
PUBLIC NOTICE

Golden Hills Wind Project

Request for Amendment #1 to Site Certificate

Summary

Date this Notice was Issued: December 30, 2011

Proposal: Amendment to Site Certificate for 400 megawatt (MW) wind generation project

Location: Northern Sherman County, on both sides of Highway 97, between the cities of Wasco and Moro.

Deadline for Comment for Inclusion in Proposed Order: January 30, 2012

Expected Date of Proposed Order: February 27, 2012

Introduction

Golden Hills Wind Farm LLC (certificate holder) has submitted a "Request for Amendment No. 1 to Golden Hills Wind Project Site Certificate" for a construction deadline extension (Request for Amendment). The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) requests comment on the amendment request.

The amendment request would change Condition III.D.1 of the Site Certificate to extend the deadline for beginning construction from June 18, 2012 to June 18, 2014 and the deadline to complete construction from June 18, 2015 to June 18, 2017. The amendment would not increase the generating capacity of the facility or change the construction footprint.

Golden Hills Wind Project (GHWP)

The Golden Hills Wind Project is a wind-energy generation facility with electrical capacity of up to 400 megawatts. The facility could consist of up to 267 wind turbines. The turbine towers will be up to 80 meters (263 feet) tall at the turbine hub and will have an overall height of up to 128 meters (420 feet). The certificate holder will site the turbines within 900-foot corridors, with their precise locations within each corridor determined based on the wind turbine model selected and various siting criteria. The facility will be located on private land subject to long-term wind energy leases that the certificate holder has negotiated with the landowners.

The project will also include related and supporting facilities including:

- two substations, each approximately two acres in size
- an underground power-collection system
- a 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, approximately 11 miles long, located west of Highway 97
- an operations and maintenance building
- approximately 50 miles of access roads
- up to six permanent meteorological towers

On its eastern side, GHWP will share a 230 kV transmission line along Sandon Road with the Hay Canyon wind project, which has already received approval from Sherman County.

Location of Proposed Project

The proposed Golden Hills Wind Project will be located on approximately 30,000 acres of privately owned, Exclusive Farm Use-zoned land in northern Sherman County, both east and west of Highway 97, between the cities of Wasco and Moro. Two hundred (200) megawatts will connect to the grid at Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) transmission line near the Klondike Substation. The remainder of the power will interconnect at BPA's John Day Substation about 12 miles to the north. The vast majority of the site is currently used for production of dry land wheat.

The Siting Council's Review Process

After reviewing the proposed amendment and any comments received, ODOE will prepare a Proposed Order that will recommend to the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) the approval, modification, or denial of the amendment request. Upon the release of the Proposed Order, ODOE will issue a public notice that will announce a 30-day period for comments or requests for a contested case hearing. The notice will explain the right to request a contested case hearing on the Proposed Order.

Comment Period

Public comments on the Request for Amendment are encouraged to help the applicant identify issues and concerns early in the process. Comments must be submitted *in writing* by mail, e-mail, hand-delivery or fax and are **due by January 30, 2012 at 5 p.m.** Please send comments to:

Chris Green, Applications Analyst
Oregon Department of Energy
625 Marion St. NE
Salem, OR 97301-3742
E-mail: chris.green@state.or.us
Fax: (503) 373-7806
Phone: (503) 378-5050

Please Note: This is only the *first* opportunity to provide comments on the proposed amendment. ODOE will also solicit comments after issuing the Proposed Order.

More Information

If you have questions, or would like more information, please contact the Applications Analyst above.

Additional details of the project can be found in the Final Order and Site Certificate available at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/SITING/GHW.shtml>

A detailed description of the Siting Process is available at:

<http://oregon.gov/ENERGY/SITING/process.shtml>

Copies of the Request for Amendment are available for public inspection at:

Oregon Department of Energy
625 Marion Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Sherman County Public/School Library
65912 High School Loop
Moro, OR 97309