

Oregon Department of **ENERGY**

Energy Facility Siting Council Meeting

ODOE Offices
550 Capitol St. NE
Salem, Oregon

July 24, 2026

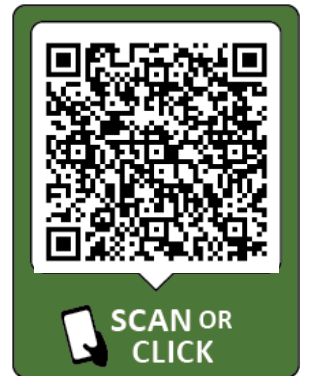


Opening Items:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Announcements

Announcements

- Reminder to Council and anyone addressing the Council:
 - State your full name clearly at the start of your comment or question
 - Do not use the speakerphone feature, as it will create feedback
- You may sign up for email notices by clicking the link on the agenda or the Council webpage
- You can access the online mapping tool and any documents by visiting our website



Announcements Continued

- Please silence your cell phones
- Please use the “Raise Your Hand” feature in Teams to speak during the public comment period, or press *5 to raise your hand if you are participating by telephone which will alert us that you want to speak and then press *6 to unmute yourself when you are called on.
- Energy Facility Council meetings shall be conducted in a respectful and courteous manner where everyone is allowed to state their positions at the appropriate times consistent with Council rules and procedures. Willful accusatory, offensive, insulting, threatening, insolent, or slanderous comments which disrupt the Council meeting are not acceptable. Pursuant to Oregon Administrative Rule 345-011-0080, any person who engages in unacceptable conduct which disrupts the meeting may be expelled.

Agenda Item A

Action Item & Information Item

Consent Calendar

- June 2026 Council Meeting Minutes
- Council Secretary Report

Todd Cornett, Secretary

July 24, 2026

Compliance Incident Updates

Facility	Issue	Status
Stateline Wind Project Vansycle II Unit – Parent Company is NextEra Energy Resources, LLC	Fallen Blade Bolt	Reviewing in conjunction with 5 prior fallen blade bolt incidences in 2026, including blade fall

Agenda Item B

Public Hearing

Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East - Public Hearing on Proposed Order on Request for Site Certificate Amendment 2

Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor

June 26, 2026

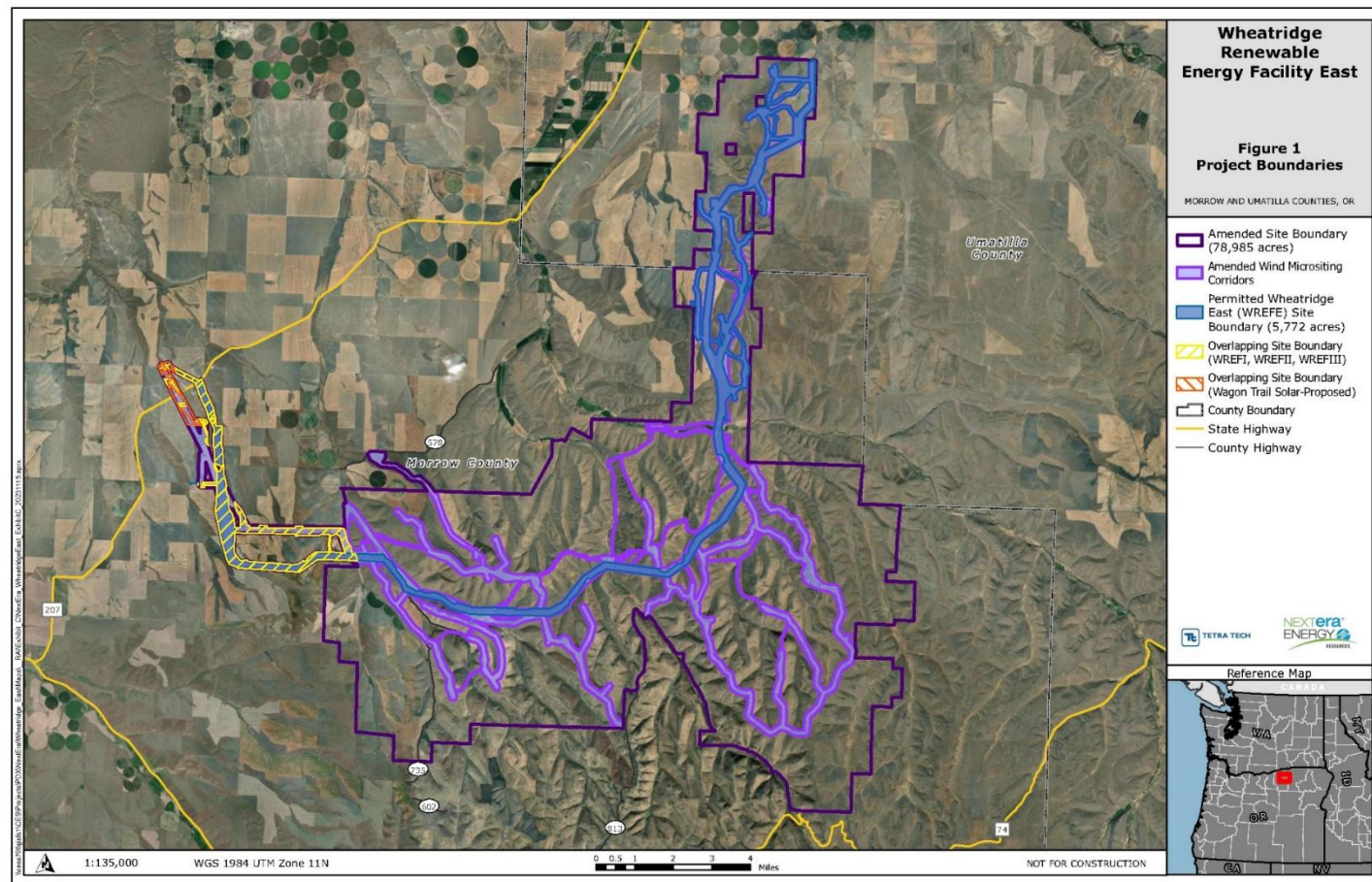
Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Request for Amendment 2

Public Hearing Overview

- **Overview of Proposed Amendment & Proposed Order**
- **Hearing Overview**
- **Public Hearing & Oral Testimony**
 - Certificate Holder
 - Public
 - Council

Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Request for Amendment 2 Existing Facility Overview

- **Certificate Holder:** Wheatridge East Wind, LLC, a project-specific LLC wholly owned by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (parent company)
- **Operational Facility:** 200-megawatt (MW) wind power generation facility, with related or supporting facilities,.
- **Location/Site Boundary:** Morrow and Umatilla counties, within a 79,985 acre site boundary; approx. 6 miles NE of Heppner.



MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

- 



Reference Map

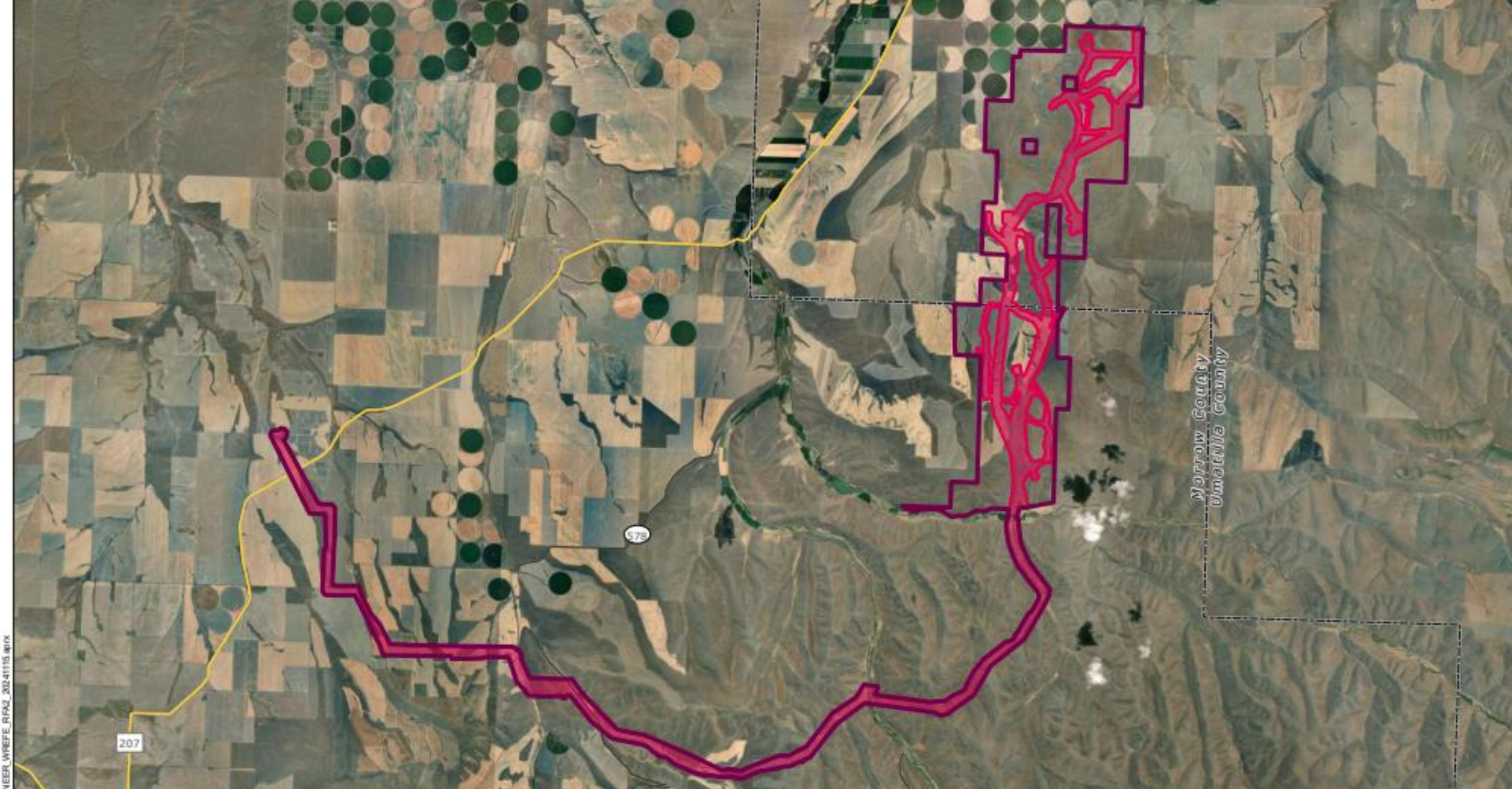


Renewable Energy Facility East

Figure 3
Wheatridge Renewable
Energy Facility Northeast
(Phase II)
Proposed Site Boundary

MORROW AND UMATILLA COUNTIES, OR

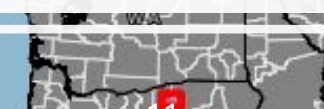
- Proposed Site Boundary
- Proposed Wind Micrositing Corridor
- State Highway
- County Highway
- City/Town
- County Boundary



Proposed WREFNE Site Boundary



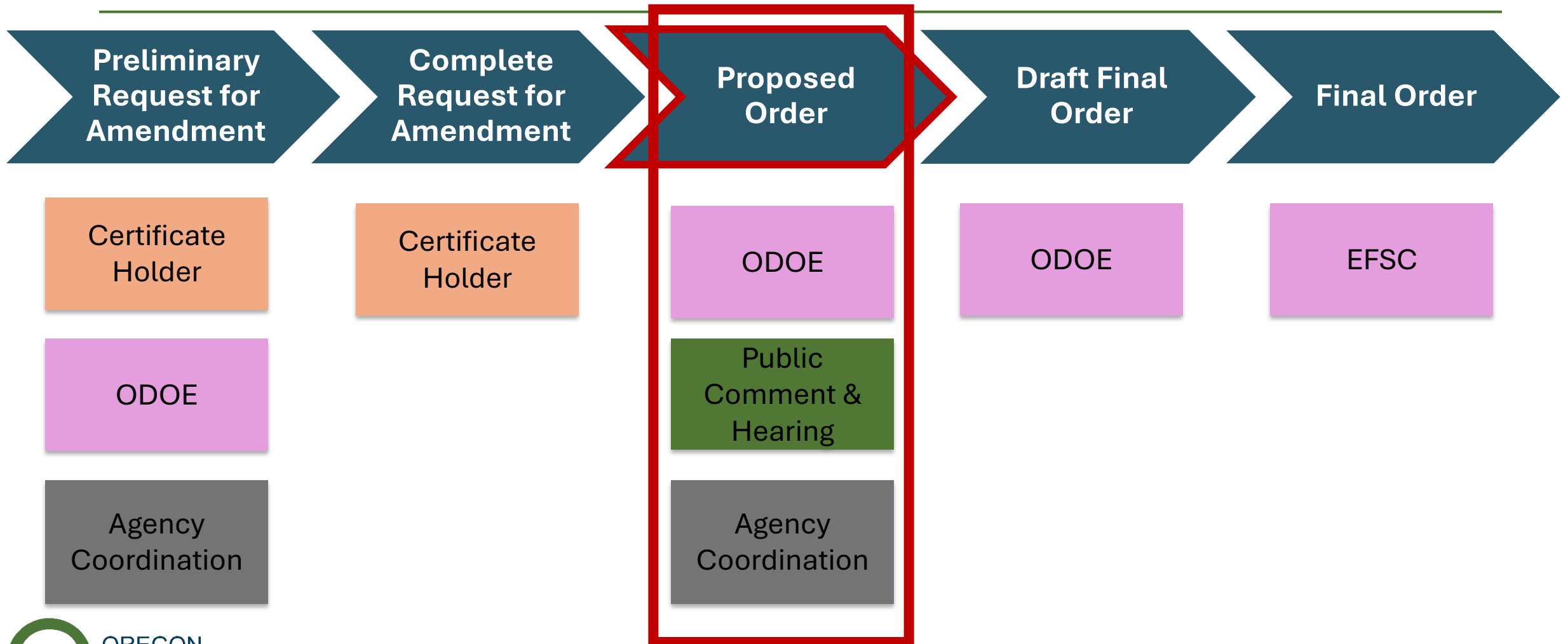
Reference Map



Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Request for Amendment 2 Overview

1. Split the operational facility and remaining approved unbuilt portions of the facility into two separate site certificates; each with its own site boundary and certificate holder.
 - Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Site Certificate: 200 MW wind facility
 - Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility Northeast Site Certificate: remaining, approved unbuilt 100 MWs of wind power generation components (36 wind turbines)
2. Extend the construction completion deadline for Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility Northeast by three years from May 24, 2026 to May 24, 2029.
3. Amend site certificate conditions to be consistent with the site certificate split.

Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Request for Amendment 2 Process



Agenda Item A

Public Hearing

Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility EAST Request for Amendment 2 – Public Hearing

Presiding Officer – Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor

July 26, 2026

Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Request for Amendment 2 Public Hearing

- The Public Notice on the Proposed Order initiated the public comment period on RFA2 and established hearing.
- Oral comments may be submitted during the hearing
- Written comments may be submitted until **5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on July 31, 2026.**

Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Request for Amendment 2

Public Hearing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A person who contends Council should reject a request to amend a site certificate or that Council in its final order should reject or revise certain aspects of a Department proposed order for a site certificate amendment must:
 - Comment in person or in writing prior to the close of the public comment period;
 - Raise their issues with sufficient specificity to afford the Council, the Department, and the certificate holder an adequate opportunity to respond to the issue(s).
- To raise an issue with sufficient specificity, a person must, in their comment,
 - 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 that objection; and
- If a comment is not made with sufficient specificity, the Council will not make any changes in its final order based on that comment.

Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Request for Amendment 2 Public Hearing

Comment Review Process

- All timely comments submitted during the public comment period will be subject to the following process:
 - The certificate holder must provide a written response to written and verbal comments on the request for amendment or the proposed order;
 - The Department can choose, but is not required to respond to written or verbal comments on the request for amendment or the proposed order;
 - Reviewing agencies and members of the public may submit written replies to the responses to their own respective comments
 - The certificate holder and Department may submit a sur-reply to the replies
- Participants to the public comment process may request more time to submit their response, reply, and sur-reply to the Council or Council Chair, who shall grant the extension on a showing of good cause.

Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Request for Amendment 2 Public Hearing

WRITTEN COMMENTS

- Written comments may be submitted until the close of the Public Comment Period on **July 31, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time**. Written comments may be submitted:
- Via online siting comment portal:
<https://odoe.powerappsportals.us/en-US/SitingPublicComment/>
- Via email: sarah.esterson@energy.oregon.gov
- Hand delivery or mail to: Oregon Department of Energy; 550 Capitol St. NE; Salem, OR, 97301

Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East Request for Amendment 2 Public Hearing

ORDER OF ORAL COMMENTS

1. Certificate Holder (testimony or additions to record)
2. Members of the Public (will be called on in the following order):
 - Oral in-person testimony
 - Oral testimony via WebEx
 - Oral testimony via phone

There is a seven-minute limit on oral comments. Council or Presiding Officer may ask clarifying questions.

3. Members of Council
4. Certificate Holder (response to comments)

How to Raise Your Hand in Teams

Phone Participants

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Webinar Participants

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Agenda Item C

Information Item

Buckley Solar Facility NOI Extension

Kathleen Sloan, Senior Siting Analyst

June 26, 2026

Buckley Solar Facility

Request to Extend Expiration of Notice of Intent

Background

- August 16, 2024 - Buckley Solar, LLC (Applicant), a subsidiary of Clenara, LLC submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Buckley Solar Farm.
- Proposed project is a 1,200-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic power generation facility, with related and supporting facilities including a 1,200 MW battery energy storage system with up to 4 hours of discharge capacity.
- Preliminary application for site certificate must be submitted by August 16, 2026.
- June 10, 2026 - Applicant submitted petition to extend the NOI expiration date by one year to August 17, 2027.

Buckley Solar Facility

Request to Extend Expiration of Notice of Intent

Requirements OAR 345-020-0060

- Applicant has two years from the date of submitting the NOI to submit their preliminary application for site certificate.
- If NOI expires, a new NOI must be submitted.
- Applicants can request a one-year extension of the NOI:
 - Must be submitted no less than 45 days before the NOI expiration date.
 - If Council finds that the petition shows “good cause”, the Council may extend the expiration date for a period of up to one year.

Buckley Solar Facility

Request to Extend Expiration of Notice of Intent

Petition for NOI Extension

- The petition was submitted **67** days before expiration.
- The petition explains that the one-year extension is needed to allow sufficient time to complete resource studies, required by redesign per BPA changes, and to prepare and submit the pASC:
 - Changes in Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) plans surrounding the project schedule and interconnection timeline and location of Buckley Substation.
 - Changes in site boundary and BPA substation required significant redesign, including siting of facility substation and Point of Interconnection.
 - Completion of supplemental season-dependent field surveys of redesigned layout areas inside site boundary. Surveys are on-going and will take 2026 to complete.

Buckley Solar Facility

Request to Extend Expiration of Notice of Intent

Changes Requested

- Reduce site boundary: Remove 3 areas from inside the site boundary resulting in a removal of a total of 1,163 acres. Does not increase analysis areas in the NOI.
- Add an internal parcel within the site boundary but excluded from the microsite area. No change in analysis areas.
- Extend NOI expiration for 1 year from August 16, 2026 to August 17, 2027.

Buckley Solar Facility Request to Extend Expiration of Notice of Intent

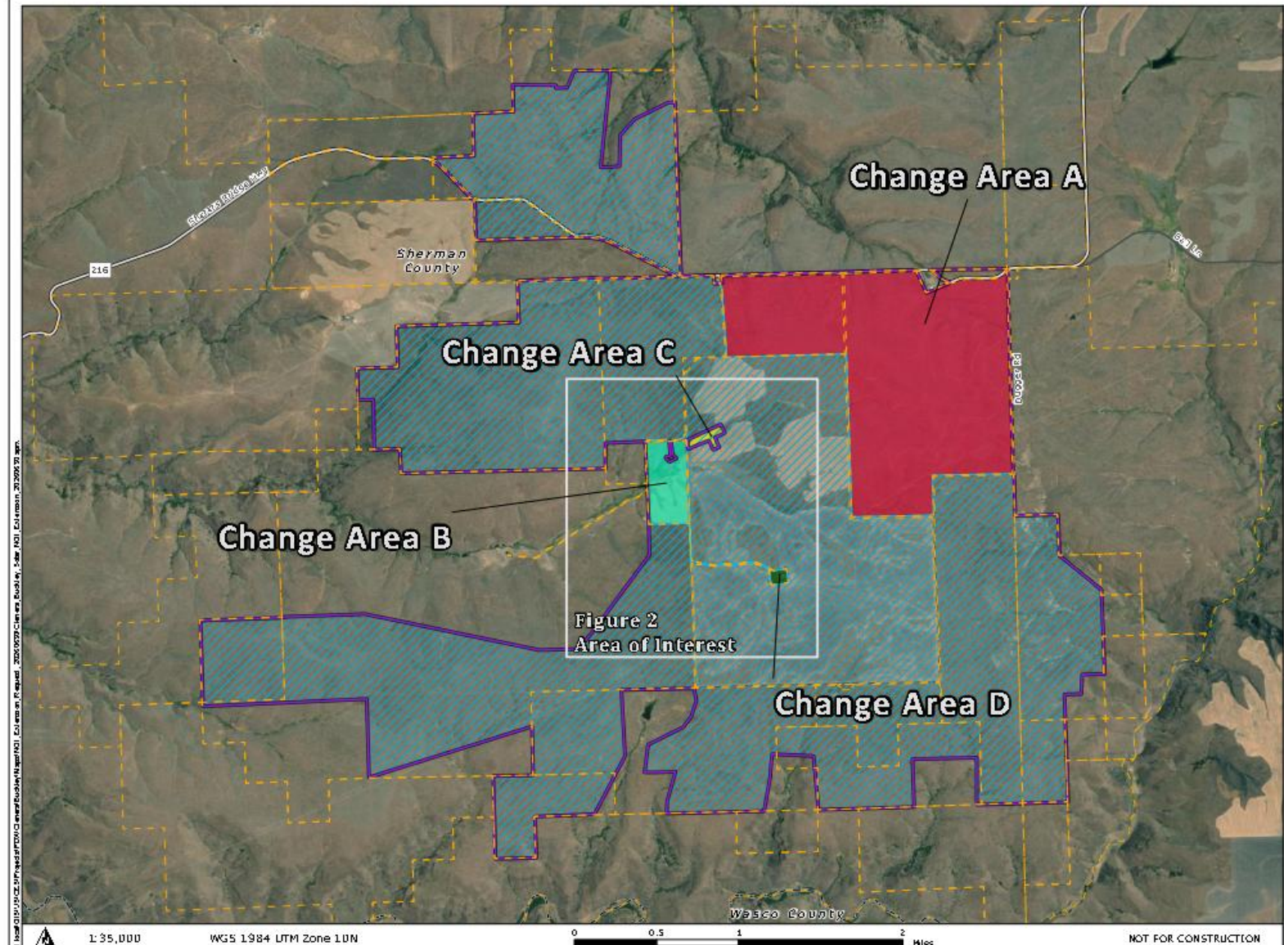
Changes to Site Boundary

Area A Changes – Removed
1,075 acres from site boundary.

Area B Changes – Removed 79 acres from site boundary

Area C Changes – Added to site boundary but will be excluded from micrositings area

Area D Changes – Removed 9 acres from site boundary.



Buckley Solar Facility

Request to Extend Expiration of Notice of Intent

Staff Evaluation and Recommendation

- An NOI Extension Request must be “timely” and for “good cause”.
- Certificate Holder submitted a “timely” NOI Extension Request
- Department reviewed the NOI extension request and recommends that Council find it meets “good cause”:
 - BPA changes in substation and transmission planning resulted in need to redesign project layout in 2025.
 - BPA redesign triggered changes in site boundary and need to redesign facility layout and point of interconnection.
 - Those changes triggered need for additional surveys for the pASC.

Department Recommends Council Approve the NOI Extension Request



Council Options

Option 1 Recommended

Approve NOI
Extension
Request

Option 2

Deny NOI
Extension
Request



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Council Deliberation

Agenda Item D

Public Hearing

Radioactive Material Transport Fee Public Hearing

Tom Jackman, Rules Coordinator

July 24, 2026

Radioactive Material Transport Fee Rulemaking Public Hearing

Agenda Overview

- Review of projected timeline for rulemaking
- Background and overview of proposed rule language
- Opportunity for public to make comments
 - In-person testimony (please fill out a comment card)
 - Testimony via Microsoft Teams
 - Testimony via phone

Note: This hearing is for receiving comments, not Q&A. Questions related to this rulemaking can be directed to Tom Jackman at tom.jackman@energy.oregon.gov

Radioactive Material Transport Fee Rulemaking Public Hearing

Rulemaking Overview

Radioactive Material Transport Fee Rulemaking Public Hearing

Timeline

Event	Date
Council authorized Notice of Proposed Rulemaking	May 15, 2026
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking filed with Secretary of State	May 29, 2026
Public hearing	July 24, 2026
Public comment period closes	July 31, 2026 5:00 p.m.
Potential Council final consideration	TBD after close of comment period

Radioactive Material Transport Fee Rulemaking Public Hearing

Rulemaking Background

- The transport fees on radioactive material are the primary source of funding for ODOE's emergency responder training and preparedness activities for radiological shipments
- ODOE helps coordinate response plans for potential radioactive material transportation accidents, developing localized strategies for on-scene management
- Current truck shipment fee remains at \$70 per shipment since 1983
- Existing reserves projected to support operations for only 3–5 more years
- Current rules exclude rail shipments despite similar emergency response risks

Radioactive Material Transport Fee Rulemaking Public Hearing

Proposed Rules

- Increase truck shipment fee from \$70 → \$125 per shipment
- Increase annual maximum permit fee from \$500 → \$750 for specified placarded shipments
- Apply equivalent fees to rail shipments
- Establish \$1,250 fee for HRCQ shipments
- Staff recommend that EFSC formalize a four-year cycle for future fee schedule review

Radioactive Material Transport Fee Rulemaking Public Hearing

Public Hearing

- Presiding Officer – Thomas Jackman
- Time Limit Per Commentor – 7 Minutes

How to Raise Your Hand in Teams

Phone Participants

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Webinar Participants

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Agenda Item E

Public Comment

Items Closed for Public Comment

- Muddy Creek Energy Park Preliminary Application for Site Certificate
- Deschutes Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Preliminary Application for Site Certificate

Time Limit

- 7 Minutes per commentor

How to Raise Your Hand in TEAMS

Phone Participants

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Break

Agenda Item F

Action Item

Soil, Structural & Waste Minimization Standard Phase III Informal Rulemaking Initiation

Tom Jackman, Rules Coordinator

July 24, 2026

Soil Protection, Structural, Waste Minimization Rulemaking

Phase III Rulemaking

- Council directed staff to explore Phase 3 rulemakings as part of the 2025–2027 Rulemaking Schedule.
- Prior phases focused primarily on the structure and clarity of application requirements.
- Phase 3 turns to the substance of Council standards and associated information requirements.
- Staff recommends informal proceedings begin for the Structural, Soil Protection, and Waste Minimization Standards.

Soil Protection, Structural, Waste Minimization Rulemaking

Siting Standards

- Organizational Expertise
- **Structural**
- **Soil Protection**
- Land Use
- Protected Areas
- Retirement and Financial Assurance
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Scenic Resources
- Historic, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources
- Recreation
- Public Services
- **Waste Minimization**
- Wildfire Prevention and Risk Mitigation
- Project specific standards

Soil Protection, Structural, Waste Minimization Rulemaking

Why Together?

- The three standards address related issues concerning physical site characteristics and construction-phase impacts.
- Information requirements can overlap on site conditions, geotechnical and seismic information, soils, erosion, stormwater, hazardous materials, spills, waste generation, and mitigation.
- Reviewing them together can reduce unnecessary repetition while preserving the information Council needs to make required findings.
- The goal is not to reduce substantive protections; the goal is clarity, tailoring, and efficient administration.

Soil Protection, Structural, Waste Minimization Rulemaking

Scope of Rulemaking

- Make each standard more decision-ready by clarifying what applicants must demonstrate and what findings Council must make.
- Evaluate duplication among standards and associated information requirements.
- Modernize requirements for solar, wind, battery storage, transmission, substations, and related infrastructure.
- Evaluate whether recurring requirements should become mandatory conditions.

Soil Protection, Structural, Waste Minimization Rulemaking

Proposed RAC

Staff recommends a Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC) of approximately 10–12 persons representing:

- Members of the public
- Power providers / Energy Developers
- Resource groups
- Federally recognized tribes in Oregon
- Local governments
- Agency partners with expertise in geology, soils, stormwater, hazardous materials, solid waste, and wastewater

Council Options

Option 1 Recommended

Approve initiation of informal rulemaking, scope, and RAC as presented

Option 2

Approve the initiation of informal rulemaking with changes

Option 3

Deny the initiation of informal rulemaking



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Council Deliberation

Agenda Item G

Information Item

Annual Process Improvement Plan

Bibi Bartley, Operations & Policy Analyst

July 26, 2026

What is the annual work plan?

- Outlines process improvement efforts that the Division has completed over the last fiscal year
- Outlines process improvement efforts that the Division will be focused on during the current fiscal year
- Created with framework from 3 main areas:
 - Participants in the EFSC Process
 - ODOE's Strategic Plan
 - Siting Division Improvement Goals

Participants in EFSC Process

- Applicants and Site Certificate Holders
- The Public
- Energy Facility Siting Council Members
- Reviewing Agencies – State agencies, local governments, and Tribal governments
- The Siting Division team

ODOE Strategic Plan 2026-2029

- Created by a collective of representatives from each team within ODOE with guidance from management committee and contractor
- Comprised of 5 Pillars, with 2-3 goals for each, along with clear action and progress indicators
- Pillars:
 - Addressing Oregon's Greatest Energy Challenges
 - Proactive, Inclusive Collaboration and Communication
 - Accessible, Effective Services and Programs
 - Aligned, Well-Supported People and Operations
 - Reliable, Responsive Data and Analysis

Pillar 3: Accessible, Effective Services and Programs

Goals:

- Strong understanding of how participant needs are considered while working within regulations and program requirements.
- Intentionally designed services and programs — and associated information resources — that are relevant and tailored to serve their intended users.
- Accessible services and programs to support participation of currently and historically underserved individuals, communities, and organizations.

Pillar 3: Siting Action

Siting Specific Action:

- Improve understanding and clarity of the Energy Facility Siting Council process for multiple participants, including the public and developers, to support an efficient and meaningful energy facility siting process.

Progress Indicators:

- Completion of public-oriented resources that explain and increase interaction with the energy facility siting process.
- Completion of developer-focused resources to help navigate the siting process and standards-based requirements.

Siting Goals

- Siting goals were 10 categories identified for improvement each with 1-3 actions
- Established in 2023-2024 with assistance of an outside consultant
- Goals:
 - Oversight & Accountability
 - Program Management
 - Performance Management
 - Staffing and Qualifications
 - Financial Transparency
 - Project Management
 - Applicant & Reviewing Agency Coordination
 - Public Engagement
 - Rulemaking Opportunities
 - Compliance Opportunities

Siting Goals: Oversight & Accountability

Goal	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
Establish clear performance metrics and develop structured accountability feedback, and correction mechanisms to support continuous program improvement.	N/A	- Siting Analyst team created weekly task tracking with weekly check in meetings to check on deliverable progress - Task accountability through weekly timesheet data, and project cost analysis - Realignment of tasks or project priority is addressed at weekly check in - Similar tracking began for the Compliance team, but due to turn over was put on pause and is restarting now	- Task tracking and weekly check ins will continue for Siting Analyst team - Task tracking with weekly check ins and task accountability with timesheet and project costs will be re-implemented for Compliance Team

Siting Goals: Program Management – Organizational Changes

Goal	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
Clarify overarching program management responsibilities and optimize the distribution of project oversight to support more effective operations.	N/A	• Senior Policy Advisor stepped back from Compliance workload management for operational facilities • Assistant Director moved into more direct oversight of Compliance workload for operational facilities	• Assistant Director will continue to onboard into the Compliance team workload and oversee the overall workload • Onboard and train new Compliance officers • Strengthen task tracking through weekly check ins and data analysis of timesheet and project costs

Siting Goals: Program Management – Fiscal Improvements

Goal	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
Strengthen internal roles for process improvement, performance tracking, and financial reporting to enhance transparency and coordination.	N/A	- Fiscal Analyst and Senior Policy Advisor have created spreadsheets to better track in real time billing on projects allowing for stronger understanding if assigned tasks were misunderstood and for the team to pivot as needed - Spreadsheets created for stronger cost estimation on projects - Spreadsheet created and reviewed monthly with team to increase cost tracking on operational facilities	- Staff will maintain and continue to improve financial tracking against task assignments - Financial updates will continue to be sent to applicants & certificate holders (for amendments) - Compliance sheets will continue to be revised and looked at on a weekly basis to create a stronger tie between workload and costs vs. estimates

Siting Goals: Performance Management

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
Define meaningful performance indicators to measure, evaluate, and report on progress at both the program and individual levels. Develop consistent accountability practices that support professional growth and shared success.	Performance metrics, responsibility scopes, & professional development: Collaborate with Siting Division staff to identify opportunities for internal training, skill building, and professional development, while also creating clear succession planning strategies. Work to clarify each team member's role and responsibilities and define success through transparent performance metrics and well-communicated expectations	- Collaborate with Siting Division staff to identify opportunities for internal training, skill building, and professional development, while also creating clear succession planning strategies. - This task was not completed in 2025-2026 due to other priorities along with turnover - Staff did complete a project management training course, but further professional development was not pursued in 2025-2026	Task not identified as a primary focus for this year

Siting Goals: Staffing & Qualifications

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
Establish and implement robust internal training and development plans to build staff capacity.	Audit desk manuals: Continue the ongoing project of auditing and refining Siting Division desk manuals. This includes consolidating individual manuals into a single, searchable PDF resource, ensuring easy accessibility for the Siting team. Develop new content as needed and implement a consistent audit schedule to maintain accuracy and relevance over time.	Efforts towards this task are in progress with some “desk manuals” (Standard Operating Procedures) having been updated	Efforts towards this task are in progress with some “desk manuals” (Standard Operating Procedures) having been updated

Siting Goals: Project Management – Project Tracking

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
Develop and implement standardized project tools and processes to improve coordination and effectiveness.	Project management: Provide ongoing project management support by collaborating with the Siting team to refine existing Excel-based project trackers. Partner with IT and the Siting team to evaluate and implement additional tools that improve tracking of workloads, project milestones, and timelines. Aim to streamline task management practices across the Division for greater efficiency and transparency	Efforts ongoing. The team made efforts towards this through project management training and implementing new or refined excel tracking sheets. These efforts are ongoing and will continue to be refined and changed as needed.	Increase support on project tracking between ODOE and contract work (Haley Aldrich). Continue to support project tracking for the Compliance team.

Siting Goals: Project Management – Doc Management

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
Develop and implement standardized project tools and processes to improve coordination and effectiveness.	Document management and cleanup: Coordinate with the Siting Team to organize and clean up shared F drive folders. Ensure all documents are properly named, filed in the correct locations, and aligned with established document management protocols. Support the development and consistent application of clear, Division-wide practices for ongoing document organization and maintenance.	In Progress Siting successfully moved to MS SharePoint, allowing for increased collaboration, and some efforts to other document management cleanup has taken place. This project will continue to be ongoing for some time.	Coordinate with the Siting and Compliance teams to train on standard procedures for record keeping and clean up historic files and ensure documents are clearly named, following naming protocols, and are aligned to present doc management protocols through training and group “clean up” days or other methods to track records are being properly maintained.

Siting Goals: Project Management – Technology

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
Leverage technology to enhance project management and coordination between applicants, reviewing agencies, and Siting Division staff	N/A	Efforts have been made by the team to use AI tools to increase efficiency of public comment processing and processing procedural documents	Continue to explore AI tools and implementing them where appropriate and helpful in Siting and Compliance processes.

Siting Goals: Applicant & Reviewing Agency Coordination – Applicant Guide

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
Expand guidance and resources to help applicants submit high-quality applications that meet expectations.	Update applicant guide: In partnership with the Siting Team and ODOE's Communications Team, update the applicant guide to improve usability and accessibility. Revisions will focus on simplifying content, enhancing clarity, and incorporating a checklist and practical tips to support applicants through the siting process. A	In Progress. Efforts towards this have started, but have not been completed in FY 2025-2026.	Update guide to reflect current standards, rules, and processes. With the update create helpful one-pagers to call out specific items that support applicants in understanding what to submit in their applications. Use the project order template to create a quick view for current policies and requirements for hot topics or controversial issues.

Siting Goals: Applicant & Reviewing Agency Coordination – RAI Process

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
Standardize and streamline the Request for Additional Information (RAI) process for greater consistency and transparency.	N/A	Staff implemented a streamlined process for RAI tracking, using an RAI table template which is issued to the applicant and all RAI requests are tracked with applicant responses	Staff will maintain this procedure in FY 2026-2027 and increase opportunities to share information to reduce lag time between ODOE and applicant communication.

Siting Goals: Applicant & Reviewing Agency Coordination

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
Clearly define and communicate roles and responsibilities for reviewing agencies, Tribes, and local governments with involved in the Siting process	N/A	N/A	Create and update one-pager for reviewing agencies to understand where they intersect with EFSC process

Siting Goals: Public Engagement - Templates and Infographics

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
- Enhance public-facing communication tools and guidance materials to make the process more accessible and understandable. - Standardize procedures for responding to public comments and testimony to promote transparency and engagement. - Use technology where appropriate to expand outreach and clarity of Siting processes.	Revise public facing templates: Collaborate with the Communications team to revise all public-facing siting templates in alignment with anticipated federal guidelines for ADA accessibility. Ensure that all updates reflect best practices for accessible communication and are implemented consistently across platforms.	<u>Complete.</u> The Siting Public Guide, along with most linked one-pagers have been updated. There are still a few documents to update, including the applicant guide. Siting documents will be fully compliant with federal accessibility requirements, supporting equitable access to information for all Invested Parties.	N/A

Siting Goals: Public Engagement – Handouts

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
- Enhance public-facing communication tools and guidance materials to make the process more accessible and understandable. - Standardize procedures for responding to public comments and testimony to promote transparency and engagement. - Use technology where appropriate to expand outreach and clarity of Siting processes.	Update printed handouts: Collaborate with the Siting team to update printed materials distributed at Energy Facility Siting Council meetings. Develop and implement a plan for regular review and updates to ensure handouts remain accurate, timely, and accessible to the public.	In Progress Some handouts have been updated, there are still 2 that need to be completed.	- Create and Update One-Pager for contested cases - Update remaining public handouts

Siting Goals: Public Engagement – Rulemaking

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
- Enhance public-facing communication tools and guidance materials to make the process more accessible and understandable. - Standardize procedures for responding to public comments and testimony to promote transparency and engagement. - Use technology where appropriate to expand outreach and clarity of Siting processes.	Update Siting Rulemaking webpages: Collaborate with the Rulemaking Coordinator and the ODOE Communications Team to update the Siting Division’s rulemaking webpages. This effort will prioritize user experience and visual clarity, ensuring information is presented in a clear, accessible, and user-friendly format.	Complete. ODOE Comms team completed as of April 2026. This project aimed to align the rulemaking webpages with guidance from the Governor’s Office to improve transparency and clarity around rulemaking activities across the state. Website also reflects changes to increase readability and accessibility.	N/A

Siting Goals: Public Engagement – Comment Portal

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
- Enhance public-facing communication tools and guidance materials to make the process more accessible and understandable. - Standardize procedures for responding to public comments and testimony to promote transparency and engagement. - Use technology where appropriate to expand outreach and clarity of Siting processes.	Comment Portal updates: Collaborate with the IT team to design and implement a new public comment portal focused on enhancing user experience, improving accessibility, and streamlining backend functionality for the Siting Division.	Not Complete. OPA began work on updating the public comment portal in partnership with the IT team in July 2024. After encountering compatibility challenges with Microsoft systems, the team explored third-party alternatives; however, cost considerations ultimately ruled them out. As a result, IT proposed a custom, in-house solution tailored to the Division’s specific needs. Due to turnover in IT this project has been put on hold.	Research and implement a solution to the public comment portal, including comment submission via email, that increases usability for both the public and the Siting team.

Siting Goals: Rulemaking Opportunities

Goals	2025-2026 Task	2025-2026 Status	2026-2027 Task
Continue efforts to refine application standards and clarify required materials to support effective and efficient reviews.	N/A	Ongoing - Multiple rulemaking efforts have been initiated and completed that help streamline processes and clarify rules. - The rulemaking alignment projects are designed to better connect the application requirement to the standards to in part, help applicants submit more complete applications.	- Create and Update one-pagers for rulemaking - Rulemaking efforts will continue to focus on clarifying standards, opportunities for participation, application and process processes

Project Outside of Goals

Cassette tapes: 1400 cassette tapes with recordings of EFSC meetings spanning from 1973-2004 have been fully digitized with the support of our contractor Digipix

Future Work Plan Focuses

- Items in future work plans will continue to build off this years items
- OPA will conduct internal survey to help inform priority projects across the Division
- Update and enhance the Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment Tool, with a goal of providing a robust database of lands that may be suitable for various types of electricity infrastructure projects.
 - This is an ongoing effort that will continue to be worked on with each contractual iteration of updates to the Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment Tool



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Questions?

Agenda Item H

Action Item

Biglow Canyon Wind Farm - Appointment of Selection Committee Member for Community Investment Plan/Agricultural Mitigation

Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor

July 26, 2026

Agricultural Mitigation Advisory Committee

Background

- On March 27, 2026, the Council issued its Final Order approving Request for Amendment 4 of the Biglow Canyon Wind Farm Site Certificate
- The Site Certificate authorizes the construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic power generation facility on up to 1,924 acres of cultivated land zoned for Exclusive Farm Use.
- Site Certificate Conditions PRE-LU-03 requires the certificate holder to make a one-time payment of \$1,600 per acre of farmland occupied by the facility to an Agricultural Mitigation Fund administered by Mid-Columbia Economic Development District under a Community Investment Plan and associated Memorandum of Agreement.



Agricultural Mitigation Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee Structure

- Under the MOA, the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District must establish a six-person Advisory Committee to make recommendations on the distribution of funds
- The committee must include one non-voting representative selected by the Council.
- The Council may select any person with subject matter expertise over statewide or regional agriculture issues pertinent to Sherman County dryland wheat farming to serve on the Committee.
- The Department consulted with the Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Wheat Growers Association to identify potential candidates

Agricultural Mitigation Advisory Committee

Recommended Appointees

Ernie Moore (primary)

- Fourth-generation dryland wheat farmer from Moro, Sherman County, Oregon
- Long-standing leader in the region's agricultural community
- Former chair of the Sherman Station Liaison Committee and Sherman Station Endowment Fund
- Supported research on dryland farming, no-till practices, and alternative crops
- Recipient of Oregon Wheat's 2024 Outstanding Volunteer Award for contributions **to agricultural research and the wheat industry**

Daisy Goebel (alternate)

- Professional land use planner with extensive experience in Oregon's agricultural communities
- Principal Planner for Morrow County, overseeing land use planning, zoning, transportation planning, and development review
- Skilled in balancing agricultural preservation, rural economic development, and property rights
- Experienced collaborating with farmers, ranchers, local governments, and state agencies
- Focused on sustaining long-term viability of agricultural lands while guiding responsible growth and development

Council Options

Option 1 Recommended

Approve Dept.
Recommended
Appointment to
Agriculture
Mitigation
Committee

Option 2

Approve other
Appointment to
Agriculture
Mitigation
Committee



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Council Deliberation

Working Lunch Break

Agenda Item I

Action Item

Oregon Trail Solar Amendment 2 – Request to Waive In-Vicinity Public Hearing

Todd Cornett, Assistant Director for Siting

July 24, 2026

Project Overview

- Under Construction 41 MW solar energy facility with 100 MW battery energy storage component
- Located in Gilliam County
- Parent company is Avangrid Power, LLC

Request for Amendment 2

Proposed changes include:

- **Split the existing site certificate**
 - Oregon Trail Solar Project (41 MW solar, under construction)
 - Shutler Battery Energy Storage System Facility (100 MW battery energy storage, under construction) with new certificate holder
- **New certificate holder**
 - Shutler Energy Storage, LLC; wholly owned by Avangrid Power, LLC

Applicable Rule Language

OAR 345-027-0367

- **Public hearing in the vicinity of the amendment location is the default**
- **Council or Council Chair may waive the in the vicinity hearing if it is determined to be unnecessary:**
 - Amendment has a limited scope
 - There is a forecasted lack of interest in the amendment
 - There is a public health and safety risk

Analysis

The Department recommends the in-vicinity requirement for the future public hearing be waived because:

- The proposed new certificate holder is an LLC with same parent company structure (Avangrid Renewables, LL) as current certificate holder
- There are no new construction, operations or design related impacts associated with proposed changes and therefore the department does not forecast interest by the public.



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Council Deliberation

Council Options

Option 1
Recommended

Waive In-
Person
Hearing

Option 2

Retain In-Person
Hearing

Agenda Item J

Information Item & Possible Action Item

Executive Order 25-29 – Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Advancing Oregon’s Clean Energy Future

Todd Cornett, Assistant Director for Siting
Joni Sliger, Senior Clean Energy Markets Analyst

July 24, 2026

Agenda Item Overview

- Overview of Executive Order 25-29
- ODOE Streamlining Report
- ODOE Reduce Barriers Report
- Council Deliberation and Comments

Executive Order 25-29 Overview

- Prioritize Implementation of the Oregon Energy Strategy Pathways published by ODOE in November 2025.
- Agencies are directed to develop and implement a coordinated, proactive, approach to streamline land use and environmental reviews, siting and permitting, and interconnection processes.

EO 25-29 I(2)(c)

“Streamline Clean Energy Siting”

- Directs ODOE to:
 - “evaluate existing authorities, rules, and practices to identify opportunities to streamline or increase the efficiency of siting and permitting processes...”
 - “Where opportunities are found to exist, ... recommend actions”
- In brief, the *Draft Report on Siting and Permitting Large-Scale Electricity Infrastructure* evaluates EFSC’s processes for opportunities for increased efficiency.

Renewable Energy Projects

Notable Project Numbers

- 13,275 MW – Total amount of electrical production of active EFSC jurisdictional projects
- 7,967 MW – Total amount of storage capacity of battery energy storage components associated with active EFSC jurisdictional projects
- 9,363 MW – Total amount of electrical production of EFSC jurisdictional projects that either terminated their site certificates without constructing, or withdrew prior to a final decision
- 3,291 MW – Total amount of approved projects that could begin construction

Renewable Energy Projects

Notable Project Timelines

- 375 days – Average time to submit preliminary application after submitting Notice of Intent
- 303 days – Average time to determine application complete
- 427 days – Average to complete contested case step when there are parties
- 187 days – Average time from complete application to final order without a full contested case
- 795 days – Average time from complete application to final order with a full contested case
- 3.5 years – Average time for projects to begin construction after approval, for those that begin construction (See Appendix 1)

Transmission Line Projects

6 – Number of transmission line projects submitted to EFSC

- 2 approved (1 operational & 1 under construction)
- 2 withdrawn
- 2 under review

Past and Current Streamlining Efforts

- Governor
 - Executive Orders
 - Reports
- Legislative
 - Statutory Changes (including 2026 bill which allows renewable projects to opt out of EFSC until December 31, 2028)
 - Reports
 - Working Groups/Committees
- Siting Division
 - Rulemaking
 - Process Improvement
 - Program Evaluations

EO 25-29 Streamlining Efforts

- Contested Case Step Review
- Artificial Intelligence
- Streamlining Information Requirements
- Modernization of Staff Organizational Structure
- Meaningful Engagement on Focused Issues
- Oregon Energy Strategy Policy Actions
- ODOE's 2026-2029 Strategic Plan

EO 25-29 I(2)(a) – “Reduce Barriers to Clean Energy Deployment”

- Directs ODOE to
 - “inventory, assess, and analyze barriers to the permitting, construction and interconnection of clean energy projects and associated infrastructure”
 - “recommend actions to overcome those barriers ...”
- Implements Oregon Energy Strategy [Electricity Action 5](#)
- In brief, the *Draft Report on Reducing Barriers to Clean Energy Deployment* evaluates clean energy deployment after the EFSC process (or county process).

Initial Inventory of Barriers

Barrier	Permitting	Construction	Interconnection
Cost	Yes	Yes	Yes
Unexpected delays	Yes	Yes	Yes
Limited cross-jurisdictional coordination	Yes	-	Yes
Limited availability of equipment and supplies	-	Yes	Yes
Limited staffing capacity	Yes	-	-
Unmet workforce needs	-	Yes	-
Limited grid capacity	-	-	Yes

Recommendations

Draft report

- Highlights relevant policy actions from Oregon Energy Strategy (such as [Cross-Cutting Action 8](#), Federal support and advocacy)
- Proposes four additional recommendations

Additional Recommendations

- Encourage interconnection applicants to voluntarily report plans to withdraw from any generator interconnection process before withdrawing. This would offer an opportunity for other interested persons to pay to avoid the withdrawal when that is preferred to facing potential delays due to a withdrawal.
- Convene an annual or semi-annual forum to discuss and evaluate opportunities to improve alignment across different processes, including permitting, interconnection, and construction. Issue a forum report summarizing potential concerns and any recommended near-term actions that were identified at the event.

Additional Recommendations – Cont'd.

- Analyze new day-ahead market operations data to inform potential mechanisms for the state to support the prioritization and funding of different interconnection costs.
- Undertake similar investigations into the barriers affecting the deployment of clean energy facilities in Oregon under 20 MW in size, including rooftop solar and behind-the meter storage resources, and into the barriers affecting the continued operations of existing small-scale energy resources, including small-scale hydroelectric and biomass facilities.

Council Options

Option 1

Add Council
Statement to
One or Both
Reports

Option 2

Do Not Add
Council
Statement to
Either Reports



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Council Deliberation



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