

PUBLIC NOTICE



Sunstone Solar Project

Complete Application for Site Certificate and Public Informational Meeting

Summary:

Notice Date: May 21, 2024

Newspaper Publishing Dates:

- East Oregonian - May 25, 2024
- Heppner Gazette-Times - May 22, 2024

Proposal: Up to 1200-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generation facility and related or supporting facilities that would permanently occupy 9,442 acres (14.75 sq. miles).

Proposed Facility Location: Morrow County, approximately 15 miles northeast of Lexington, Oregon.

Public Informational Meeting: June 5, 2024, at 5:00 PM PT

Date of Filing of Complete Application for Site Certificate (ASC): May 16, 2024

Description of Proposed Facility:

The Sunstone Solar Project (formerly Echo Solar Project) is a proposed 1,200-MW solar PV energy generation facility. In addition, the facility would include:

- Up to 7,200 MW hours of battery storage capacity
- An interconnection substation
- Up to six collector substations
- Up to four operations and maintenance buildings
- Up to 9.5 miles of 230-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission lines
- Other structures including roads, perimeter fencing and gates.

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:

If approved, the facility would occupy approximately 9,442 acres (14.75 sq. miles) of private land zoned for Exclusive Farm Use within an approximately 10,960-acre (17-sq. mile) site in Morrow County, Oregon.

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/ESP.aspx> and on ODOE’s online mapping tool at: https://tools.oregonexplorer.info/OE_HtmlViewer/index.html?viewer=renewable&efsc=Echo%20Solar%20Project

Public Information Meeting:

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE or Department) will hold an in-person and remote public information 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 Department’s project webpage after the meeting.

Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024

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

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

Location: Port of Morrow Riverfront Center
Riverfront Room
2 East Marine Drive
Boardman, Oregon 97818

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

Call In: +1-408-418-9388 (United States Toll)
Access code: 2337 768 7109

Webinar link:

<https://odoe.webex.com/odoe/j.php?MTID=m965117a27b96da0139bb64a0b2f501cd>

Webinar number: 2337 768 7109

Webinar password: EFSC (3372)

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. The Department serves as staff to EFSC and conducts the application review process.

The proposed facility would have solar PV energy generation components located on more than 240 acres of high value farmland as defined in ORS 195.300, 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 obtain a site certificate from EFSC prior to construction.

Sunstone Solar Project ASC Review Process Overview:

Application for Site Certificate: The Department received the preliminary Application for Site Certificate (pASC) on June 30, 2023, and conducted its review of the pASC in coordination with state agencies, and Tribal and local governments. The applicant filed a complete ASC on May 16, 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 June 5, 2024, as described above. A recording of the Public Information Meeting will be posted on the Department's 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 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 June 5, 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:

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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/ESP.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 Sunstone 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.

To receive notices by U.S. Mail, please contact Christopher Clark

3) In hardcopy:

Hard copies of the 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 Christopher Clark 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. 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 Sunstone 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

