

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Madras Solar Energy Facility

### Receipt of Preliminary Request for Amendment 1 of Site Certificate

**Summary:**

Date Notice Issued: July 3, 2024

Approved Facility: A not-yet constructed 63 megawatt (MW) solar generating facility with up to 63 MW of battery storage, and related and supporting facilities located on 284 acres.

Amendment Request: Extension of construction commencement and completion deadlines by three years. Change in parent company.

Approved Facility Location: Jefferson County, approximately 5.5 miles west of the City of Madras.

Review Process: Certificate holder requests review under the Type B amendment process, which is being evaluated by Oregon Department of Energy (Department) staff.

Information Only: *Please note, this notice is to provide early notification of this amendment request. There is no comment period associated with this phase of review.*

**Introduction:** On June 25, 2024, the Department, staff to the Energy Facility Siting Council (Council or EFSC), received preliminary Request for Amendment 1 (pRFA1) for the Madras Solar Energy Facility site certificate. In pRFA1, the certificate holder includes a request that the amendment be processed under Type B review per OAR 345-027-0357(8).

The current certificate holder is Madras PV1, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ecoplexus Inc. (parent company)

**Description of Approved Facility:** The Madras Solar Energy Facility is an approved, but not-yet constructed, solar photovoltaic energy generation facility with a nominal generating capacity of 63 MW and up to 63 MW of battery storage.

Approved and not-yet-constructed related and supporting facilities include an electrical collection system, 34.5-kilovolt (kV) to 230-kV step-up transformers, a substation, operations and

maintenance enclosure, point of interconnection switching station, and the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

Council approved the site certificate for the facility on June 25, 2021. The site certificate requires facility construction to commence by June 25, 2024 with a completion deadline 18 months from construction start date.

**Description of Amendment Request:** The pRFA1 seeks Council approval for the following changes to the site certificate:

1. Extend construction start and completion dates by 3 years. The certificate holder requests to change the construction commencement date from June 25, 2024 to June 25, 2027; the construction completion deadline is established at 18 months from the commencement date.
2. Change of certificate holder's parent company from Ecoplexus Inc. to Fresh Air Power Development, LLC. The certificate holder will remain Madras PV1, LLC.

No other changes are requested in preliminary Request for Amendment 1 (pRFA1).

**Facility Location:** Maps of the approved site boundary are included in this notice. The approved facility map is available at:

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

**EFSC Review Process:**

Overview

The site certificate amendment process is a consolidated, comprehensive siting process. The certificate holder must demonstrate that the facility, with the proposed changes, meets all applicable EFSC standards established under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 469.501 and set forth in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapters 345, Division 22, 24 and 27 as

well as all other applicable Oregon statutes, rules and standards.

#### Preliminary Request for Amendment

The current phase consists of staff reviewing the amendment request, along with applicable state agencies, local governments and tribal governments to ensure there is information adequate for Council to make findings or impose conditions on all applicable Council standards.

#### Complete Request for Amendment

Under OAR 345-027-0363(5), an amendment is complete when the Department finds that the certificate holder has submitted information adequate for the Council to make findings or impose conditions on all applicable Council standards.

#### Draft Proposed Order (DPO)

This document is staff's initial recommendation to EFSC, who are the final decision makers, on whether or not each applicable standard is met. The DPO will include staff's analysis of the amendment request as well as comments received from state agencies, local governments and tribal governments. The DPO will include recommended findings of facts, conclusions or law and may include new and/or amended conditions.

Issuance of the DPO will initiate a public comment period.

Under Type A review, in addition to the written public comment period there will be a public hearing which includes an opportunity for oral comments. At that time, to preserve your right to request a contested case proceeding and any subsequent appeal of EFSC's decision, you must comment during the public comment period on the DPO, either orally at the public hearing or in writing during the comment period.

Under Type B review, there is a public comment period on the Draft Proposed Order, but there is no public hearing. Comments on the Draft Proposed Order must be submitted in writing before the comment deadline. There is no contested case proceeding.

Following the conclusion of the comment period on the DPO, EFSC will review the DPO and all submitted

comments and provide their comments to the Department.

#### Proposed Order

Following the conclusion of the DPO comment period, the Department must issue a Proposed Order, the staff's second recommendation to EFSC. Changes made from the DPO to the Proposed Order are based on the comments of the Council and any other comments made before the close of the public comment period.

#### Contested Case

To determine that a request justifies a contested case, the Council must find that the request raises a significant issue of fact or law that may affect the Council's determination that the facility, with proposed changes, meets the applicable laws and Council standards. A contested case is only applicable to a Type A review process. There is no contested case in a Type B review process.

#### Final Order

Following the Contested Case proceeding, or the Proposed Order phase if no requests for a Contested Case are received and granted by EFSC, EFSC will issue a Final Order either approving or rejecting RFA1. If approved, an Amended Site Certificate will be issued.

For more information, 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 site boundary is located. You will automatically receive all future notices on this facility.
2. You have requested to receive paper notices on the Madras Solar Energy Facility. If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please contact Nancy Hatch.
3. You have previously signed up via GovDelivery/ClickDimensions or by contacting ODOE to receive notices related to the Madras Solar Energy Facility 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 Chase McVeigh-Walker, Senior Siting Analyst, at the phone, fax, email address or mailing address listed below:

Chase McVeigh-Walker, Senior Siting Analyst  
550 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 971-600-5323  
Fax: (503) 373-7806  
Email: [chase.mcveigh-walker@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:chase.mcveigh-walker@energy.oregon.gov)

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 the Madras Solar Energy Facility, and the certificate holder's pRFA1 are available online at: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/MSE.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 related to the Madras Solar Energy Facility 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 Chase McVeigh-Walker using the contact information listed above.

**3) In hardcopy:** A hard copy of pRFA1 is available for public inspection at:

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

Please contact Chase McVeigh-Walker if you wish to arrange a time to review hard copies. Hard copies

will be provided at reasonable cost upon request to the Department.

**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 Nancy Hatch at 503-428-7905, toll-free in Oregon at 800-221-8035, or email to [nancy.hatch@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:nancy.hatch@energy.oregon.gov).

Figure 1: Madras Solar Energy Facility – Approved Facility Site Map

