



# Oregon

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**To:** Energy Facility Siting Council

**From:** Christopher M. Clark, Senior Siting Analyst

**Date:** June 10, 2022

**Subject:** Agenda Item J (Action Item):  
Appointment of Morrow County Board of Commissioners as the Echo Solar  
Project Special Advisory Group for the June 23-24, 2022 EFSC Meeting

**Attachments:** 1. Draft Special Advisory Group Appointment Order

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## BACKGROUND

Under ORS 469.480(1), the Council must designate the governing body of any local government within whose jurisdiction a facility is proposed to be located as a special advisory group for the review of an Application for Site Certificate. The Special Advisory Group is tasked with identifying applicable substantive criteria from its acknowledged comprehensive land use plan and land use ordinance which the applicant and proposed facility must comply.

On May 10, 2022, the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE or Department) received a Notice of Intent to File an Application for a Site Certificate (NOI) for a 1,250-megawatt solar photovoltaic power generation facility in Morrow County, Oregon.<sup>1</sup> The NOI was submitted by Echo Solar, LLC (applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of Pine Gate Renewables, LLC. The applicant expects to submit its preliminary Application for Site Certificate (ASC) in early 2023.

The proposed facility would be located within an approximately 10,900 acres (17 sq. mile) site located adjacent to Highway 207 approximately 4 miles west of Butter Creek Junction and 15 miles northeast of Lexington. The site consists entirely of private land zoned for Exclusive Farm Use. According to the NOI, approximately 94 percent of the site is currently cultivated cropland.

## RECOMMENDATION

Because the facility is proposed to be located within Morrow County, staff recommends the Council designate the Morrow County Board of Commissioners as the special advisory group for EFSC proceedings associated with the proposed facility.

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<sup>1</sup> The NOI, and additional materials, are available from:

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/ESP.aspx>