



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



550 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-378-4040
Toll Free: 1-800-221-8035
FAX: 503-373-7806
www.oregon.gov/energy

To: Energy Facility Siting Council

From: Todd Cornett, Assistant Director for Siting/Senior Policy Advisor

Date: July 10, 2026

Subject: Agenda Item I (Action Item):
Oregon Trail Solar Amendment 2 – Request to Waive In-Vicinity Public Hearing
for the July 24, 2026 EFSC Meeting

OVERVIEW

Oregon Trail Solar, LLC, (certificate holder), a wholly owned subsidiary of Avangrid Power, LLC filed preliminary Request for Amendment 2 (pRFA2) on May 22, 2026. pRFA2 seeks Energy Facility Siting Council (Council or EFSC) approval to transfer and split the site certificate, allocating previously approved battery storage to a new site certificate with a new certificate holder. The Site Certificate authorizes construction of up to 16 wind turbines or 400 acres of photovoltaic solar power generation components, totaling 41 megawatts (MW). Currently, the facility is under construction, where the final facility design is a 41 MW, 400 acre solar facility (no wind turbines are being constructed).

Public Hearing

Under the amendment rules, all amendments follow the same process, which includes a default in-vicinity public hearing requirement. However, the Council or the Council Chair have the authority to waive the in-vicinity public hearing requirement, if it determines it is unnecessary.

OAR 345-027-0367 – Public Comment and Hearing on the Proposed Order for Requests for Amendment

- 1. After issuance of the proposed order as described in OAR 345-027-0365, the Councils must conduct a public hearing on the request for amendment to the site certificate. The public hearing is not a contested case.*
- 2. The public hearing should take place in the vicinity of the facility, **unless the Council or Council Chair determines that doing so is unnecessary given the limited scope of the amendment or a lack of interest or that in in-person hearing would result in a heightened risk to public health and safety (emphasis added).***

If the Council or the Council Chair waives the in-vicinity public hearing requirement, there would still be a public hearing, it would just not be in the vicinity of the project.

ANALYSIS

It is important for public hearings on Requests for Site Certificate Amendments to be in the vicinity of the facility site to make it as easy as possible for those who live in the vicinity of the facility to be able to attend in person.

pRFA2 has a limited scope of proposed changes – splitting of existing site certificate and new certificate holder with the same parent-certificate holder relationship as the existing certificate holder. These type of changes typically garner minimal public interest due to the limited impact and/or applicability under Council standards. Therefore, the Department anticipates that if the in-vicinity requirement were not waived, travel costs would be incurred by the Department and Council (i.e., hotels, per-diem, mileage and room rentals for Council members and staff) with minimal to no benefit to the community and public participation. Based on these factors, the Department recommends that an in-vicinity public hearing be determined unnecessary.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION

The Department recommends Council waive the in-vicinity public hearing requirement for Oregon Trail Solar Project pRFA2 due to the limited scope of the proposed amendment and forecasted lack of interest.