



PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

EFSC 5-2025

CHAPTER 345

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENERGY FACILITY SITING COUNCIL

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CONTACT: Thomas Jackman
503-551-7603
tom.jackman@energy.oregon.gov

550 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Filed By:
Thomas Jackman
Rules Coordinator

RULES:

345-021-0090, 345-027-0001, 345-027-0110, 345-027-0210, 345-027-0311, 345-027-0351, 345-027-0357, 345-027-0360, 345-027-0363, 345-027-0365, 345-027-0367, 345-027-0368, 345-027-0371, 345-027-0372, 345-027-0375, 345-027-0380, 345-027-0385, 345-027-0400

AMEND: 345-021-0090

RULE TITLE: Amendment of an Application

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Updating outdated rule reference.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) When the applicant is preparing to submit an amended application, the applicant must notify the Department.
- (2) The applicant may amend a preliminary application at any time.
- (3) If the applicant submits an amended application after the date of filing as determined under OAR 345-015-0190 or 345-015-0310, the Department may withdraw the filing of the application until the Department has reviewed the amended application for completeness as described under OAR 345-015-0190 or 345-015-0310.
- (4) If the applicant submits an amended application after issuance of a contested case notice under OAR 345-015-0403, the Department may, by motion, request that the contested case proceeding be terminated and the Council's hearing officer may issue an order terminating the proceeding. Upon issuance of the order, the Department may withdraw the filing of the application until the Department has reviewed the amended application for completeness as described under OAR 345-015-0190 or 345-015-0310.
- (5) The applicant must submit, to the Department, two printed copies of the amended application, and an electronic version of the amended application in a non-copy-protected format acceptable to the Department. The applicant must provide additional printed copies of the amended application to the Department upon request. The applicant must prepare and distribute additional copies of the amended application in the manner described in OAR 345-015-0180.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.373, 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.350

ADOPT: 345-027-0001

RULE TITLE: Applicability

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: This is not a new rule, but rather is former OAR 345-027-0311, which has been moved to a more logical location at the start of the division. Because this rule was slightly modified, the change was done via a repeal and an adoption of a new rule, rather than a simple renumber, which does not allow for edits.

RULE TEXT:

(1) The rules in this division apply to all requests for amendment to a site certificate and amendment determination requests for facilities under the Council's jurisdiction that are submitted to or were under review by the Council on or after the effective date of the rules. The Department and Council will continue to process all requests for amendment and amendment determination requests for which Council has not made a final decision prior to the effective date of these rules, without requiring the certificate holder to resubmit the request or certificate holder or the Department to repeat or redo any steps taken as part of the request prior to the effective date of these rules.

(2) Notwithstanding section (1) of this rule, these rules do not apply to facilities described in ORS 469.410(1).

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.501

AMEND: 345-027-0110

RULE TITLE: Termination or Partial Termination of a Site Certificate

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Removing printed copy requirements, updating language for clarity, adding documentation requirement to help the Department track facility retirement, and providing direction for partial retirement.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) A certificate holder may apply to the Council to terminate a site certificate at any time, subject to the requirements of this rule.
- (2) A certificate holder must apply to the Council to terminate a site certificate within two years following cessation of construction or operation of the facility.
- (3) If the certificate holder fails to apply to the Council to terminate the site certificate and the Council finds that the certificate holder has permanently ceased construction or operation of the facility, then the Council may terminate the site certificate according to the procedure described in OAR 345-025-0006(16).
- (4) In an application for termination of the site certificate, the certificate holder must include a proposed final retirement plan for the facility and site. In the proposed final retirement plan, the certificate holder must include:
 - (a) A plan for retirement that provides for completion of retirement without significant delay and that protects public health, safety and the environment;
 - (b) A description of actions the certificate holder proposes to take to restore the site to a useful, non-hazardous condition, including information on how impacts to fish, wildlife and the environment would be minimized during the retirement process;
 - (c) A current detailed cost estimate and a plan for ensuring the availability of adequate funds for completion of retirement;
 - (d) An updated list of property owners, as described in OAR 345-021-0010(1)(f); and
 - (e) Identify the qualifications of the contractor(s) to conduct the retirement of the facility.
- (5) Within 15 days after the Department determines that the application for termination of a site certificate is complete, the Department must:
 - (a) Send notice of the application, by mail or email, specifying a deadline for comments on whether the retirement plan and cost estimate allow for restoration of the site to a useful, nonhazardous condition to:
 - (A) All persons on the Council's general mailing list, as defined in OAR 345-011-0020;
 - (B) All persons on any special list established for the facility; and
 - (C) The property owners as designated by (4)(d) of this rule.
 - (b) Send copies of the application for termination by mail or email to the reviewing agencies for the facility, and ask those agencies to comment by a specified date; and
 - (c) Post an announcement of the application for termination on the Department's website.
- (6) The Council must review the proposed final retirement plan and must consider any comments received from the public and the reviewing agencies. The Council may retain an independent evaluator to assist in conducting this review and may approve the proposed final retirement plan or modify the plan to comply with the rules of this chapter and applicable conditions in the site certificate. If the plan is approved, the Council must issue an order authorizing retirement according to the approved or modified final retirement plan and subject to any conditions the Council finds appropriate. The Council's order may be appealed as described in ORS 183.480.
- (7) When a certificate holder completes retirement of the facility, it shall promptly submit documentation to the Department demonstrating the retirement was conducted in compliance with the Council-approved final retirement plan.
- (8) When the Council finds that the certificate holder has completed the retirement of the facility according to the Council's order authorizing retirement, the Council must issue an order terminating the site certificate.
- (9) When the Council finds that the site certificate has expired as described in OAR 345-027-0313, the Council shall

issue an order terminating the site certificate.

(10) A certificate holder may apply to Council to release a portion of the site from the terms and conditions of the site certificate by following the procedures set forth in sections (4) to (7) of this rule with respect to the portion in question. When the Council finds that the certificate holder has completed partial retirement of the facility in compliance with the Council-approved partial retirement plan, the Council must issue an order amending the site certificate to remove any components that have been retired in compliance with the Council-approved partial retirement plan and make any other changes necessary to reflect the retirement of those components.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.405, ORS 469.501

AMEND: 345-027-0210

RULE TITLE: General

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Updating rule to reflect recent rulemakings, including the addition of a Wildfire Prevention and Risk Mitigation standard.

RULE TEXT:

(1) A person may not construct a gas storage testing pipeline unless the certificate holder of the Council certified facility to which the pipeline would connect obtains, before construction, the approval of the Department for the construction, operation and retirement of the proposed pipeline as required under ORS 469.405(3).

(2) For the purposes of OAR 345-027-0510 through 345-027-0540:

(a) "Gas storage testing pipeline" means a pipeline, but not a temporary pipeline, that is less than 16 inches in diameter and less than five miles in length, that is used to test or maintain an underground gas storage reservoir, and that would connect to a Council certified facility if the storage reservoir proves feasible for operational use;

(b) "Temporary pipeline" means a pipeline that has no potential for operational use;

(c) "Council certified facility" means an energy facility for which the Council has issued a site certificate that is either a surface facility related to an underground gas storage reservoir or a gas pipeline;

(d) "Connect" means join for the purpose of operational use;

(e) "Test or maintain" means transporting gas to an underground gas storage reservoir for the purposes of determining whether the reservoir is feasible for operational use or maintaining the gas storage capacity of the reservoir but does not include operational use;

(f) "Operational use" means transporting gas to an underground gas storage reservoir for the purpose of storing gas until it is needed for sale or for withdrawing gas from an underground gas storage reservoir for the purpose of sale;

(g) "Council substantive standards" means the following standards:

(A) Structural Standard, OAR 345-022-0020;

(B) Soil Protection, OAR 345-022-0022;

(C) Protected Areas, OAR 345-022-0040(1) but excluding (2) and (3);

(D) Retirement and Financial Assurance, OAR 345-022-0050;

(E) Fish and Wildlife Habitat, OAR 345-022-0060;

(F) Threatened and Endangered Species, OAR 345-022-0070

(G) Scenic Resources, OAR 345-022-0080;

(H) Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources, OAR 345-022-0090;

(I) Recreation, OAR 345-022-0100;

(J) Public Services, OAR 345-022-0110;

(K) Waste Minimization, OAR 345-022-0120;

(L) Public Health and Safety, OAR 345-024-0030(2), (3) and (4); and

(M) Wildfire Prevention and Risk Mitigation, OAR 345-022-0115.

(h) "Information requirements" means information that would support the findings described in OAR 345-024-0030(2) and the information described in OAR 345, division 22 for the standards listed above.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.405

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.405

REPEAL: 345-027-0311

RULE TITLE: Applicability

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Moving rule (with additional edits) to OAR 345-027-0001

RULE TEXT:

(1) The rules in this division apply to all requests for amendment to a site certificate and amendment determination requests for facilities under the Council's jurisdiction that are submitted to, or were already under review by, the Council on or after the effective date of the rules. The Department and Council will continue to process all requests for amendment and amendment determination requests submitted on or after October 24, 2017 for which Council has not made a final decision prior to the effective date of these rules, without requiring the certificate holder to resubmit the request or to repeat any steps taken as part of the request prior to the effective date of these rules.

(2) Notwithstanding section (1) of this rule, these rules do not apply to facilities described in ORS 469.410(1).

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.501

AMEND: 345-027-0351

RULE TITLE: Review Processes for Requests for Amendment

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Updating rule to reflect the removal of the Type A and Type B amendment tracks.

RULE TEXT:

(1) The transfer review process, described in OAR 345-027-0400, applies to the Council's review of a request for amendment to a site certificate to transfer a site certificate.

(2) The standard amendment review process, set forth in OAR 345-027-0360 through 345-027-0375, is the default review process and applies to the Council's review of a request for amendment proposing a change described in OAR 345-027-0350(2), (3), (4), or (5).

(3) A pre-operational request for amendment review process applies to the Council's review of a request for amendment that the Department or the Council approves for a pre-operational request for amendment review under OAR 345-027-0380.

(4) The Council may act concurrently on any combination of proposed changes included in a request for amendment. Concurrent proposed changes are subject to the substantive requirements applicable to each respective proposed change and the Council must review all proposed changes through the process with the more procedural steps applicable to any one of the proposed changes.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.405

AMEND: 345-027-0357

RULE TITLE: Amendment Determination Request

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Updating rule to reflect the loss of the Type A / Type B review tracks.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) For a proposed change that would add area to the site boundary, the certificate holder must either:
 - (a) Submit a request for amendment to the Department; or
 - (b) Submit an amendment determination request to the Department for a written determination of whether the proposed change requires an amendment under OAR 345-027-0350.
- (2) For a proposed change that would not add area to the site boundary, the certificate holder may submit an amendment determination request to the Department for a written determination of whether:
 - (a) The proposed change requires an amendment under OAR 345-027-0350; or
 - (b) The proposed change is exempt from requiring an amendment under OAR 345-027-0353.
- (3) An amendment determination request must be submitted in writing to the Department and must include:
 - (a) A narrative description of the proposed change;
 - (b) Maps and/or geospatial data layers representing the effects and/or location of the proposed change;
 - (c) The certificate holder's evaluation of the determinations it is requesting under sections (1) or (2) of this rule; and
 - (d) Any additional information the certificate holder believes will assist the Department's evaluation.
- (4) After receiving an amendment determination request, the Department must post an announcement on the Department's website to notify the public that an amendment determination request has been received. The announcement must include a copy of the amendment determination request.
- (5) Upon receiving a request for a written determination the Department must, as promptly as possible, issue a written determination to the certificate holder. If the Department needs more information to complete its evaluation, it must promptly identify what information it needs and request the certificate holder provide it. After the Department issues its written determination, the Department must, as promptly as possible, provide the request and the written determination to the Council and post the written determination to its website. At the first Council meeting after the Department issues its written determination, the Department must provide verbal notice of the request and the written determination to the Council during the consent calendar agenda item. The Department may refer its determination to the Council for concurrence, modification, or rejection. At the request of the certificate holder or a Council member, the Department must refer its determination to the Council for concurrence, modification or rejection.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.405

AMEND: 345-027-0360

RULE TITLE: Preliminary Request for Amendment

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Clarifying rule language, with respect to both analysis areas and how to properly rely on previously submitted evidence.

RULE TEXT:

(1) To request an amendment to the site certificate required by OAR 345-027-0350(3) or (4), the certificate holder must submit a written preliminary request for amendment to the Department that includes the following:

(a) The name of the facility, the name and mailing address of the certificate holder, and the name, mailing address, email address and phone number of the individual responsible for submitting the request;

(b) A detailed description of the proposed change, including:

(A) A description of how the proposed change affects the facility;

(B) A description of how the proposed change affects those resources or interests protected by applicable laws and Council standards; and

(C) The specific location of the proposed change, and any updated maps and/or geospatial data layers relevant to the proposed change.

(c) The request for amendment analysis areas ("RFA analysis areas"), which are based on the following:

(A) If a Project Order was issued for the facility, the area within the distances for analysis areas specified in the Project Order; or

(B) If a Project Order was not issued for the facility, the area within the distances for study areas specified in OAR 345-001-0010.

(C) If applicable, a modified site boundary, which reflects that:

(i) A proposed amendment is not contained by the existing site boundary. In this case, the RFA analysis areas would extend from the portions of the site boundary that are the subject of the amendment request; or

(ii) A proposed amendment is a subset of the existing site boundary.

(d) Any specific information that may be required for the Department to make its findings;

(e) The specific language of the site certificate, including conditions, that the certificate holder proposes to change, add, or delete through the amendment;

(f) A list of all Council standards and other laws, including statutes, rules and ordinances, applicable to the proposed change, identification of any changes in facts or law relevant to the proposed change since the date the current site certificate was executed, and an analysis supported by evidence of whether the facility, with the proposed change, would comply with those applicable laws and Council standards. For the purpose of this rule, a law or Council standard is "applicable" if the Council would apply or consider the law or Council standard under OAR 345-027-0375(2); and

(g) A list of the names and mailing addresses of property owners, as described in this rule:

(A) The list must include all owners of record, as shown on the most recent property tax assessment roll, of property located:

(i) Within 100 feet of property which the subject of the request for amendment, where the subject property is wholly or in part within an urban growth boundary;

(ii) Within 250 feet of property which is the subject of the request for amendment, where the subject property is outside an urban growth boundary and not within a farm or forest zone; or

(iii) Within 500 feet of property which is the subject of the request for amendment, where the subject property is within a farm or forest zone.

(B) In addition to incorporating the list in the request for amendment, the applicant must submit the list to the Department in an electronic format acceptable to the Department.

(2) Within 14 days of receiving a preliminary request for amendment, the Department must notify the public that a preliminary request for amendment has been received by:

(a) Sending notice by mail or email to:

(A) All persons on the Council's general mailing list as defined in OAR 345-011-0020;

(B) All persons on any special mailing list established for the facility;

(C) The reviewing agencies for the facility, as defined in OAR 345-001-0010(51); and

(D) The property owners on the list provided under subsection (1)(f) of this rule; and

(b) Posting an announcement on the Department's website to notify the public that a preliminary request for amendment has been received. The announcement must include a copy of the preliminary request for amendment.

(3) The certificate holder may rely upon evidence previously submitted to the Department in the application for site certificate and/or previous request for amendment, or evidence that is otherwise included in the Department's record on the facility if:

(a) The certificate holder explains how the evidence is relevant to and remains accurate for purposes of the requested amendment;

(b) The certificate holder updates the evidence and related analysis regarding any data, facts or additional information obtained or learned since the evidence was last submitted to the Department; and

(c) The certificate holder submits the previously relied upon evidence and any updates to the Department with its preliminary request for amendment.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.405

AMEND: 345-027-0363

RULE TITLE: Determination of Completeness for a Request for Amendment

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Updating rule to reflect removal of Type A / Type B track.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) Until the Department determines a request for amendment to the site certificate is complete, it is a preliminary request for amendment. After receiving a preliminary request for amendment, the Department may seek comments from reviewing agencies to determine whether that request is complete.
- (2) Unless the certificate holder agrees to additional time, within 45 days after receipt of a preliminary request for amendment the Department must notify the certificate holder whether the request for amendment is complete. In the notification, the Department must:
 - (a) State that the request for amendment is complete; or
 - (b) State that the request for amendment is incomplete, and:
 - (A) Describe any additional information needed to complete the request for amendment to the extent known to the Department at the time of the notification, including identification of applicable laws and Council standards not addressed in the preliminary request for amendment;
 - (B) Ask the certificate holder to submit the additional information by the due dates described in section (4) of this rule; and
 - (C) Estimate the additional time the Department will need to make a determination of completeness following the submittal of the additional information by the certificate holder.
- (3) If the Department does not notify the certificate holder as described in section (2) of this rule, the request for amendment is deemed complete 45 days after receipt of a preliminary request for amendment. Otherwise, the request for amendment is complete as determined under section (5) of this rule.
- (4) The Department may specify a date by which the certificate holder must submit additional information needed to complete the request for amendment. If follow-up requests for additional information are needed, the Department may specify dates by which the certificate holder must submit the information. At the request of the certificate holder, the Department may allow additional time for submission of the information. If the certificate holder does not submit the information by the deadline specified by the Department, including any allowed extension, the Council may reject the preliminary request for amendment. The rejection of a preliminary request for amendment is subject to appeal under ORS 469.403(3).
- (5) A request for 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 laws and Council standards. The Department must notify the certificate holder when the Department finds that the request for amendment is complete.
- (6) After receiving notification from the Department that the preliminary request for amendment is complete, the Department may require the certificate holder to prepare a consolidated request for amendment that includes all revisions to the preliminary request for amendment and all additional information requested by the Department before the determination of completeness. Upon a request by the Department, the certificate holder must submit printed and non-copy-protected electronic copies of the consolidated request for amendment to the Department, as specified by the Department.
- (7) If, after a determination that a request for amendment is complete, the Department identifies a need for additional information during its review of the request for amendment, the Department may request additional information from the certificate holder.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.405

AMEND: 345-027-0365

RULE TITLE: Proposed Order for a Request for Amendment

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Updating rule to reflect modified public comment and proposed order process.

RULE TEXT:

(1) Within 7 days after a request for amendment to the site certificate described in OAR 345-027-0350(3) or (4) or a request for amendment to apply later-adopted laws described in OAR 345-027-0390 is determined to be complete, the Department must:

(a) Send notice to the certificate holder specifying a date for issuance of a proposed order. The date of issuance of a proposed order for a request for amendment must be no later than 21 days after the date of the notice.

(b) Post an announcement on the Department's website to notify the public that a complete request for amendment has been received. The announcement must include:

(A) A copy of the complete request for amendment;

(B) The date the proposed order will be issued, as specified in the notice required by subsection (1)(a) of this rule; and

(C) A statement that the public comment period begins upon issuance of the proposed order.

(2) No later than the date specified in the notice required by subsection (1)(a) of this rule, the Department must issue a proposed order recommending approval, modification, or denial of the requested amendment. The Department may issue the proposed order at a later date, but the Department must, no later than the date the Department has specified in the notice required by subsection (1)(a) of this rule, notify the certificate holder in writing of the reasons for the delay. The proposed order may include, but is not limited to, proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, and conditions concerning the facility's compliance with applicable laws and Council Standards.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.405

AMEND: 345-027-0367

RULE TITLE: Public Comment and Hearing on the Proposed Order for Requests for Amendment

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Ensuring that the public comment period does not close until at least a week after the public hearing.

Providing an enhanced process for public participation.

Updating rule to account for loss of Type A/B review tracks.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) After issuance of the proposed order as described in OAR 345-027-0365, the Council must conduct a public hearing on the request for amendment to the site certificate. The public hearing is not a contested case hearing.
- (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 public interest or that an in-person hearing would result in a heightened risk to public health and safety.
- (3) The public hearing must be held at least 20 days after the proposed order is issued and no less than 7 days before the end of the public comment period.
- (4) Concurrent with the issuance of the proposed order as described in OAR 345-027-0365, the Department must:
 - (a) Send the notice described in section (5) of this rule by mail or email to:
 - (A) All persons on the Council's general mailing list as defined in OAR 345-011-0020;
 - (B) All persons on any special mailing list established for the facility;
 - (C) The reviewing agencies for the facility, as defined in OAR 345-001-0010(52); and
 - (D) The property owners on the list provided under OAR 345-027-0360(1)(f);
 - (b) Post the complete request for amendment, proposed order, and the notice of the proposed order and public hearing on the Department website; and
 - (c) Upon request, make physical copies of the proposed order available to the public for inspection.
- (5) The notice of the complete request for amendment, proposed order and public hearing must include:
 - (a) A description of the facility and the facility's general location;
 - (b) The name, address, email address and telephone number of the Department representative to contact for additional information;
 - (c) Addresses of the physical locations and the website where the public may review copies of the complete request for amendment and proposed order;
 - (d) The length of the public comment period, during which the public may provide written comments, if not made orally at the public hearing;
 - (e) A statement that:
 - (A) A complete request for amendment has been received and reviewed by the Department;
 - (B) The Department has issued a proposed order;
 - (f) A description of the scope and nature of public participation in a review on an amendment as outlined in sections (6), (7), and (8) of this rule, including all applicable deadlines.
- (6) To timely raise an issue regarding the request for amendment or proposed order on the record, a person must raise the issue in person at the public hearing or in a written comment submitted before the conclusion of the public comment period.
- (a) The Council will not accept or consider any further public comment on the request for amendment or on the proposed order after the close of the public comment period on the proposed order.
- (b) Notwithstanding (a), the Council will consider and include in the decision record for the request for amendment all timely responses, replies, and sur-replies relating to public comments as outlined in section (8) of this rule.
- (7) Comments – both written and oral – submitted during the public comment period must be made with sufficient

specificity to afford the Council, the Department, and the certificate holder an opportunity to respond to the issue(s) raised in the comment.

(a) To raise an issue with sufficient specificity, a person must in their comment:

(A) Identify the recommended findings of fact, conclusions of law or conditions of approval identified in the proposed order to which they object;

(B) Specify the Council standard or other applicable state and local requirements on which their objection is based; and

(C) Present facts or statements supporting that objection.

(b) If a comment is not made with sufficient specificity, the Department will not make any revisions to the draft of the final order based on that comment.

(8) All timely comments submitted during the public comment period will be subject to the following process:

(a) The certificate holder must provide a written response to written and verbal comments on the request for amendment or the proposed order;

(b) The Department can choose, but is not required to respond to written or verbal comments on the request for amendment or the proposed order;

(c) The response(s) in (a) can be limited to a statement that the public comment in question does not allow the certificate holder to substantively respond, as the comment fails to meet the sufficient specificity standard as described in (7);

(d) Reviewing agencies and members of the public may submit written replies to the responses to their own respective comments in (c);

(e) The certificate holder and Department may submit a sur-reply to the replies described in (d); and

(f) 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.

(9) During the public hearing, the Department must explain the amendment process, including the means and opportunities for the public to participate in the process. The Department may provide this explanation via a written handout.

(10) At the commencement of the public hearing, the presiding officer must read aloud the following:

(a) 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:

(A) Comment in person or in writing prior to the close of the public comment period;

(B) Raise their issue(s) 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

(b) If a comment is not made with sufficient specificity, the Council will not make any changes in its final order based on that comment.

(11) At the public hearing, any person may make comments and present information regarding the pending request for amendment without administration of an oath. The presiding officer must record all presentations made during the public hearing. The presentations are part of the decision record for the request for amendment.

(12) At the public hearing, the Council may pose questions to the certificate holder, reviewing agencies, the Department, or members of the public who submitted comments.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.405

REPEAL: 345-027-0368

RULE TITLE: Public Written Comment on the Draft Proposed Order for Requests for Amendment Under Type B Review

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Repealing this, as part of the removal of the Type A / Type B review tracks.

RULE TEXT:

(1) After issuance of the draft proposed order as described in OAR 345-027-0365, the Council must solicit and receive written public comments on the draft proposed order. The Department must specify a written comment deadline at least 20 days after the draft proposed order is issued.

(2) Concurrent with the issuance of the draft proposed order as described in OAR 345-027-0365, the Department must:

(a) Send the notice described in section (3) of this rule by mail or email to:

(A) All persons on the Council's general mailing list as defined in OAR 345-011-0020;

(B) All persons on any special mailing list established for the facility;

(C) The reviewing agencies for the facility, as defined in OAR 345-001-0010(52); and

(D) The property owners on the list provided under OAR 345-027-360(1)(f);

(b) Post the complete request for amendment, draft proposed order, and the notice of the draft proposed order and written comment deadline on the Department's website; and

(c) Make physical copies of the draft proposed order available to the public for inspection.

(3) Notice of the complete request for amendment, draft proposed order and written comment deadline must include:

(a) A description of the facility and the facility's general location;

(b) The name, address, email address and telephone number of the Department representative to contact for additional information;

(c) Addresses of the physical locations and the website where the public may review copies of the complete request for amendment and draft proposed order;

(d) The deadline for the public to submit written comments to be included in the record of the draft proposed order and how such comments should be submitted; and

(e) A statement that:

(A) A complete request for amendment has been received and reviewed by the Department;

(B) The Department has issued a draft proposed order;

(C) To raise an issue on the record of the draft proposed order, a person must raise the issue in a written comment submitted after the date of the notice of the draft proposed order and written comment deadline, and received by the Department before the written comment deadline;

(D) The Council will not accept or consider any further public comment on the request for amendment or on the draft proposed order after the written comment deadline that closes the record on the draft proposed order; and

(E) Judicial review of the Council's final order either granting or denying an amended site certificate shall be as provided in ORS 469.403.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.405

AMEND: 345-027-0371

RULE TITLE: Council's Final Decision on Requests for Amendment

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Updating to reflect enhanced public participation process and the removal of the possibility of a contested case.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) No later than 21 days after the deadline for possible sur-replies related to the proposed order discussed in 345-027-0367(8)(e), the Department must issue a draft of the final order with written analysis of any comments on the proposed order, including analysis of any responses, replies, and sur-replies, and indicate whether it recommends any changes to the proposed order. If the Department recommends any changes, it will include them in a draft of the final order.
- (2) The Department may issue the draft of the final order at a later date, but the Department must post an update of the date by which it will issue the draft of the final order on the Department's webpage for the facility.
- (3) The Department must issue notice of a draft of the final order by:
 - (a) Sending notice of the draft of the final order by mail or email to all persons, agencies, or organizations who commented during the public comment period; and
 - (b) Posting an announcement of the draft of the final order on the Department's webpage for the facility.
- (4) Notice of the draft must include:
 - (a) A description of the facility and the facility's general location;
 - (b) The physical address and website where the public may review copies of the draft of the final order;
 - (c) The name, address, email address and telephone number of the Department representative to contact for more information; and
 - (d) The date of the Council's review of the draft final order and all related comments, responses, replies, and sur-replies.
- (5) The Department may summarize the analysis it conducted to produce the draft of the final order at Council's review of the draft of the final order.
- (6) The Council, at its discretion, may pose questions to the Department, the Department of Justice, persons who commented on the proposed order, and/or the certificate holder.
- (7) After reviewing the written analysis of the comments, responses, replies, and sur-replies, along with the draft of the final order, the Council, based on the considerations described in OAR 345-027-0375, must either grant or deny issuance of an amended site certificate in a written final order. The Council's final order may adopt, modify or reject the Department's draft of the final order. If the Council grants issuance of an amended site certificate, the Council must then issue an amended site certificate, which is effective upon execution by the Council Chair and by the certificate holder.
- (8) Judicial review of the Council's final order either granting or denying an amended site certificate is as provided in ORS 469.403(3).

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.405

REPEAL: 345-027-0372

RULE TITLE: Proposed Order and Council's Final Decision on Requests for Amendment Under Type B Review

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Repealing as a result of the removal of the Type A / Type B review track.

RULE TEXT:

(1) No later than 21 days after the written comment deadline that closes the record on the draft proposed order, the Department must issue a proposed order recommending approval, modification or denial of the request for amendment to the site certificate. The Department must consider any written comments received before the close of the record on the draft proposed order and any agency consultation. The Department may issue the proposed order at a later date, but the Department must, no later than 21 days after the close of the record on the draft proposed order, notify the certificate holder in writing of the reasons for the delay.

(2) Concurrent with issuing the proposed order, the Department must issue public notice of the proposed order by posting public notice as an announcement on its website and by sending public notice by mail or email to:

(a) All persons on the Council's general mailing list as defined in OAR 345-011-0020;

(b) All persons on any special list established for the facility;

(c) The reviewing agencies for the facility, as defined in OAR 345-001-0010(52); and

(d) The property owners on the updated list provided under OAR 345-027-0360(1)(f).

(3) Notice of the proposed order must include:

(a) A description of the facility and the facility's general location;

(b) The physical and website addresses of where the public may review copies of the proposed order;

(c) The name, address, email address and telephone number of the Department representative to contact for more information; and

(d) A statement that judicial review of the Council's final order either granting or denying an amended site certificate is as provided in ORS 469.403.

(4) The Council, may adopt, modify or reject the proposed order based on the considerations described in OAR 345-027-0375. In a written order, the Council must either grant or deny issuance of an amended site certificate. If the Council grants issuance of an amended site certificate, the Council must issue an amended site certificate, which is effective upon execution by the Council Chair and by the certificate holder.

(5) Judicial review of the Council's final order either granting or denying an amended site certificate is as provided in ORS 469.403.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.405

AMEND: 345-027-0375

RULE TITLE: Scope of Council's Review

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Updating rule language to improve clarity.

RULE TEXT:

(1) In making a decision to grant or deny issuance of an amended site certificate, the Council must apply the applicable laws and Council standards required under section (2) of this rule and in effect on the dates described in section (3) of this rule.

(2) To issue an amended site certificate, the Council must determine that the preponderance of evidence on the record supports the following conclusions:

(a) The facility as amended complies with all applicable laws and Council standards;

(b) For a request for amendment to extend the deadlines for beginning or completing construction, after considering any changes in facts or law relevant to the proposed amendment since the date the current site certificate was executed, the facility complies with all laws and Council standards applicable to an original site certificate application. However, for requests to extend completion deadlines, the Council need not find compliance with an applicable law or Council standard if the Council finds that:

(A) The certificate holder has spent more than 50 percent of the budgeted costs on construction of the facility;

(B) The inability of the certificate holder to complete the construction of the facility by the deadline in effect before the amendment is the result of unforeseen circumstances that are outside the control of the certificate holder;

(C) The standard, if applied, would result in an unreasonable financial burden on the certificate holder; and

(D) The Council does not need to apply the standard to avoid a significant threat to the public health, safety or the environment;

(c) For a request for amendment to a site certificate for a fossil-fueled power plant, Council must also find the proposed change will not increase the gross carbon dioxide emissions that are reasonably likely to result from the operation of the facility by more than three percent (3%) above the estimated gross carbon dioxide emissions used to determine compliance with the applicable carbon dioxide standard in the site certificate or amended site certificate most recently issued before September 25, 2021.

(3) In making findings under section (2) of this rule, the Council must apply the applicable laws and Council standards in effect on the following dates, regardless of when the site certificate was previously approved or amended:

(a) For the applicable substantive criteria under the Council's land use standard, as described in OAR 345-022-0030, the date the request for amendment was submitted; and

(b) For all other applicable laws and Council standards, the date the Council issues its final order on the request for amendment.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.401, 469.405, 469.413(2), 469.504

AMEND: 345-027-0380

RULE TITLE: Pre-Operational Requests for Amendment

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Updating name for Type C amendments given the loss of the Type A/B distinction.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) A certificate holder may only request a pre-operational request for amendment when the change proposed in the request for amendment relates to the facility, or portion/phase of the facility, not yet in operation, but approved for construction in the site certificate or amended site certificate. A certificate holder may not request a pre-operational request for amendment proposing to extend construction deadlines.
- (2) Requests under section (1) of this rule must be submitted in writing to the Department and must include:
 - (a) A complete request for amendment, including the information described in OAR 345-027-0360(1);
 - (b) The reasons why the certificate holder needs a pre-operational request for amendment review of its request for amendment;
 - (c) An explanation of why the proposed change could not have been reasonably foreseen by the certificate holder;
 - (d) An explanation of why the proposed change is unavoidable; and
 - (e) Reasons why a pre-operational request for amendment review is adequate to prevent significant adverse impacts to the resources and interests protected by applicable laws or Council standards.
- (3) Upon receiving a request under sections (1) and (2) of this rule, the Department must post the request and the request for amendment on the Department's website.
- (4) Within 3 business days after receiving a request under sections (1) and (2) of this rule, the Department must issue a written determination either granting or denying a pre-operational request for amendment review. Upon issuance, the Department must post the written determination on its website.
- (5) If the Department denies a pre-operational request for amendment review, the certificate holder may request the Department's determination to be referred to the Council. If requested, the Department must refer its determination to the Council for concurrence, modification or rejection. Upon a Department determination being referred to the Council, the Council chair must convene a Council meeting as promptly as possible as described in OAR 345-011-0015.
- (6) To grant a request under section (1) of this rule, the Department or the Council must find:
 - (a) Construction of the certificated energy facility, or portion of the certificated energy facility, has not been deemed complete;
 - (b) The request for amendment is complete;
 - (c) A pre-operational request for amendment review is necessary;
 - (d) The proposed change could not have been reasonably foreseen by the certificate holder;
 - (e) The proposed change is unavoidable; and
 - (f) A pre-operational request for amendment review is adequate to prevent significant adverse impacts to the resources and interests protected by applicable laws or Council standards.
- (7) Within 7 days after a request under section (1) of this rule is granted, the Department must:
 - (a) Issue a draft temporary order approving or denying the request for amendment, including a recommendation to the Council on whether Council review should be completed through the standard amendment review process set forth in OAR 345-027-0360 through 345-027-0375 ; and
 - (b) Post the draft temporary order on the Department's website.
- (8) The Council must, at its first meeting following the Department's issuance of a draft temporary order, consider the draft temporary order and consider whether review should be completed through the standard amendment review process. Upon issuance of a draft temporary order, the Council chair may call a special Council meeting, as described in OAR 345-011-0015, to be held as promptly as possible.
- (9) After considering the draft temporary order and the Department's recommendation on whether review should be completed through the standard amendment review process, the Council must adopt, modify, or reject the draft

temporary order based on the considerations described in OAR 345-027-0375, and the Council must decide whether review should be completed through the standard amendment review process. In a written temporary order, the Council must either temporarily grant issuance of an amended site certificate, or deny issuance of an amended site certificate.

(10) Before implementing any change approved by the Council's temporary order, the certificate holder must submit an authorized acknowledgement that the certificate holder accepts all terms and conditions of the temporary order.

(11) If review is to be completed through the standard amendment review process, review proceeds as described in OAR 345-027-0360 through 345-027-0375, where the temporary order replaces all references to the proposed order.

(12) Action taken by the certificate holder under the authority of the temporary order that is inconsistent with the language and conditions of the final order is not a violation so long as the inconsistency is remedied by the certificate holder as specified by the Council in the final order.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.405

AMEND: 345-027-0385

RULE TITLE: Request for Amendment to Extend Construction Deadlines

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Removing the requirement for providing a need reason and clarifying the timing of extension requests.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) The certificate holder may request an amendment to the site certificate to extend the deadlines for beginning or completing construction of the facility, or portion/phase of the facility, that the Council has approved in a site certificate or an amended site certificate by submitting a preliminary request for amendment in accordance with OAR 345-027-0360. The preliminary request for amendment must be submitted to the Department before the applicable construction deadline, but no earlier than the date twelve months before the applicable construction deadline.
- (2) A preliminary request for amendment received by the Department within the time allowed under section (1) of this rule to extend the deadlines for beginning and completing construction suspends expiration of the site certificate or amended site certificate until the Council acts on the request for amendment. If the Council denies the extension request after the applicable construction deadline, the site certificate is deemed expired as of the applicable construction deadline specified in the site certificate or amended site certificate.
- (3) If the Council grants an amendment under this rule, the Council must specify new deadlines for beginning or completing construction that are no more than three years from the deadlines in effect before the Council grants the amendment.
- (4) For amendment requests under this rule to extend construction deadlines for facilities or portions of the facility, the Council may [extend the deadline for beginning construction of a facility or a phase of a facility for a period of time not to exceed nine years, calculated from the granting of the original site certificate.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.370, 469.405, 469.503

AMEND: 345-027-0400

RULE TITLE: Request for Amendment to Transfer Ownership, Possession or Control of the Facility or the Certificate Holder

NOTICE FILED DATE: 06/18/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Updating rule references based on recent rule changes.

RULE TEXT:

(1) For the purpose of this rule:

(a) A request for amendment to a site certificate to transfer the site certificate is required for a transaction that results in a change in the ownership, possession or control of the facility or the certificate holder.

(b) "New owner" means the person or entity that will gain ownership, possession or control of the facility or the certificate holder.

(2) When the certificate holder has knowledge that a transaction that requires a transfer of the site certificate as described in section (1)(a) of this rule is or may be pending, the certificate holder must notify the Department. In the notice, the certificate holder must include the name and contact information of the new owner, and the date of the transfer of ownership. If possible, the certificate holder must notify the Department at least 60 days before the date of the transfer of ownership.

(3) A transaction that would require a transfer of the site certificate as described in subsection (1)(a) of this rule does not terminate the transferor's duties and obligations under the site certificate until the Council approves a request for amendment to transfer the site certificate and issues an amended site certificate. The new owner may not construct or operate the facility until an amended site certificate as described in section (10) of this rule or a temporary amended site certificate as described in section (11) of this rule becomes effective.

(4) To request an amendment to transfer the site certificate, the new owner must submit a written request to the Department that includes the information described in OAR 345-022-0010 and OAR 345-022-0050, a certification that the new owner agrees to abide by all terms and conditions of the site certificate currently in effect and, if known, the expected date of the transaction. If applicable, the new owner must include in the request the information described in 345-024-0500(4)(b)(O)(iv).

(5) The Department may require the new owner to submit a written statement from the current certificate holder, or a certified copy of an order or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, verifying the new owner's right, subject to the provisions of ORS Chapter 469 and the rules of this chapter, to possession or control of the site or the facility.

(6) Within 15 days after receiving a request for amendment to transfer the site certificate, the Department must send a notice of the request that describes the request for amendment to transfer the site certificate, specifies a date by which comments are due, and states that the date of the Council's transfer hearing will be announced on the Department's website, by mail or email to:

(a) All persons on the Council's general mailing list; as defined in OAR 345-011-0020;

(b) All persons on any special list established for the facility;

(c) The reviewing agencies for the facility, as defined in OAR 345-001-0010(52); and

(d) The property owners on the updated list submitted under section (4) of this rule.

(7) Before acting on the request for amendment to transfer the site certificate, the Council must hold a transfer hearing. The Council must hold the transfer hearing during a Council meeting and must provide notice of the hearing on its meeting agenda, which will be sent by mail or email to the Council's general mailing list in advance of the meeting. The transfer hearing is not a contested case hearing. During the hearing the Council will accept comments from the public, reviewing agencies and new owner regarding the new owner's compliance with the Council standards described in subsection (8)(a) of this rule.

(8) At the conclusion of the transfer hearing or at a later meeting, the Council may issue an order approving the request for amendment to transfer the site certificate if the Council finds that:

(a) The new owner complies with the Council standards described in OAR 345-022-0010, 345-022-0050 and, if

applicable, OAR 345-024-0710(1); and

(b) The new owner is or will be lawfully entitled to possession or control of the site or the facility described in the site certificate.

(9) Except as described in OAR 345-027-0351(5), the Council may not otherwise change the terms and conditions of the site certificate in an order approving the request for amendment to transfer the site certificate.

(10) Upon issuing the order described in section (8) of this rule, the Council must issue an amended site certificate that names the new owner as the new certificate holder or as the new owner of the certificate holder. The amended site certificate is effective upon execution by the Council chair and the new owner. The Council must issue the amended site certificate in duplicate counterpart originals and each counterpart, upon signing, will have the same effect.

(11) If the Council chair determines that special circumstances justify emergency action, the Council chair may, upon a written request from the new owner that includes a showing that the new owner can meet the requirements of section (8) of this rule, issue a temporary amended site certificate that names the new owner as the new certificate holder or as the new owner of the certificate holder. The temporary amended site certificate is effective upon execution by the Council chair and the new owner. The temporary amended site certificate expires when an amended site certificate as described in section (10) of this rule becomes effective or as the Council otherwise orders.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 469.470

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 469.401, 469.405