



Hermiston Generating Plant
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Hermiston, OR 97838

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March 7, 2018

Duane Kilsdonk
Compliance Officer
Oregon Department of Energy
550 Capitol St NE 1st Floor
Salem, OR 97301
TRK# 7711 4657 3127

Re: Hermiston Generating Company Site Certificate Amendment Determination Request (ADR) for the UECA 230 kV line modification.

Duane,

Enclosed are the project description, evaluation and map of the proposed UECA 230 kV line modification for Hermiston Generating Co. LP's Site Certificate amendment determination.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Rose, Operations and Compliance Specialist, at (541) 564-8317.

Sincerely,

Bradley Knight
General Manager
Hermiston Generating Co. LP
78145 Westland Rd.
Hermiston, OR 97838

Hermiston Generating Company, LP description and evaluation for Site Certificate amendment determination.

Hermiston Generating Company, L.P. (“HGC”) and PacifiCorp are the joint holders of a Site Certificate issued by the State of Oregon acting by and through the Energy Facility Siting Council (“EFSC”). HGC and PacifiCorp may be referred to collectively in this written assessment as the “Holder” of the Site Certificate. The Site Certification approves and authorizes the Holder to construct, operate and eventually retire a natural gas-fired combustion turbine energy facility (“Energy Facility”), together with certain related or supporting facilities, at a site near Hermiston in Umatilla County, Oregon. The Energy Facility and the related or supporting facilities are referred to collectively as the “Facility.”

Among the related or supporting facilities identified in the Site Certificate is a 230 kV electric transmission line (“230 kV Line”) owned and operated by the Umatilla Electric Cooperative Association (“UECA”). The 230 kV Line carries electricity from the Energy Facility to the Bonneville Power Administration’s McNary substation. The 230 KV was constructed as an upgrade to an existing 115 kV line owned by UEC at the time the Site Certificate was originally issued. UECA has no ownership interest in the Energy Facility or HGC and is not a “Holder” for purposes of the Site Certificate.

The Site Certificate identifies several conditions specifically applicable to the 230 kV Line, including each of the following:

- Holder shall place electric transmission towers to avoid, to the greatest extent possible given the existing UECA corridor, the narrow strip of alluvium along the Umatilla River that may be subject to liquefaction. If this strip cannot be avoided, the transmission towers shall be constructed so as to otherwise mitigate for the risk of liquefaction.
- Placement of electrical transmission towers will include setbacks from cut slopes associated with the quarry east of the Umatilla River, along the electric transmission line route.
- With the exception of the alternate alignment described in Holder’s amendment to the application for site certificate (dated December 24, 1993), and the one-quarter mile section of new right-of-way required immediately south of the McNary substation, the transmission line upgrade shall be constructed substantially along the route of the existing UECA right-of-way. Any new right-of-way required for the transmission line shall avoid populated areas to the extent practicable. Holder shall configure the transmission lines to reduce EMF. Upon certification and throughout the construction and operation of the facility, Holder shall provide on request by the public, information in Holder’s possession or publicly available related to EMF levels associated with the power plant and related transmission lines.
- To minimize the impact on future development in the city of Umatilla, the transmission line upgrade shall follow easements 60 feet from the centerline in

either direction (120 feet total) except as necessary to comply with other federal, state, and local regulations or other Site Certificate conditions.

- The transmission line shall either span or otherwise avoid wetlands areas. Poles shall be set back from the Umatilla River as much as possible.
- Raptor protection shall be employed in the design and construction of the transmission towers according to the methods described by Olendorff et. Al. 1981. All energized facilities shall be designed with either a minimum separation of nine feet, or other measures to reduce the potential for electrocution of raptors or other birds.
- If construction of the transmission line occurs during the spring growing season for Columbia Milkvetch (*Astragalus succumbens*), any population of the plant within 50 feet of the proposed transmission line poles shall be flagged and avoided by construction activities.
- Holder shall take all reasonable steps to avoid disturbance of the West Extension Irrigation Canal during construction and operation of the transmission line by ensuring that transmission towers/poles are placed away from the canal banks, and by avoiding any disturbance at the canal crossing when electric lines are strung.
- Holder shall consult with the irrigation district in which the canal is located before construction or the upgrading of the transmission line in in the area of the canal in order to learn whether there are any applicable restrictions.
- The transmission line shall be designed so that alternating current electrical fields shall not exceed 9 kV per meter at one meter above the ground surface in areas accessible to the public.
- The transmission line shall be designed so that induced currents resulting from the transmission line and related facilities will be as low as reasonably achievable. Holder shall agree to a program, or assure the entity responsible for the transmission line agrees to a program, which shall provide reasonable assurance that all fences, gates, cattle guards, trailers, or other permanent objects or structures that could become inadvertently charged with electricity shall be grounded through the life of the line.
- The transmission line shall be designed, constructed and operated in a manner consistent with the National Electric Safety Code, Section C2, 1990 Edition (American National Standards Institute), as well as the Rural Electrification Administration standards, where applicable.

Holder has complied with each of the forgoing conditions.

Holder understands that UECA wishes to make certain modifications to its 230 kV Line for the sole purpose of providing retail electric service to UECA members located nearby (the "Modification"). The Modification consists of installing two taps to the existing 230 kV Line. The Modification is necessary for UECA to extend its

distribution system beyond the Energy Facility in order to integrate two new UECA-owned distribution substations. UECA will use these new line extensions and substations to provide retail electric service to its members.

The Modification will have no impact, either directly or indirectly, on the Energy Facility itself or its operations. The Modification is not being done to provide energy service to Holder. The Modification will occur within and will not add area to the site boundary. Holder does not consider the taps and other associated equipment to be installed by UECA in connection with the Modification to be part of the Facility for purposes of the Site Certificate.

Holder has carefully reviewed the Site Certificate as well as EFSC's applicable administrative rules and has concluded that the Modification does not require an amendment to the Site Certificate. OAR 345-027-0053(5) states that:

An amendment to a site certificate is not required if the proposed change in the design, construction or operation of a facility is in substantial compliance with the terms and conditions of the site certificate, and is a change . . . [t]o a transmission line that is a related or supporting facility if the change would extend or modify the transmission line or expand the right-of-way, when the change is exclusively to serve the transmission needs of a separate energy facility or energy user . . .

As applied here, the Modification to be undertaken by UECA does not require an amendment to the Site Certificate so long as: (i) the Facility remains in substantial compliance with the applicable terms and conditions of the Site Certificate; and (ii) the Modification is exclusively to serve the transmission needs of a separate energy user. Holder finds that the Modification satisfies both of these criteria.

The Modification will not adversely affect Holder's compliance with any of the terms and conditions of the Site Certificate. As noted above, there are several express conditions in the Site Certificate that specifically apply to the construction, operation and modifications to the 230 kV line. The Modification will occur within the existing designated transmission corridor and will not involve relocating any of the transmission poles or towers now serving the Energy Facility. The Modification will not disturb any wetlands, canals or populated areas as identified in the Site Certificate. It will not materially alter any EMF, induced currents or alternating current electrical fields now associated with the 230 kV Line. UECA shall design, construct and operate the Modification in a manner consistent with the National Electric Safety Code.

The Modification is being completed by UECA exclusively to serve the transmission needs of separate energy users. Holder did not request or otherwise require the Modification, and is not paying any portion of the costs. Holder understands that UECA has one or more new large retail customers located within its service territory that require a substantial energy supply. Such retail customers are completely separate from Holder and from the Energy Facility. Holder has no physical, financial or other business relationship to these customers. UECA has determined in its reasonable judgment that a

safe and cost-effective way to meet the transmission needs of these retail customers is to tap its existing 230 kV Line. The Modifications will not be part of the Facility and will confer no direct benefits on Holder's ownership, operation or retirement of the Energy Facility.

In compliance with OAR 345-027-0055(1)(b), Holder has completed this written evaluation in support of its conclusion that the Modification does not require an amendment to the Site Certificate. Holder concludes that no amendment is required because the Modification meets the exemption criteria set forth in OAR 354-027-0053(5). This written assessment has been completed prior to UECA implementing the Modification. Holder shall retain this written assessment for the life of the Facility, and it will be included in Holder's next annual report as a Facility Modification Report required under OAR 345-026-0080(g).

Holder conferred in good faith with staff of the Oregon Department of Energy ("ODOE") prior to UECA's completion of the Modification. In addition to exchanging email correspondence, on March 5, 2018 representatives from UECA and Holder spoke by telephone with Duane Kilsdonk of ODOE about the Modification. While Holder understands that the conversation was not intended to be binding upon ODOE and EFSC, Mr. Kilsdonk concurred with Holder's assessment that no amendment to the Site Certification is necessary in connection with the Modification. Mr. Kilsdonk further specifically agreed that the Modification falls within the exception set forth in OAR 354-027-0053(5).

