



Oregon

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To: Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Analyst

Date: January 2, 2026

Subject: Agenda Item B (Action Item): Summit Ridge Renewable Energy Facility – Request to Extend Expiration of the Notice of Intent, for the January 15, 2026 EFSC Meeting

Attachments: Attachment 1: Draft Order

BACKGROUND

Summit Ridge Wind, LLC (Applicant), a subsidiary of Aypa Power is requesting to extend the expiration date of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to file a preliminary pASC from January 25, 2026 to January 25, 2027 for the proposed Summit Ridge Renewable Energy Facility.

Under OAR 345-020-0060, the Notice of Intent (NOI) expires two years after its date of submission unless:

- 1. At least 45 days before the expiration date, the applicant submits a petition to extend the expiration date. The timely petition of an extension under this rule stays the expiration of the NOI until the Council makes its decision to grant or deny the extension.; and*
- 2. The petition shows good cause.*

If the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC or Council) finds that both of these requirements are met, the Council may extend the expiration date for up to one year.

PROPOSED FACILITY

The proposed Summit Ridge Renewable Energy Facility is a wind and solar photovoltaic energy generation facility including battery storage and related and supporting facilities to be located within an approximately 4,061-acre (6.35 sq. mile) site boundary of private land zoned for exclusive farm use in northeastern Wasco County. The proposed facility would have an average generating capacity of 127 MW, a maximum generating capacity of 261 MW, and an up to 201 MW nameplate capacity with up to 201 MW of battery storage.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

- January 26, 2024 – Applicant filed the NOI establishing January 25, 2026 as the deadline to submit a preliminary Application for Site Certificate (pASC)
- April 3, 2024 – The Oregon Department of Energy (Department) held a public informational meeting on the NOI in Dufur
- June 10, 2024 – Department issued a Project Order
- November 24, 2025 – Applicant filed NOI Extension Request.*
- December 1, 2025 – Department requested additional information (RAI) to supplement NOI Extension Request
- December 23, 2025 – Applicant responded to RAI.*
- January 15, 2026 – Council review of NOI Extension Request.

*Attachment 1 of this Staff Report includes the applicant's initial request, the Department's request for additional information, and the applicant's responses.

ANALYSIS

1. 45-Day Requirement – The deadline to timely submit a NOI time extension request was December 11, 2025. The applicant submitted their extension request on November 24, 2025, 62 days prior to the expiration date of the NOI. The Department therefore recommends Council find the 45-day requirement is met.
2. Good Cause Requirement – The applicant has included two reasons to justify good cause. The first is the need

- The first is to negotiate with participating landowners on the location of the proposed facility components and finalize landowner agreements. Once those landowner agreements are signed, the applicant can conduct additional field surveys and analysis based on that facility design.

The Department requested additional information on the negotiations with landowners, a proposed schedule for completing these negotiations, and more information and schedule on the additional surveys that might be required as a result of the planned facility layout within the proposed site boundary.

The applicant provided the following response:

The Applicant has been in discussion with landowners regarding the location of infrastructure and the needed access to their parcels for wildlife & rare plant surveys. Landowner communications have been ongoing for 24 parcels in Sections 1S-14E and 1S-15E since December 2023 and are expected to be concluded in January 2026. This will allow the additional/updated wildlife, avian, and rare plant surveys to be conducted in Q2 and Q3 of 2026.

A significant cause for the extended duration of these discussions and failure to complete the required surveys has been the uncertainty associated with the ownership, exact location and routing, and the responsibility for the design and construction of the BPA interconnect switchyard at Boyd Ridge. The inability to finalize these critical elements in a timely manner resulted in loss of a significant portion of the appropriate 2025-seasonal window for the various surveys and resource impact analyses. A more detailed explanation of this impact is included in our response to ODOE's 2nd request below

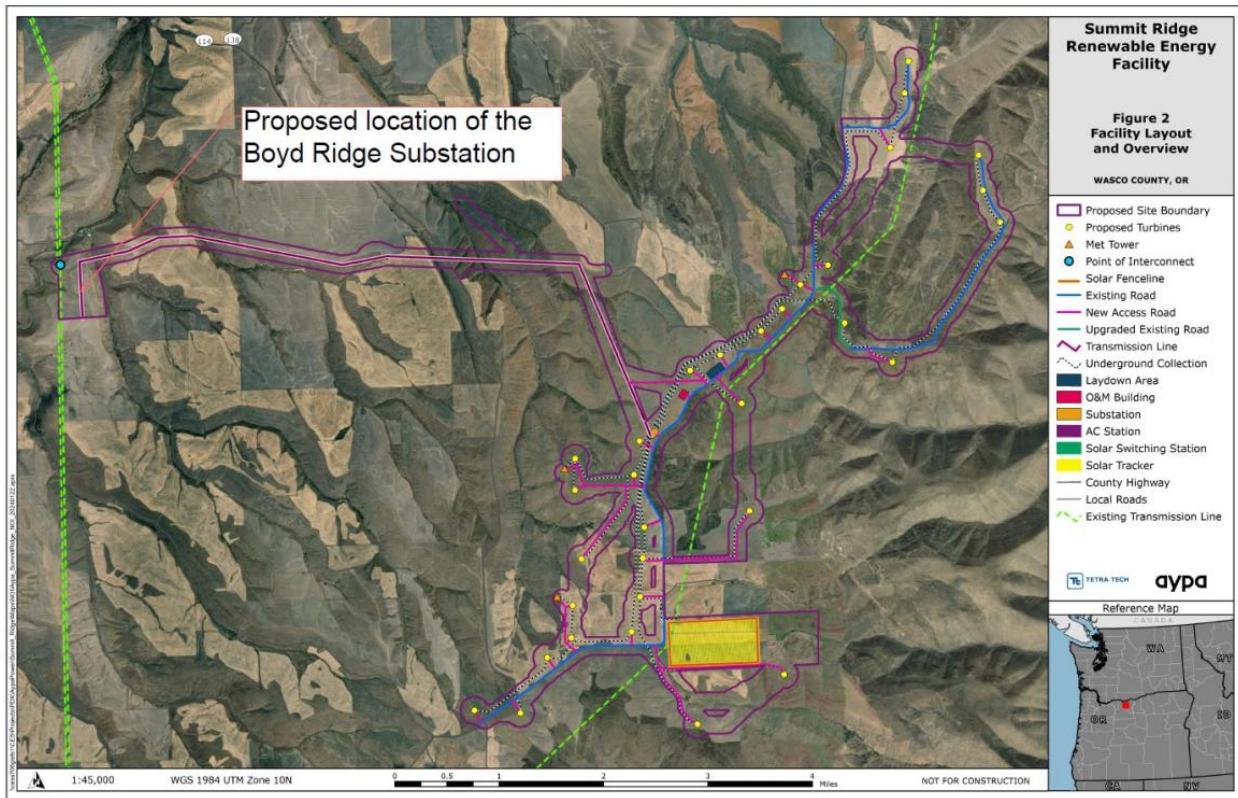
Part of the value of the NOI phase of the Council's review process is for applicants to learn more information about the project area and make necessary adjustments to the project design in order to avoid or minimize impacts to important resources. The Department therefore recommends Council find that this reason demonstrates good cause.

- The second reason is related to the changes in Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) plans to construct the Boyd Ridge Substation requiring the applicant to assume the responsibility of designing, constructing, owning and operating the substation as part of facility design. The applicant also identifies a change in BPA schedule on timelines to construct the associated BPA 230 kV intertie transmission line required to connect the substation and deliver power to the BPA transmission grid.

The Department requested additional information on the location and scope for the new substation because it was not included in the original NOI as a part of the proposed facility, or Project Order. Specifically, we requested details and information on, or evidence of BPA coordination, the steps required that would justify an extension & need for more time, proposed schedule for when this would all occur, including the BPA intertie and 230 kV line.

The applicant provided the following response:

Below is the map that was included in the January 2024 NOI submittal. As shown on the map, the Boyd Ridge Substation area is included within this submittal, but was assumed to be constructed by BPA and thus not within the purview of the ASC/EFSC permitting path.



As a result of excessive costs and proposed design and construction timelines by the BPA, a reassessment of responsibilities discussion was initiated between Summit Ridge and BPA to identify a more effective and efficient path forward. In June 2024, discussions began with BPA regarding Summit Ridge assuming responsibility for the design, permitting, construction, and ownership of the Boyd Ridge Substation. These negotiations concluded in early 2025, solidifying Summit Ridge's role. Summit Ridge would assume control over the substation's design, permitting, construction, and eventual ownership to better align with the project's schedule and cost objectives. The BPA would focus solely on designing the tie-in line from the project's Boyd Ridge switchyard to BPA's Big Eddy to Maupin 230 kV line. The BPA was to proceed with the preparation of the necessary agreements to confirm this change in roles and responsibilities.

However, due to the significant staff reductions within the BPA, incurred in the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2025, including the departure of the BPA project manager for the Boyd Ridge Substation, significant time was lost in advancing this matter within the BPA.

It wasn't until the monthly BPA Boyd Ridge meeting held on 11/10/25 from 3:00 to 4:00 PM (PST), that the BPA confirmed the tie-in line design is expected to be completed in Q2 of 2026. Summit Ridge was further informed on December 12, 2025, that the BPA agreements necessary to allow for this process to move to completion will be available for Applicant signature in late January or early February of 2026. These agreements serve to formally fund and finalize BPA's responsibilities and will

enable the Applicant to incorporate BPA's tie-in design into the overall Boyd Ridge design, finalize the Boyd Ridge switchyard location and design and allow Summit Ridge to proceed with surveys and other permitting activities in Q2 and Q3 of 2026.

The Department also recommends Council find that this reason demonstrates good cause.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the analysis above, the Department recommends Council issue an Order approving the petition based on meeting both the 45-day requirement and the good cause requirement. A draft Order is included as Attachment 1 of this staff report.