

# PUBLIC NOTICE



## Nolin Hills Wind Power Project

### Complete Application for Site Certificate and Public Informational Meeting

**Summary:**

Date Notice Issued: February 3, 2022

Proposal: A 600-megawatt (MW) wind and solar energy facility.

Location: Umatilla County

Remote Public Informational Meeting: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 5:30 P.M., PST

Date of Filing of Complete Application: January 31, 2022

**Description of Proposed Facility:** The Nolin Hills Wind Power Project (proposed facility), proposed by Nolin Hills Wind, LLC (applicant), a subsidiary of Capital Power Corporation, would consist of wind and solar energy generation components with a nominal generating capacity of approximately 600 MW (preliminarily 340 MW from wind and 260 MW from solar) and related or supporting facilities within a site boundary of 48,196 acres.

The wind energy component comprises up to 112 wind turbine generators (496-foot maximum height), depending on the turbine model selected and the final layout determined during the micrositing process.

The solar array would include up to approximately 816,812 solar modules, and a battery storage system that, depending on the final technology and layout selected, would occupy 1,896 acres (2.96 sq. miles) to be surrounded with an 8-foot-tall perimeter security fence.

The facility would include two 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines with towers up to 140 feet high. The first would extend 6.8 miles and connect the two project substations. The second would connect the facility to the electrical grid and consists of two route options. Option 1 would extend 25.3 miles and connect to the Cottonwood substation and would consist of both new and upgraded segments. Option 2 would extend 5 miles and connect to the planned Bonneville Power Administration Stanfield

substation. Other proposed related or supporting facilities include but are not limited to: two substations occupying 16.4 acres; one operations and maintenance building occupying 7.6 acres; an up to 120-MW battery energy storage system; up to 89 miles of underground electrical collector lines and 9.1 miles of overhead collector lines; 43 miles of new permanent site access roads and 19 miles of temporary site access roads; up to three 266 feet tall meteorological data collection towers; and approximately 27 acres of temporary construction yards. *More detailed information about the proposed energy facility and the related or supporting facilities is available in ASC Exhibit B.*

**Project Location:** The proposed facility would be located in Umatilla County, south of I-84, and approximately 4 miles south of Echo and 10 miles west of Pendleton.

Maps of the proposed facility are included at the end of this notice. Specific locational maps can be found in ASC Exhibit C at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/NHW.aspx> and on the Oregon Department of Energy's (ODOE or Department) online mapping tool at:

<https://tinyurl.com/EFSCmap>.

**Public Informational Meeting:** The Department will hold a remote public informational meeting, via WebEx and teleconference, with the applicant to provide information about the proposed facility and the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) siting process; participation details are provided below. ODOE and applicant representatives will be available after the presentation to answer specific questions.

#### WebEx/Teleconference Information Meeting

**Date and time:** Wednesday, Feb 16, 2022 5:30 pm Pacific Time

**Location:** WebEx or Teleconference

**Webex link:**

<https://odoe.webex.com/odoe/j.php?MTID=m7e042182d38613b9be51b61d5d4bee6b>

**Webex Event Number:** 2335 284 5937

**Webex Event Password:**

Logging in from Computer: EFSC  
Logging in from Phone: 3372  
**Teleconference:** +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll  
**Teleconference Access code:** 233 528 45937

The public informational meeting is not a public hearing and will not include public testimony or on-the-record public comments. Opportunity for written or oral testimony will be provided at a later date – during the Draft Proposed Order (DPO) public comment period and public hearing – following issuance of the DPO, as described below.

#### **EFSC Review Process:**

##### Overview

The site certificate process is a consolidated, comprehensive siting process. The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed facility meets all EFSC standards established under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 469.501 and set forth in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapters 345, Division 22 and 24, as well as all other applicable Oregon statutes, rules and standards. ODOE serves as staff to EFSC and conducts the application review process.

The proposed facility would include components that would produce more than 50 MW from wind energy and have solar photovoltaic energy generation components located on more than 160 acres of high-value farmland as defined in ORS 195.300, and more than 1,280 acres of land that is predominately cultivated, and therefore is an energy facility subject to EFSC jurisdiction under the definition in ORS 469.300(11)(a)(D) and (J). As such, the proposed facility must receive approval from EFSC of a site certificate prior to construction.

##### Notice of Intent

On September 11, 2017, the Department received a Notice of Intent (NOI) to file an Application for Site Certificate (ASC) for the proposed facility.

Pursuant to ORS 469.370(10) and OAR 345-015-0160, the Department issued a Project Order on January 10, 2018, which specified the state statutes and administrative rules, and local, state, and tribal laws, regulations, ordinances and other requirements applicable to the siting of the proposed facility.

An NOI extension order was issued on August 23, 2019 and the First Amended Project Order was issued on August 2, 2021.

##### Preliminary Application

The Department received the preliminary application for site certificate (pASC) on February 27, 2020.

Pursuant to OAR 345-015-0190(1), on April 27, 2020 the Department determined the pASC to be incomplete. Since that time the Department has been reviewing revised exhibits submitted by the applicant in order to determine the application complete.

##### Complete Application

The applicant filed a complete ASC on January 31, 2022. Under OAR 345-015-0190(5), an ASC is complete when the Department finds that an applicant has submitted information adequate for the Council to make findings or impose conditions on all applicable Council standards. The complete application is located on the project page as described in the More Information section below and is available for review.

##### Draft Proposed Order

ODOE is currently preparing the DPO. This document is staff's initial recommendation to EFSC, who are the final decision makers, on whether or not each applicable standard is met. The DPO will include staff's analysis of the ASC, based on ODOE's review of the ASC as well as comments received from state and local agencies, Tribal governments, and Umatilla County Board of Commissioners as the Special Advisory Group. The DPO will include recommended findings of facts, conclusions or law and conditions.

Issuance of the DPO will initiate a public comment period; in addition, a public hearing will be scheduled to occur at a venue in the vicinity of the proposed facility. At that time, to preserve your right to participate in the contested case proceeding and any subsequent appeal of EFSC's decision, you must comment during the public comment period on the DPO, either orally at the public hearing or in writing during the comment period. ODOE anticipates issuing the DPO in March 2022. ODOE will issue notice of the public hearing and comment period when it issues the DPO. As described above, the

February 16, 2022 public information meeting is not a public hearing.

Following the conclusion of the comment period on the DPO, EFSC will review the DPO and all submitted comments and provide their comments to the Department.

#### Proposed Order

Following the Council's meeting to review the DPO, the Department must issue a Proposed Order, staff's second recommendation to EFSC. Changes made from the DPO to the Proposed Order are based on the comments of the Council and any other comments made before the close of the record of the public hearing.

#### Contested Case

The contested case proceeding is a mandatory step in the application process and is led by an independent Hearing Officer appointed by EFSC. Any person who commented on the record of the DPO may request to participate in the contested. However, a person will only be granted party status to participate if the issue(s) raised is associated with a standard under Council's jurisdiction and the issue(s) was raised with sufficient specificity to afford EFSC, the Department and the applicant an opportunity to respond to the issue(s).

#### Final Order

Following a contested case proceeding the Council shall issue a Final Order either approving or denying the proposed facility.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/Siting-Standards.aspx>

#### **More Information:**

Please contact Kathleen Sloan, Senior Siting Analyst, at the email address or mailing address listed below.

Kathleen Sloan, Senior Siting Analyst  
Oregon Department of Energy  
550 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 971-701-4913  
Fax: 503-373-7806  
Email: [kathleen.sloan@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:kathleen.sloan@energy.oregon.gov)

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

#### **1) Oregon Department of Energy's webpage:**

The complete application for site certificate and additional details regarding the proposed facility may be found at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/NHW.aspx>

Additional resources to help you participate can be found at: <http://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/pages/default.aspx>

#### **2) Updates by email/mail:**

Subscribe to ClickDimensions, a self-managed, automated email system that sends notices and updates on the Nolin Hills Wind Power Project as well as any or all other energy facilities and events under EFSC jurisdiction. For more information, please visit: [www.tinyurl.com/ODOE-EFSC](http://www.tinyurl.com/ODOE-EFSC).

To receive notices by U.S. Mail, please contact Kathleen Sloan.

#### **3) In hardcopy:**

Hard copies of the proposed Nolin Hills Wind Power Project ASC are available for public inspection at the following location at no cost:

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

Please contact Kathleen Sloan to arrange viewing of hard copies of the ASC; hard copies will be provided at a reasonable cost upon request to ODOE.

#### **Accessibility information:**

ODOE is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. For the review of the application or attendance at the information meeting, if you require any special physical or language accommodations, or need information in an alternate format, please contact Nancy Hatch at 503-428-7905, toll-free in Oregon at 800-221-8035, or email to [nancy.hatch@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:nancy.hatch@energy.oregon.gov). For any other accommodation needed to attend the public informational meeting, please contact ODOE as soon as possible so we may provide the accommodation.

Figure 1: Proposed Nolin Hills Wind Power Project Site Boundary and Regional Vicinity Map

