

# PUBLIC NOTICE



## Notice of Intent for the Lone Pine to Whetstone 230 kV Transmission Line

### Summary:

Notice Date: May 17, 2023

Proposal: A 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line up to 130 feet in height from the existing Lone Pine Substation north and west to the existing Whetstone Substation.

Proposed Facility Location: Jackson County. The two alternative routes (approximately 10-12.1 miles in length) are located near the city of Medford and White City, predominately in unincorporated portions of Jackson County. (See attached map)

Public Comment Deadline: Friday July 7, 2023. See page 3 for information about how to submit comments.

### In Person and Remote Public Informational Meeting:

Date: June 7, 2023

Time: 5:00 PM – In person Meet and Greet and 1 on 1 questions with Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE or Department) and Applicant

6:00 PM - Presentation/Webinar  
By ODOE and Applicant followed by Q&A or comment

Location: Rogue Regency Inn  
2300 Biddle Road  
Medford, OR 97504

Participate Remote Via Webinar (6:00 PM):  
<https://odoe.webex.com/odoe/j.php?MTID=mfe3a159621b33615755fcfc3c3267133>

Webinar number: 2341 249 7195  
Webinar password: EFSC (3372 from phones and video systems)

Join by Phone: 6:00 PM  
Call: 1-844-992-4726 United States Toll Free  
Access code: 234 124 97195

**Applicant:** PacifiCorp (Applicant), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Energy doing business as Pacific Power.

**Proposed Facility Description:** As described in the Notice of Intent (NOI), the proposed 230-kV transmission line would be approximately 10 to 12.1 miles in length. The applicant is evaluating two alternative routes – the West Alternative Route, approximately 10.0 miles long, and the East Alternative Route, approximately 12.1 miles long. Both routes would connect the existing Lone Pine and Whetstone substations (See attached map). Both alternative routes under evaluation would connect to existing substations in Lone Pine and Whetstone. If approved, only one of the alternatives would be selected for construction.

The proposed transmission line would be approximately 10 to 12 miles in length. The proposed transmission line structures will be predominantly an H-frame configuration using wood poles or a single wood pole, similar to or the same as structures of PacifiCorp’s existing 230-kV transmission lines in the area. H-frame structures typically would be used in open flat to gently rolling terrain. In developed or agricultural areas where the right-of-way may be constrained, single-pole structures would be used. The single-pole structures would vary in height from about 75 feet to 105 feet. Steel single-pole structures used in the vicinity of the substations are anticipated to be approximately 120 feet tall. None of the structures are anticipated to exceed 130 feet. Spans between structures will be approximately 400 to 600 feet, depending on the structure type and site conditions.

The width of the right-of-way would vary, depending on engineering requirements and local conditions (e.g., space constraints along the alignment), but would not exceed a width of 125 feet.

Additional components include 2 shield wires, insulators, structure foundations, and improvements to substation equipment including a structure for termination, approximately 65 feet tall, and

structures for interconnecting bus system, breakers, and control panel instrumentation.

Because the Lone Pine to Whetstone 230-kV Transmission Line Project is a transmission line under ORS 469.300(11)(a)(C), the applicant must obtain a Site Certificate from the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) prior to the construction and operation of the proposed facility. The applicant expects to submit its preliminary Application for Site Certificate (pASC) in October 2023.

**Proposed Facility Location:** The proposed facility would be located within predominately unincorporated areas of Jackson County. The site boundary for both alternative routes include privately-owned lands, Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) designated lands, Jackson County Open Space Reserve lands, rural residential, commercial, and industrial zoned lands, and portions of unincorporated lands of White City in addition to lands managed by the Nature Conservancy, Jackson County, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), City of Medford, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

A map of the proposed facility site boundary is attached to this notice. An online map of the proposed site and a full copy of the NOI is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/LPW.aspx>

**EFSC Review Process Overview:** The site certificate process is a consolidated, comprehensive permitting process with several opportunities for public participation and comment. The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed facility meets the standards established by Council in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 345, as well as all other applicable Oregon statutes, rules and standards. The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE or Department) serves as staff to the Council and conducts much of the application review process.

**Notice of Intent:** On April 27, 2023 the Department received a Notice of Intent to File an Application for Site Certificate (NOI) for the proposed facility.

Submitting the NOI is the first step in the process of obtaining a site certificate. The NOI includes information about the site and characteristics of the proposed facility and discusses potential impacts from construction and operation of the proposed facility. The NOI, and any comments on the NOI from the public, state agencies, local governments, or Native American Tribes will be used to establish the legal standards and evidentiary requirements for the review of the full application in the Project Order.

*Corridor Selection Process:* As part of the NOI, the applicant is conducting a corridor selection assessment for the transmission line as required by OAR 345-020-0011(1)(d). The applicant is considering two alternatives. corridors between the Lone Pine and Whetstone substations: the West Alternative Route, approximately 10.0 miles long, and East Alternative Route, approximately 12.1 miles long (see attached map of proposed routes)

The proposed corridors are subject to change. The applicant may present adjustments at the informational meetings on the NOI. In selecting corridors for analysis in the application, the applicant must consider public comments on the corridors proposed in the NOI and on any adjustments presented at the informational meetings.

*Land Use Standard:* The applicant may choose to meet the Council's Land Use Standard, OAR 345-022-0030, by obtaining land use approval from the affected local governments or by seeking a determination of compliance from Council. In the NOI the applicant has indicated that it intends to seek a determination from Council.

If the applicant chooses to obtain local land use approval later in the process, any person interested in land use issues should participate in the affected local governments' land use processes if they are not yet complete.

*Public Comments:* This notice initiates the public comment period on the NOI. Comments are encouraged to help the Department and the applicant identify issues and concerns early in the process.

**Comments must be received by July 7, 2023, to be considered in the development of the Project Order.**

The Department is now accepting public comments through an online portal. The portal is intended to provide a convenient option to participate in Council proceedings. The portal can be accessed at: <https://odoe.powerappsportals.us/SitingPublicComment/>

To comment on this project, select "Lone Pine to Whetstone 230kV Transmission Line" from the drop-down menu and follow the instructions. You will receive an email confirmation after submitting your comment.

Written comments may also be submitted by mail, e-mail, or by fax. Please send comments to:

Oregon Department of Energy  
ATTN: Kathleen Sloan, Senior Siting Analyst  
550 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: (503) 871-7254  
Fax: (503) 373-7806  
Email: [kathleen.sloan@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:kathleen.sloan@energy.oregon.gov)

*Please Note:* Submitting comments does not automatically register you to receive notices. If you would like to receive notices for this or any other siting project, please sign up here: <http://web.energy.oregon.gov/cn/a6n53/subscribe>

*Informational Meeting:* The Department will host a public informational meeting on the NOI to provide additional opportunities for the public to learn about the proposed facility and the state siting review process, provide written or oral comments, and ask questions. Details on the date, time, and location of the meeting are provided on page 1 of this notice.

The informational meeting is not a public hearing, and participation in the informational meeting is not required to establish eligibility to participate in the contested case proceeding.

Project Order

Based on the Department's review of the NOI and all comments received during the NOI comment timeframe, the Department will issue a Project Order establishing the state and local standards and criteria that must be met for Council to issue a site certificate.

Preliminary Application for Site Certificate

An applicant has two years from the date of submitting the NOI to submit their preliminary application for site certificate. In the NOI the applicant states they intend to submit their preliminary application in October 2023.

During this phase, the Department, along with applicable state agencies, local governments and tribal governments will review the preliminary application to ensure it is complete.

Complete Request for Amendment

Under OAR 345-015-0190(5), an application is complete when the Department finds that the certificate holder has submitted information adequate for Council to make findings or impose conditions on all applicable Council standards.

This phase will include another public notice and public informational meetings. However, there is no public comment timeframe associated with this phase.

Draft Proposed Order

The Draft Proposed Order contains the Department's initial recommendation to Council, who are the final decision makers, on whether each applicable standard is met. The Draft Proposed Order will include staff's analysis of the request as well as comments received from state agencies, local governments, and tribal governments. The Draft Proposed Order will include recommended findings of facts, conclusions or law and conditions of approval.

Issuance of the Draft Proposed Order will initiate a public comment period. In addition to the written public comment period, there will be an opportunity for oral comments at one or more public hearings to be held in the vicinity of the project. In order to preserve your right to request to participate in the

contested case proceeding and any subsequent appeal of the Council's decision, you must comment either orally at the public hearing or in writing during the comment period on the Draft Proposed Order.

Following the conclusion of the comment period, Council will review the Draft Proposed Order and all submitted comments, and will provide their comments to the Department.

#### Proposed Order

Taking into consideration all the comments received, the Department will issue a Proposed Order, staff's second recommendation to Council. Council will appoint a Hearing Officer to conduct a contested case hearing on the Proposed Order.

#### Contested Case

The purpose of the contested case proceeding is for an impartial hearing officer to evaluate properly raised issues and make a recommendation to Council on those issues. Only people who commented on the Draft Proposed Order may request to participate in the contested case proceeding.

#### Final Order

Following a contested case proceeding, 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>

#### **Receipt of this Notice:**

You are receiving this notice because:

1. You own property within or adjacent to property on which the proposed facility would be located. 1) 500 feet for farm or forest zones; 2) 250 feet outside an urban growth boundary but not within a farm or forest zone; and 3) 100 feet wholly or in part within an urban growth boundary. You will automatically receive all future EFSC notices for this facility if the site boundary remains the same.
2. You have previously signed up to receive notices from ODOE and EFSC. You will automatically receive all future email notices per your request, unless you

unsubscribe. You may unsubscribe at:

<http://web.energy.oregon.gov/cn/a6n53/subscribe>

3. You have been identified by ODOE as a person with a potential interest in a resource that could be affected by the proposed facility. If you do not wish to receive future notices on this facility, please contact the Department.

#### **More Information:**

Additional information about the proposed facility and the EFSC review process can be obtained:

Online: More details on the Lone Pine to Whetstone 230 kV Transmission Line including an electronic copy the NOI are available online at:

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

Resources describing the State Siting Process, including "Oregonians Guide to Siting and Oversight of Energy Facilities" are available at:

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

By Email: Subscribe to receive email updates on the proposed facility or other energy facilities at:

<http://web.energy.oregon.gov/cn/a6n53/subscribe>

At the Oregon Department of Energy: The NOI and other materials 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 the Department to arrange viewing of the NOI. Printed copies will be provided at reasonable cost upon request to the Department.

**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 Nancy Hatch at 503-428-7905, toll-free in Oregon at 800-221-8035, or by email at [nancy.hatch@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:nancy.hatch@energy.oregon.gov).

ATTACHMENT: LOCATION OF 2 PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR TRANSMISSION LINE

