PUBLIC NOTICE

Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility
Receipt of Preliminary Request for Amendment 5

Summary:
Date Notice Issued: March 23, 2020

Request: Wheatridge Wind Energy, LLC (certificate holder) seeks Energy Facility Siting Council (Council) approval of a fifth amendment to the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility site certificate. The previously approved facility includes up to 500 megawatts (MW) of wind energy generation equipment and up to 150 MW of solar photovoltaic (PV) energy generation equipment. Preliminary Request for Amendment 5 (pRFA5) requests to split, and share some, facility components into two site certificates, with a facility name and certificate holder name change, to be maintained by the current certificate holder owner, NextEra Energy Resources LLC (NEER).

The site certificate for the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility would be replaced with two site certificates: the first would include 100 MW of previously approved wind energy generation equipment, named Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility I (WREFI); the second would include the remaining previously approved 400 MW of wind energy generation equipment and 150 MW solar PV energy generation equipment, named Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility II (WREFII). While the certificate holder owner, NEER, would be maintained for both new site certificates, the certificate holder name for WREFII would change from Wheatridge Wind Energy, LLC to Wheatridge Wind II, LLC.

Facility Location: WREFI: Morrow County; WREFII: Morrow and Umatilla counties

Information Only: Please note, this notice is to provide early notification of pRFA5. There is no comment period associated with this phase of the review.

Review Process: Certificate holder’s request for “Type B” amendment process is under review.

Introduction: On March 19, 2020, the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), staff to Council, received pRFA5 for the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility site certificate. In pRFA5, the certificate holder includes a request that the amendment be processed under Type B review per OAR 345-027-0357(8).

Description of Facility (Approved/Under Construction): Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility is an approved wind and solar energy generation facility. Approved wind facility components include up to 292 wind turbines and approximately 900 acres in solar PV energy generation equipment, to be located within a site boundary containing approximately 14,624 acres.

Facility Location: Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility as approved, would be located in both Morrow and Umatilla counties, south of Interstate 84 and northeast of Lexington. A map of the facility site boundary is included in this notice. For detailed maps, please see Figures 1 and 2 in pRFA5 on the Department’s website, or visit our online mapping tool at https://tinyurl.com/EFSCmap.

Current and Next Review Phase: The current preliminary request for amendment phase consists of staff reviewing the request to ensure there is information adequate for Council to make findings or impose conditions on all applicable Council standards. Once the amendment request is determined complete by staff, staff will issue a Public Notice and Draft Proposed Order (initial staff recommendation), notifying members of the public of a comment period.

If staff determines Type A review process is justified, there will be a public hearing in front of Council in the vicinity of the facility and the comment period will conclude at the close of the hearing. If staff determines Type B review process is justified, the comment period will be a written comment period only and will conclude on the date indicated in the Draft Proposed Order Public Notice.
Receipt of this Notice:
Please note that you may be receiving this notice for multiple reasons:

1. You own property within or adjacent to (within 500 feet) the property on which the facility is located. You will automatically receive all future notices on this facility.
2. You have requested to receive paper notices on the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility. If you wish to be removed from this mailing lists, please contact Sarah Esterson.
3. You have previously signed up via GovDelivery/ClickDimensions or by contacting ODOE to receive notices related to Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility or all EFSC project-related notices. You will automatically receive all future notices per your request, unless you unsubscribe via ClickDimensions or by contacting ODOE.

More Information:
Please contact Sarah Esterson, Senior Siting Analyst, at the phone, email address or mailing address listed in this notice.

Sarah Esterson, Senior Siting Analyst
Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol Street NE, 1st Floor
Salem, OR 97301
Email: sarah.esterson@oregon.gov
Phone: 503-373-7945

More information about the facility and updates on the review process is available using any of the following options.

1) Oregon Department of Energy’s webpage:
More details on Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility including the certificate holder’s pRFA5 are available online at:
https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/WRWaspx

Additional resources to help you participate in the state siting process can be found at:

2) Updates by email/mail:
Subscribe to ClickDimensions, a self-managed, automated email system that sends notices and updates on Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility as well as any or all other energy facilities and events under EFSC jurisdiction. For more information, please visit: https://tinyurl.com/ODOE-EFSC.

To receive notices by U.S. Mail, please contact Sarah Esterson.

3) In hardcopy:
Hard copies of the preliminary Request for Amendment 5 are available for public inspection at:

Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Accessibility information:
The Oregon Department of Energy is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. If you require any special physical or language accommodations, or need information in an alternate format, please contact Michiko Mata at 503-378-3895, toll-free in Oregon at 800-221-8035, or email to michiko.mata@oregon.gov.
Figure 1: Proposed Site Boundaries of New Split Site Certificates