

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Wagon Trail Solar Project

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

**Summary:**

Notice Date: January 4, 2023

Newspaper Publishing Dates:

- East Oregonian – January 6, 2024
- Hepner Gazette - January 10, 2024

Proposal: Up to 500 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generation facility and related or supporting facilities that would permanently occupy 3,641 acres (5.6 square miles).

Proposed Facility Location: Morrow County, approximately 14 miles south of the City of Boardman.

Public Informational Meeting: January 17, 2024 at 5:00 P.M., Pacific Time

Date of Filing of Complete Application for Site Certificate (ASC): January 3, 2024

**Description of Proposed Facility:**

The 500 MW Wagon Trail Solar Project (proposed facility), proposed by Wagon Trail Energy Center, LLC (applicant), is a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC. The facility site boundary is 7,450 acres, however, the facility footprint would permanently occupy 3,641 acres (5.6 square miles).

Main Components:

- 965,007 solar panels
- 35,741 solar tracker systems
- 213,585 posts
- 17,879 combiner boxes
- 142 inverters
- 142 transformers
- 68 miles of collection cables (including SCADA system)

Related and Supporting Facilities:

- Battery energy storage system
  - Northern – 182 units on 10 acres
  - Southern – 422 units on 25 acres

-Collector Substations

Northern – 11.2 acres

Southern – 5 acres

-230 kV Transmission line - .6 miles with towers up to 180 feet tall

-Up to 4 meteorological stations

-6 – 9 thousand sq. ft. operation and maintenance building

-47 miles of access roads

-6 to 8 foot tall perimeter fence

*More detailed information about the proposed energy facility and the related or supporting facilities is available in ASC Exhibit B, link below.*

**Location of Proposed Facility:**

The proposed facility would be located on privately owned land zoned for Exclusive Farm Use starting just south of the southeast corner of the Boardman Bombing Range.

A map of the proposed facility and site boundary is 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/WTS.aspx> and on ODOE's online mapping tool at: [Oregon Energy Facilities-Public \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-public/Pages/arcgis.aspx)

**Public Informational Meeting:** The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE or Department) will hold an in-person and remote public informational meeting with the applicant to provide information about the proposed facility and the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) siting process; participation details are provided below. The public information 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. This meeting will be recorded and posted on the project webpage after the meeting.

**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024

**Time:** 5:00 PM – In person Meet and Greet and 1 on 1 questions with ODOE and applicant.

5:30 PM – Presentation/Webinar by ODOE and applicant followed by Q & A

**Location:** Lexington Town Hall  
425 F Street  
Lexington, OR 97839

You may also participate in the informational meeting via Webinar or Teleconference Information:

**Webinar link:**

<https://odoe.webex.com/odoe/j.php?MTID=m0235547b3c0fbe681d242215b6747eee>

**Webinar Event Number:** 2337 424 6012

**Webinar Event Password:** Wagontrail  
(92466872 from phones and video systems)

**Teleconference:** 408-418-9388

**Teleconference Access code:** 2337 424 6012

***If using Webex, please use your full name to sign in to help staff manage public comments. Additional information will be provided at the hearing about how to provide an oral comment using Webex features.***

**EFSC Review Process Overview:**

The site certificate process is a consolidated, comprehensive siting process. The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed facility meets EFSC standards established under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 469.501 and set forth in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapters 345, Divisions 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 have solar photovoltaic energy generation components located on 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). As such, the proposed facility must receive approval from EFSC of a site certificate prior to construction.

**Wagon Trail Solar Energy Facility Process Overview:**

**Application for Site Certificate:** The Department received the preliminary Application for Site Certificate (pASC) on August 31, 2022, and conducted its review of the pASC in coordination with state agencies, and Tribal and local governments. The applicant filed a complete ASC on January 3, 2024. 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 Department will hold a Public Informational Meeting on the proposed facility on January 17, 2024 as described above. The Public Information Meeting recording will be located on the project page as described in the Additional Information section below and is available for review.

**Draft Proposed Order Issuance:** The Department 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 the Department's review of the ASC as well as comments received from state and local agencies, Tribal governments, and the Morrow County Board of Commissioners as the Special Advisory Group. The DPO will include recommended findings of facts, conclusions of law, and site certificate conditions of approval.

Issuance of the DPO will initiate a public comment period; in addition, a public hearing will be scheduled to occur 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 will issue notice of the public hearing and comment period when it issues the DPO. 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.

As described above, the January 17, 2024 public informational meeting is not a public hearing.

Proposed Order: Following the Council's meeting to review the DPO, the Department must issue a Proposed Order. Changes made from the DPO to the Proposed Order are based on the comments of the Council, public or agency comments made before the close of the record of the public hearing, and any applicant responses to the DPO comments.

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 case. 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 Contact:**

Chase McVeigh-Walker, Senior Siting Analyst  
Oregon Department of Energy  
550 Capital Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: (971) 600-5323  
Fax: 503-373-7806  
Email: Chase.MCVEIGH-WALKER@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 ASC and additional details regarding the proposed facility may be found at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/WTS.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 Wagon Trail Solar 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 Chase McVeigh-Walker*

**3) In hardcopy:**

Hard copies of the proposed Wagon Trail Solar 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 Chase McVeigh-Walker to arrange viewing of hard copies of the ASC; hard copies will be provided at a reasonable cost upon request to the Department.

**Accessibility information:**

The Oregon Department of Energy 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 the Department as soon as possible so we may provide the accommodation.

**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 boundary on which the proposed facility would be located. You will automatically receive all future EFSC notices for this proposed facility.
2. You have previously signed up via ClickDimensions to receive email notices related to the Wagon Trail Solar Project or all EFSC project-related notices. You will automatically receive all future email notices per your request, unless you unsubscribe via ClickDimensions or by contacting ODOE.

**Figure 1: Proposed Facility Location**

