

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III

### Receipt of Preliminary Request for Site Certificate Amendment 1

#### Summary:

Notice Date: December 2, 2025

Existing Facility: A 50 megawatt (MW) solar power generation facility on 357 acres (0.5 sq. miles) of private land within an approximately 2,294 acre site boundary.

Amendment Request: Preliminary Request for Amendment 1 (pRFA1) seeks Energy Facility Siting Council (Council or EFSC) approval to extend the construction deadline, and split the approved facility into two facilities, each with their own site certificate.

Facility Location: Morrow County, approximately 5 miles northeast of Lexington and 7 miles northwest of Heppner.

Information Only: Please note, this notice is to provide early notification of this amendment request. There is no comment period associated with this phase of review.

#### Description of Approved Facility:

##### Energy Facility

- 150 MW solar power generation facility (50 MWs in operation)

##### Related or Supporting Facilities

- 41 distributed sites of sites of lithium-ion batteries (not yet built)
- Wheatridge West Collector Substation Expansion (not yet built)
- 34.5 kV electrical collection system
- Service Roads, Gates, and Fencing

##### Shared (WREFI, WREFII and WREFIII) Related or Supporting Facilities

- a collector substation
- access roads
- temporary laydown areas
- the O&M building

- Portions of the 230-kV Intraconnection Line may have overlapping site boundaries with WREFI, WREFII, and WREFIII (not yet built)

The site certificate for this facility was issued through the site certificate amendment process for Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility. The Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility Site Certificate was originally approved on May 24, 2017, with a requirement to commence construction within three years of the effective date of the site certificate (May 24, 2020). The construction completion deadline was six years after the effective date of the site certificate (May 24, 2023). Subsequent amendments [AMD2 (2018); AMD4 (2019); and AMD1 (2020)] of the site certificate established construction commencement and completion deadlines for the various energy facilities (ultimately Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility II, Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III, Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East). The construction commencement and completion deadlines established for Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III were November 22, 2022 and November 22, 2025 (respectively).

**Description of Changes Proposed in pRFA1:** pRFA1 seeks Council approval for the following changes to the site certificate:

1. Split the approved facility into two separate facilities; each with their own site boundary and certificate holder under separate site certificates. The split would amend the current site certificate and create one new site certificate.
2. Extend the construction completion deadline by three years.
3. Amend several conditions to be consistent with the site certificate split.

#### **Facility Location:**

Approximately 5 miles northeast of Lexington and 7 miles northwest of Heppner. The existing facility site encompasses approximately 2,294 acres of privately owned land zoned for Exclusive Farm Use. A locational map of the site boundary is included in this Notice. The facility map is available on the webpage as

provided in this Notice or visit ODOE's [Online Mapping Tool](#).

#### **EFSC Review Process:**

The EFSC review is a consolidated, comprehensive permitting process. The Department Siting Division serves as staff to EFSC and conducts the RFA review process. The certificate holder must demonstrate through a preponderance of evidence on the record that the facility as amended complies with all laws and Council standards applicable to an original site certificate application. For more information relating to EFSC standards, please visit:

<http://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/Siting-Standards.aspx>

#### **RFA Process Overview:**

##### Preliminary Request for Amendment

Wheatridge Solar Energy Center, LLC, (certificate holder), a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NEER, certificate holder owner), filed pRFA1 on November 21, 2025. This is the current phase and consists of Department review of the amendment request, along with applicable state agencies, local governments and tribal governments. The Department may issue information requests to the certificate holder during the review of a pRFA.

##### Department's Determination of Completeness

Based on the Department's review of the pRFA and responses to information requests, at a later date, the Department will notify the certificate holder that the amendment request is complete. Under OAR 345-027-0363(5), an amendment is complete when the Department finds that the certificate holder has submitted information adequate for the Council to make findings or impose conditions on all applicable Council standards.

##### Proposed Order Issuance

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

Following the Department's issuance of a Proposed Order, the Council will accept comments on the RFA and Proposed Order via written submissions or verbally at a public hearing. Individuals that submit written and verbal comments during the comment period will have the opportunity to work with the certificate holder and the Department through a response, reply and sur-reply process. OAR 345-0367(8). Responses to comments will be provided by the certificate holder and Department. Responses may address whether comments raise issues with sufficient specificity. To raise an issue with sufficient specificity, the following should be provided:

- From the Department's Proposed Order, identify the recommended findings of fact, conclusions of law or conditions of approval to which you object;
- From the Department's Proposed Order, identify the Council standard or other applicable state or local requirements to which your issue relates; and
- Provide facts or statements supporting your objection/issue.

Responses may address and explain whether issues were raised with sufficient specificity, based on evaluation of the above criteria. Responses may also recommend changes to findings of fact, conclusions of law and/or conditions of approval, for inclusion in the draft Final Order. Commenters will then have the opportunity to reply, either supplementing their comments to provide sufficient specificity or evaluating the certificate holder and Department's recommended changes or reasons why changes are not recommended. This subsequent process will occur after the record of the public comment period closes; the timeframes and deadlines for commenters to reply to the certificate holder and Department will be established in the Department's Notice of Public Hearing and Request for Comments on the RFA and Proposed Order, to be issued at a later date.

##### Draft Final Order

Following the sur-reply deadline, during an EFSC meeting, EFSC will review the Department's draft Final Order including its written analysis of comments, responses, replies and sur-replies. EFSC will then issue a Final Order either approving or rejecting RFA1. If approved, an Amended Site Certificate will be issued.

**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 on which the proposed changes would be located. You will automatically receive all future notices related to this amendment request.
2. You have previously signed up to receive email related to the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III or all EFSC project-related notices. You will automatically receive all future notices per your request, unless you unsubscribe via ClickDimensions by following the link provided below or contacting ODOE.
3. You are the contact for a land management agency or organization with jurisdiction over a protected area identified in the application.

**More Information:**

If you have any questions, please contact Chase McVeigh-Walker, Senior Siting Analyst, at the phone, email address or mailing address listed below:

Chase McVeigh-Walker, Senior Siting Analyst  
550 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: (971) 600-5323  
Email: [Chase.McVeigh-Walker@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:Chase.McVeigh-Walker@energy.oregon.gov)

More information about the pRFA, operational facility and updates on the review process are available using any of the following options:

1. Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III webpage:  
pRFA1 and facility maps are available at:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/WREFIII.aspx>  
<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/WREFIII.aspx>
2. A physical copy of the pRFA1 is available for public inspection at no cost at the address listed above. Physical copies will also be provided at reasonable cost upon request. Please contact Chase McVeigh-Walker.
3. If you would like to receive email notices of the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III, other projects, Council meetings or rulemakings,

subscribe to ClickDimensions, a self-managed, automated email system.

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

4. 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>

**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 email to [nancy.hatch@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:nancy.hatch@energy.oregon.gov). For any other accommodation needed to attend the public hearing, please contact ODOE as soon as possible so we may provide the accommodation.



Figure 1: Facility Location and pRFA1 Site Boundaries

