

**Notice of Availability of the
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the
Bluebird Solar Project**

EOZ2021-01 AND SEP2021-17

DATE OF ISSUANCE:

December 30, 2021

PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE:

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Bluebird Solar Project (Project) is being released for public review and comment. A thirty (30) day comment period will begin on January 5, 2022, and end on February 4, 2022. All comments received during the comment period will be reviewed and considered in preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

PROPOSERS: Aurora Solar, LLC (Applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of Avangrid Renewables, Inc.

PURPOSE OF THE EIS:

The purpose of the DEIS is to evaluate the Project's probable, significant adverse environmental impacts.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

- The Project is to develop a 100-megawatt (MW) solar energy facility about 26 miles east of Goldendale, and about 12 miles north of State Highway 14. No onsite battery energy storage system is proposed.
- The applicant is considering various layouts within a larger "Solar Facility Siting Area" containing approximately 1,638 acres. The Solar Facility Siting Area would overlap with portions of the Big Horn Wind Facility. The fenced area is comprised of approximately 670 acres and would include solar modules, inverters, I-beam steel posts, fencing, 20-ft wide gravel roads and a collector substation located across Big Horn Road from the Big Horn gen-tie line.
- The proposed Project would consist of the following components:
 - The solar modules use crystalline cells to generate electricity by converting sunlight into direct current electrical energy. The project would utilize solar modules 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 a 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. The steel posts would be installed by drilling 6" holes into shallow bedrock (surface to 3 feet of soil) and driving posts into the bedrock holes.
 - 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 above ground or buried collection system.
 - 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. New access roads would be constructed in accordance with the Klickitat County Code Title 12 standards.
- An 8-foot chain link perimeter fence would enclose the solar energy generation facility.
- The project would be connected to the existing Big Horn Wind Farm 230-kV Gen-Tie line, which runs on the east side of Big Horn Road. The Big Horn gen-tie line connects to the larger energy grid via BPA's Spring Creek switchyard located northwest of the Project.

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL:

The Project area is located approximately 26 miles east of Goldendale, Washington, about 12 miles north of State Highway 14. The Solar Facility Siting Area would overlap with portions of the Big Horn wind facility. The project is located within Sections 9, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21 and 22, Township 5 North, Range 20 East, WM, Klickitat County, Washington.

AVAILABILITY OF DEIS COPIES:

Copies of the DEIS can be reviewed or obtained at the Klickitat County Planning Department at the address below. The DEIS is also available online at <http://klickitatcounty.org/1096/Solar-Projects>

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

Comments on the DEIS must be in writing and must be received by 5pm on **February 4, 2022**. Comments on the DEIS should be addressed to the SEPA responsible official, whose name and contact information are identified below.

Mo-chi Lindblad, Director
Klickitat County Planning Department
115 West Court St, MS-302
Goldendale, WA 98620
Email: planning@klickitatcounty.org