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To Katie Clifford, Senior Siting Analyst,

I am writing in protest of the Bonanza Energy Facility proposal for the following reasons;

1. Loss of agricultural land. Land Valley is a beautiful unspoiled valley supporting numerous small family ranches and farms. The use of the land for agricultural purposes should be high priority. This proposed site is not idle land.

2. Loss of wildlife habitat. The ranch where the proposed energy facility would go supports huge numbers of migratory birds with a large pond and surrounding wetlands. In addition to the large flocks of migratory birds that stop over in the spring and fall, many stay the summer to nest. Sandhill Cranes, Redtail Hawks, Bald Eagles, Redwing Blackbirds, White-faced Ibis, Speckled Geese, Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, Snipe, Sora, Sandpiper, Swallows are just a few of the many species that have been seen on the property and would be affected adversely by this proposed facility.

3. Devaluation of property values for surrounding farms and ranches.

On a personal level, I am greatly worried what the Bonanza Energy Facility would mean for our future. We have lived our entire adult lives on the ranch next to the proposed site. Our retirement income is completely tied to the sale of our property, when that time comes. Who is going to want to buy property next door to 91 acres of battery storage system components and it's supporting sea of solar panels? People move to Langell Valley for the view and for the unspoiled natural surroundings. Please consider the quality of life, and the financial future of neighboring family farms.

Sincerely,
Mike and Elizabeth Hubbard
Hi Katie,
I hope it is alright if I send a second email concerning the Bonanza Energy Facility. After doing some reading I do have a couple more concerns.
1. a natural gas-fired peaker generating facility is mentioned in passing, will they have to reapply with the Oregon Department of Energy? This could potentially have more local impact than the solar panel project.

2. the section on wetlands, wildlife, and habitat; each section ends with a statement about "mitigation" Please hold the Hecate company to having the least amount of impact on our area, rather than letting them mitigate and donate funds to a project in another area

3. Fire. The proposal for the Bonanza project talks about fire safety during construction but there is no mention of fire concerns during long term. We have small volunteer fire department that is in no way trained to deal with a fire involving major electrical lines and huge battery storage facilities. If there was a fire it could easily spread to homes and the near by Bryant Mountain. What would be released into the air and into the ground water if there was a major fire at the facility?

4. Long term. There is no mention of what will happen as the solar panels and batteries age out. Will they be replaced? Abandoned? How will they be disposed of?

Thank you for reading my email.
Elizabeth Hubbard
The area of the proposed Bonanza Energy Facility is a resting spot for thousands of migrating birds mostly during the early spring, but then again some during the autumn.

Elizabeth Hubbard
Several pairs of Sandhill Cranes nest every summer on the property of the proposed Bonanza Energy Facility. Dozens of Sandhill Cranes gather in the area in the spring migration.
Hi Katie,

I am going to send some images of wildlife taken on the site of the proposed Bonanza Energy Facility. Please note that this pond, although froze on the surface, is full year round.

Thank you

Elizabeth Hubbard
Dear Katie,

This is an aerial SCS map from 1941. In the upper left corner is the wetlands and ponds that are part of the proposed Bonanza Energy Facility. While the ponds had not yet been designated wetlands, they were clearly not marked as tillable ground. Note that much of the area has not yet been put under production and irrigated in 1941, yet the wetlands are there.

Elizabeth Hubbard
37820 Jones Rd
Bonanza, OR 97623
541-545-6357
Dear Katie,

I am sharing a link to a map that shows the proposed site for the Bonanza Energy Facility sits right in the middle of high density winter range. There are also antelope seen frequently in this area. The town of Bonanza is the small green rectangle in the lower right quadrant, and the proposed energy facility site would be slightly south east of Bonanza.

I tried to send the map as an attachment but our internet is not going to let me send it that way. Below is a link. Will that work for public input or do I need to find hard copies and mail them in? Please let me know, thank you.

https://www.klamathcounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/360/Big-Game-Overlay-Map-PDF?bidId=

Thank you for fielding our concerns.

Elizabeth Hubbard
37820 Jones Rd
Bonanza, OR 97623
541-545-6357
hubbardranch@centurytel.net
Here is another map showing the pond and wetland area on the proposed Bonanza Energy Facility site. Map is from soil surveys done in 1963-1976 by the USDA. Plate 80. The circle that says ‘water.’

Another concern, shown in this map is the highly erodible land in 74-B. Construction here would be of great concern. Especially as any run off would go to the Lost River, shown in upper right corner on this map.

Elizabeth Hubbard
37820 Jones Rd
Bonanza, OR 97623
541-545-6357
November 24, 2020

Katie Clifford, Senior Siting Analyst
Oregon Department of Energy
50 Capital Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Ms. Clifford,

As concerned community members and landowners of property in Langell Valley, near Bonanza, Oregon, we are opposed to the proposed Hecate Energy LLC, Bonanza Energy Facility. We respectfully ask that the construction of the PV solar energy generation facility be denied. We are not anti-solar energy, but strongly support well planned development consistent with current land use and county zoning. Our reasons for concern include:

~ The facility proposal is not consistent with current zoning of Exclusive Farm Use - Cropland, Grazing.

~ The proposed project would create a significant change from the current land use of grazing, irrigated crops and woodland, which provides winter habitat for mule deer, open grassland and wetland habitat for ducks, geese, raptors and numerous other animal and bird species common to Langell Valley. The approximately 1,851 acres of solar panel array and battery storage facilities would create an extensive foreign and barren land surface for any type of wildlife use.

~ The proposed fencing would impede movement of wildlife in and through the area of concern.

~ Lack of community engagement and outreach during the public comment period, which was one month (Public Notice dated September, 29th through October 29th, 2020).

~ Potential negative impact on private property value.

~ Concern the construction, maintenance, removal and disposal of hazardous waste (including, but not limited to, waste water, batteries and solar panels) generated from the solar facility will have a negative impact on the surrounding environment.

~ Concern regarding the long-term impact on the local farming and ranching community by setting a precedence for industrial development.

For the foregoing reasons, we strongly urge that the construction of the Hecate Energy LLC, Bonanza Energy Facility be denied.

Sincerely,

Curtis D. and Pamela C. Hubbard

[Signature]
From: michael hubbard
Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2020 5:03 PM
To: CLIFFORD Katie * ODOE
Subject: Bonanza solar facility proposed by Hecate energy:

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am against the approval of this facility.

First the location; The proposed location is on very good irrigated pasture land. This productive land should not be taken out of agricultural use.

Second ground water; The plan proposes the use of an existing irrigation well. This water should be used solely for agricultural purposes. The plan is very vague on how much water is to be used from the well. The right answer should be none. The ground water is a safety net for the farmers and ranchers in the area. We don’t use it unless we have to and we should not allow any new and additional uses to deplete it.

Third run off; The proposal does not address the problem of waste water from the site. We can not allow contaminated water to run off into the irrigation ditches and then into the river. The contamination can be chemicals (maybe cadmium from washing the solar panels) or overheating the water.

Fourth wetland ponds; The ponds on this property are not created by irrigation. I have owned part of the ponds and the adjoining property for 42 years and they have never gone dry (not even in the drought years). They are the motor to a thriving wetland ecosystem.

Fifth property values; This proposed industrial complex (91 acres of battery bunkers and thousands of acres of solar panels) will significantly lower property values.

Lastly; The profits go to Chicago the power goes to California it seems like the eyesore ought to nearer to the people who benefit.

Sincerely, Michael Hubbard
Bonanza, Oregon (Langell Valley)
Katie,

In regards to the Langell valley solar project.
I would like to say that the using 1,800 acres of land for Solar panels that is good for ranching and farming is a misuse of the land. It is not zoned for subdivisions to keep it useful for the food that it provides, so it should not be used for this either as it makes it unfit for agriculture production.

There is other land that is available to place these on that would not be interfering with usable production land. I would ask you to reconsider this to those areas.

Respectfully
Gina Janelli