

# Oregon Energy Facility Siting

Project Updates: April 2024

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## ENERGY FACILITIES AT A GLANCE

### New Energy Facilities – 11 Proposed Facilities

| Facility                                     | Phase  | Status                                       | Location                                  |
|--|--------|--|---|
| Nolin Hills Wind Power Project               | Appeal | Final Order appealed to Oregon Supreme Court | Umatilla County                           |
| Wagon Trail Solar Project                    | ASC    | Department is drafting DPO                   | Morrow County                             |
| Sunstone Solar Project (Formerly Echo Solar) | pASC   | Department is reviewing pASC                 | Morrow County                             |
| Archway Solar Energy Facility                | pASC   | On hold                                      | Lake County                               |
| Cascade Renewable Transmission System        | NOI    | pASC must be submitted by March 2025         | Wasco, Hood River, and Multnomah counties |
| Muddy Creek Energy Park                      | NOI    | pASC must be submitted by May 2025           | Linn County                               |
| Yellow Rosebush Energy Center                | NOI    | pASC must be submitted by September 2025     | Wasco and Sherman counties                |
| Umatilla-Morrow County Connect Project       | NOI    | pASC must be submitted by September 2025     | Morrow and Umatilla counties              |



## New Energy Facilities – 11 Proposed Facilities

| Facility                                 | Phase | Status  | Location                           |
|--|-------|---|------------------------------------|
| Summit Ridge Renewable Energy Facility   | NOI   | NOI is open for comment. Public informational meeting on April 3, 2024.       | Wasco County                       |
| Klamath Falls Energy Center              | NOI   | NOI submitted on March 29, 2024   | Klamath County                     |
| Lone Pine to Whetstone Transmission Line | NOI   | Project modified to no longer be EFSC jurisdictional. NOI expires April 2025. | Jackson County and City of Medford |

## Approved Energy Facilities – 5 Proposed Amendments, 2 Under Construction

| Facility   | Phase  | Status   | Location   |
|--|--|--|--|
| Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Amendment #1   | Appeal   | Council denial of Contested Case appealed to Circuit Court                                     | Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Baker, and Malheur counties |
| Leaning Juniper IIA Wind Power Facility Amendment #3   | DPO  | DPO comment period closes on March 29, 2024.   | Gilliam County                                       |
| Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Amendment #1 | DPO  | DPO comment period closes on April 4, 2024.  | Umatilla and Morrow counties                         |
| Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Amendment #2   | pRFA   | Completeness review; agency coordination ongoing; drafting DPO                                 | Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Baker, and Malheur counties |
| Carty Generating Station Amendment #4                  | pRFA   | Completeness review; agency coordination on-going.   | Morrow and Gilliam counties                          |
| Eugene to Medford Transmission Line Amendment #4       | pRFA   | On hold  | Jackson and Josephine counties, City of Rogue River  |
| Summit Ridge Wind Farm                                 | Application to Decommission and Terminate Site Certificate | Application to decommission and terminate site certificate submitted; Department is reviewing. | Wasco County   |
| Bakeoven Solar Project                                 | Under Construction   | Anticipated commercial operational date is April 2024  | Wasco County   |
| Daybreak Solar Project                                 | Under Construction   | Anticipated commercial operation date is October 2024  | Wasco County   |

## Amendment Determination Requests – 0 Requests

| Facility  | Phase | Status | Location |
|---|-------|--------|----------|
| <i>Type B Review Amendment Determination Requests</i> |       |        |          |



## Amendment Determination Requests – 0 Requests

| Facility                       | Phase | Status | Location |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|----------|
| None                           |       |        |          |
| <i>Amendment Determination</i> |       |        |          |
| None                           |       |        |          |

## Active State Jurisdictional Renewable Energy Projects Summary\*

| Status  | Wind MW | Solar MW | Solar Footprint Acres/Square Miles | Battery Storage MW | Total Generating MW |
|---|---------|----------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Operational                                   | 2,719   | 212      | 1,546/2.41                         | 100                | 2,931               |
| In Construction                               | 0       | 200      | 3,087/4.6                          | 100                | 200                 |
| Approved but Not Built - Approval Still Valid | 561     | 1,042    | 12,071/18.86                       | 653                | 1,603               |
| Under Review                                  | 301     | 3,744    | 37,523/58.6                        | 3,916              | 4,805               |
| Total   | 3,581   | 5,198    | 54,227/84.72                       | 4,805              | 8,779               |

\*There are more than 30 individual renewable energy facilities. However, some may include more than one type of renewable energy type and/or may be constructed in phases and therefore fall into more than one status category.

## Federal Energy Facilities

| Facility                                    | Lead Agency | Status  | Location   | Website                           |
|---|-------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Lower Klamath Project Surrender and Removal | FERC        | Deconstruction                                    | Klamath County, OR and Siskiyou County, CA           | N/A                               |
| Swan Lake North Pumped Storage              | FERC        | Pre-construction                                  | Klamath County                                       | <a href="#">FAST-41 Dashboard</a> |
| Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line     | BLM         | Environmental Review and Permitting - In Progress | Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Baker, and Malheur counties | <a href="#">FAST-41 Dashboard</a> |
| GTN Express Project                         | FERC        | Final EIS comment period                          | Oregon, Washington, and Idaho                        | N/A                               |
| Goldendale Energy Storage Project           | FERC        | Final EIS comment period                          | Sherman County, Washington                           | N/A                               |
| Utility-Scale Solar Programmatic EIS        | BLM         | Programmatic EIS being developed                  | Western States                                       | <a href="#">BLM NEPA Register</a> |
| North Umpqua Hydro Pumped Storage Project   | FERC        | Amendment Review/Initial Consultation Document    | Douglas County                                       | N/A                               |
| Owyhee Pumped Storage Project               | FERC        | In abeyance                                       | Malheur County                                       | N/A                               |
| Crooked Creek Pumped Storage Project        | FERC        | Feasibility Study                                 | Lake County  | N/A                               |



## Federal Energy Facilities

|   |       |                                |              |     |
|---|-------|--------------------------------|--------------|-----|
| Winter Ridge Pumped Storage Project                   | FERC  | Feasibility Study              | Lake County  | N/A |
| Elephant Rock Pumped Storage Project                  | FERC  | Preliminary Permit Application | Curry County | N/A |
| Soldier Camp Pumped Storage Project                   | FERC  | Preliminary Permit Application | Curry County | N/A |
| Proposed Rulemaking Related to Solar and Transmission | USDOE | Reviewing Comments             | USA          | N/A |

## Compliance Inspections - *Click on the project name for more information.*

| Facility                                     | Inspection Date | Inspection Type     | Findings and/or comments           |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Springfield Utility Industrial Energy Center | March 14, 2024  | Operational/Virtual | Report to be issued in April 2024. |

## ACTIVE STATE ENERGY FACILITY PROJECTS

*Click on the project name for more information.*

### Proposed Energy Facilities

#### Nolin Hills Wind Power Project

**Facility Description:** A 600-megawatt (MW) wind and solar energy generation facility in Umatilla County. Wind facility components are approved to be located within a 13,767-acre micro-siting area; the solar facility components are authorized to use or occupy up to 1,896 acres (2.9 sq. miles). The certificate holder is Nolin Hills Wind, LLC, a subsidiary of Capital Power Corporation.

**Phase:** Appeal

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** Per ORS 469.403(6), the Oregon Supreme Court shall render a decision within six months of Umatilla County filing their petition for review of the decision.

#### Wagon Trail Solar Project

**Facility Description:** Solar energy generation facility with a nominal generating capacity of up to 500 MW to use or occupy up to 7,450 acres (11.64 sq. miles) in Morrow County. The facility is proposed by Wheatridge East Wind, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC.

**Phase:** Application for Site Certificate

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The Department is drafting the Draft Proposed Order and expects to issue it in April 2024.



### **Sunstone Solar Project (formerly Echo Solar Project)**

**Facility Description:** Solar energy facility with a nominal generating capacity of up to 1,200 MW to use or occupy up to 10,900 acres (17.03 sq. miles) of predominately cultivated land in Morrow County. The facility is proposed by Sunstone Solar, LLC, a subsidiary of Pine Gate Renewables, LLC.

**Phase:** Preliminary Application for Site Certificate

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The Department will complete its review of the preliminary application for site certificate following receipt of responses to all outstanding requests for additional information and will prepare the Draft Proposed Order in coordination with state agencies, local governments, and interested tribes.

### **Archway Solar Energy Facility**

**Facility Description:** Solar energy generation facility with a nominal generating capacity of up to 400 MW to use or occupy up to 4,300 acres (6.7 sq. miles) in Lake County. The applicant is Archway Solar Energy, LLC, a subsidiary of Invenergy Solar Development North America, LLC.

**Phase:** Preliminary Application for Site Certificate – On hold per the applicant's request while the facility is being redesigned.

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** N/A

### **Cascade Renewable Transmission System**

**Facility Description:** 320-kV direct current transmission line sited mostly in the bed of the Columbia River between The Dalles and Portland on both the Oregon and Washington sides of the river. Other proposed components include two converter stations and overhead transmission lines to connect to the endpoint substations. The facility is proposed by Cascade Renewable Transmission, LLC. The project will also require federal and Washington State approval.

**Phase:** Notice of Intent

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The applicant has indicated that it intends to submit the preliminary Application for Site Certificate in April 2024.

### **Muddy Creek Energy Park**

**Facility Description:** Solar energy facility with a nominal generating capacity of up to 199 MWs to use or occupy up to 1,588 acres (2.5 sq. miles) of predominately cultivated land in Linn County, approximately 8 miles south of the city of Brownsville. The facility is proposed by Muddy Creek Energy Park LLC, a subsidiary of Hanwha Q Cells USA Corp.

**Phase:** Notice of Intent

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The applicant must submit its preliminary Application for Site Certificate by May 2025, unless NOI extension is requested by the applicant.

### **Yellow Rosebush Energy Center**

**Facility Description:** Solar energy facility with a nominal generating capacity of up to 800 MWs to use or occupy up to 8,075 acres (12.6 sq. miles) of exclusive farm use zoned land in Wasco and

Sherman counties. Related and supporting facilities include battery storage and a 500 kV gen-tie line. The facility is proposed by Yellow Rosebush Energy Center, LLC, a subsidiary of Savion, LLC.

**Phase:** Notice of Intent

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The Department anticipates the applicant will submit a preliminary Application for Site Certificate in June 2024.

### **Umatilla-Morrow County Connect Project**

**Facility Description:** 230 kV transmission line connecting Umatilla Electric Cooperative's (UEC) existing Highway 730 Switchyard to UEC's planned Ordinance Switchyard. There are four route alternatives ranging from approximately 13.1 to 14.4 miles. The facility is proposed by UEC.

**Phase:** Notice of Intent

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** Preliminary Application for Site Certificate must be submitted by March 2025, unless NOI extension is requested by the applicant.

### **Summit Ridge Renewable Energy Facility**

**Facility Description:** 261 megawatt (MW) combined wind and solar photovoltaic energy generation facility with up to 201 MW battery storage and related and supporting facilities on 4,061 acres (6.25 sq miles) of privately-owned land in Wasco County.

**Phase:** Notice of Intent

**What's New:** A Public Notice of the Notice of Intent (NOI) was issued on March 14, 2024 opening a public comment period.

**Looking Forward:** A public informational meeting will be held at the Dufur K-12 School gymnasium in Dufur on April 3, 2024 starting at 5:00 PM. The public informational meeting can be attended in-person or via webinar. The public comment period closes on May 3, 2024.

### **Klamath Falls Energy Center**

**Facility Description:** Solar energy facility with a nominal generating capacity of 400 MW and up to 400 MW of battery storage project located approximately 9 miles southwest of the City of Klamath Falls and 1.5 miles northwest of community Keno. The project would be located on 7,350 acres (11.5 sq. miles) on private land that is zoned Forest. The applicant is Klamath Falls Energy Center, LLC, a subsidiary of Savion LLC, which is a division of Royal Dutch Shell Company.

**Phase:** Notice of Intent

**What's New:** The Department received the Notice of Intent on March 29, 2024.

**Looking Forward:** The Department will establish a project page, provide a public notice with a comment period, and hold a public informational meeting in the vicinity of the project.

### **Lone Pine to Whetstone 230 kV Transmission Line**

**Facility Description:** 230 kV transmission line connecting existing Whetstone and Lone Pine Substations. There are two proposed routes approximately 10 and 12.1 miles long near the city of Medford and White City in Jackson County. The facility is proposed by PacifiCorp.

**Phase:** Notice of Intent - The applicant has modified the proposed route based on comments received and assessments conducted and requested an EFSC jurisdictional determination based on revised route if under 10.0 miles and is no longer EFSC jurisdictional. However, the applicant



notified the Department of its decision to leave the NOI active until it expires in April 2025.

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** N/A

## Approved Energy Facilities - Requests for Amendment

### Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Amendment #1

**Facility Description:** An approved but not yet constructed 500 kV single circuit electrical transmission line approximately 300 miles in length (273 miles in Oregon). The certificate holder is Idaho Power Company (IPC).

**Amendment Description:** 1) Add three 500-kV transmission line route alternatives (approximately 8.8 miles in total); and 2) add 45.9 miles of access road additions in each of the five affected counties. The site boundary additions cover 1,036 acres and changes to site certificate conditions.

**Review Process:** Type A

**Phase:** Appeal

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The Umatilla County Circuit Court will review an appeal by Ms. Irene Gilbert of the Council's Final Order denying her request for contested case and approving Amendment 1.

### Leaning Juniper IIA Wind Power Facility #3

**Facility Description:** 90 MW operational wind energy facility in Gilliam County.

**Amendment Description:** 1) Replace the turbine rotors (nose cone, hub, and blades), the turbine nacelle and its interior elements (gearbox, oil cooler, drive shaft, pitch drive), and refurbish the turbine generators from 2.1 MW per turbine up to 2.5 MW on 36 of the 43 existing turbines; 2) Reinforce turbine foundations with upgraded collars and remove and replace the existing pad-mounted transformers and pads within the existing turbine footprint; 3) Install a new 34.5-kilovolt (kV) collector line system within existing micro-siting corridors; and 4) Decommission two turbines, reducing the number of operating turbines to 40 turbines. Of the 40 turbines, 36 will be repowered as part of Request for Amendment 3 (RFA3); no changes are proposed to four of the original Suzlon turbines.

**Review Process:** Type A

**Phase:** Draft Proposed Order

**What's New:** The Public Hearing on the Draft Proposed Order (DPO) was held both virtually and in person at the March 21 -22, 2024 EFSC meeting in Hermiston. The public comment period on RFA3 and the DPO closed at 5:00 PM on March 29, 2024.

**Looking Forward:** The certificate holder had until April 1, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. to respond to comments. Council will review the DPO and comments received on the DPO at its April 19, 2024 Council meeting in Salem. The Department will likely issue the Proposed Order in April.

### Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Amendment #1

**Facility Description:** An approved but not yet constructed 200-megawatt (MW) wind energy generation facility, to be located within an approximately 4,582-acre (7.2 sq. mile) site boundary in Umatilla County.

**Amendment Description:** 1) Expand the approved site boundary by 74,403 acres (116.3 sq. miles);





2) Expand the approved micrositing corridor by approximately 10,058 acres (15.7 sq. miles); 3) Construct up to 41 additional wind turbines (for a total of 107 turbines); 4) Increase facility capacity from 200 to 300 MWs; 5) Replace previously approved transmission corridor with a new route; and 6) Extend the deadline for construction completion by 3 years.

**Review Process:** Type A

**Phase:** Draft Proposed Order

**What's New:** The Public Hearing on the Draft Proposed Order (DPO) was held both virtually and in person at the March 21 -22, 2024 EFSC meeting in Hermiston. A recording of the hearing is available [here](#).

**Looking Forward:** The public comment period on RFA1 and the DPO closes on April 4, 2024 at 5:00 pm. Council will likely review the DPO, and comments received on the DPO at its April 19, 2024 Council meeting in Salem. The Department may issue the Proposed Order in April.

### **Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Amendment #2**

**Facility Description:** An approved but not yet constructed 500 kV single circuit electrical transmission line approximately 300 miles in length (273 miles in Oregon). The certificate holder is Idaho Power Company (IPC).

**Amendment Description:** 1) Add micrositing areas for 12 transmission line alternatives and approximately 37 miles of road segment alternatives; 2) Construction and operation of a midline series capacitor substation; 3) Separate definitions of micrositing area and site boundary and expand the site boundary for portions of the facility and 4) Changes to site certificate conditions.

**Review Process:** Type A

**Phase:** Preliminary Request for Amendment

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The Department anticipates issuing a Draft Proposed Order in early April.

### **Carty Generating Station Amendment #4**

**Facility Description:** Operational 450 megawatt (MW) natural gas-fueled power plant and approved but not yet constructed 50 MW solar PV unit located in northern Morrow and Gilliam counties.

**Amendment Description:** Amend the site boundary, increase solar generating capacity from 50 MW on 315 acres (.49 sq. miles) to 185 MW on 849.7 acres (1.32 sq. miles), add related and supporting facilities including battery storage, and amend site certificate conditions, including the beginning construction deadline.

**Review Process:** Type A

**Phase:** Preliminary Request for Amendment (pRFA)

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The Department will continue its review of the preliminary Request for Amendment, coordinate with the certificate holder and reviewing agencies while drafting the Draft Proposed Order.

### **Eugene to Medford Transmission Line Amendment #4**

**Facility Description:** Operational 137-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line between the Meridian Substation near Medford, and the Spencer Switching Station south of Eugene. The facility was built in the early 1990s. The site certificate holder is PacifiCorp.





**Amendment Description:** 1) Expand the site boundary from approximately 23,975 to 24,463 acres; 2) decommission an existing 115 kV transmission line; 3) construct and operate a new 17.6-mile 230 kV transmission line to be double circuited with the existing 115 kV transmission line; 4) add a new 500/230 kV substation (Sam's Valley substation); 5) upgrade the existing Grants Pass substation to accommodate the termination of the new proposed 230 kV transmission line; 6) reconductor a 4.9-mile segment of existing 230 kV transmission line; and 7) substantially modify an existing access roads. The amendment components are collectively referred to by PacifiCorp as the Sams Valley Reinforcement Project.

**Review Process:** Type A

**Phase:** Preliminary Request for Amendment – Review of the amendment request and issuance of a Draft Proposed Order is on hold pending an update on the federal review process from the certificate holder.

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** N/A

## Amendment Determination Requests (subject to requirements of OAR 345-027-0357)

None

## Approved Facilities Under Construction

### Summit Ridge Wind Farm

**Approved Facility:** Wind power generation facility with a nominal generation capacity of up to 194.4 MW.

**Status:** The facility had a completion construction deadline of August 19, 2023. Preliminary Request for Amendment 6 (pRFA6) was submitted on August 17, 2023. pRFA6 included a request for approval to extend the completion deadline. Submission of pRFA6 prior to the August 19, 2023 deadline stayed the deadline, however the pRFA6 has been withdrawn by the certificate holder and the site certificate for the facility has expired. An application to decommission the facility and terminate the site certificate was submitted to the Department in February 2024. On March 13, 2024 the Department issued notice of the request to decommission the facility with a public comment that concludes on April 1, 2024. The request to decommission and terminate the facility and any received comments will be evaluated by Council at its April 19, 2024 meeting in Salem.

### Bakeoven Solar Project

**Approved Facility:** Solar photovoltaic energy generation facility with a generating capacity of 60 MW being constructed on 497 acres (.77 sq. miles).

**Construction Deadlines:** April 24, 2023 (commencement); April 24, 2026 (completion)

**Construction Status:** All solar modules have been received. Circuits 1 and 2 (of 3) are complete and Circuit 3 is being installed. O&M building and Substation are near completion. Construction is anticipated to be complete in April 2024 with a commercial operational date of April 30, 2024.

### Daybreak Solar Project



**Approved Facility:** Solar photovoltaic energy generation facility with a generating capacity of 140 MW being constructed on 1,622 acres (2.5 sq. miles).

**Construction Deadlines:** April 24, 2023 (commencement); April 24, 2026 (completion)

**Construction Status:** All solar modules are enroute or in customs but not all received; installation will likely begin in March and construction is anticipated to be completed in summer 2024 with a commercial operational date of October 31, 2024.

## ACTIVE FEDERAL ENERGY FACILITY PROJECTS

*Click on the project name for more information.*

### **Lower Klamath Project Surrender and Removal** *(no ODOE web page)*

**Facility Description:** FERC license surrender, decommissioning, and removal of four dams along the Klamath River with a total capacity of 163 MW by the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (The Corporation). The J.C. Boyle dam is located in Klamath County, OR. The Copco No.1, Copco No. 2, and Iron Gate dams are located in Siskiyou County, CA.

**What's New:** On March 1, 2024 the Lower Klamath Project submitted an extension request for the submittal of the Iron Gate Spillway Plan. On March 6, 2024 FERC issued a letter acknowledging the extension request. On March 7, 2024 The Corporation submitted the Iron Gate Emergency Spillway plan and is requesting authorization from FERC to move forward with the work. On March 12, 2024 The Corporation submitted their proposed Drilling Program Plan, the purpose of which is to more accurately characterize the embankment materials to optimize the excavation and materials handling plans during dam removal. In addition to these, The Corporation submitted a handful of monthly reports to FERC and to the California Water Board. On March 18, 2024 The Corporation submitted Amendment No. 1 to the Reservoir Area Management Plan re the Lower Klamath Hydroelectric Project, both DEQ and SWRCB have already approved Amendment 1. On March 26, 2024 The Corporation submitted Tunnel Intake Structure Pre-Blast Plans at the Copco No. 1 Diversion of the Lower Klamath Hydroelectric Project.

**Looking Forward:** Work will continue with dam removal processes.

### **Swan Lake North Pumped Storage** *(no ODOE web page)*

**Facility Description:** A 393.3 MW pumped-hydro storage project located approximately 11 miles northeast of Klamath Falls, OR, including: an upper and lower reservoir with active storage capacities of 2,562 and 2,581 acre-feet, respectively; a high-pressure penstock; three low-pressure penstocks; a powerhouse; a substation; and a 32.8-mile-long, 230-kilovolt transmission line. While the developer is Rye Development, LLC, the project is owned by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, a Danish based company.

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The license holder is working to complete the pre-construction requirements of its FERC license.

### **Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line (B2H)**

**Facility Description:** An approved 500kV, single circuit electric transmission line from a proposed substation near Boardman, OR to the Hemingway substation near Melba, ID. BLM is the lead agency for this FAST-41 project. Idaho Power Corporation is the primary developer.



**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The final two of nine remaining federal environmental review and permitting processes are the Use Authorization (DOI-BOR) and Section 404 Clean Water Act permits (ACE).

#### **GTN Express Project** *(no ODOE web page)*

**Facility Description:** Compressor station upgrades to the existing 1377-mile Gas Transmission Northwest interstate natural gas pipeline, which crosses Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, adding approximately 150,000 dekatherms per day of additional capacity. Upgrades in Oregon consist of expanding the compressor station and installing 4 new gas cooling bays and associated piping at the Kent Compressor Station in Sherman County. The Kent Compressor Station would also be uprated by means of a software upgrade only from 14,300 to 23,470 horsepower. The developer is TC Energy, a Canadian based company.

**What's New:** On March 18, 2024 the States of Washington and Oregon issued a letter regarding GTN's request to proceed with construction, requesting that the Commission decline to authorize construction until the Commission has decided the States' pending request for rehearing and judicial review is complete. On March 22, 2024 GTN LLC submitted a response to the letter from the States of Washington and Oregon stating that "The States' March 18 Letter is another in a string of gambits designed to thwart the Project, despite the Commission's determination nearly five months ago that the Project is required by the public convenience and necessity." And is requesting the Commission to disregard the States' letter and issue the requested notice to proceed. On March 7 and March 26, 2024 GTN LLC submitted their Biweekly Construction Status Reports.

**Looking Forward:** N/A

#### **Goldendale Energy Storage Project** *(no ODOE web page)*

**Facility Description:** A 1200 MW closed loop pumped-hydro storage project located approximately 10 miles SE of Goldendale, Washington, at the John Day Dam on the Columbia River. About 12% of the 649.3 acres in the Project Boundary fall within the Bonneville Power Association - Oregon right-of-way. The project includes upper and lower reservoirs, each with active storage capacity of 7100 acre-feet; a water conveyance system; an underground powerhouse; and a transmission interconnection to BPA's John Day Substation. While the developer is Rye Development, LLC, the project is owned by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, a Danish based company.

**What's New:** On March 18, 2024 PacifiCorp submitted a filing containing public and security classified documents regarding the Fall Creek Penstock Bypass Branch Pipe Saddle and Outfall General Notes and Plan as Outfall details. On March 18, 2024 US Environmental Protection Agency filed comments regarding the final Environmental Impact Statement of the Goldendale Energy Storage Project finding that the Staff Alternative is the Preferred Alternative for the project plan.

**Looking Forward:** N/A

#### **BLM Programmatic EIS for Utility-Scale Solar** *(no ODOE web page)*

**Project Description:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to amend the resource management plan (RMP) and to prepare an associated programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) for utility scale solar energy planning on lands that are managed by BLM. The purpose of the amendment is to expand solar energy planning to additional western states including Oregon; increase opportunities for responsible renewable energy development; and to



develop appropriate criteria to exclude high-value resource areas from renewable energy development.

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** BLM will publish a draft programmatic EIS. BLM is aiming to publish this sometime in 2024.

#### **North Umpqua Hydro Pumped Storage Project** *(no ODOE web page)*

**Facility Description:** Amendment to the license for the North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project which would allow the applicant to create up to 11 MW of pumped storage generation by connecting the existing Toketee reservoir and Fish Creek forebay. New infrastructure will include an approximately 969 foot long, 48-inch conduit connecting the Toketee and Fish Creek penstocks. A second project would create an additional 26 MW open-loop pumped storage system by connecting the existing Toketee Reservoir with an expanded Clearwater No. 2 forebay. This second project would include a new intake on Toketee Reservoir, pumphouse, reversible pump-turbine, and penstock extension, in addition to the expansion of the existing Clearwater No. 2 forebay. The developer is PacifiCorp.

**What's New:** March 5, 2024 FERC issued a letter to acknowledge PacifiCorp's December 18, 2023 letter transmitting the Site-Specific Seismic Hazard Analysis for the Clearwater No. 2 Forebay. The letter gives PacifiCorp 60 days to provide a plan and schedule to address comments in the letter which pertain to Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis. On March 19, 2024 FERC issued a Letter to PacifiCorp providing comments on the November 17, 2023 revised Spillway Gate Replacement Design Report, drawings, and specifications for the Lemolo No. 1 Development of the North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project.

**Looking Forward:** Pacificorp will respond to FERC's Letters.

#### **Owyhee Pumped Storage Project** *(no ODOE web page)*

**Facility Description:** A 600 MW pumped-hydro storage project located adjacent to the existing Lake Owyhee, approximately 11 miles southwest of Adrian, OR and includes: an upper reservoir with active storage capacity of 3410 acre-feet, an underground powerhouse, a substation, and a 3.1-mile project transmission line which would intersect the Summer Lake - Hemingway 500 kV transmission line. The existing Lake Owyhee would serve as the facility's lower reservoir. The developer is Owyhee Energy Storage, LLC which is owned by rPlus Energies, a US based company.

**What's New:** On March 12, 2024 Owyhee Energy Storage LLC electronically filed with FERC a request for abeyance of the Integrated Licensing Process for the unconstructed Owyhee Pumped Storage Project, Abeyance of the ILP will allow OES to continue to develop appropriate and meaningful study plans informed by refined Project design. On March 19, 2024 FERC issued a letter to Owyhee Energy Storage, LLC. Granting the March 12, 2024 request to hold the Integrated Licensing Process for the Owyhee Pumped Storage Project in Abeyance.

**Looking Forward:** The unconstructed, proposed Project is in the initial stages of design, permitting, and licensing and site-specific design parameters are being refined. OES is performing an engineering evaluation that will further inform Project location and design features. The results of the engineering evaluation will be used to refine study areas, geographic scope, and methods proposed in the study plan. Abeyance of the ILP will allow adequate time for the progression of

engineering evaluations to inform studies in the RSP.

#### **Crooked Creek Pumped Storage Project** *(no ODOE web page)*

**Facility Description:** A 500 MW closed loop pumped-hydro storage project located near Valley Falls in Lake County. The project includes an upper reservoir with a surface area of 52 acres and a storage volume of approximately 2,344 acre-feet; a lower reservoir with a surface area of 50 acres and a storage volume of approximately 2,052 acre-feet; a 19.7-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line interconnecting to PacifiCorp's existing Mile Hi substation in Lakeview, Oregon; plus, penstock, powerhouse/pump station, generating/pumping units, underground pipeline, and appurtenant facilities. The developer is PacifiCorp.

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The applicant will conduct a feasibility study and determine if they wish to file a license application with FERC.

#### **Winter Ridge Pumped Storage Project** *(no ODOE web page)*

**Facility Description:** A 500 MW closed loop pumped-hydro storage project located near Summer Lake and Paisley in Lake County. The project includes an upper reservoir approximately two miles west of Summer Lake with a surface area of 85 acres and a storage volume of approximately 4285 acre-feet; a lower reservoir with a surface area of 43.6 acres and a storage volume of approximately 2156 acre-feet; a 9.3-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line interconnecting to PacifiCorp's jointly owned Sycan substation; plus penstock, powerhouse/pump station, generating/pumping units, underground pipeline, and appurtenant facilities. Note: In an alternate version, the lower reservoir would have a surface area of 50 acres and a storage volume of approximately 2000 acre-feet, and the length of the transmission line would be 9.8 miles. The developer is PacifiCorp.

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The applicant will conduct a feasibility study and determine if they wish to file a license application with FERC.

#### **Elephant Rock Pumped Storage Project** *(no ODOE web page)*

**Facility Description:** A 318 MW closed loop pumped-hydro storage project located in Curry County, near the Sixes River, approximately 12.5 miles east-northeast of Port Orford. It would consist of an upper reservoir with a storage volume of 3,605 acre-feet; an 820-foot-long, 24-foot diameter vertical shaft that connects the upper reservoir to a 4,200-foot-long horizontal power tunnel, leading to the powerhouse; a 60-ft high, 40-foot-diameter steel surge tower connected to the power tunnel upstream of the powerhouse; a 100-foot-wide, 500-foot-long, 100-foot-high reinforced-concrete powerhouse with four pump-turbine units, that discharge into the lower reservoir; a lower reservoir, with a storage volume of 3,605 acre-feet; and a 15-mile-long, 230 kV overhead transmission line extending from the powerhouse to the existing substation on Elk River Road, approximately 3 miles northeast of Port Orford. Both the upper and lower reservoirs would be created by zoned rockfill embankment dikes approximately 70 feet high and 7,200 feet in circumference. The project would have an annual generation capacity of 929,000 megawatt-hours. The developer is Rye Development, LLC, a US company.

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** FERC will evaluate the preliminary permit application.





### **Soldier Camp Creek Pumped Storage Project** *(no ODOE web page)*

**Facility Description:** A 550 MW closed loop pumped-hydro storage project located on Lobster Creek in Curry County, approximately 4 miles north of the Rogue River. It would include an upper reservoir with a storage volume of approximately 3,000 acre-feet created by a 5,600-foot-long, 70-foot-high rockfill embankment ring dike; a lower reservoir with a storage volume of approximately 3,000 acre-feet created by a 5,700-foot-long, 70-foot-high rockfill embankment ring dike; a 1,825 foot-long steel and concrete penstock with a diameter of 22-feet; a 550-foot-long, 120-foot-wide concrete powerhouse/pump station located on the lower reservoir shoreline containing 6 generating/pumping units; an approximate 13-mile, 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would interconnect to the regional transmission grid; and appurtenant facilities. The proposed project would generate an estimated annual average of 1,606 gigawatt-hours. The developer is Rye Development, LLC, a US company.

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** FERC will evaluate the preliminary permit application.

### **USDOE Categorical Exclusion for Solar and Transmission** *(no ODOE web page)*

**Description:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) proposes to amend its implementing procedures (regulations) governing compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The proposed changes would add a categorical exclusion for certain energy storage systems and revise categorical exclusions for upgrading and rebuilding transmission lines and for solar photovoltaic systems, as well as make conforming changes to related sections of DOE's NEPA regulations. The proposed changes are based on the experience of DOE and other Federal agencies, current technologies, regulatory requirements, and accepted industry practice. DOE invites public comments on the proposed changes.

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** The USDOE will review all comments submitted by the January 2, 2024 deadline.

ODOE Siting division tracks other federal facility projects for informational purposes. Those federal facility updates are available on [ODOE's website](#).

## **RULEMAKING**

*Click on the project name for more information. Please submit any rulemaking questions, issues, or topics you would like to be considered to [EFSC.Rulemaking@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:EFSC.Rulemaking@energy.oregon.gov). You can sign up for updates on the Council's rulemaking activities [here](#).*

### **Contested Case Rulemaking**

**Description:** This rulemaking project will identify proposed revisions to the contested case rules found in OAR chapter 345, division 015. One key reason for engaging in this rulemaking now is to implement lessons learned from recent contested case proceedings. The rulemaking is intended to: 1) improve the efficiency of the contested case process; 2) adopt Office of Administrative Hearings rules where it makes sense to do so; and 3) identify and remedy areas where existing rules do not provide sufficient clarity.



**What's New:** Council held a public hearing to take comments on the proposed rules at its March 21 – 22, 2024 meeting in Hermiston.

**Looking Forward:** The public comment period closes on April 19, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

### Site Certificate Amendment Rulemaking

**Description:** This rulemaking project will evaluate options to address outstanding issues on the rules governing the amendment of site certificates under OAR chapter 345, division 027, including issues related to when an amendment is required, when opportunities for public notice and participation in the different review processes should be provided, and what types of amendments should be considered in contested case proceedings. The objectives of this rulemaking are to make the amendment review process more efficient and effective while ensuring adequate opportunities for public participation.

**What's New:** The Department presented recommendations for the scope of the rulemaking and also requested that Council direct the Department to assemble a Rulemaking Advisory Council.

**Looking Forward:** The Department will appoint a RAC for this rulemaking and will schedule a RAC meeting, currently targeted for April.

### Research Reactor Rulemaking

**Description:** This rulemaking project will update OAR 345-030 to ensure consistency with federal reporting requirements and deadlines.

**What's New:** N/A

**Looking Forward:** Once draft rules are finalized, the Department will present them to Council for consideration to be filed in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

## COMPLIANCE

**Operational Activities:** On March 14th, the Department conducted a virtual inspection of Springfield Utility-Industrial Energy Center. The compliance report is in progress.

**Pre-Construction Activities:** Pre-construction compliance is in process for Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line, Madras Solar Energy Facility and Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East.

**Construction Activities:** Construction inspections were conducted on February 6, 2024, at Daybreak Solar Project and Bakeoven Solar Project. The compliance inspection report is in progress.

**Incident Activities:** N/A

**Facility Decommissioning Financial Assurance:** The requirement for certificate holders to restore their facility to a useful, non-hazardous condition once operations have ceased is partially fulfilled by maintaining a bond or letter of credit in that amount should that obligation fall to the state. The total amount of site certificate bonds and letters of credit managed by the Department is \$237,437,483. These assurances are updated annually to keep pace with inflation.

**Nuclear Fuel Storage:** On February 22, 2024, the Department inspected the Trojan site and reviewed changes made in Revision 9 to the Security Plan for the Independent Spent Fuel Installation (ISFSI). Based on the Department's recommendation, Council and the Director issued a joint statement on March 28, 2024 confirming that the ISFSI Security Plan continues to provide adequate provisions for the protection of public health and safety.



## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council agendas, meeting materials, and minutes can be found at:

[State of Oregon: Facilities - Council Meetings](#)

**Next Council Meeting:** April 19, 2024 (ODOE Office/Meitner Room) - In addition to the regular consent and public comment agenda items, the following agenda items are anticipated: 1) Carbon Offset Rate Informal Rulemaking; 2) Application Process Phase 2 Informal Initiation of Rulemaking; 3) Wheatridge Renewable Energy East DPO Review; 4) Leaning Juniper IIA Request for AMD3 DPO Review; and 5) Summit Ridge Wind Site Certificate Termination

**2024 Meeting Dates:** The following dates may be changed to ensure a quorum and will be released if not needed:

May 30-31; June 13-14; July 18-19; August 22-23; September 19-20; October 24-25; November 14-15; December 12-13

These dates do not preclude the need for special meetings that may be conducted via teleconference and webinar or in person at the discretion of the chair. Locations and agendas to be determined.

## HELPFUL LINKS

- [About energy facility siting in Oregon](#)
- [Latest facility siting project updates](#)
- [Oregonians' Guide to Siting and Oversight of Energy Facilities](#)
- [Energy Facility Siting Council](#)
- [Facilities under Energy Facility Siting Council Jurisdiction](#)
- [Oregon Energy Siting Standards](#)
- [Energy Facility Siting & Permitting \(from ODOE 2020 Biennial Energy Report\)](#)

✉ [Sign up to receive email updates about energy facility siting in Oregon.](#)

