

# PUBLIC NOTICE



## Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East

### Receipt of Preliminary Request for Site Certificate Amendment 2

#### Summary:

Notice Date: March 25, 2026

Operating Facility: A 200 megawatt (MW) wind power generation facility (71 wind turbines) within a 78,985 acre site boundary.

Amendment Request: Preliminary Request for Amendment 2 (pRFA2) seeks Energy Facility Siting Council (Council or EFSC) approval to split the site certificate into two, to cover two separate energy facilities (existing, operational; and remaining, unbuilt) owned by two separate certificate holders (existing and proposed new).

Facility Location: Morrow and Umatilla counties, approximately 6 miles northeast of the City 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:

##### Operational Facility

- 71 wind turbines (200 MW)
- 73 miles of 34.5 kilovolt (kV) electrical collection system
- 1 collector substation
- 17 miles, 230 kV transmission line
- 1 meteorological tower
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA)
- Access roads (60 miles new, 15 miles temporary)
- 1 temporary construction yards

##### Approved Facility, not yet built

- 36 wind turbines (100 MW)
- 30 MW battery energy storage system
- 22 miles of 34.5 kV electrical collection system
- 1 collector substation
- 10 miles, 230 kV transmission line
- 4 meteorological tower
- SCADA
- 16 miles of temporary access roads
- 4 temporary construction yards

The Council approved the facility and issued a site certificate in November 2020. The Council approved the First Amended Site Certificate in June 2024.

#### Description of Changes Proposed in pRFA2:

Split the site certificate into two separate site certificates and facilities, one owned by the existing certificate holder and the other owned by a new certificate holder.

#### Facility Location:

Morrow and Umatilla counties, approximately 6 miles northeast of the City of Heppner. A map of the facility site boundary is attached to this notice. Detailed maps are included in the amendment request, available here [State of Oregon: Facilities - Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East](#). Additional mapping tools are available on the Department's online mapping tool [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 applicable laws and standards OAR 345-027-0375. 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 East Wind, LLC (certificate holder), a wholly owned indirect/direct subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC filed pRFA2 on March 11, 2026. 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 RFA2. If approved, a Second 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 Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East 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 Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor, at the phone, email address or mailing address listed below:

Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor  
550 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-559-9218  
Email: [sarah.esterson@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:sarah.esterson@energy.oregon.gov)

More information about the pRFA, approved/operational facility and updates on the

review process are available using any of the following options:

1. Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East webpage:  
pRFA2 and facility maps are available at:  
[State of Oregon: Facilities - Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East](#)
2. A physical copy of the pRFA2 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 Sarah Esterson.
3. If you would like to receive email notices of the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East, 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: Location of Proposed Amended Site Boundaries

