



Oregon

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To: Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor

Date: April 3, 2026

Subject: Agenda Item G (Action Item): Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East, Request for Amendment 2 – Request to Waive the In-Vicinity Public Hearing for the April 17, 2026 EFSC Meeting

BACKGROUND

The Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East is an approved 300 megawatt (MW) wind power generation facility consisting of wind turbines, collection systems, substations, transmission lines, and related infrastructure. 200 MW of the facility, consisting of 71 wind turbines, is already constructed. The remaining approved but not yet constructed components include 100 MW of more turbines, a battery energy storage system, and additional supporting systems. The facility is located in Morrow and Umatilla counties.

Preliminary Request for Amendment 2 (pRFA2) was submitted on March 11, 2026, and seeks approval by the Energy Facility Siting Council (Council) to split the existing site certificate into two separate certificates—one for the operational components and one for unbuilt components. The amendment does not include design or construction changes.

PUBLIC HEARING REQUIREMENT

Under OAR 345-027-0367, a public hearing must be held in the vicinity of the facility unless the Council or Council Chair determines such a hearing is unnecessary due to limited scope, lack of public interest, or risks to public health and safety. If waived, a public hearing still occurs but not in the facility vicinity.

ANALYSIS

The proposed amendment is predominately administrative, involving the splitting of the existing site certificate into two site certificates, allocating previously approved facility components between responsibilities of the existing certificate holder and a proposed new certificate holder, both of which are wholly owned subsidiaries of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC. No new construction, impacts, or design changes are proposed, and no public comment period is associated with this stage. There is no indication of elevated public interest. Therefore, the Department finds an in-vicinity hearing unnecessary.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION

The Department recommends that the Council waive the in-vicinity public hearing requirement for pRFA2 due to the limited administrative scope and lack of anticipated public interest.