

# PUBLIC NOTICE



## Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility II

### Notice of Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 1

#### Summary

Date Notice Issued: November 18, 2020

Issuance of Proposed Order: The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), staff to the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), issued a Proposed Order on Request for Amendment 1 (RFA1) of the Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility II (WREFII) Site Certificate (proposed order) on November 18, 2020. The proposed order recommends EFSC approve RFA1 and grant an amended and two original site certificates, subject to existing and recommended amended conditions.

Amendment Request: Wheatridge Wind II, LLC (certificate holder) seeks approval to split 550 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar facility components and site boundary, as approved in the WREFII site certificate, into three facilities, under individual site certificates, resulting in an amended and two original site certificates.

Facility Location: Morrow and Umatilla counties

Type B Amendment Review: This amendment request is being processed under Type B review in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 345, Division 27. This notice is provided to inform the public of the Department's issuance of a proposed order, but under Type B review does not include an opportunity to submit comments or request a contested case proceeding.

**Description of Facility (Under Construction/Approved):** The Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility II is approved to include up to 550 MW of wind and solar energy facility components within a 12,432 acre site boundary expanding across Morrow and Umatilla counties. The facility is approved to be developed in phases. The first phase includes 200 MW of wind energy facility components (80 wind turbines and related or supporting facilities) in Morrow County, and is expected to be in commercial operation in November 2020. Approved facility components not yet constructed include 200 MW of wind energy facility components (up to 117 wind turbines) and 150 MW

of solar facility components (use or occupy up to 900 acres), or any combination of wind and solar facility components not exceeding 350 MW. Remaining approved wind facility components must be constructed by May 2023; solar facility components must be constructed by November 2025.

**Description of Requested Amendment:** Certificate holder seeks EFSC approval of an amendment to the WREFII site certificate to split 550 megawatts (MW) of previously approved wind and solar facility components and site boundary into three facilities, under individual site certificates, resulting in an amended and two original site certificates.

The three facilities would include WREFII (200 MW wind facility within 7,850 acre site boundary in Morrow County - under existing certificate holder ownership); Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility III (WREFIII) (150 MW solar facility within 2,294 acre site boundary in Morrow County - under new certificate holder ownership, Wheatridge Solar Energy Center, LLC); and, Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility East (WREFE) (200 MW wind facility within 4,582 acre site boundary in Umatilla and Morrow counties - under new certificate holder ownership, Wheatridge East Wind, LLC).

The new certificate holders for WREFIII and WREFE are wholly-owned subsidiaries of the existing certificate holder owner, NextEra Energy Resources, LLC. The three facilities would share related or supporting facility components and would have overlapping site boundaries.

**Facility Location (Existing and Proposed):** The existing WREFII site boundary extends across Morrow and Umatilla counties, south of Interstate 84 and northeast of Lexington. The proposed amended WREFII and WREFIII site boundaries would be located entirely in Morrow County, bisected by Oregon Highway 207, approximately 5 miles northwest of Lexington and 7 miles northwest of Heppner. The proposed amended WREFE site boundary would extend across Morrow and Umatilla counties; WREFE wind facility components would be located in both Morrow and Umatilla counties, approximately 16

miles northwest of Heppner. WREFII, WREFIII and WREFE site boundary area would overlap in parts of the transmission line corridor extending from the wind facility components in Umatilla County to the WREFII collector substation in Morrow County. Maps presenting the proposed amended site boundaries and regional location of WREFII, WREFIII and WREFE are provided at the end of this notice. For detailed maps, please see Figures 1 through 4 in RFA1 on the Department's website at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/WREF-II.aspx>, or visit our online mapping tool at <https://tinyurl.com/EFSCmap>.

**EFSC Review Process:** The amendment request is being processed under "Type B" review, per OAR 345-027-0368 and -0372. The proposed order considers all comments received on the record of the draft proposed order within EFSC jurisdiction. The proposed order recommends approval of the changes proposed in RFA1 and issuance of an amended WREFII site certificate and two original site certificates for WREFIII and WREFE, based entirely on previously imposed site certificate conditions and mitigation plans, unless otherwise evaluated in the order.

EFSC will review the proposed order at its November 19, 2020 meeting to be held remotely with opportunity for attendance via teleconference (phone) or WebEx (internet log-in). EFSC may adopt, modify or reject the proposed order based on the considerations described in OAR 345-027-0375. In a written final order, EFSC shall either grant or deny issuance of an amended and two original site certificates. Judicial review of Council's final order granting or denying the amendment request is as described in OAR 345-027-0372(5) and Oregon Revised Statute 469.403. For more information relating to EFSC standards, please visit: <http://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/Siting-Standards.aspx>

#### **Receipt of this Notice:**

Please note that you may be receiving this notice for multiple reasons:

1. You own property within or adjacent to (within 500 feet) the property on which the facility (existing and proposed) site boundaries are located. You will automatically receive all future notices on this facility.
2. You have requested to receive paper notices on the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility or Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility II. If you wish to be removed from this mailing lists, please contact Sarah Esterson.
3. You have previously signed up via GovDelivery/ClickDimensions or by contacting ODOE to receive notices related to the Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility or Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility II or all EFSC project-related notices. You will automatically receive all future notices per your request, unless you unsubscribe via ClickDimensions or by contacting ODOE.

**More Information:** Please contact Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor, at the phone, email address or mailing address listed in this notice.

Sarah Esterson, Senior Policy Advisor  
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Salem, OR 97301  
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More information about the facility and updates on the review process is available using any of the following options.

- 1) **Oregon Department of Energy's webpage:** More details on WREFII including RFA1, Draft Proposed Order and Proposed Order are available online at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/WREF-II.aspx>.

Additional resources to help you participate in the state siting process can be found at: <http://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/pages/default.aspx>

**2) Updates by email/mail:** Subscribe to ClickDimensions, a self-managed, automated email system that sends notices and updates on WREFII as well as any or all other energy facilities and events under EFSC jurisdiction. For more information, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ODOE-EFSC>.

To receive notices by U.S. Mail, please contact Sarah Esterson.

**3) In hardcopy:**

Hard copies of RFA1, Draft Proposed Order and Proposed Order are available for public inspection at following location at no cost. Hard copies will be provided at reasonable cost upon request to the Department:

Oregon Department of Energy  
550 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Please contact Sarah Esterson if you wish to arrange a time to inspect RFA1, Draft Proposed Order or Proposed Order.

**Accessibility information:**

The Oregon Department of Energy is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. If you require any special physical or language accommodations, or need information in an alternate format, please contact Michiko Mata at 503-378-3895, toll-free in Oregon at 800-221-8035, or email to [michiko.mata@oregon.gov](mailto:michiko.mata@oregon.gov).

Figure 1: Proposed WREFII Site Boundary

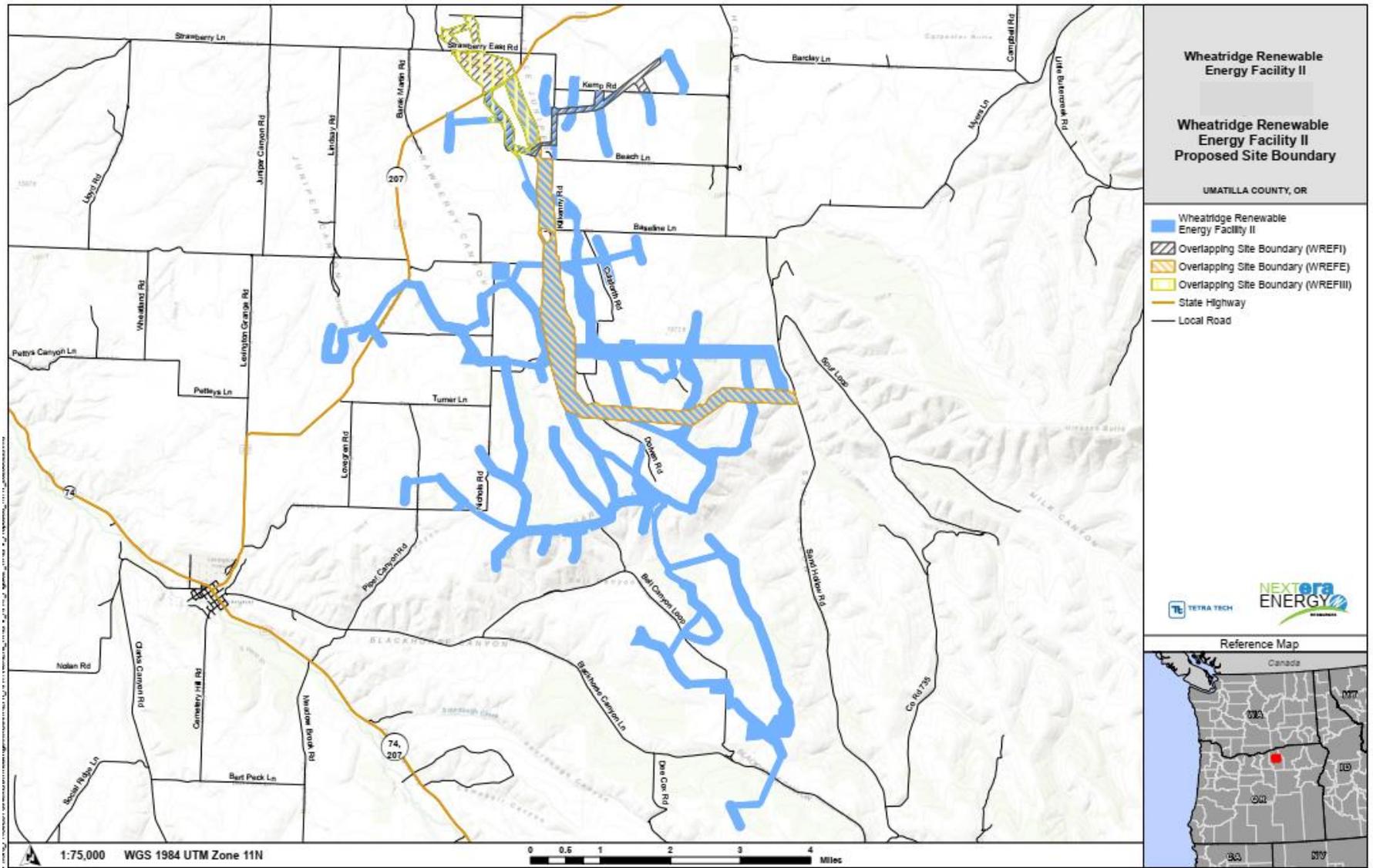




Figure 3: Proposed WREFE Site Boundary

