

PUBLIC NOTICE



Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III

Public Hearing and Request for Comments on Request for Site Certificate Amendment 1 and Proposed Order

Summary:

Notice Date: February 27, 2026

Approved Facility: A 150-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic power generation facility, located within an approximately 2,294-acre site boundary. The facility includes 50 MW in operation and 100 MW that is yet to be constructed.

Amendment Request: Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1) seeks Energy Facility Siting Council (Council or EFSC) approval to extend the construction completion deadline for the unbuilt portion of the facility, and split the approved facility into two facilities, each with their own site certificate.

Facility Location: Morrow County, approximately 5 miles NE of Lexington and 7 miles NW of Heppner.

Proposed Order Recommendation: In the Proposed Order, the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE or Department) recommends that the facility, with the changes proposed in RFA1, complies with all required standards and should be approved by the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC or Council), subject to new and recommended amended site certificate conditions.

Public Comment Period and Hearing:

The comment period extends 35 days, from February 27, 2026, through April 3, 2026. The public may provide written or verbal comments regarding RFA1 and the Proposed Order including but not limited to recommended new or amended site certificate conditions. Written comments may be submitted during the public comment period to the Department Representative identified on page 3 below. Verbal comments may be made during the public hearing.

In Person & Remote Public Hearing Information:

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026

Start Time: 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time (PT)

In Person: Sage Center
101 Olson Road
Boardman, Oregon 97818

You may also participate in the public hearing via Webinar or Teleconference:

Webex Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2k9sp6ds>

Webex Number: 2660 692 4545

Webex Password: EFSC (3372 from phones and video systems)

Teleconference: +1-650-479-3208

Teleconference Access code: 2660 692 4545

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

1. Description of Approved Facility:

Energy Facility

- 150 MW solar photovoltaic 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
- An O&M building

- 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 the 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).

Approved Facility Location:

Approximately 5 miles northeast of Lexington and 7 miles northwest of Heppner. The existing facility site includes 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’s 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 and Hearing Information:

Request for Site Certificate Amendment
Wheatridge Solar Energy Center, LLC, (certificate holder), a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NEER, certificate holder owner), filed a preliminary Request for Amendment 1 on November 21, 2025. Based on the Department’s review of the preliminary request and responses to its requests for additional information received, the Department notified the certificate holder that the amendment request was complete on February 25, 2026. A complete amendment request was received on February 27, 2026, and has been reviewed by the Department. RFA1 is available on the project webpage for review, as described in the More Information section below.

Proposed Order Issuance

On February 27, 2026, the Department issued a Proposed Order on RFA1. The Proposed Order, ODOE’s first evaluation for the amendment request, includes recommended findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommends new and amended site certificate conditions, all of which are open for the public to comment on. The Proposed Order recommends that EFSC find that EFSC approve RFA1, subject to existing and recommended new and amended conditions. The Proposed Order is available on the project webpage for review, as described below.

Public Hearing and Comment Period:

EFSC will hold the public hearing on RFA1 and the Proposed Order on March 19, 2026, which will be both in person and remote. See Hearing details on page 1.

During the hearing, there will first be a brief overview by ODOE on the siting process, the approved facility and requested amendment, followed by an overview of the hearing format and finally an opportunity to provide oral comments on RFA1 and the Proposed Order. **The duration of the time for individual commenters to provide oral comments will be 7 minutes, but that may be lengthened or shortened based on the number of people who wish to comment. Written comments reflecting oral comments are encouraged.** Council has the ability to pose questions to the Department, certificate holder

and commenters, should they seek additional clarification.

Commenters contending that the Council should reject the RFA or reject or revise the Department's Proposed Order must raise their issues on the record with sufficient specificity. To raise an issue on the record, a person must raise the issue in person at the public hearing or in a written comment submitted after the date of this Notice of the public hearing and received by the Department before the comment deadline, April 3, 2026.

To raise an issue with sufficient specificity, in their written and/or oral comments, a person must:

- identify the recommended findings of fact, conclusions of law or conditions of approval identified in the proposed order to which they object;
- specify the Council standard or other applicable state and local requirements on which their objection is based; and,
- present facts or statements supporting their objection.

In order to be included on the record of the public hearing, written comments **must be received by April 3, 2026**, through the public comment portal described below or by mail, or email to the Department's representative listed below:

1. By mail or email to the Department's Representative:
Chase McVeigh-Walker, Senior Siting Analyst
550 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: (971) 600-5323
Email: Chase.McVeigh-Walker@energy.oregon.gov
2. Orally during the public hearing. If using Webex or telephone, additional instructions will be provided at the hearing. **Please note that individual commentors will be limited to 7 minutes. However, as noted above, that time may be decreased (or increased) based on the number of commentors.**
3. Hand Delivered at the address listed above or during the public hearing.

4. Online Comment Portal - <https://odoe.powerappsportals.us/SitingPublicComment/>

Choose Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III Energy 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.

ODOE also has an online docket system which displays comments that have been submitted on this and other projects. Comments will normally be available to view within 3 business days of receipt. The docket can be accessed via the following link:

<https://odoe.powerappsportals.us/en-US/sitingdocket/>

Individuals who comment during the comment period will have the opportunity to continue in the following process, allowing further review of their issue(s).

Following the close of the public comment period on April 3, 2026, commenters may participate in the following process:

1. Certificate holder must submit written responses to written and verbal comments by April 10, 2026.
2. Department may submit written responses to written and verbal comments by April 10, 2026.
3. Commenters may submit replies to certificate holder and Department responses by April 17, 2026.
4. Certificate holder and Department may submit sur-replies to commenters by April 24, 2026.

If no comments are received, these steps would not occur and EFSC review of the draft Final Order could occur at the EFSC meeting following the close of the comment deadline.

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 and will be attached to the Proposed Order.

Council Review of the Draft Final Order

Following the sur-reply deadline, as identified above, 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 RFA.

More Information:

1. Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III [webpage](#): RFA1, ODOE's Proposed Order and facility maps are available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/WREFIII.aspx>
2. [Physical copies](#) of RFA1 and the Proposed Order are available for public inspection at no cost at the address of the Department Representative listed on page 3 above. Physical copies will also be provided at reasonable cost upon request; please

contact the Department Representative for more information.

3. If you would like to receive [email notices](#) for 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>
5. If you have any [questions](#) about the approved facility, RFA1, the Proposed Order, how to provide public comments or are seeking additional information, please contact the Department Representative.

Accessibility information:

The Oregon Department of Energy is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. For review of RFA1 or the Proposed Order or attendance at the public hearing, 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 hearing, please contact ODOE as soon as possible so we may provide the accommodation.

Figure 1: Facility Location and RFA1 Site Boundaries

