



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR A SITE CERTIFICATE FOR THE PROPOSED BASELINE WIND ENERGY FACILITY

Date: July 8, 2010

Baseline Wind, LLC, (the applicant) has submitted a "Notice of Intent for a Site Certificate for the Baseline Wind Energy Facility" (NOI). The Oregon Department of Energy (Department) requests public comment on the NOI.

Copies of the NOI will be available for public inspection at the Oregon Department of Energy, 625 Marion St. NE, Salem, Oregon; at the Gilliam County Library, 310 S. Main in Condon; at the Arlington Public Library, 500 West First Street in Arlington; and at the Boardman Library, 200 South Main Street in Boardman. The NOI will be available at the Department's Hermiston Field Office, 395 E. Highland Avenue in Hermiston (please call for an appointment, 541-567-3840). The NOI and selected attachments are available from our website: www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/SITING/announce.shtml.

The Proposed Baseline Wind Energy Facility

The proposed Baseline Wind Energy Facility (BWEF) would have a peak generating capacity of up to 500 megawatts. The NOI does not state a range of possible turbine sizes, but assuming that the applicant would propose turbine sizes in the range of 1.5-MW to 3.0-MW, the BWEF would consist of 166 to 333 wind turbines. Other facility components include up to four substations, an operations and maintenance facility, up to 10 meteorological towers, access roads, and aboveground and underground transmission lines. The proposed facility site is entirely on private lands located in Gilliam County approximately 7 miles south of Arlington and 12 miles north of Condon. The NOI contains a more detailed description of the proposed facility.

The applicant intends to connect the BWEF to the regional transmission system through a proposed new Bonneville Power Administration substation (the Diamond Butte Substation) located adjacent to the existing 500-kV Ash-Marion transmission line. Aboveground 230-kV transmission lines would connect the facility substations to the BPA substation.

Informational Meeting

Thursday, August 12, 2010

7:00 PM

Arlington Grade School Cafeteria

1200 Main Street

Arlington, Oregon

The Department will hold an informational meeting on the NOI on August 12, 2010, in Arlington. At the meeting, the Department will explain the site certificate review process and opportunities for public participation. The applicant will answer questions. The public may comment on the proposed facility and may ask questions about the facility and the site certificate process.

The informational meeting is not a contested case hearing. Instead, it is an opportunity to ask questions and give comments about the proposed BWEF at a very early stage in the process. A formal public hearing (described in OAR 345-015-0220) will be scheduled much later in the process after the Department has issued a Draft Proposed Order. Failure to comment in person or in writing on the record of that future public hearing precludes participation in any later contested case proceeding and the right to appeal the Council's final decision. Any comments made at the informational meeting on August 12 do not preserve these rights.

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Site Certificate Review Process

Before the BWEF can be built, the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (Siting Council) will review the site certificate application and decide whether the proposed facility complies with the requirements for a site certificate. The NOI contains preliminary information about the facility and its potential impacts. The NOI simply provides notice to the Department and to the public that the applicant intends to submit a site certificate application in the future.

The NOI lets the public know about the proposed facility and gives interested state agencies and affected local governments an opportunity to identify applicable requirements and special issues of concern. The public may comment on the NOI so that local concerns can become known and the applicant can address them in the site certificate application.

The applicant expects to submit a Preliminary Application for a Site Certificate in November 2010. If the Preliminary Application is not complete, the Department will ask the applicant to submit additional information. The additional information will be provided to the public in an Application Supplement when the Department determines that the application is complete. At that time, the Department will issue a public notice and request public comment on the complete application.

The application must demonstrate that the proposed BWEF meets standards established under ORS 469.501 by the Siting Council and set forth in OAR Chapter 345, Divisions 22 and 24. The applicant intends to satisfy the Land Use Standard by seeking a Siting Council determination under ORS 469.504(1)(b) instead of seeking separate land use determinations by Gilliam County. The Siting Council will consult with Gilliam County and will apply the local land use ordinances identified by the county as being applicable to the proposed land use.

The Department serves as staff to the Siting Council and conducts the application process. The Department's website at oregon.gov/ENERGY/SITING/process.shtml includes a full description of the site certificate review process.

Comments on the Notice of Intent

You may comment on the NOI at the information meeting on August 12 or by sending written comments to the Department. **This comment period ends on August 13, 2010.** Written comments or questions can be submitted by regular mail, e-mail or fax and must be received by the deadline. If you want to submit a comment, or if you have questions about the proposed facility or the site certificate process, contact the Department's project officer, John G. White, Oregon Department of Energy, 625 Marion St. NE, Salem OR 97301-3742, Fax: 503-373-7806, E-mail: john.white@state.or.us.

For More Information

The public will have additional opportunities to comment on the BWEF later in the process. Future public comment opportunities will be announced on the Department's website. The Department will post all announcements and notices about the proposed BWEF on the website at this location: oregon.gov/ENERGY/SITING/announce.shtml.