

KLICKITAT COUNTY  
DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE (DS)  
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS  
Lund Hill Solar Project  
EOZ2018-01 AND SEP2018-22

**Name of Proposal:** Lund Hill Solar Project

**Description of proposal**

Aurora Solar, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Avangrid Renewables, LLC, proposes to develop a 150-megawatt (MW) solar energy facility about 8 miles southeast of Bickleton, Washington. The applicant is considering various layouts within a larger "Solar Facility Siting Area". The fenced siting area is comprised of approximately 1,700 acres, and is located primarily on private land, with one section of land owned by Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in unincorporated Klickitat County. The applicant is currently working with DNR to execute a lease for the property. The project is located adjacent to several existing wind energy facilities (Big Horn to the north and west; Juniper Canyon to the northeast; and White Creek and Harvest Wind to the southwest).

The project will consist of the following components:

- The project would utilize an estimated 515,700 solar modules, which use crystalline cells to generate electricity by converting sunlight into direct current electrical energy. The modules would be connected in series to form long rows. The rows of modules would then be connected together via combiners, cables, and switchboards. The configuration of multiple rows can vary depending on the equipment type and topography.
- Strings of solar modules would be mounted on single-axis tracker systems that optimize electricity production by rotating the solar modules to follow the path of the sun throughout the day. As the solar modules turn throughout the day, the height of their top edges will shift accordingly. The solar modules would have maximum height of 14 feet when rotated to their full extent. Each tracker would be supported by multiple steel posts, which could be round hollow posts or pile-type posts. A total of approximately 71,625 steel posts would be installed in concrete foundations.
- Low voltage cabling would connect the solar modules of each tracker string in series and combine multiple strings to a single combiner box. Cabling from multiple combiner boxes would connect to a single inverter, which would convert the direct current to alternating current and connect to the buried collection system.
- A battery energy storage system, consisting of a series of up to fifty (50) 40-foot by 8-foot containers capable of storing 2 MW per container, would be located adjacent to the collector substation within the project's fenced area.

- The project would utilize either the current Big Horn operation and maintenance (O&M) building, or a new 5,000-square-foot O&M building within the siting area.
- The project would use existing roads to the extent practicable, as well as new access roads that would be constructed for this project. New access roads would be constructed in accordance with the Klickitat County Code Title 12 standards.
- Approximately 48,000 feet of chain-link perimeter fencing, 6 feet in height plus 1 foot of barbed wire, would enclose the 1,700-acre siting area.
- The project would be connected to the existing Juniper Canyon Wind Farm 230-kV transmission line, which runs through the fenced area to connect to the larger energy grid via BPA's Rock Creek Substation, located southwest of the project.

It is assumed that all areas within the 1,700-acre siting area would be permanently impacted by the project. However, the project would be designed to avoid streams and wetlands in this area to the extent practicable. Final solar modules configuration would be sited in accordance with industry standards and safety measures and environmental constraints identified during this EIS process.

### **Proponent**

Aurora Solar, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Avangrid Renewables, LLC

### **Location of proposal**

The project area would be located about 26 miles east of Goldendale, Washington, about 8 miles southwest of Bickleton and about 3 miles directly north of State Highway 14. The Solar Facility Siting Area would overlap with portions of the Big Horn and Juniper Canyon wind facilities. The project is located within Sections 25, 35, 36, Township 5 North, Range 20 East; Sections 1, 2, 12, Township 4 North, Range 20 East; Sections 31, 32, Township 5 North, Range 21 East; and Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 20, Township 4 North, Range 21 East, WM, Klickitat County, Washington.

### **Lead agency**

Klickitat County Planning Department

An environmental impact statement (EIS) is being prepared in keeping with the requirements of RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c). The Applicant has elected to prepare an EIS for this project.

Two alternatives are being addressed in this EIS: 1) A *No Action* alternative will address the effects of no government action, under which the proposed project would not occur, and 2) An *Action* alternative will address the effects of the proposed project as proposed by Aurora Solar LLC.

The following topics will be addressed in the EIS: project description, land use, vegetation and wildlife, critical areas, visual resources, cultural resources, noise, transportation, public safety, public services and utilities, construction, and cumulative impacts. The project will also address the development standards outlined in Chapter

19.39 of the Klickitat County Code. The applicant will prepare special technical studies addressing wildlife and habitat (including avian resources), cultural resources, grading and stormwater management and other applicable studies.

**Scoping.** Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

Comments on the scope of the EIS will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. December 21, 2018. Comments shall be submitted to the Klickitat County Planning Department, 228 West Main, Goldendale, WA 98620 or via email to [planning@klickitatcounty.org](mailto:planning@klickitatcounty.org)

**Community Meeting.** Aurora Solar, LLC will be hosting a community meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 5:30pm at the Bickleton Grange Hall. At the meeting, the applicant will provide information on the proposed project, and answer questions from the public.

**Responsible official:** Mo-chi Lindblad

**Position/title:** Planning Director, Klickitat County Planning Department

**Phone:** 509.773.5703

**Address:** 228 West Main Street, Goldendale, WA 98620

Date: 11/16/2018 Signature 

You may appeal this determination of significance.

Appeals on the Determination of Significance (DS) will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. December 14, 2018. Appeals must be filed with the Board of County Commissioners and the Klickitat County Auditor. Appeals shall not be deemed complete without payment of the appeal fee applicable to a Class C project, payable to the Klickitat County Planning Department. Appeals shall be in writing and state with specificity the basis for the appeal and the errors to be asserted.

There is no agency appeal.