

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Cascade Renewable Transmission System

### Notice of Intent

**Summary:**

Notice Date: April 4, 2023

Proposal: An approximately 100-mile long, 320-kilovolt high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line between The Dalles and Portland. The majority of the HVDC transmission line would be buried in the bed of the Columbia River.

Proposed Facility Location: The proposed Site Boundary would include lands and waters in and adjacent to Wasco County, the City of the Dalles, the City of Mosier, Hood River County, the City of Hood River, the City of Cascade Locks, Multnomah County, the City of Fairview, the City of Troutdale, the City of Gresham, and the City of Portland. A map of the site boundary is attached to this document.

Public Comment Deadline: **June 1, 2023.** See page 3 for information about how to submit comments.

**In Person and Remote Public Informational Meetings:**

There will be two public informational meetings on the Notice of Intent. The meetings will begin with an opportunity for in-person attendees to ask the Department and applicant questions about the project followed by presentations for both in-person and remote attendees. All attendees will then have the opportunity to provide comment or ask additional questions. Additional details are provided below.

***Meeting 1 – The Dalles***

Date: May 2, 2023

Time: 5:00 PM - Individual Q&A

6:00 PM - Presentation/webinar

Location: Columbia Gorge Discovery Center

MJ Murdock Theater

5000 Discovery Drive,

The Dalles, OR 97058

Call In: +1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 234 950 44744

Webinar: <https://tinyurl.com/CRT-NOI-0502>

Webinar number: 2349 504 4744

Password: EFSC (3372)

***Meeting 2 – Portland***

Date: May 3, 2023

Time: 5:00 PM - Individual Q&A

6:00 PM - Presentation/webinar

Location: Oxford Suites - Jantzen Beach

Town Meeting Room

12226 N Jantzen Drive

Portland, OR 97217

Call In: +1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 233 783 12031

Webinar: <https://tinyurl.com/CRT-NOI-0503>

Webinar number: 2337 831 2031

Password: EFSC (3372)

Additional Information: Additional maps and documents associated with this project are available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/CRT.aspx>

**Applicant:** Cascade Renewable Transmission, LLC (CRT), a joint enterprise of PB CRTS, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of PowerBridge, LLC, and Sun2o Partners, LLC.

**Proposed Facility Description:** The facility is a proposed 320-kV HVDC transmission line that would span approximately 100 miles between The Dalles and Portland. The majority of the HVDC line would be installed in the bed of the Columbia River using a hydro jet cable burial machine, or “jet plow.” The jet plow temporarily fluidizes sediment in an approximately 18-inch-wide trench, places the cable in the trench, and allows the sediment to settle back over the cable, burying it at a prescribed depth in the riverbed. Where the cable cannot be buried, a concrete mattress or a rock berm would be used to weigh down the cable and protect it from damage. An approximately 7.5-mile segment of the HVDC line would be buried in lands adjacent to the river near Stevenson, Washington to avoid the Bonneville Lock and Dam and other sensitive resources.

Additional underground segments would connect in-river transmission lines to two converter stations

constructed near points of interconnection at both ends of the line.

The Eastern Converter Station would be located near The Dalles and would connect to the Bonneville Power Administration's Big Eddy Substation with approximately 500 feet of overhead 500-kV AC transmission line.

The Western Converter Station would be located in the Rivergate Industrial District in North Portland and would be connected to Portland General Electric's Harborton Substation with 230-kV AC cables installed under the Willamette River using horizontal directional drilling.

The proposed transmission line qualifies as an "energy facility" under ORS 469.300\*11(a)(C), and the applicant must obtain a Site Certificate from the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC or Council) before it may construct or operate of the proposed facility.

**Proposed Facility Location:** The proposed site boundary would include lands and waters in and adjacent to Wasco County, the City of the Dalles, the City of Mosier, Hood River County, the City of Hood River, the City of Cascade Locks, Multnomah County, the City of Fairview, the City of Gresham, the City of Troutdale and the City of Portland in Oregon and Klickitat County, the City of Bingen, the City of White Salmon, Skamania County, the City of Stevenson, the City of North Bonneville, Clark County, the City of Washougal, the City of Camas, and the City of Vancouver in Washington. A map showing the proposed site boundary is attached to this notice.

**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 March 7, 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 conducted a corridor selection assessment for the transmission line as required by OAR 345-020-0011(1)(d). The applicant considered two alternatives that would avoid in-river work by undergrounding the transmission line on land, primarily in the rights-of-way of state and federal highways. The applicant found that neither alternative was feasible due to restrictions on installing utility facilities in the paved portion of rights-of-way.

The NOI identifies two alternative corridors for the segment between Government Island and the Western Converter Station Site in Portland and two alternative corridors between the Western Converter Station Site and N. Lombard St.

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 June 1, 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 "Cascade Renewable Transmission" 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: Christopher Clark, Senior Siting Analyst  
550 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: (503) 871-7254  
Fax: (503) 373-7806  
Email: [christopher.clark@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:christopher.clark@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 Meetings:* The Department will host two public informational meetings 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 meetings 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 April 2024.

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. 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 the 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 and 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 on energy facility siting projects. 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. The Department identified you 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 Cascade Renewable Transmission System, including an electronic copy the NOI, this notice, and other documents are available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/CRT.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>

To receive notices by U.S. Mail, please contact the Department and request to be added to the paper notice list.

At the Oregon Department of Energy: The NOI and other materials are available for public inspection at the following location at no cost:

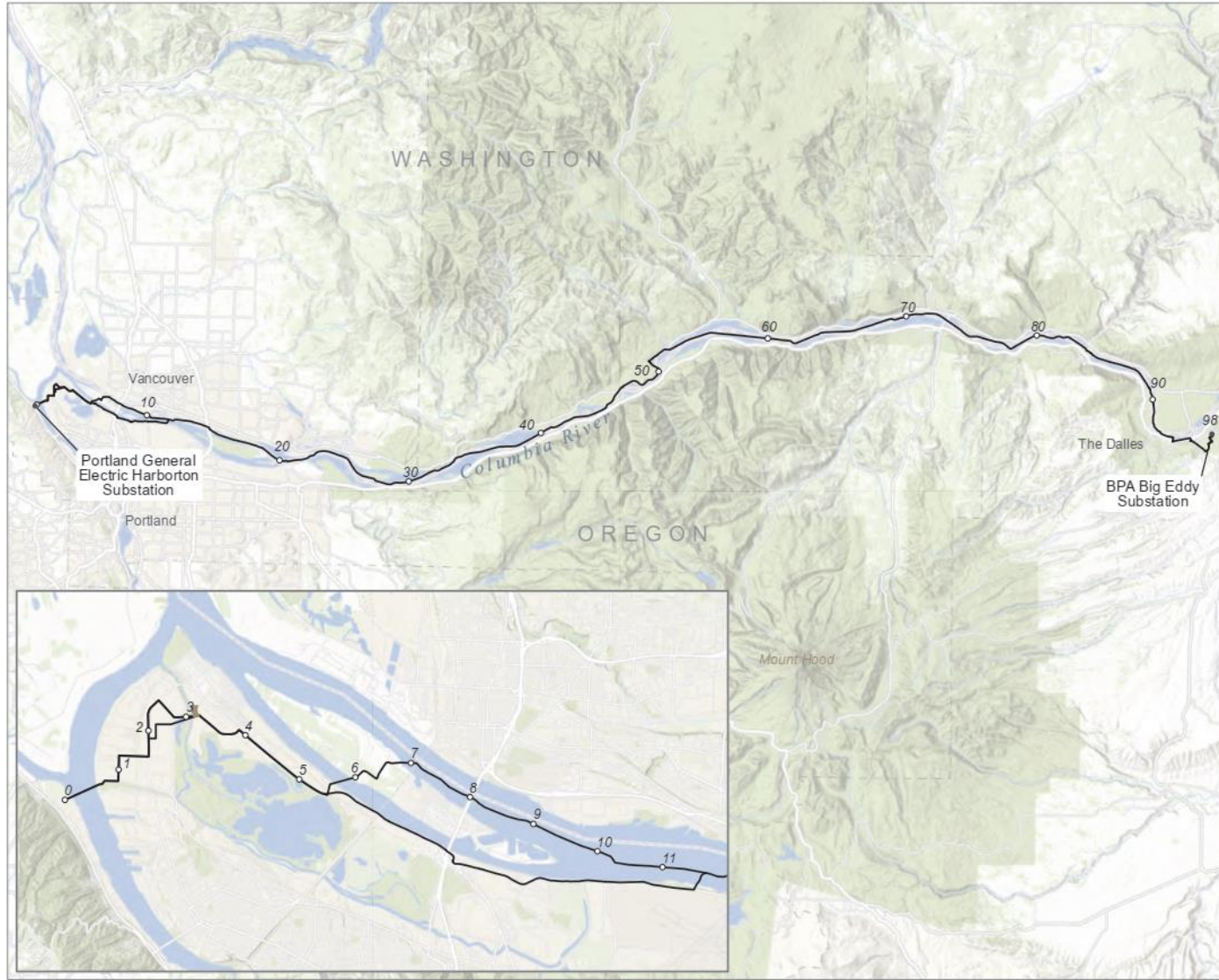
Oregon Department of Energy  
550 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Please contact the Department to arrange viewing of the NOI. Printed copies will be provided at reasonable cost upon request.

### **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).

# FACILITY SITE BOUNDARY VICINITY MAP



**Figure B-1  
Facility Vicinity Map**

- Proposed Alignment
- River Miles (Miles)

**CASCADE RENEWABLE TRANSMISSION**



1/26/2023 NAD 1983 State Plane Oregon North Feet Data Sources: Esri, HDR