

PUBLIC NOTICE



Deschutes Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Facility

Notice of Intent and Public Informational Meeting

Summary:

Notice Date: February 26, 2025

Proposed Facility: 1,000 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) power generating facility within a 13,626 acre (21.3 square mile) site boundary.

Proposed Facility Location: Wasco County, approximately 10 miles southwest of Maupin.

Applicant: DECH bn, LLC. (applicant), a subsidiary of BrightNight, LLC (parent company).

Notice of Intent: On January 21, 2025, the applicant submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to submit an Application for Site Certificate (ASC) to the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC or Council). The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE or Department) is staff to EFSC and conducts review of the NOI and ASC.

Public Comment Period and Informational Meeting:

The public comment period on the NOI is from February 26, 2025 to April 25, 2025

In Person & Remote Informational Meeting:

Date: March 27, 2025
Start Time: 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time (PT) (In-person Meet and Greet / Q&A)
6:00 pm PT Presentation and Webinar
7:00 pm PT Public Comment

Location: Maupin Civic Center
507 Grant Ave
Maupin, OR 97037

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. 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 informational meeting will be

recorded and posted on the Department's project webpage after the meeting.

You may also participate in the public meeting via Webex or Teleconference:

Deschutes Solar & BESS NOI and Public Info Meeting Webex link:

<https://oregondepartmentofenergy.webex.com/oregondepartmentofenergy/j.php?MTID=mf7b3e2ffa1c260efa0f3dbc483fd7514>

Webex Number
2660 451 9438

Join by Phone

+1-650-479-3208
Access code 2660 451 9438

Please use your full name to sign in to help staff manage public comments.

Description of the Proposed Facility:

Energy Facility

- Solar Modules/arrays (1,000 MW capacity)
- Posts and Trackers
- 34.5 kilovolt (kV) Collector System
- Inverters/Transformers

Related or Supporting Facilities

- Battery Energy Storage System – up to 1,000 MW (4,000 MW hours) capacity.
- 34.kV Collector substation
- 0.5 mile 500 kV generation-tie line
- 500 kV switchyard
- Operations and Maintenance Building
- Access Roads
- Perimeter Fencing and gates
- Construction staging areas

More information about the proposed energy facility and the related or supporting facilities is available in the NOI.

Location of Proposed Facility:

The proposed facility would be located on predominantly privately owned land zoned for Exclusive Farm Use located in Wasco County,

approximately 10 miles southwest of Maupin. (See attached Figure 1). The proposed site boundary is comprised of parcels zoned A-1 Exclusive Farm Use except for one parcel, which is split zoned A-1 Exclusive Farm Use and R-R 2 Rural Residential (See NOI Figure 10).

Maps of the proposed facility, site boundary and proposed layout are included at the end of the NOI at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/DSB.aspx>

and on ODOE's online mapping tool at: https://tools.oregonexplorer.info/OE_HtmlViewer/index.html?viewer=renewable&efsc=Deschutes%20Solar%20and%20BESS%20Facility

EFSC Review Process:

The proposed facility would occupy up to 13,626 acres of land 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 for a site certificate prior to construction.

The EFSC review is a consolidated, comprehensive permitting process. The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed facility meets all applicable EFSC standards established under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 469.501 and set forth in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) chapter 345, divisions 22 and 24, as well as all other applicable Oregon statutes, rules and standards.

ASC Process Overview:

Notice of Intent: On January 17, 2025, the Department received an NOI to file an ASC for the proposed facility. The applicant submitted a revised NOI on January 21, 2025.

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.

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

indicates that it intends to seek a determination from Council under ORS 469.504(1)(b). 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.

Submission of Comments on the NOI:

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 April 25, 2025, by 5 p.m., Pacific Time.** Comments may be submitted:

1. By mail or email to the Department's Representative:
Kathleen Sloan, Senior Siting Analyst
550 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 971-701-4913
Email: kathleen.sloan@energy.oregon.gov
2. Online Comment Portal - <https://odoe.powerappsportals.us/SitingPublicComment/> Choose "Deschutes Solar and BESS Facility" from the drop-down menu. Click "Next" and follow the instructions on the screen. You will receive an email confirmation after submitting your comment.
3. Orally during the informational meeting. If using Webex or telephone, additional instructions will be provided at the meeting. Please note that individual commentors may be limited to 5 minutes. However, the time may be decreased (or increased) based on the number of commentors.
4. Hand Delivered at the address listed above or during the public meeting.

Please note: Comment submission does not register your contact information to receive future notices. If you would like to receive notices for this facility or any other EFSC facility, and have not already done so, please follow the ClickDimensions link included in the [More Information](#) section below.

All comments submitted to ODOE may be disclosed to the public, subject to Oregon Public Records Laws (ORS Chapter 192). Public comments are made available via the systems described in this Notice.

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 (pASC). The applicant indicates that it intends to submit the pASC in July 2025.

During this phase, the Department, along with applicable state agencies, local governments and tribal governments will review the pASC to ensure it is complete, and request additional information, if necessary.

Complete Application

An application for site certificate (ASC) is complete when the Department finds that the applicant has submitted information adequate for Council to make findings or impose conditions on all applicable Council standards.

This phase includes another Public Notice and public informational meeting. However, there is no public comment timeframe associated with this phase.

Draft Proposed Order

The DPO contains the Department's initial recommendation to Council, the final decision maker, on whether each applicable standard is met. The DPO will include staff's analysis of the ASC as well as comments received from state agencies, local governments, and tribal governments. 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 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 proposed facility. 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 DPO.

Following the conclusion of the comment period, Council will review the DPO, all submitted comments, any applicant responses to comments, and will provide their comments to the Department.

Proposed Order

Taking into consideration all the comments received, applicant responses, and Council's comments, 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 recommendations to Council on those issues. Only people who commented on the DPO 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.

Receipt of this Notice:

You are receiving this notice for one or more of the following reasons:

1. You own property within or adjacent to (e.g. within 500 feet) the property on which the facility is proposed to be located. You will automatically receive all future Council notices for this proposed facility.
2. You have previously signed up to receive email notices related to the proposed facility or all EFSC project-related notices. You will automatically receive all future email notices per your request unless you unsubscribe or contact the Department and request to be removed from the email list.
3. You are the contact for a land management agency or organization with jurisdiction over a protected area identified in the NOI.

More Information:

1. More details on the proposed facility, including the NOI, are available on the [facility webpage](#) at:

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

2. Additional resources to help you participate in the state siting process can be found at:
<http://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/pages/default.aspx>
3. The Siting Division's Public Guide contains additional information on the EFSC process. The guide can be found at:
<http://tinyurl.com/EFSCPublicGuide>
4. Subscribe to receive email updates on the proposed facility as well as any or all other energy facilities and events under EFSC jurisdiction at:
<https://tinyurl.com/ODOE-EFSC>. To receive notices by U.S. Mail, please contact the Department's representative identified above and request to be added to the hardcopy notice list.
5. Physical copies of the NOI are available for public inspection at the Department's Salem office. Please contact the Department's representative to arrange a viewing. Copies will be provided at reasonable cost upon request.

Accessibility information:

ODOE is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. For the review of the NOI or attendance at the informational 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 at nancy.hatch@energy.oregon.gov. For any other accommodation needed to attend the public meeting, please contact ODOE as soon as possible so we may provide the accommodation.

Figure 1: Proposed Facility Location and Site Boundary

