@gmail.com

Sincerely,

/s/ Sam Myers

/s/ Wendy King

/s/ Skylan Myers

/s/ Sarah Myers

The Honorable Greg Smith

Oregon House of Representatives
District 57

April 4, 2024

Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol St. NE, 1st Floor
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Public Comment on Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today as the State Representative for the communities of Umatilla and Morrow Counties, with regards to the proposed expansion of the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Project. This initiative represents a significant opportunity for economic development and renewable energy production within our region, reflecting our shared commitment to sustainable growth and environmental stewardship.

I wish to express my strong support for this development and agree to have meaningful local engagement and investment, particularly through incorporating apprenticeship utilization requirements within the project's workforce development plan.

I strongly advocate to mandate a 15%-20% apprenticeship utilization requirement for all construction-related jobs. This stipulation will not only ensure the project contributes directly to building our local construction workforce but will also provide invaluable on-the-job training and career development opportunities for our residents. Apprenticeship programs are a proven pathway to secure, well-paying jobs and can significantly contribute to the economic vitality and resilience of our communities.

Apprenticeship utilization language was recently applied to all ARPA funded projects statewide through the Oregon State Legislature. The benefits of incorporating such a requirement into the project's framework are twofold. Firstly, it fosters a skilled, local workforce that is more invested in the long-term success and sustainability of the project. Secondly, it demonstrates a tangible commitment to the social and economic well-being of our communities, aligning closely with our values and aspirations for growth.

In conclusion, I believe that the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Project, developed with a strong emphasis on apprenticeship utilization, represents a forward-thinking approach to renewable energy development. Such a strategy ensures that the project not only contributes to our environmental goals but also plays a pivotal role in strengthening our local economy and workforce.

Best Regards,

Representative Greg Smith
District 57

900 Court Street NE, H-482, Salem, OR 97301 – Phone: 503-986-1457
P.O. Box 219, Heppner, OR 97836 – Phone: 541-676-5154
rep.gregsmith@oregonlegislature.gov

Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 1
Noxious Weed Observations

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

Figure 1.1
Figure 1.2
Figure 1.3
Figure 1.4
Figure 1.5
Figure 1.6
Figure 1.7
Figure 1.8
Figure 1.9
Figure 1.10
Figure 1.11

Morrow County
Umatilla County
Lexington
578
207
735
602
813
74

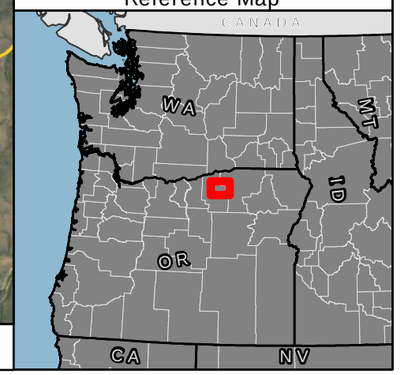
- Amended Site Boundary
- Amended Wind Micrositing Corridors
- State Highway
- County Highway
- City/Town
- County Boundary
- Map Grid

Laurence's Milkvetch occurrences available on the confidential version of this map set.

TETRA TECH

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

Reference Map



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WGS 1984 UTM Zone 11N

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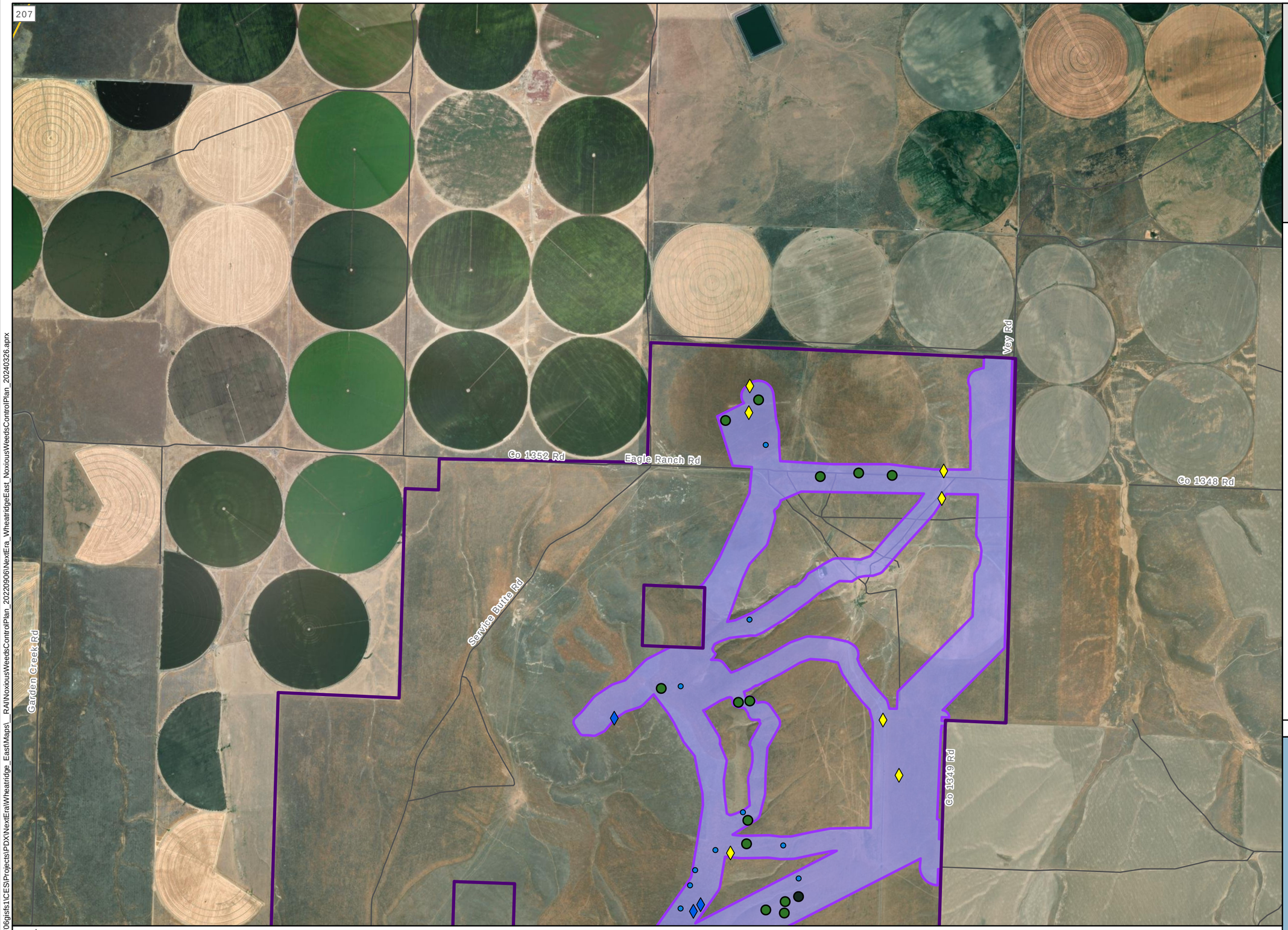
Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 1.1 Noxious Weed Observations

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR



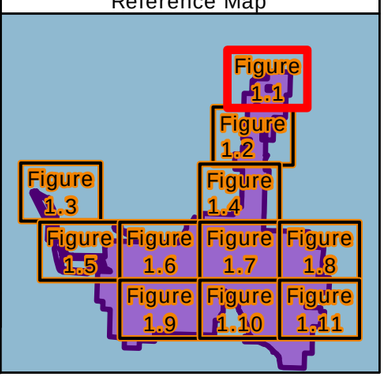
- Amended Site Boundary
- Amended Wind Micrositing Corridors
- State Highway
- Local Roads

Laurence's Milkvetch occurrences available on the confidential version of this map set.

TETRA TECH

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

Reference Map



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Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 1.2 Noxious Weed Observations

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

Amended Site Boundary

Amended Wind Micrositing Corridors

Local Roads

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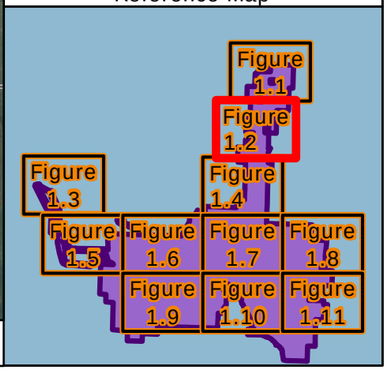
NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

Reference Map



Garden Creek Rd

Gordon Creek Rd

Co 1353 Rd

Service Butte Rd

Vey Rd

Co 1349 Rd

Tomy Vey Rd

827

Natl Forest Develop Road 768 Rd

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Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 1.3 Noxious Weed Observations

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

- Amended Site Boundary
- Amended Wind Micrositing Corridors
- State Highway
- Local Roads

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NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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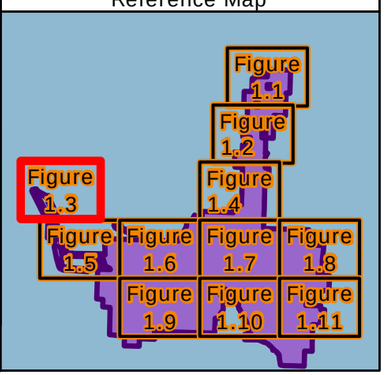

Grieb Ln
Melville Rd
Bombing Range Rd
Barak Martin Rd N
Strawberry Ln
Lexington-Echo Hwy
Strawberry East Rd
Barclay Ln
Barak Martin Rd
Kilkenny Rd
Kemp Rd
Sand Hollow Rd
Beach Ln
207

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Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 1.4 Noxious Weed Observations

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

Amended Site Boundary

Amended Wind Micrositing Corridors

Local Roads

Laurence's Milkvetch occurrences available on the confidential version of this map set.

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NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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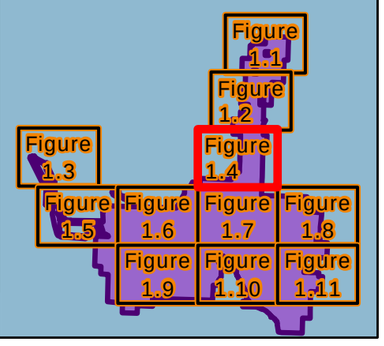

Nati Forest Develop Road 768 Rd

Tony Vey Rd

927

Big Butter Creek Ln

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Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 1.5 Noxious Weed Observations

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

- Amended Site Boundary
- Amended Wind Micrositing Corridors
- County Highway
- Local Roads

Laurence's Milkvetch occurrences available on the confidential version of this map set.

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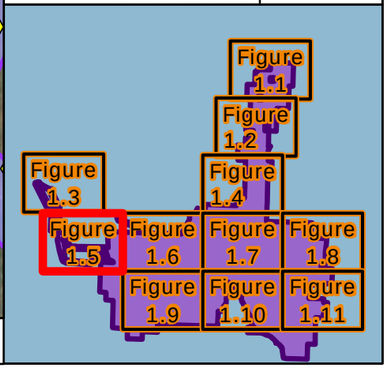

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Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 1.6 Noxious Weed Observations

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

Myers Ln

578

Little Buttercreek Rd

735

Spur Loop

- Amended Site Boundary
- Amended Wind Micrositing Corridors
- County Highway
- Local Roads

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NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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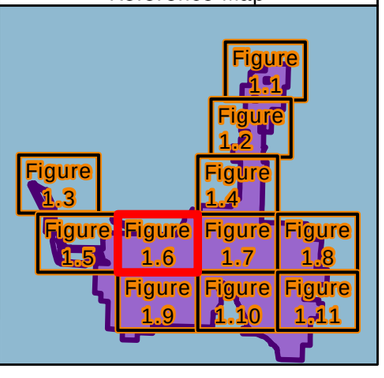

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Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 1.7 Noxious Weed Observations

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

Amended Site Boundary

Amended Wind Micrositing Corridors

Local Roads

Laurence's Milkvetch occurrences available on the confidential version of this map set.

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NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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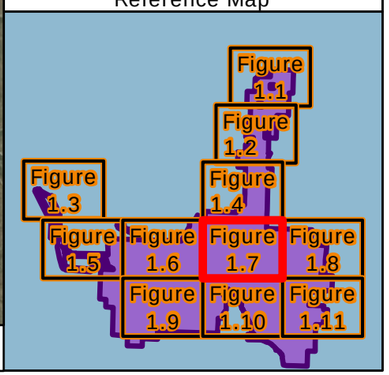

Little Buttercreek Rd

1:24,000 1 inch equals 2,000 feet WGS 1984 UTM Zone 11N

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Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 1.8 Noxious Weed Observations

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

Co 1400 Rd
Butter Creek Rd
Big Butter Creek Rd

- Amended Site Boundary
- Amended Wind Micrositing Corridors
- Local Roads

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NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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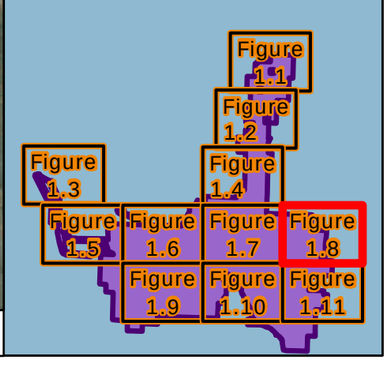

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Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 1.9 Noxious Weed Observations

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

- Amended Site Boundary
- Amended Wind Micrositing Corridors
- County Highway
- Local Roads

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NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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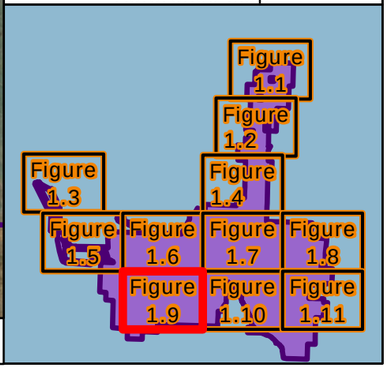

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Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 1.10 Noxious Weed Observations

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

Amended Site Boundary

Amended Wind Micrositing Corridors

County Highway

Local Roads

Laurence's Milkvetch occurrences available on the confidential version of this map set.

TETRA TECH

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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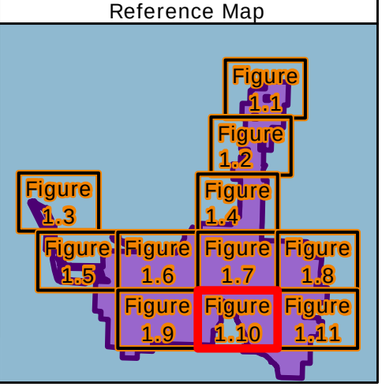

Little Buttercreek Rd

Healy Rd

Little Butter Creek Rd

813

1:24,000 1 inch equals 2,000 feet WGS 1984 UTM Zone 11N

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 1.11 Noxious Weed Observations

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

Amended Site Boundary

Amended Wind Micrositing Corridors

Local Roads

Laurence's Milkvetch occurrences available on the confidential version of this map set.

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NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

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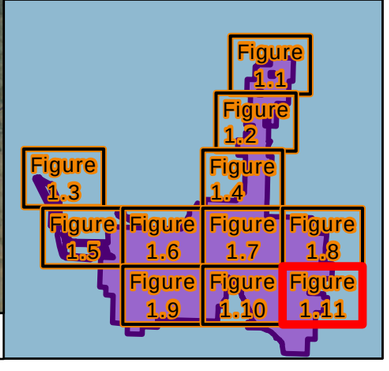

Hughes Hitrl Rd

1:24,000 1 inch equals 2,000 feet WGS 1984 UTM Zone 11N

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Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

Noxious Weed Observations Legend

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

Noxious Weed Observations

- *Rhaponticum (Acroptilon/ Centaurea) repens* (Russian knapweed)
- *Aegilops cylindrica* (jointed goatgrass)
- *Bassia (Kochia) scoparia* (Kochia; burning bush)
- *Centaurea diffusa* (diffuse knapweed)
- *Centaurea stoebe* ssp. *micranthos* (spotted knapweed)
- *Chondrilla juncea* (rush skeletonweed)
- *Cirsium vulgare* (bull thistle)
- *Conium maculatum* (poison hemlock)
- *Convolvulus arvensis* (field bindweed)
- *Crupina vulgaris* (common crupina)
- *Centromadia (Hemizonia) pungens* (common spikeweed)
- *Hieracium* spp. (hawkweed species)
- *Hypericum perforatum* (St. John's wort)
- *Onopordum acanthium* (Scotch thistle)
- *Solanum rostratum* (buffalo bur)
- *Taeniatherum caput-medusae* (medusahead rye)
- *Tribulus terrestris* (puncture vine)

Laurence's Milkvetch occurrences available on the confidential version of this map set.

TETRA TECH

NEXTera ENERGY RESOURCES

Reference Map

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

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Construction Wildfire Mitigation Plan and Draft Operational Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Prepared for
Wheatridge East Wind, LLC

Prepared by

TETRA TECH

~~January 2024~~Revised by Department February 2024
Revised by Tetra Tech March 2024

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Table of Contents

List of Tables

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1.0 Introduction

This Wildfire Mitigation Plan (Plan) is provided to satisfy the approval standards under Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 345-022-0115(1)(b), which requires the Plan to:

> *(A) Identify areas within the site boundary that are subject to a heightened risk of wildfire, using current data from reputable sources, and discuss data and methods used in the analysis;*
>
> *(B) Describe the procedures, standards, and time frames that the applicant will use to inspect facility components and manage vegetation in the areas identified under subsection (a) of this section;*
>
> *(C) Identify preventative actions and programs that the applicant will carry out to minimize the risk of facility components causing wildfire, including procedures that will be used to adjust operations during periods of heightened wildfire risk;*
>
> *(D) Identify procedures to minimize risks to public health and safety, the health and safety of responders, and damages to resources protected by Council standards in the event that a wildfire occurs at the facility site, regardless of ignition source; and*
>
> *(E) Describe methods the applicant will use to ensure that updates of the plan incorporate best practices and emerging technologies to minimize and mitigate wildfire risk.*

Sections 2.0 and 3.1 are applicable to construction of the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East (Facility) and considered final.

Section 2.0, 3.2, and 3.3 are applicable to the operational facility. Finalization of the operational Wildfire Mitigation Plan includes updating these sections.

2.0 Wildfire ~~Mitigation Measures~~Risk at the Site

~~This section provides an analysis of areas within the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East (Facility) that may have heightened wildfire risk, and describes facility-wide mitigation measures that will be implemented during construction and operation to reduce the risk of wildfire per OAR 345-022-0115(1)(b).~~

2.1 Areas of Heightened Risk

Areas of heightened risk are described using the Oregon Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) wildfire risk to assets data and overall wildfire risk (CWPP 2022) (see Exhibit V, Table V-2 and Table V-3). The CWPP provides a clearinghouse of fire behavior and fire effects data to aid decision makers in charge of reducing wildfire risk in their communities. Supplemental information was also sourced from Morrow County's and Umatilla County's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans as appropriate, both reviewed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Morrow County 2016, Umatilla County 2021). Thi~~se~~ data wa~~s~~~~ere~~ analyzed within the ~~Amended~~ Site Boundary with a

half-mile buffer around the perimeter (Analysis Area). These data consider the likelihood of fire in areas with valuable assets such as critical infrastructure, housing and developed recreation areas and vulnerability of assets in relation to fire paths and the likelihood of that asset being harmed (see Exhibit V, Figure V-2 and Figure V-3). Overall wildfire risk is the product of the likelihood and consequence of wildfire on all mapped highly valued resources and assets combined: critical infrastructure, developed recreation, housing unit density, seed orchards, sawmills, historic structures, timber, municipal watersheds, vegetation condition, and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat (CBI 2020).

Most of the Analysis Area is classified as no risk to assets due to lack of mapping of assets. Only 1 percent of the Analysis Area is mapped as having a risk to assets, which includes 0.6 percent as moderate risk and 0.4 percent as low risk, which are primarily along Oregon Route 207 (OR-207) in the northwesternmost portion of the Analysis Area (see Exhibit V, Table V-2 and Figure V-2). When assets are added to a landscape, wildfire risk to assets will increase. With the addition of infrastructure that will result from Facility construction, it is expected that more of the area would fall into moderate to high category for wildfire risk to assets.

The percent of the Analysis Area that falls into each wildfire risk rating appears in Exhibit V, Table V-3 and is displayed on Figure V-3. Of the mapped areas of overall wildfire risk, low overall fire risk covers the largest area (2.3 percent) of the Analysis Area. Most of the Analysis Area has no overall wildfire risk data (over 96.7 percent), which indicates there are no highly valued resources or assets mapped in the area or simulated wildfires did not burn the area due to low historical occurrence/absence of burnable fuel (CBI 2020). High and moderate overall wildfire risk areas are centered around farm and ranch buildings and infrastructure. Big Butter Creek Road and Little Butter Creek Road are the main corridors where moderate to high overall risk were modeled in the Analysis Area (see Exhibit V, Figure V-3). The Morrow County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan further describes the northern third portion of the County as having the lowest potential for fire (as compared to the rest of the County), where the Facility is proposed (Morrow County 2016). The Umatilla County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan indicates a higher potential for fire, but outside the portion of the Facility within Umatilla County (Umatilla County 2021).

See Exhibit V for assessment of baseline fire risk, seasonal fire risk, and high fire consequence areas.

3.0 Wildfire Mitigation Measures

This section provides an analysis of areas within the Facility that may have heightened wildfire risk, and describes facility-wide mitigation measures that will be implemented during construction and operation to reduce the risk of wildfire per OAR 345-022-0115(1)(b).

3.1 Construction

The facility will be deenergized for most of the construction period, only during the final commissioning stage is it expected to be connected to grid. During construction, the contractor(s) will follow all relevant Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Fire Protection

Association requirements related to fire hazards including a no smoking policy, fire permit requirement, hazardous material and combustible storage areas, pre--task planning to assess fire risks, relevant fire awareness training, lockout-tagout requirement, hazardous materials documentation, appropriate management, and disposal.

3.1.1 Fire Watch and Hot Work

A Fire Weather Watch indicates the potential for weather conducive to large fire spread in the next 12 to 72 hours. A Red Flag Warning is issued when current weather conditions are conducive to large fire growth in the next 24 hours. Personnel monitoring these conditions may halt construction or overland vehicle travel in certain high-risk locations or employ additional mitigation measures. High risk locations may include areas of extremely combustible material such as grass, brush, or timber. Mitigation measures during a Red Flag Warning may include communicating to on-site staff of the Red Flag Warning, communicating with local fire protection agency personnel of on-going conditions, driving or parking on roads to avoid sparking a fire in grass or brush, and halting construction activities that may increase fire risk such as hot work. All hot work (any cutting, welding, or other activity that creates spark or open flame) will be conducted on road or turbine pad surfaces that are cleared of vegetation, and an onsite Fire Safety Supervisor will be notified prior to the work, and that fire suppression equipment will be immediately available during hot work activities. Following the completion of hot work, the Certificate Holder or contractor(s) will ensure a fire watch would be maintained for 60 minutes to monitor for potential ignition.

3.1.2 Vegetation Management

The Certificate Holder and contractor(s) will maintain vegetation within the Site Boundary and will also maintain a defensible space clearance along Facility features. Defensible space will be free of combustible vegetation or other materials. Roads and parking areas will be maintained to be free of vegetation tall enough to contact the undercarriage of the vehicle. Travel off road or parking in vegetated areas will be restricted during fire season. All combustion engines (including but not limited to off road vehicles, chainsaws, and generators) will be equipped with a spark arrester that meets U.S. Forest Service Standard 5100-1a.

3.1.3 Minimizing Fire Risk from Construction Activities

The following best management practices to minimize fire risk from vehicle travel and fueling activities would be implemented at the site during construction. Additional measures identified in the Application for Site Certificate, Exhibit U and Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1) Exhibit U may be required by the Oregon Department of Energy.

- The movement of vehicles will be planned and managed to minimize fire risk.
- The contractor(s) will be responsible for identifying and marking paths for all off-road vehicle travel. All off-road vehicle travel will be required to stay on the identified paths. No off-road vehicle travel will be permitted while working alone.
- Areas with grass that are as tall or taller than the exhaust system of a vehicle must be wetted before vehicles travel through it.

- Workers will be instructed to shut off the engine of any vehicle that gets stuck, and periodically inspect the area adjacent to the exhaust system for evidence of ignition of vegetation. Stuck vehicles will be pulled out rather than "rocked" free and the area will be inspected again after the vehicle has been moved.
- The contractor(s) will designate a location for field fueling operations at the temporary construction yards. Any fueling of generators, pumps, etc. shall take place at this location only.
- Fuel containers, if used, shall remain in a vehicle or equipment trailer, parked at a designated location alongside a county right-–of-–way. No fuel containers shall be in the vehicles that exit the right-of-way except the five-gallon container that is required for the water truck pump.
- Smoking shall only be allowed in designated smoking areas at the Facility.

3.1.4 Emergency Response

Emergency response is outlined in the Wheatridge Emergency Action Plan. Additionally, an Emergency Management Plan (per Site Certificate Condition PRE-PS-05) and Site Health and Safety Plan (per Site Certificate Condition PRE-PS-06) will be implemented during construction. Personnel will be trained on the RACE (i.e., Remove, Alarm, Confine and Extinguish or Evacuate) procedure to implement in the event of a fire start. RACE procedure includes:

- Rescue anyone in danger (if safe to do so);
- Alarm – call the control room, who will then determine if 911 should be alerted;
- Contain the fire (if safe to do so); and
- Extinguish the incipient fire stage (if safe to do so).

Personnel on site will carry fire suppression equipment during the fire season in their vehicles. This equipment shall include, at a minimum:

- Fire Extinguisher: Dry chemical. 2.5 or 2.8 pound. 1A-10B: C U/L rating, properly mounted or secured;
- Pulaski Hand Shovel: Round point. 26 to 28 inch "D" Handle, blade - 12 inches long and 10 inches wide;
- Collapsible Pail or Backpack Pump: 5-gallon capacity; and
- Drip Can: 5-gallon capacity.

Personnel will receive training on use of suppression equipment. Prior to construction and operation of the Facility, the Certificate Holder will provide employee fire prevention and response training that shall include instruction on Facility fire hazards, fire safety, emergency notification procedures, use of fire safety equipment, and fire safety rules and regulations.~~;~~ Equivalent training shall be provided to new employees or subcontractors working on site that are hired after the start of construction (per Site Certificate Conditions GEN-PS-03 and PRE-PS-05). All personnel shall also be equipped with communication equipment capable of reaching the control room from all locations within the Site Boundary.

~~2.2~~3.2 Operations

~~2.2.1~~3.2.1 *Wildfire Mitigation Through Facility Design*

The Facility's components, and overall project design, will meet National Electrical Code and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers standards and will not pose a significant fire risk. ~~The facility will be deenergized for most of the construction period, only during the final commissioning stage it is expected to be connected to grid.~~ During operation~~construction~~, the Certificate Holder and contractor(s) will follow all relevant Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Fire Protection Association requirements related to fire hazards including: no smoking policy, fire permit requirement, hazardous material and combustible storage areas, pre task planning to assess fire risks, relevant fire awareness training, lockout-tagout requirement, hazardous materials documentation, appropriate management, and disposal.

The Certificate Holder will design the Facility to maintain a defensible space clearance along Facility features. Defensible space will be free of combustible vegetation or other materials. Roads and parking areas will be maintained to be free of vegetation tall enough to contact the undercarriage of the vehicle. Travel off road or parking in vegetated areas will be restricted during fire season. All combustion engines (including but not limited to off road vehicles, chainsaws, and generators) will be equipped with a spark arrester that meets U.S. Forest Service Standard 5100-1a.

Vegetation within the fence line will be managed as needed to reduce fuels for fire. Facility access roads will be sufficiently sized for emergency vehicle access, in accordance with local building code and local fire department requirements. The fenced areas around Facility infrastructure will be graveled, with no vegetation present. Smoke/fire detectors will be placed around the site that will be tied to the supervisory control and data acquisition system and will contact local firefighting services. The limited vegetation present within the ~~Amended~~ Site Boundary during operations will also help to minimize spread of fire. Any potential fires inside the ~~Amended~~ Site Boundary will be controlled by trained staff who will be able to access the Facility around the clock. These measures will help keep external fires out or internal fires in.

3.2.2 Inspection of Facility Components

The Certificate Holder shall update this section prior to operation, subject to Oregon Department of Energy approval. The Facility components that could cause electrical fires are the wind turbines, substations, overhead electrical lines, and the battery energy storage systems (BESS). During operations, the Certificate Holder will conduct inspections for maintaining a Facility that minimizes the risk of fire; see Table 1.

Table 1. Operational Inspections for Electrical Components

Inspection	Procedure	Standard	Time Frame
Turbines	Visual inspection of turbine components and foundations as well as the surrounding area. In addition, Supervisory	SPCC Plan[1]	Quarterly Annual

Inspection	Procedure	Standard	Time Frame
	Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) data is observed to determine how the turbine's structural components are withstanding stresses.	Manufacturer's maintenance recommendations	
Substations	Visual inspection of MPT, Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) measures, and surrounding area.	Manufacturer's maintenance recommendations APLIC[2]	Monthly Quarterly
Overhead electrical lines	Visual inspection of components, grounding, APLIC measures, vertical clearance distance between conductor and vegetation.	National Energy Reliability Corporation (NERC)[3] APLIC	Annual
BESS	Visual inspection of BESS, PCS, and surrounding areas	SPCC Plan Manufacturer's maintenance recommendations	Monthly

1. The Operational Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan for the Facility will require these components to be inspected monthly for spills. During these inspections, Operational Staff will also visually inspect the component and surrounding area.
2. The Certificate Holder will develop an inspection checklist and program of electrical equipment based on manufacturer's recommendations for individual components.
3. Vegetation maintenance standard FAC-003-0.

Specifically, monthly inspections during operations will involve the following:

- Proper maintenance of equipment to prevent sources of combustible materials;
- Prevention of combustible materials accumulation;
- Proper disposal of combustible waste;
- Assurance of property flammable chemical storage (i.e., within a flammable cabinet);
- Proper treatment of any leaks;
    - For leaks that cannot immediately be stopped, they will be contained, reported, and cleaned to mitigate any fire hazard. All leaks will be reported to the Site Operations Manager and in turn, NextEra's Environmental Health and Safety Department.
- Proper maintenance of all heat-producing equipment to prevent accidental ignition of combustible materials, in accordance with applicable equipment guidelines and manuals;
- Visual inspection of portable fire extinguishers; and
- Visual inspections of the BESS, substations, and surrounding areas, as well as completion of applicable APLIC inspection forms.

Additionally, quarterly inspections will generally include:

- Visual inspections of the turbines, substations, and surrounding areas, as well as completion of applicable APLIC inspection forms.

Lastly, for annual inspections during operations, the following will be completed:

- Testing of fire equipment in compliance with manufacturer specifications and National Fire Protection Association guidelines:
  - Portable dry fire extinguishers will have an annual maintenance check and hydrostatic test every 12 years.
  - Carbon dioxide extinguishers will have an annual maintenance check and hydrostatic test every 5 years.
  - Extinguishers will also be tested after use.
  - A qualified contractor will perform all inspections.
- Internal inspections of wind turbines, including checking for cleanliness and fire hazards;
- Cleaning and inspecting wind turbines in compliance with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management requirements;
- Assessment of SCADA data and applicable equipment performance;
- Visual inspections of overhead electrical lines and completion of applicable APLIC inspection forms; and
- Routine inspections and maintenance of turbine foundation anchor bolts (minimum of 10 percent for each foundation); bolts will be re-tightened if any bolt fails the tension check.

In addition to regularly scheduled inspections, the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system allows for real-time monitoring of each Facility component, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As described in the Division 27 document, the SCADA system will serve as the "nerve center" of the Facility by connecting individual turbines, BESS, substations, and meteorological towers to a central computer housed in the shared/existing O&M building (per Condition CON-WF-02). If an issue with Facility infrastructure arises, O&M staff are alerted so that the component can be shut down to minimize a failure's consequences and potential safety risks.

For any discrepancies that are identified in the inspections listed, remedial actions will be taken immediately and reported to the Site Operations Manager. If the issue cannot be resolved by the technician, the Site Operations Manager will ensure that the appropriate remedial actions are scheduled and monitoring of the issue is conducted until the issue is resolved.

~~**Wildfire Risk Mitigation During Facility Operations**~~

~~2.2.2~~3.2.3 *Vegetation Management*

The Certificate Holder will maintain vegetation within the ~~Amended~~ Site Boundary and will also maintain a defensible space clearance along Facility features. Defensible space will be free of combustible vegetation or other materials. Roads and parking areas will be maintained to be free of vegetation tall enough to contact the undercarriage of the vehicle. Travel off road or parking in vegetated areas will be restricted during fire season. All combustion engines (including but not limited to off road vehicles, chainsaws, and generators) will be equipped with a spark arrester that meets U.S. Forest Service Standard 5100-1a.

Each spring, prior to the summer months, a~~A~~ physical vegetation survey assessment of the area will be completed at least once annually to monitor for vegetation clearances around electrical

equipment, maintenance of fire breaks, and monitor for wildfire hazards. This survey will focus on areas of heightened risk and high fire consequences as described in Sections 2.5 and 2.6 respectively, and displayed in Figures V-2, V-3 and V-4 (see Exhibit V). The initial vegetation survey assessments will occur in May or June, prior to the start of the dry season, a time when wildfire risk is usually heightened due to low fuel moisture and high temperature. The vegetation survey assessment will be conducted by the Site Operations Manager and will be used to assess the frequency of upcoming vegetation maintenance and identify areas that may need additional attention. The Site Operations Manager will visually assess and document~~note~~ vegetation height, abundance, and areas where vegetation should not be present such as crushed rock bed around collector substations. The vegetation survey assessment will determine that clearances and fire breaks are satisfactory, and if not, the mitigation procedures will be implemented (e.g., vegetation management) to ensure clearances and fire breaks are satisfactory.

The vegetation survey ~~will be used to create a Vegetation Maintenance Work Plan and will be incorporated into the Revegetation Plan (see Exhibit P attachments). The Vegetation Maintenance Work Plan will be a living~~ will document ~~that will be updated in order to meet the objectives of this Wildfire Prevention and Risk Mitigation Plan. Observations in the vegetation survey assessment will include~~:

- Location of wildfire hazards;
- Species;
- Estimated growth rate;
- Abundance;
- Vegetation clearance/setbacks; ~~and~~
- Risk of fire hazard; and
- Mitigation and removal measures~~.~~

Criteria that will be used to determine that clearances and fire breaks are satisfactory include a 5-foot noncombustible, defensible space around Facility structures (e.g., substations, operations and maintenance [O&M] building), a 5-foot minimum vegetation clearance from conductors, no vegetation in graveled areas or crushed rock areas around facility structures (e.g., O&M buildings, substations, and ~~battery energy storage system [~~BESS~~]~~), and height of vegetation within transmission line corridors managed to appropriate height requirements (Table 1).

To reduce the availability of fuels for wildfire near electrical components, the Certificate Holder will install a non-flammable gravel base around wind turbines, substations, and BESS as described in the RFA 1's Division 27 document (*Request for Amendment #1 for the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East*) and implement ongoing vegetation management outlined in Table 1 to ensure that vegetation does not grow in these graveled areas.

Table 2~~2~~1. Vegetation Management Procedures by Facility Component

Vegetation Management	Procedure	Standard	Time Frame
Turbine	Herbicide application on gravel pad surrounding turbines. Highly compacted gravel foundations of turbines are not suitable for vegetation.	IEEE 80[1] NFPA 70[2]	Yearly, depending on vegetation condition.
Substations	Herbicide application on substation gravel pads. Highly compacted gravel foundations of the substations are not suitable for vegetation.	IEEE 80[1] NEC 70[2]	Yearly, depending on vegetation condition.
Battery energy storage system	Herbicide application on gravel pad surrounding the ~~battery energy storage system~~BESS. Highly compacted gravel foundations of the ~~battery energy storage system~~BESS are not suitable for vegetation.	IEEE 80[1] NEC 70[2]	Yearly, depending on vegetation condition.
Overhead electrical lines	Mow vegetation to achieve clearance requirements between conductor and ground.	North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)[3]	Yearly, depending on vegetation condition.

1. IEEE (2015)
2. NFPA (2023)
3. NERC (2009)

Additional vegetation surveys may be required throughout the season based on seasonally heightened fire risk. ~~The Revegetation Plan will be followed during operation of the Facility to ensure that vegetation does not grow in a manner that increases the rate of fire spread should an ignition occur.~~ Vegetation control will begin following the surveys and employ best management practices and techniques that are most appropriate for the local environment. In areas where vegetation is present and could pose a fire risk, vegetation management and removal measures (mowing, vegetation removal, herbicide, etc.) shall be implemented prior to fire season (mid-late summer).

~~These may include p~~Physical vegetation control, such as mowing or the introduction of non-invasive species that are low growing as described in Exhibit P and the Habitat Mitigation Plan (HMP; Attachment P-2), and the Revegetation Plan (Attachment P-4). Depending on the location, soil type, and HMP or Revegetation Plan criteria, the vegetation may either be mowed or managed through low-growing species in a seed mix. For example, vegetation under overhead electrical lines may be mowed to achieve clearance requirements between conductor and ground (Table 1). Habitat subtypes within the ~~Amended~~ Site Boundary primarily consist of Native Perennial Grassland, Dryland Wheat, Revegetated/Other Planted Grassland, and Rabbitbrush/Snakeweed Shrub-steppe. Based on the HMP and Revegetation Plan, the appropriate non-invasive, low-growing species for physical vegetation control can be included in seed mixes for the restoration of habitat with either 1) a mix of native or non-invasive, non-persistent non-native grasses; or 2) a mix of native or non-invasive, non-persistent non-native grasses, forbs, and shrubs.

In rare circumstances where it is necessary to use herbicides, an effort will be made to minimize use and only apply bio-degradable, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-registered, organic solutions that are non-toxic to wildlife. Any herbicides used for vegetation management the site will be selected and used in a manner that fully complies with all applicable laws and regulations. Noxious weeds within the ~~Amended~~ Site Boundary will be controlled in accordance with the Noxious Weed Control Plan (see Exhibit P, Attachment P-3).

~~2.2.3~~3.2.4 *Fire Weather Monitoring*

Burn probability, expected flame length, and overall risk may increase during periods of the fire season. Personnel on site will monitor Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings issued by the National Weather Service. A Fire Weather Watch indicates the potential for weather conducive to large fire spread in the next 12 to 72 hours. A Red Flag Warning is issued when current weather conditions are conducive to large fire growth in the next 24 hours. During operation, ~~P~~personnel monitoring these conditions may halt ~~construction~~ Facility operations, work at the site or overland vehicle travel in certain high risk locations or employ additional mitigation measures. High risk locations may include areas of extremely combustible material such as grass, brush, or timber. Mitigation measures during a Red Flag Warning may include communicating to on-site staff of the Red Flag Warning, communicating with local fire protection agency personnel of on-going conditions, driving or parking on roads to avoid sparking a fire in grass or brush, and halting operational~~construction~~ activities that may increase fire risk ~~such as hot work~~. If maintenance activities need to occur at the Facility during times of heightened fire risk, the Certificate Holder will implement the following measures to prevent wildfires:

- If regrowth around Facility infrastructure occurs, the Site Operations Manager will enact mechanical or chemical measures to control the vegetation, depending on the species.
- Activities will require a Hot Work Permit to be issued by the Site Operations Manager, which outlines the relevant fire risk of the proposed maintenance activity and provides any necessary precautions.
- When possible, maintenance tasks that involve spark risk will be rescheduled.
- If maintenance tasks cannot be postponed, the Site Operations Manager will implement fire risk prevention procedures to ensure continued operation of the Facility. An additional contractor will be hired to monitor fire risk at the Facility, equipped with a water truck to oversee all maintenance as activities.

~~2.2.4~~3.2.5 *Emergency Response*

Emergency response is outlined in the Wheatridge Emergency Action Plan. Additionally, the aforementioned Emergency Management Plan (per Site Certificate Condition PRE-PS-05) and Site Health and Safety Plan (per Site Certificate Condition PRE-PS-06) will be updated as applicable and implemented during operations. Personnel will be trained on the RACE (i.e., Remove, Alarm, Confine and Extinguish or Evacuate) procedure to implement in the event of a fire start. RACE procedure includes:

- Rescue anyone in danger (if safe to do so);
- Alarm – call the control room, who will then determine if 911 should be alerted;
- Contain the fire (if safe to do so); and
- Extinguish the incipient fire stage (if safe to do so).

Personnel on site will carry fire suppression equipment during the fire season in their vehicles. This equipment shall include, at a minimum:

- Fire Extinguisher: Dry chemical. 2.5 or 2.8 pound. 1A-10B: C U/L rating, properly mounted or secured;
- Pulaski Hand Shovel: Round point. 26 to 28 inch "D" Handle, blade - 12 inches long and 10 inches wide;
- Collapsible Pail or Backpack Pump: 5-gallon capacity; and
- Drip Can: 5-gallon capacity.

Personnel will receive training on use of suppression equipment. All personnel shall also be equipped with communication equipment capable of reaching the control room from all locations within the ~~Amended~~ Site Boundary. Additionally, all operations staff will undergo regular trainings including:

- Annual employee fire prevention and response training that shall include instruction on Facility fire hazards, fire safety, emergency notification procedures, use of fire safety equipment, and fire safety rules and regulations (per Site Certificate Conditions GEN-PS-03 and PRE-OS-05).
    - Equivalent training shall also be provided to new employees or subcontractors working on site that are hired during after the start of operations.
    - Training will be implemented by the Certificate Holder in coordination with the first-response agencies listed in the Emergency Management Plan (Site Certificate Condition PRE-PS-05), to be submitted prior to construction initiation.

~~2.3~~3.3 Updates to the Wildfire Mitigation Plan

The Wildfire Mitigation Plan will be a living document that will be updated in order to meet the objectives and to respond to changing conditions within the ~~Amended~~ Site Boundary. The Mitigation Plan will be updated annually to account for changes in local fire protection agency personnel, wildfire risk at the site, and changes in best practices for minimizing and mitigating fire risk (see Table 3 below). The Certificate Holder shall document and report annually to the Oregon Department of Energy (pursuant to OAR 345-022-0080(2):

- Whether wildfire risk has changed significantly at the site.
- Whether the industry groups and applicable design standards outlined in Table 2 have changed or been updated to result in new future technologies or best practices that could be implemented at the Facility. The Plan shall be updated based on changes in best practices or

technologies deemed necessary and appropriate at the site, or as needed at the site based on changes in site conditions and modeled wildfire risk.

- Any significant changes in vegetation management.

The Certificate Holder shall update Table 3 prior to operation, subject to Oregon Department of Energy approval. Emerging technologies will likely contribute to increased knowledge of wildfire risk and wildfire mitigation. Improvements in wildfire modeling and detection will be monitored and integrated into the plan. Specifically, this document will be updated if wildfire models cited in this report are updated.

Table 3. Resources for Future Best Practices

Reference	Description	Method
American Clean Power (ACP)	ACP establishes best practices for renewable energy projects.	The Certificate Holder's parent company is a member of ACP and participates in best practice development.[1]
North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)	NERC develops electrical standards for large energy facilities.	The Certificate Holder will follow NERC Standard FAC-003-0 for its vegetation management program of transmission lines, or updates to this standard as approved by NERC.[2]
Oregon Specialty Building Codes (OSBC)	OSBC designs building codes applicable to inhabitable spaces, substation enclosures.	Remodeling of the substation enclosures that requires permits will follow any updates to the OSBC at that time.
Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC)	APLIC develops avian protection methods for electrical facilities to minimize fire risk to bird/mammal nests on electrical equipment.	The Certificate Holder's parent company is a member of APLIC.[3] An operational wildlife monitoring program will inspect for wildlife nesting on facilities that could cause fire, and take actions following applicable laws (for example, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act).

1. Link to ACP Standards & Practices: https://cleanpower.org/resources/types/standards-and-practices/.
2. NERC FAC-003-0: https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Reliability%20Standards/FAC-003-0.pdf.
3. Link to APLIC member organization: https://www.aplic.org/member_websites.php.

~~3.0~~4.0 References

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Construction Wildfire Mitigation Plan and Draft Operational Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Prepared for
Wheatridge East Wind, LLC

Prepared by

TETRA TECH

Revised by Department February 2024
Revised by Tetra Tech March 2024

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Table of Contents

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1.0 Introduction

This Wildfire Mitigation Plan (Plan) is provided to satisfy the approval standards under Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 345-022-0115(1)(b), which requires the Plan to:

> *(A) Identify areas within the site boundary that are subject to a heightened risk of wildfire, using current data from reputable sources, and discuss data and methods used in the analysis;*
>
> *(B) Describe the procedures, standards, and time frames that the applicant will use to inspect facility components and manage vegetation in the areas identified under subsection (a) of this section;*
>
> *(C) Identify preventative actions and programs that the applicant will carry out to minimize the risk of facility components causing wildfire, including procedures that will be used to adjust operations during periods of heightened wildfire risk;*
>
> *(D) Identify procedures to minimize risks to public health and safety, the health and safety of responders, and damages to resources protected by Council standards in the event that a wildfire occurs at the facility site, regardless of ignition source; and*
>
> *(E) Describe methods the applicant will use to ensure that updates of the plan incorporate best practices and emerging technologies to minimize and mitigate wildfire risk.*

Sections 2.0 and 3.1 are applicable to construction of the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East (Facility) and considered final.

Section 2.0, 3.2, and 3.3 are applicable to the operational facility. Finalization of the operational Wildfire Mitigation Plan includes updating these sections.

2.0 Wildfire Risk at the Site

2.1 Areas of Heightened Risk

Areas of heightened risk are described using the Oregon Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) wildfire risk to assets data and overall wildfire risk (CWPP 2022) (see Exhibit V, Table V-2 and Table V-3). The CWPP provides a clearinghouse of fire behavior and fire effects data to aid decision makers in charge of reducing wildfire risk in their communities. Supplemental information was also sourced from Morrow County's and Umatilla County's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans as appropriate, both reviewed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Morrow County 2016, Umatilla County 2021). This data was analyzed within the Site Boundary with a half-mile buffer around the perimeter (Analysis Area). These data consider the likelihood of fire in areas with valuable assets such as critical infrastructure, housing and developed recreation areas and vulnerability of assets in relation to fire paths and the likelihood of that asset being harmed (see Exhibit V, Figure V-2 and Figure V-3). Overall wildfire risk is the product of the likelihood and consequence of wildfire on all mapped highly valued resources and assets combined: critical

infrastructure, developed recreation, housing unit density, seed orchards, sawmills, historic structures, timber, municipal watersheds, vegetation condition, and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat (CBI 2020).

Most of the Analysis Area is classified as no risk to assets due to lack of mapping of assets. Only 1 percent of the Analysis Area is mapped as having a risk to assets, which includes 0.6 percent as moderate risk and 0.4 percent as low risk, which are primarily along Oregon Route 207 (OR-207) in the northwesternmost portion of the Analysis Area (see Exhibit V, Table V-2 and Figure V-2). When assets are added to a landscape, wildfire risk to assets will increase. With the addition of infrastructure that will result from Facility construction, it is expected that more of the area would fall into moderate to high category for wildfire risk to assets.

The percent of the Analysis Area that falls into each wildfire risk rating appears in Exhibit V, Table V-3 and is displayed on Figure V-3. Of the mapped areas of overall wildfire risk, low overall fire risk covers the largest area (2.3 percent) of the Analysis Area. Most of the Analysis Area has no overall wildfire risk data (over 96.7 percent), which indicates there are no highly valued resources or assets mapped in the area or simulated wildfires did not burn the area due to low historical occurrence/absence of burnable fuel (CBI 2020). High and moderate overall wildfire risk areas are centered around farm and ranch buildings and infrastructure. Big Butter Creek Road and Little Butter Creek Road are the main corridors where moderate to high overall risk were modeled in the Analysis Area (see Exhibit V, Figure V-3). The Morrow County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan further describes the northern third portion of the County as having the lowest potential for fire (as compared to the rest of the County), where the Facility is proposed (Morrow County 2016). The Umatilla County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan indicates a higher potential for fire, but outside the portion of the Facility within Umatilla County (Umatilla County 2021).

See Exhibit V for assessment of baseline fire risk, seasonal fire risk, and high fire consequence areas.

3.0 Wildfire Mitigation Measures

This section provides an analysis of areas within the Facility that may have heightened wildfire risk, and describes facility-wide mitigation measures that will be implemented during construction and operation to reduce the risk of wildfire per OAR 345-022-0115(1)(b).

3.1 Construction

The facility will be deenergized for most of the construction period, only during the final commissioning stage is it expected to be connected to grid. During construction, the contractor(s) will follow all relevant Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Fire Protection Association requirements related to fire hazards including a no smoking policy, fire permit requirement, hazardous material and combustible storage areas, pre-task planning to assess fire risks, relevant fire awareness training, lockout-tagout requirement, hazardous materials documentation, appropriate management, and disposal.

3.1.1 Fire Watch and Hot Work

A Fire Weather Watch indicates the potential for weather conducive to large fire spread in the next 12 to 72 hours. A Red Flag Warning is issued when current weather conditions are conducive to large fire growth in the next 24 hours. Personnel monitoring these conditions may halt construction or overland vehicle travel in certain high-risk locations or employ additional mitigation measures. High risk locations may include areas of extremely combustible material such as grass, brush, or timber. Mitigation measures during a Red Flag Warning may include communicating to on-site staff of the Red Flag Warning, communicating with local fire protection agency personnel of on-going conditions, driving or parking on roads to avoid sparking a fire in grass or brush, and halting construction activities that may increase fire risk such as hot work. All hot work (any cutting, welding, or other activity that creates spark or open flame) will be conducted on road or turbine pad surfaces that are cleared of vegetation, and an onsite Fire Safety Supervisor will be notified prior to the work, and that fire suppression equipment will be immediately available during hot work activities. Following the completion of hot work, the Certificate Holder or contractor(s) will ensure a fire watch would be maintained for 60 minutes to monitor for potential ignition.

3.1.2 Vegetation Management

The Certificate Holder and contractor(s) will maintain vegetation within the Site Boundary and will also maintain a defensible space clearance along Facility features. Defensible space will be free of combustible vegetation or other materials. Roads and parking areas will be maintained to be free of vegetation tall enough to contact the undercarriage of the vehicle. Travel off road or parking in vegetated areas will be restricted during fire season. All combustion engines (including but not limited to off road vehicles, chainsaws, and generators) will be equipped with a spark arrester that meets U.S. Forest Service Standard 5100-1a.

3.1.3 Minimizing Fire Risk from Construction Activities

The following best management practices to minimize fire risk from vehicle travel and fueling activities would be implemented at the site during construction. Additional measures identified in the Application for Site Certificate, Exhibit U and Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1) Exhibit U may be required by the Oregon Department of Energy.

- The movement of vehicles will be planned and managed to minimize fire risk.
- The contractor(s) will be responsible for identifying and marking paths for all off-road vehicle travel. All off-road vehicle travel will be required to stay on the identified paths. No off-road vehicle travel will be permitted while working alone.
- Areas with grass that are as tall or taller than the exhaust system of a vehicle must be wetted before vehicles travel through it.
- Workers will be instructed to shut off the engine of any vehicle that gets stuck, and periodically inspect the area adjacent to the exhaust system for evidence of ignition of vegetation. Stuck vehicles will be pulled out rather than “rocked” free and the area will be inspected again after the vehicle has been moved.

- The contractor(s) will designate a location for field fueling operations at the temporary construction yards. Any fueling of generators, pumps, etc. shall take place at this location only.
- Fuel containers, if used, shall remain in a vehicle or equipment trailer, parked at a designated location alongside a county right-of-way. No fuel containers shall be in the vehicles that exit the right-of-way except the five-gallon container that is required for the water truck pump.
- Smoking shall only be allowed in designated smoking areas at the Facility.

3.1.4 Emergency Response

Emergency response is outlined in the Wheatridge Emergency Action Plan. Additionally, an Emergency Management Plan (per Site Certificate Condition PRE-PS-05) and Site Health and Safety Plan (per Site Certificate Condition PRE-PS-06) will be implemented during construction. Personnel will be trained on the RACE (i.e., Remove, Alarm, Confine and Extinguish or Evacuate) procedure to implement in the event of a fire start. RACE procedure includes:

- Rescue anyone in danger (if safe to do so);
- Alarm – call the control room, who will then determine if 911 should be alerted;
- Contain the fire (if safe to do so); and
- Extinguish the incipient fire stage (if safe to do so).

Personnel on site will carry fire suppression equipment during the fire season in their vehicles. This equipment shall include, at a minimum:

- Fire Extinguisher: Dry chemical. 2.5 or 2.8 pound. 1A-10B: C U/L rating, properly mounted or secured;
- Pulaski Hand Shovel: Round point. 26 to 28 inch "D" Handle, blade - 12 inches long and 10 inches wide;
- Collapsible Pail or Backpack Pump: 5-gallon capacity; and
- Drip Can: 5-gallon capacity.

Personnel will receive training on use of suppression equipment. Prior to construction and operation of the Facility, the Certificate Holder will provide employee fire prevention and response training that shall include instruction on Facility fire hazards, fire safety, emergency notification procedures, use of fire safety equipment, and fire safety rules and regulations. Equivalent training shall be provided to new employees or subcontractors working on site that are hired after the start of construction (per Site Certificate Conditions GEN-PS-03 and PRE-PS-05). All personnel shall also be equipped with communication equipment capable of reaching the control room from all locations within the Site Boundary.

3.2 Operations

3.2.1 Wildfire Mitigation Through Facility Design

The Facility's components, and overall project design, will meet National Electrical Code and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers standards and will not pose a significant fire risk. During operation, the Certificate Holder and contractor(s) will follow all relevant Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Fire Protection Association requirements related to fire hazards including: no smoking policy, fire permit requirement, hazardous material and combustible storage areas, pre task planning to assess fire risks, relevant fire awareness training, lockout-tagout requirement, hazardous materials documentation, appropriate management, and disposal.

The Certificate Holder will design the Facility to maintain a defensible space clearance along Facility features. Defensible space will be free of combustible vegetation or other materials. Roads and parking areas will be maintained to be free of vegetation tall enough to contact the undercarriage of the vehicle. Travel off road or parking in vegetated areas will be restricted during fire season. All combustion engines (including but not limited to off road vehicles, chainsaws, and generators) will be equipped with a spark arrester that meets U.S. Forest Service Standard 5100-1a.

Vegetation within the fence line will be managed as needed to reduce fuels for fire. Facility access roads will be sufficiently sized for emergency vehicle access, in accordance with local building code and local fire department requirements. The fenced areas around Facility infrastructure will be graveled, with no vegetation present. Smoke/fire detectors will be placed around the site that will be tied to the supervisory control and data acquisition system and will contact local firefighting services. The limited vegetation present within the Site Boundary during operations will also help to minimize spread of fire. Any potential fires inside the Site Boundary will be controlled by trained staff who will be able to access the Facility around the clock. These measures will help keep external fires out or internal fires in.

3.2.2 Inspection of Facility Components

The Certificate Holder shall update this section prior to operation, subject to Oregon Department of Energy approval. The Facility components that could cause electrical fires are the wind turbines, substations, overhead electrical lines, and the battery energy storage systems (BESS). During operations, the Certificate Holder will conduct inspections for maintaining a Facility that minimizes the risk of fire; see Table 1.

Table 1. Operational Inspections for Electrical Components

Inspection	Procedure	Standard	Time Frame
Turbines	Visual inspection of turbine components and foundations as well as the surrounding area. In addition, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)	SPCC Plan[1] Manufacturer's maintenance recommendations	Quarterly Annual

Inspection	Procedure	Standard	Time Frame
	data is observed to determine how the turbine's structural components are withstanding stresses.		
Substations	Visual inspection of MPT, Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) measures, and surrounding area.	Manufacturer's maintenance recommendations APLIC[2]	Monthly Quarterly
Overhead electrical lines	Visual inspection of components, grounding, APLIC measures, vertical clearance distance between conductor and vegetation.	National Energy Reliability Corporation (NERC)[3] APLIC	Annual
BESS	Visual inspection of BESS, PCS, and surrounding areas	SPCC Plan Manufacturer's maintenance recommendations	Monthly

1. The Operational Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan for the Facility will require these components to be inspected monthly for spills. During these inspections, Operational Staff will also visually inspect the component and surrounding area.

2. The Certificate Holder will develop an inspection checklist and program of electrical equipment based on manufacturer's recommendations for individual components.

3. Vegetation maintenance standard FAC-003-0.

Specifically, monthly inspections during operations will involve the following:

- Proper maintenance of equipment to prevent sources of combustible materials;
- Prevention of combustible materials accumulation;
- Proper disposal of combustible waste;
- Assurance of property flammable chemical storage (i.e., within a flammable cabinet);
- Proper treatment of any leaks;
    - For leaks that cannot immediately be stopped, they will be contained, reported, and cleaned to mitigate any fire hazard. All leaks will be reported to the Site Operations Manager and in turn, NextEra's Environmental Health and Safety Department.
- Proper maintenance of all heat-producing equipment to prevent accidental ignition of combustible materials, in accordance with applicable equipment guidelines and manuals;
- Visual inspection of portable fire extinguishers; and
- Visual inspections of the BESS, substations, and surrounding areas, as well as completion of applicable APLIC inspection forms.

Additionally, quarterly inspections will generally include:

- Visual inspections of the turbines, substations, and surrounding areas, as well as completion of applicable APLIC inspection forms.

Lastly, for annual inspections during operations, the following will be completed:

- Testing of fire equipment in compliance with manufacturer specifications and National Fire Protection Association guidelines:

  - Portable dry fire extinguishers will have an annual maintenance check and hydrostatic test every 12 years.
  - Carbon dioxide extinguishers will have an annual maintenance check and hydrostatic test every 5 years.
  - Extinguishers will also be tested after use.
  - A qualified contractor will perform all inspections.
- Internal inspections of wind turbines, including checking for cleanliness and fire hazards;
- Cleaning and inspecting wind turbines in compliance with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management requirements;
- Assessment of SCADA data and applicable equipment performance;
- Visual inspections of overhead electrical lines and completion of applicable APLIC inspection forms; and
- Routine inspections and maintenance of turbine foundation anchor bolts (minimum of 10 percent for each foundation); bolts will be re-tightened if any bolt fails the tension check.

In addition to regularly scheduled inspections, the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system allows for real-time monitoring of each Facility component, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As described in the Division 27 document, the SCADA system will serve as the "nerve center" of the Facility by connecting individual turbines, BESS, substations, and meteorological towers to a central computer housed in the shared/existing O&M building (per Condition CON-WF-02). If an issue with Facility infrastructure arises, O&M staff are alerted so that the component can be shut down to minimize a failure's consequences and potential safety risks.

For any discrepancies that are identified in the inspections listed, remedial actions will be taken immediately and reported to the Site Operations Manager. If the issue cannot be resolved by the technician, the Site Operations Manager will ensure that the appropriate remedial actions are scheduled and monitoring of the issue is conducted until the issue is resolved.

3.2.3 Vegetation Management

The Certificate Holder will maintain vegetation within the Site Boundary and will also maintain a defensible space clearance along Facility features. Defensible space will be free of combustible vegetation or other materials. Roads and parking areas will be maintained to be free of vegetation tall enough to contact the undercarriage of the vehicle. Travel off road or parking in vegetated areas will be restricted during fire season. All combustion engines (including but not limited to off road vehicles, chainsaws, and generators) will be equipped with a spark arrester that meets U.S. Forest Service Standard 5100-1a.

Each spring, prior to the summer months, a physical vegetation survey assessment of the area will be completed at least once annually to monitor for vegetation clearances around electrical equipment, maintenance of fire breaks, and monitor for wildfire hazards. This survey will focus on areas of heightened risk and high fire consequences as described in Sections 2.5 and 2.6 respectively, and displayed in Figures V-2, V-3 and V-4 (see Exhibit V). The initial vegetation survey assessments will occur in May or June, prior to the start of the dry season, a time when wildfire risk

is usually heightened due to low fuel moisture and high temperature. The vegetation survey assessment will be conducted by the Site Operations Manager and will be used to assess the frequency of upcoming vegetation maintenance and identify areas that may need additional attention. The Site Operations Manager will visually assess and document vegetation height, abundance, and areas where vegetation should not be present such as crushed rock bed around collector substations. The vegetation survey assessment will determine that clearances and fire breaks are satisfactory, and if not, the mitigation procedures will be implemented (e.g., vegetation management) to ensure clearances and fire breaks are satisfactory.

The vegetation survey will document:

- Location of wildfire hazards;
- Species;
- Estimated growth rate;
- Abundance;
- Vegetation clearance/setbacks;
- Risk of fire hazard; and
- Mitigation and removal measures

Criteria that will be used to determine that clearances and fire breaks are satisfactory include a 5-foot noncombustible, defensible space around Facility structures (e.g., substations, operations and maintenance [O&M] building), a 5-foot minimum vegetation clearance from conductors, no vegetation in graveled areas or crushed rock areas around facility structures (e.g., O&M buildings, substations, and BESS), and height of vegetation within transmission line corridors managed to appropriate height requirements (Table 1).

To reduce the availability of fuels for wildfire near electrical components, the Certificate Holder will install a non-flammable gravel base around wind turbines, substations, and BESS as described in the RFA 1's Division 27 document (*Request for Amendment #1 for the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East*) and implement ongoing vegetation management outlined in Table 1 to ensure that vegetation does not grow in these graveled areas.

Table 2. Vegetation Management Procedures by Facility Component

Vegetation Management	Procedure	Standard	Time Frame
Turbine	Herbicide application on gravel pad surrounding turbines. Highly compacted gravel foundations of turbines are not suitable for vegetation.	IEEE 80[1] NFPA 70[2]	Yearly, depending on vegetation condition.
Substations	Herbicide application on substation gravel pads. Highly compacted gravel	IEEE 80[1] NEC 70[2]	Yearly, depending on vegetation condition.

Vegetation Management	Procedure	Standard	Time Frame
	foundations of the substations are not suitable for vegetation.		
Battery energy storage system	Herbicide application on gravel pad surrounding the BESS. Highly compacted gravel foundations of the BESS are not suitable for vegetation.	IEEE 80[1] NEC 70[2]	Yearly, depending on vegetation condition.
Overhead electrical lines	Mow vegetation to achieve clearance requirements between conductor and ground.	North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)[3]	Yearly, depending on vegetation condition.
1. IEEE (2015) 2. NFPA (2023) 3. NERC (2009)			

Additional vegetation surveys may be required throughout the season based on seasonally heightened fire risk. Vegetation control will begin following the surveys and employ best management practices and techniques that are most appropriate for the local environment. In areas where vegetation is present and could pose a fire risk, vegetation management and removal measures (mowing, vegetation removal, herbicide, etc.) shall be implemented prior to fire season (mid-late summer).

Physical vegetation control, such as mowing or the introduction of non-invasive species that are low growing as described in Exhibit P and the Habitat Mitigation Plan (HMP; Attachment P-2), and the Revegetation Plan (Attachment P-4). Depending on the location, soil type, and HMP or Revegetation Plan criteria, the vegetation may either be mowed or managed through low-growing species in a seed mix. For example, vegetation under overhead electrical lines may be mowed to achieve clearance requirements between conductor and ground (Table 1). Habitat subtypes within the Site Boundary primarily consist of Native Perennial Grassland, Dryland Wheat, Revegetated/Other Planted Grassland, and Rabbitbrush/Snakeweed Shrub-steppe. Based on the HMP and Revegetation Plan, the appropriate non-invasive, low-growing species for physical vegetation control can be included in seed mixes for the restoration of habitat with either 1) a mix of native or non-invasive, non-persistent non-native grasses; or 2) a mix of native or non-invasive, non-persistent non-native grasses, forbs, and shrubs.

In rare circumstances where it is necessary to use herbicides, an effort will be made to minimize use and only apply bio-degradable, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-registered, organic solutions that are non-toxic to wildlife. Any herbicides used for vegetation management the site will be selected and used in a manner that fully complies with all applicable laws and regulations. Noxious weeds within the Site Boundary will be controlled in accordance with the Noxious Weed Control Plan (see Exhibit P, Attachment P-3).

3.2.4 Fire Weather Monitoring

Burn probability, expected flame length, and overall risk may increase during periods of the fire season. Personnel on site will monitor Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings issued by the National Weather Service. A Fire Weather Watch indicates the potential for weather conducive to large fire spread in the next 12 to 72 hours. A Red Flag Warning is issued when current weather conditions are conducive to large fire growth in the next 24 hours. During operation, personnel monitoring these conditions may halt Facility operations, work at the site or overland vehicle travel in certain high risk locations or employ additional mitigation measures. High risk locations may include areas of extremely combustible material such as grass, brush, or timber. Mitigation measures during a Red Flag Warning may include communicating to on-site staff of the Red Flag Warning, communicating with local fire protection agency personnel of on-going conditions, driving or parking on roads to avoid sparking a fire in grass or brush, and halting operational activities that may increase fire risk. If maintenance activities need to occur at the Facility during times of heightened fire risk, the Certificate Holder will implement the following measures to prevent wildfires:

- If regrowth around Facility infrastructure occurs, the Site Operations Manager will enact mechanical or chemical measures to control the vegetation, depending on the species.
- Activities will require a Hot Work Permit to be issued by the Site Operations Manager, which outlines the relevant fire risk of the proposed maintenance activity and provides any necessary precautions.
- When possible, maintenance tasks that involve spark risk will be rescheduled.
- If maintenance tasks cannot be postponed, the Site Operations Manager will implement fire risk prevention procedures to ensure continued operation of the Facility. An additional contractor will be hired to monitor fire risk at the Facility, equipped with a water truck to oversee all maintenance as activities.

3.2.5 Emergency Response

Emergency response is outlined in the Wheatridge Emergency Action Plan. Additionally, the aforementioned Emergency Management Plan (per Site Certificate Condition PRE-PS-05) and Site Health and Safety Plan (per Site Certificate Condition PRE-PS-06) will be updated as applicable and implemented during operations. Personnel will be trained on the RACE (i.e., Remove, Alarm, Confine and Extinguish or Evacuate) procedure to implement in the event of a fire start. RACE procedure includes:

- Rescue anyone in danger (if safe to do so);
- Alarm – call the control room, who will then determine if 911 should be alerted;
- Contain the fire (if safe to do so); and
- Extinguish the incipient fire stage (if safe to do so).

Personnel on site will carry fire suppression equipment during the fire season in their vehicles. This equipment shall include, at a minimum:

- Fire Extinguisher: Dry chemical. 2.5 or 2.8 pound. 1A-10B: C U/L rating, properly mounted or secured;
- Pulaski Hand Shovel: Round point. 26 to 28 inch "D" Handle, blade - 12 inches long and 10 inches wide;
- Collapsible Pail or Backpack Pump: 5-gallon capacity; and
- Drip Can: 5-gallon capacity.

Personnel will receive training on use of suppression equipment. All personnel shall also be equipped with communication equipment capable of reaching the control room from all locations within the Site Boundary. Additionally, all operations staff will undergo regular trainings including:

- Annual employee fire prevention and response training that shall include instruction on Facility fire hazards, fire safety, emergency notification procedures, use of fire safety equipment, and fire safety rules and regulations (per Site Certificate Conditions GEN-PS-03 and PRE-OS-05).
    - Equivalent training shall also be provided to new employees or subcontractors working on site that are hired during after the start of operations.
    - Training will be implemented by the Certificate Holder in coordination with the first-response agencies listed in the Emergency Management Plan (Site Certificate Condition PRE-PS-05), to be submitted prior to construction initiation.

3.3 Updates to the Wildfire Mitigation Plan

The Wildfire Mitigation Plan will be a living document that will be updated in order to meet the objectives and to respond to changing conditions within the Site Boundary. The Mitigation Plan will be updated annually to account for changes in local fire protection agency personnel, wildfire risk at the site, and changes in best practices for minimizing and mitigating fire risk (see Table 3 below). The Certificate Holder shall document and report annually to the Oregon Department of Energy (pursuant to OAR 345-022-0080(2):

- Whether wildfire risk has changed significantly at the site.
- Whether the industry groups and applicable design standards outlined in Table 2 have changed or been updated to result in new future technologies or best practices that could be implemented at the Facility. The Plan shall be updated based on changes in best practices or technologies deemed necessary and appropriate at the site, or as needed at the site based on changes in site conditions and modeled wildfire risk.
- Any significant changes in vegetation management.

The Certificate Holder shall update Table 3 prior to operation, subject to Oregon Department of Energy approval. Emerging technologies will likely contribute to increased knowledge of wildfire risk and wildfire mitigation. Improvements in wildfire modeling and detection will be monitored

and integrated into the plan. Specifically, this document will be updated if wildfire models cited in this report are updated.

Table 3. Resources for Future Best Practices

Reference	Description	Method
American Clean Power (ACP)	ACP establishes best practices for renewable energy projects.	The Certificate Holder's parent company is a member of ACP and participates in best practice development.[1]
North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)	NERC develops electrical standards for large energy facilities.	The Certificate Holder will follow NERC Standard FAC-003-0 for its vegetation management program of transmission lines, or updates to this standard as approved by NERC.[2]
Oregon Specialty Building Codes (OSBC)	OSBC designs building codes applicable to inhabitable spaces, substation enclosures.	Remodeling of the substation enclosures that requires permits will follow any updates to the OSBC at that time.
Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC)	APLIC develops avian protection methods for electrical facilities to minimize fire risk to bird/mammal nests on electrical equipment.	The Certificate Holder's parent company is a member of APLIC.[3] An operational wildlife monitoring program will inspect for wildlife nesting on facilities that could cause fire, and take actions following applicable laws (for example, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act).

1. Link to ACP Standards & Practices: https://cleanpower.org/resources/types/standards-and-practices/.

2. NERC FAC-003-0: https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Reliability%20Standards/FAC-003-0.pdf.

3. Link to APLIC member organization: https://www.aplic.org/member_websites.php.

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Christopher Clark
Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capital Street NE, 1st Floor
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Certificate Holder Response to Public and Agency Comments on Wheatridge East Renewable Energy Facility RFA1 Draft Proposed Order

Dear Mr. Clark,

As you know, Wheatridge East Wind LLC (Wheatridge East), a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources LLC (NextEra), has submitted Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1) to the Site Certificate for the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East (Facility). By letter dated April 1, 2024 (Prior Letter), we provided comments and clarifications on the Draft Proposed Order (DPO) on RFA1. This letter supplements the Prior Letter and briefly responds to the public and agency comments submitted during the comment period on the DPO. NextEra appreciates the engagement from stakeholders and has carefully evaluated the comments. Please find a summary of NextEra's response to comments below.

Visual Impacts. Commenters Wendy King and the Myers Family raised concerns related to potential visual impacts from the Facility, particularly with respect to views of Gleason Butte from their properties. These commenters acknowledge that Gleason Butte is not a designated scenic resource under the Energy Facility Siting Council's (Council) Scenic Resources Standard but nonetheless urge the Council to treat Gleason Butte as if it was a designated scenic resource. The commenters also ask the Council to condition approval of RFA1 on the removal of Facility turbines. Not only is this request inconsistent with the Council's Scenic Resources Standard, which is clear that designated scenic resources are those identified as significant or important in a plan adopted by a local, tribal, state, or federal agency, the record also reflects that Gleason Butte is already developed with multiple communications towers. *See* Letter April 3, 2024 Letter from the Morrow County Board of Commissioners. Despite this, in response to Ms. King's specific request for an analysis of potential visual impacts from her property, Wheatridge East engaged its visual consultant to prepare a memo assessing the visual impact from the general vicinity of Ms. King's home. This memorandum was provided directly to Ms. King on March 20, 2024 and is attached as **Exhibit A**. The report concludes that Facility turbines will be "barely discernable" from Ms. King's property.

Wildfire Prevention. Public commenters and Morrow County provided comment on the Facility's draft Wildfire Mitigation Plan. In response to these comments, Wheatridge East provided a revised and updated Wildlife Mitigation Plan on April 2, 2024. The Wildfire Mitigation Plan was revised to address issues raised and to align the plan with the Wildfire Mitigation Plan for the Leaning Juniper IIA Wind Power Facility (as requested by Councilor Imes at the Hearing on March 21, 2024).

Communications Towers. Morrow County noted that Gleason Butte hosts several communication towers and asked the Council to ensure that the Facility does not interfere with the function of those towers. Wheatridge East engaged Capital Airspace Group to prepare a Partial Communication Systems

Interference Analysis, which is attached as **Exhibit B**. This analysis demonstrates that the nearest Facility turbine (T23) is outside the exclusion zones for FM radio and land mobile radio and therefore the Facility will not interfere with the communications towers.

Oregon Trail. The Oregon-California Trails Association noted that although the Facility does not appear to directly impact the Oregon Trail, the Facility may impact views from the trail or the kiosk on the side of Immigrant Road. The Oregon-California Trails Association also requested assistance in the rehabilitation of the kiosk signs. NextEra has a strong record of working with local nonprofit organizations and intends to contact the Oregon-California Trails Association to see if it may be able to collaborate on a project to benefit visitors to the Oregon Trail.

Site Boundary Expansion. At the March 21, 2024 Hearing, Councilor Devin raised the issue of the "17-fold" expansion of the Site Boundary. Please see the following table (Table 1) that provides clarification on the existing (approved) and the expanded proposed facility components.

Table 1. Existing and Proposed Facility Components

Facility Component	Existing	Proposed
Total Generating Capacity	200 MW	300 MW
Site Boundary	4,582 acres	78,985 acres. This includes the existing ~42,000 acres of the existing lease lands and an additional 36,985 acres of new leased lands.
Micrositing Corridors	4,582 acres	14,640 acres
Wind Turbines	66 turbines	107 turbines (107 primary and 21 alternate locations)

The primary purpose of RFA1 is to add renewable energy generating capacity by amending the Approved Site Boundary and approved wind micrositing corridors to accommodate a 300-MW facility with up to 107 turbines. These proposed changes will maximize the use of the permitted infrastructure of WREFE, the existing Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC) transmission line (Green Corridor), and the Blue Ridge Substation. Inclusion of the lease boundaries as part of the Site Boundary (rather than simply aligning with the micro-siting corridors) is the standard approach for most site certificates, so the amendment request would update the Site Boundary in a manner consistent with other site certificates.

With this submittal and the evidence in the whole record, NextEra has demonstrated that RFA1 complies with all applicable Council standards. As a key partner with the State of Oregon and its utilities in efforts to meet the state's ambitious clean energy targets, NextEra respectfully requests approval of RFA1 to allow Wheatridge East to move forward with the construction of the Facility as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance,

David Lawlor

David Lawlor, Executive Director Development
NextEra Energy Resources

TETRA TECH

Memo

To: Wendy King, Landowner, 68453 Little Butter Creek Rd.

From: NextEra Energy Resources
Tetra Tech, Inc.

Date: March 19, 2024

Subject: Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East (Project) Visual Assessment

This memorandum responds to a landowner request (dated March 12, 2024) to conduct additional viewshed analyses of the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Project (Project) from north of the Project area. Specifically, this memo addresses the visual simulations in Figures R-5 and R-6 (attached) from Exhibit R of the proposed Request for Amendment (RFA) 1 to the Project site certificate.

A comparison of existing views from Key Observation Points (KOPs) with visual simulations depicting visible project features aided in determining Project-related impacts for this response. The simulations present a representative sample of the existing landscape setting contained within the Project site, as well as an accurate illustration of how the Project may look from the identified KOPs.

Visual Simulations

For Exhibit R, seven KOPs were chosen to represent viewing locations in the vicinity of the Project that are considered visually sensitive areas from which viewers may be affected by Project-related changes in the landscape setting, see Figure R-2 (attached).

The photographic simulations created for the Project do accurately depict the scale and detail of the proposed wind turbines. The photographic simulations were created using geographic information systems (GIS) software, 3-dimensional (3-D) modeling software, and digital photographic editing software. The photographs of the existing landscapes were taken using a Nikon D90 digital camera with a 52 millimeter-equivalent lens, which most closely approximates the field of vision of the human eye. In photos taken with this lens, the size and scale of objects in the background and foreground are depicted in ratio and are not distorted.

To create the photo simulations, the KOP location data are combined with GIS layout data of the Project turbines and facilities. A map showing this data was then exported at true scale and imported into 3D Studio Max. Using this scaled map as a base, a 3-D model of the Project area was created to scale. 3-D models of the proposed Project turbines, previously modeled to scale in 3-D Studio Max, were then added in their appropriate locations and elevations. The views from the existing photographs were then matched in the 3-D model using virtual cameras with the same focal length and field of view as the Nikon D90 and renderings from the virtual cameras were created. These renderings were blended into the existing conditions photographs in Adobe Photoshop software. This process of creating a 3-D model at true scale and rendering images using the same specifications

used by the camera ensures that the spatial relationships of the landscape, Project features, and viewer perspective are accurate and match the existing site photographs.

Viewer distance is a key factor in determining the level of visual effect, with views of Project features and their perceived contrast with existing conditions generally diminishing as distance between the viewer and the Project area increases.

If not blocked by any intervening vegetation or structures, details of Project elements in the foreground (approximately zero to 0.5 miles) would be visually clear. In the middleground (approximately 0.5 to 5 miles), there is the potential to distinguish individual elements, but texture and color become muted and less detailed with distance. In the background (more than 5 miles), texture has disappeared and color has flattened, making objects appear "washed out." If the shape and mass of Project elements are visible at background distance, their visibility would be limited and they would not appear as a prominent or identifiable feature in the landscape setting.

Visual Impact from General Vicinity of Landowner's Home

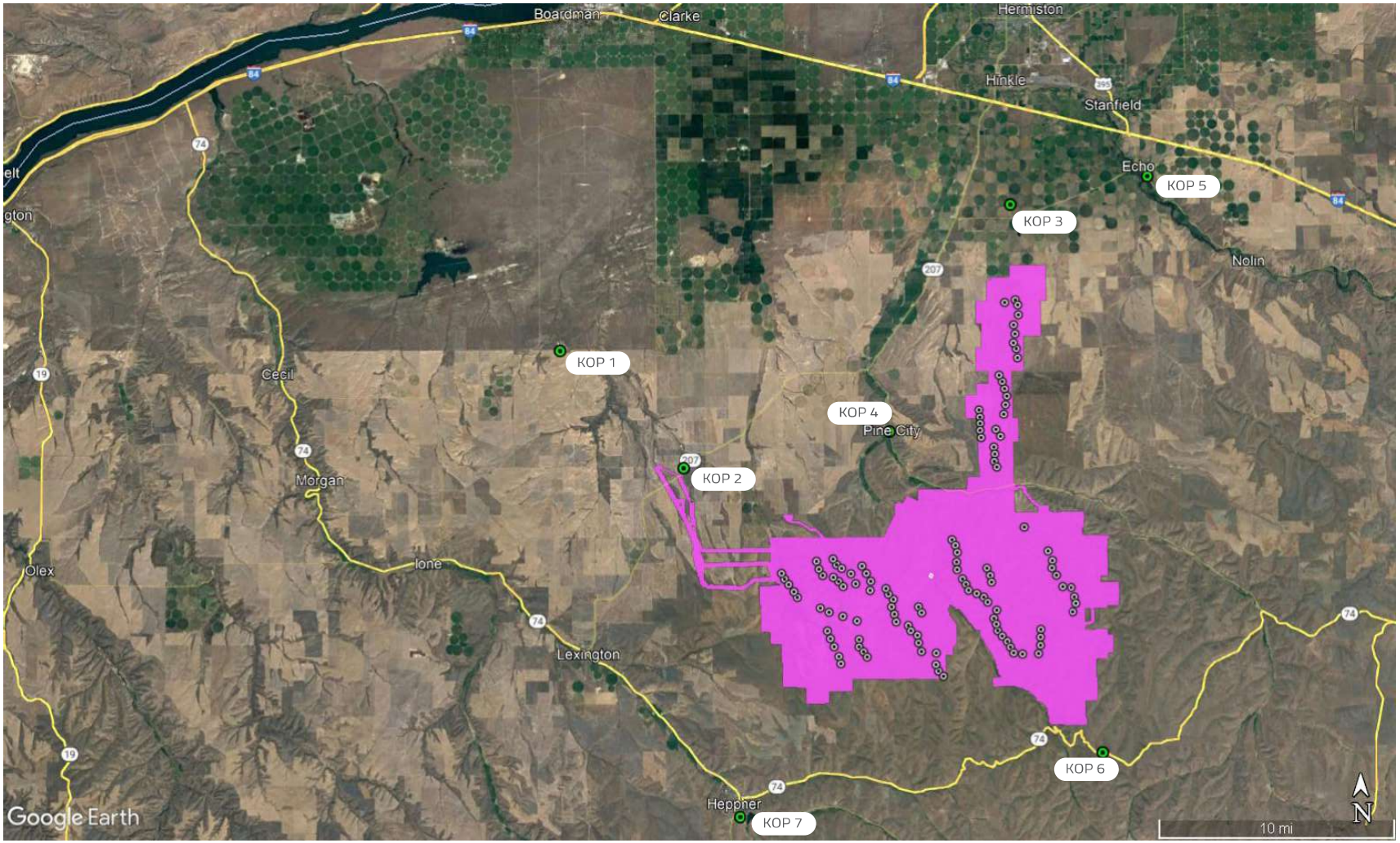
KOP 4 is located at Pine City. As shown in the simulation created from a photograph from this location (see the attached Figure R-6 from the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility Request for Amendment 1, Exhibit R), visibility of the Project would be low, primarily because terrain would block views of most of the Project turbines. A few turbines would potentially be visible, at a viewing distance of approximately 3.8 miles from the closest turbine. Because of the distance, the turbines are barely discernable, blend in with the hillsides, and do not draw attention. At greater distances from Pine City, the visibility will continue to decrease until the turbines are no longer identifiable.

KOP 3 is located on Oregon Trail Road (also known as the Lexington-Echo Highway or OR-320), approximately 2.7 miles north of the nearest turbine, and approximately 8.6 miles south of the city of Hermiston. As shown in the simulation (see the attached Figure R-5 from the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility Request for Amendment 1, Exhibit R), visibility of the Project would be low at this location. The turbines with hilltop locations are slightly more visible with the sky behind them instead of the hillside. Even so, with the turbines' light color and the distance, the turbines are barely discernable and do not draw attention. At greater distances from this location, the visibility will continue to decrease until the turbines are no longer identifiable. At Hermiston, over 11 miles from the nearest turbine, visibility of the Project is very unlikely.

From both KOPs 3 and 4, the Project would not be noticeable to the casual observer. The "casual observer" is considered an observer who is not actively looking or searching for the Project, but who is engaged in activities at locations with potential views of the Project, such as hiking or driving along a scenic road. If the Project infrastructure is not noticeable to the casual observer, visual impacts can be considered minor to negligible.

Based on the visual simulation prepared from KOP 4, potential visibility of the Project from 68453 Little Butter Creek Rd., Heppner, OR 97836, would be low. Terrain would block views of most of the Project turbines and the few potentially visible turbines (approximately 5 miles for the closest turbine) would be barely discernable, blend in with the hillsides, and would not draw attention. This visibility would be similar for views along Highway 207 from the KOP 4 location and north to Oregon Trail Road and the KOP 3 location. Continuing north along Highway

207 from Oregon Trail Road, the visibility will decrease and views of the Project from Hermiston are highly unlikely. Due to distance from the Project, topographic obstructions, the light color of the turbines minimizing contrast with the surroundings, and other features within view (i.e., transmission and other infrastructure), the Project will not result in significant visual impacts.



WHEATRIDGE EAST WIND ENERGY

Morrow County, OR

Figure R-2
KOP Locations

Key Observation Point (KOP) Locations

- KOP Location
- Proposed Turbine Location
- Site Area

Disclaimer:
Preliminary visualizations are for reference only; Not for construction

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EXHIBIT A
Page 4 of 6

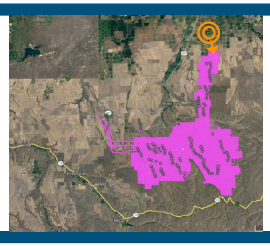
EXISTING CONDITIONS

SIMULATED CONDITIONS

WHEATRIDGE EAST WIND ENERGY

Morrow County, OR

Figure R-5
Visual Simulation from KOP 3



Photograph Information

Time of photograph:	11:35am	Latitude:	45.720038°
Date of photograph:	8/29/2022	Longitude:	-119.309417°
Weather condition:	Partly Cloudy	Distance to Project:	4.1 mi
Viewing direction:	Southeast		

Disclaimer:
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EXHIBIT A
Page 5 of 6

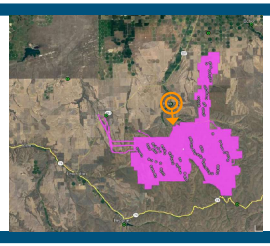
EXISTING CONDITIONS

SIMULATED CONDITIONS

WHEATRIDGE EAST WIND ENERGY

Morrow County, OR

Figure R-6
Visual Simulation from KOP 4



Photograph Information

Time of photograph:	12:19pm	Latitude:	45.581258°
Date of photograph:	8/29/2022	Longitude:	-119.417648°
Weather condition:	Partly Cloudy	Distance to Project:	5.2 mi
Viewing direction:	South		

Disclaimer:
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EXHIBIT A
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Wheatridge East Wind Project

NextEra Energy

Morrow County, Oregon

Partial Communication Systems Interference Analysis

April 8, 2024

Capitol Airspace Group
capitolairspace.com
(703) 256 - 2485

Capitol Airspace Group
6350 Walker Lane, Suite 450
Alexandria, VA 22310
703-256-2485
capitolairspace.com

Analysis of FAA ASN 2023-WTW-5247-OE – Wheatridge East

FM stations and land mobile (including emergency services) in proximity to the Wheatridge East location of FAA ASN 2023-WTW-5247-OE

There are two FM stations and several land mobile base station licenses present in close proximity of FAA ASN 2023-WTW-5247-OE (structure name Alt-11, internal number T23) at the NextEra Energy Wheatridge East wind project. Coordinates of this wind turbine are listed as 45°29'8.15" N, 119°25'46.11" W.

Figure 1 details the proximity of T23 to each communications facility.

FM Radio

Wind turbines located within one kilometer of a FM transmitter facility have the potential to adversely affect FM transmissions.[1] The nearby FM station transmitters are co-located stations KZLY(FM) and KLKY(FM), which are on a tower located 232 meters away from T23. Turbines which are closer than the "far field" (Fraunhofer Distance) of an FM antenna may cause interference to the FM transmission.

Based on the frequency of the radio stations, and the length and design of the antennas, the "far field" of the KZLY(FM) antenna begins 25 meters away from the tower. The "far field" of the KLKY(FM) antenna begins 149 meters away from the tower. These are shown as green "exclusion zones" in the map in ***Figure 1***. The location of T23 is outside each of these exclusion zones, so it should not cause interference to the FM transmit signals.

Land Mobile Radio (LMR)

Wind turbines located within 150 meters of a fixed land mobile base station have the potential to adversely affect two-way radio communications.[2] There are five LMR licenses located in close proximity to T23. The map in ***Figure 1*** displays the two closest to T23 – WQBM621 (Comm Tech Inc.), which is 215 meters from T23 and WQEV794 (Oregon State Police). The map shows 150 meter "exclusion zones" (blue circles) surrounding each of these base station licenses. The location of T23 is outside of both of these exclusion zones, so it should not cause interference to the land mobile base stations.

[1] One kilometer is a conservative screening distance derived by rounding the worst case Fraunhofer distance of 941 meters. The calculated distance of 941 meters is based on the largest typical off-the-shelf 12-element antenna and the lowest possible frequency of 88 MHz.

[2] Regarding possible interference emanating from the turbines, reference can be made to Part 15 of the FCC's Rules where undesired emission limits from "unintentional radiators" are specified, (see FCC Rule Section 15.109 in particular). Estimates of impact distance can be derived assuming the FCC's radiated emission limits and published receiving system receiver sensitivity and antenna efficiency; In this instance, a conservative distance of 150 meters is sufficient for the frequencies of interest.

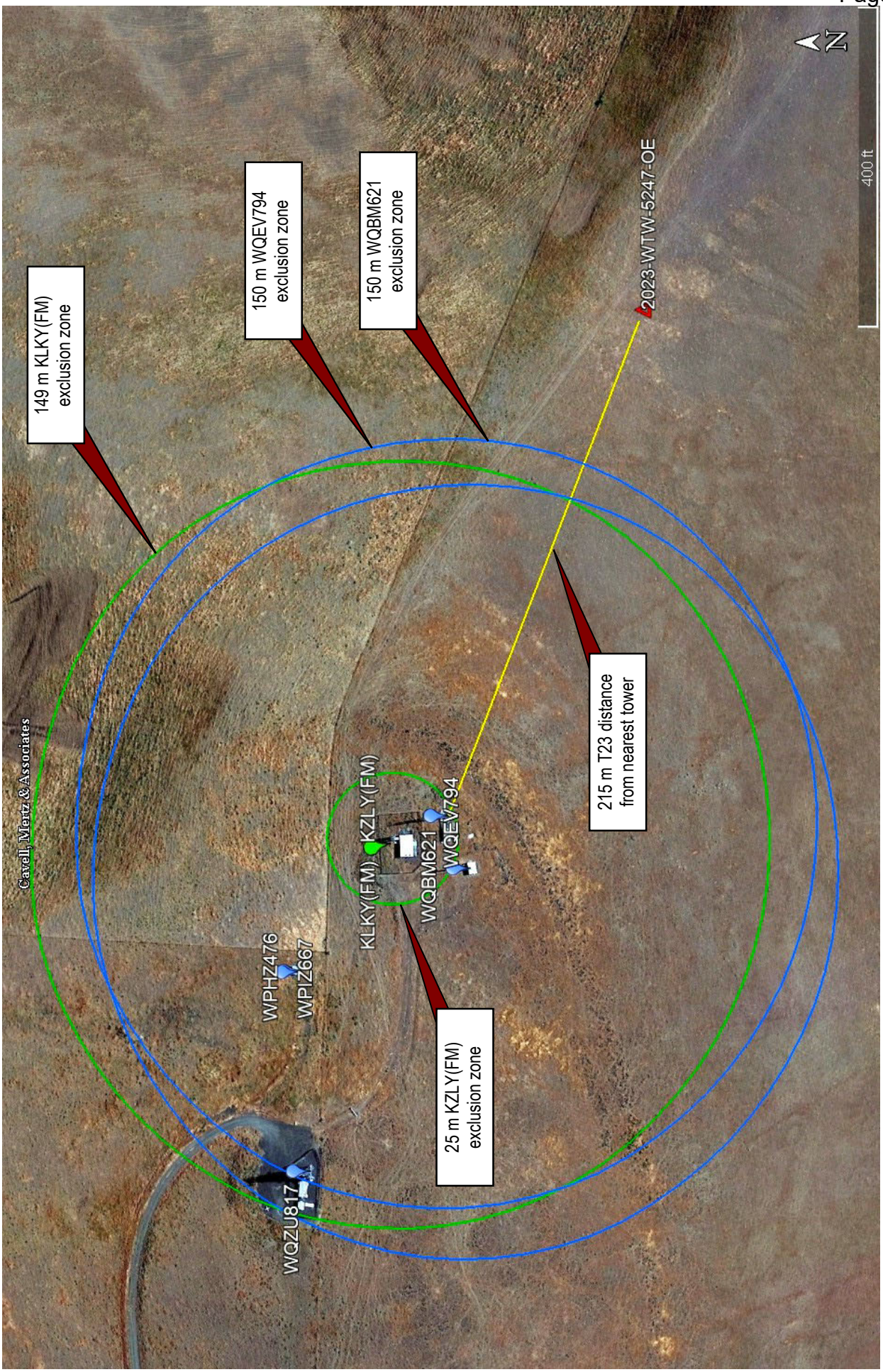

Figure 1: Wheatridge East - Turbine 23 and Nearby Communications Facilities