

**OAR CHAPTER 345 – OREGON ENERGY FACILITY SITING COUNCIL  
RULES EFFECTIVE DEC. 20, 2022**

**DIVISION 15 - PROCEDURES GOVERNING COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING  
SITE CERTIFICATE HEARINGS**

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**Exemptions from Council Jurisdiction**

**345-015-0350 - Council Determination of Exemption**

The Council shall, upon request, determine whether a proposed facility or proposed expansion of a facility is exempt from the requirement to obtain a site certificate. A site certificate is not required for:

(1) A facility for which no site certificate has been issued that, on August 2, 1993, had operable electric generating equipment for a modification that uses the same fuel type and increases electric generating capacity, if the site is not enlarged and:

(a) The ability of the facility to use fuel for electricity production under peak steady state operating conditions is not more than 200 million Btu per hour (higher heating value) greater than it was on August 2, 1993; or

(b) The facility expansion is called for in the short-term plan of action of an energy resource plan that has been acknowledged by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon.

(2) Construction or expansion of any interstate natural gas pipeline or associated underground natural gas storage facility authorized by and subject to the continuing regulation of the Federal Energy Regulatory commission or successor agency.

(3) A high efficiency cogeneration facility, as defined in OAR 345-001-0010.

(4) A small generating plant or an expansion to a small generating plant, as defined in OAR 345-001-0210, if the Council finds that the accumulated effects do not have a magnitude similar to a single generating plant with an average electric generating capacity of 35 megawatts or more, as described in OAR 345-001-0210(3).

(5) An energy facility as defined in ORS 469.300(11)(a)(G), if the facility meets the requirements of ORS 469.320(2)(f).

(6) A standby generation facility as defined under ORS 469.320.

Stat. Authority: ORS 469.470

Stat. Implemented: ORS 469.320

**345-015-0360 - Contents of Request for Exemption**

(1) Except as noted in (8), Any person wishing to construct and operate a facility exempt from Council jurisdiction shall submit a request for exemption to the Department of Energy before beginning construction. A person shall not construct or expand a facility as defined in OAR 345-001-0010 unless the Council has granted an exemption as described in OAR 345-015-0370 or has issued a site certificate or an amendment to an existing site certificate.

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(2) In a request for an exemption under OAR 345-015-0350(1)(a) for a modification of a facility for which no site certificate has been issued that will not increase the ability of the facility to use fuel for electricity production under peak steady state operating conditions to more than 200 million Btu per hour (higher heating value) greater than it was on August 2, 1993, the person shall provide the following information in support of the request:

- (a) A detailed description of the proposed upgrade or expansion;
- (b) The proposed and current facility fuel use;
- (c) The proposed and current nominal electric generating capacity;
- (d) The proposed and current related or supporting facilities and site boundary;
- (e) The proposed and current heat rate; and
- (f) Verification that the facility had operable electric generating equipment on August 2, 1993.

(3) In a request for an exemption under OAR 345-015-0350(1)(b) for modification of a facility for which no site certificate has been issued that is called for in the short-term plan of action of an energy resource plan that has been acknowledged by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon, the person shall provide the following information in support of the request:

- (a) The information described in subsections (2)(a) through (f) of this rule;
- (b) Identification and discussion of the portion of the short-term plan of action of an energy resource plan that calls for the facility expansion; and
- (c) The Public Utility Commission of Oregon Order acknowledging the plan described in subsection (b).

(4) In a request for an exemption under OAR 345-015-0350(2) for construction or expansion of an interstate natural gas pipeline or associated underground natural gas storage facility authorized by and subject to the continuing regulation of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the person shall provide a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the proposed pipeline or associated underground natural gas storage facility, or other comparable evidence that the proposed pipeline or storage facility is within that agency's jurisdiction.

(5) In a request for an exemption based on a very efficient use of fuel (high efficiency cogeneration) under OAR 345-015-0350(3), the person shall provide the following information in support of the request:

- (a) Detailed information on proposed fuel use, power plant design, steam or heat output to the thermal host and proposed electric output;
- (b) Detailed information on the current facility, including fuel to be displaced, current steam or heat use and current electric output if any;
- (c) A detailed engineering assessment of fuel efficiency, showing that the proposed facility is a high efficiency cogeneration facility under the definition in OAR 345-001-0010. The person shall provide

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calculations in sufficient detail to facilitate independent review by the Department. The person shall state the underlying assumptions necessary to support the calculation including assumptions concerning the energy content of fuel displaced; and

(d) A description of the facility, including the thermal host, the proposed energy facility, the location by address as well as township and range and any associated linear equipment needed.

(6) In a request for an exemption of a small generating plant or expansion of a small generating plant, as defined in OAR 345-001-0210, the person shall include the following information:

(a) A description of the proposed small generating plant or proposed expansion to a small generating plant and a description of related or supporting facilities;

(b) Identification of the person or persons who will construct, operate and own the plant;

(c) An analysis of the factors described in OAR 345-001-0210(3); and

(d) Any other information the Department of Energy determines the Council needs to make the finding described in OAR 345-001-0210(3).

(7) In a request for an exemption under OAR 345-015-0350(5) for a plant that converts biomass to a liquid fuel, the person shall include the following information:

(a) A description of the proposed plant, including, but not limited to, the location, acreage and annual production capacity of the proposed plant and the type of liquid fuel the plant will produce;

(b) A description of the feedstock verifying that the facility will use only the types of feedstock described in ORS 469.320(2)(f);

(c) The identity of the affected local government that has given land use approval under the applicable acknowledged comprehensive plan and land use regulations and copies of all land use approval documents the local government has issued;

(d) The statewide planning goals or rules of the Land Conservation and Development Commission that are directly applicable to the facility and evidence to support a finding by the Council that the facility complies with those goals and rules;

(e) A description of the expected electrical loads and fuel needs of the facility and a statement verifying that the facility requires no new electric transmission lines or gas or petroleum product pipelines that would require a site certificate; and

(f) A statement verifying that the plant will produce synthetic fuel, at least 90 percent of which will be used in an industrial or refueling facility located within one mile of the facility or will be transported from the facility by rail or barge and evidence that adequate rail and barge facilities are available to serve the proposed site.

(8) ~~In a request for an exemption under OAR 345-015-0350(76) for a standby generation facility, the person shall include the following information: are not required.~~

~~(a) A description of the proposed standby generation facility.~~

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~~(b) Identification of the person or persons who will construct, operate and own the plant.~~

~~(c) Verification that the facility has received local land use approval under the applicable acknowledged comprehensive plan and land use regulations of the affected local government and that the facility complies with all statewide planning goals and applicable rules of the Land Conservation and Development Commission.~~

~~(d) Verification, as described in ORS 469.320(2), that the standby generators have been approved by the Department of Environmental Quality as having complied with all applicable air and water quality requirements.~~

~~(e) Verification, as described in ORS 469.320(2), that the standby generators are electrically incapable of being interconnected to the transmission grid.~~

Stat. Authority: ORS 469.470

Stat. Implemented: ORS 469.320

### **345-015-0370 - Consideration of Request for Exemption**

(1) Except as described in section (2), within 45 days after receipt of a request for exemption, the Department of Energy shall review the request for exemption for completeness and provide the requestor with either a notice of filing of the request for exemption or a request for additional information. When the Department finds the submitted request for exemption is complete, the Department shall issue a notice of filing. Within 60 days after issuing the notice of filing, the Department shall review the request, prepare a proposed order for Council action and bring the matter before the Council for action.

(2) When submitting a request for exemption, the requestor shall submit the fee established by the Council as described in ORS 469.441. The requestor is liable for reimbursement of any review expenses beyond the initial fee that are incurred by the Department of Energy and Council relating to the review and decision by the Council.

Stat. Authority: ORS 469.470

Stat. Implemented: ORS 469.320, ORS 469.421, ORS 469.441

### **345-015-0380 - Loss of Exemption**

(1) In accordance with ORS 469.320(6), any person operating a facility for which the Council previously granted an exemption under ORS 469.320(2)(c) and that has experienced a substantial loss of steam host resulting in a substantial loss in fuel use efficiency must submit an application for a site certificate within 12 months of the loss.

(2) Any person proposing to enlarge the site of a facility previously determined to be exempt under 469.320(2)(a) must submit an application for a site certificate.

(3) Any person submitting an application for a site certificate under section (1) or (2) may request expedited review as described in OAR 345-015-0300 or OAR 345-015-0310 if the average electric generating capacity of the energy facility is less than 100 megawatts.

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(4) Any person operating a plant that the Council has determined exempt under OAR 345-015-0350(5) must apply for a site certificate before making any change in the operation of the plant such that the plant would no longer meet the requirements of ORS 469.320(2)(f).

Stat. Authority: ORS 469.373, ORS 469.470

Stat. Implemented: ORS 469.320