

New windfarm construction begins December

300 workers expected at peak



Representatives of the new windfarm coming to Morrow County attended a meeting with local people last week. (L-R): Scott Elliott, wind asset manager with Portland General Electric which is partnering on the project; WCVEDG, sponsor of the meeting, Executive Director Sheryll Bates and Nextera project managers Alyssa Kruger and Keleigh Wright.

By David Sykes

Construction on a new windfarm in Morrow County is expected to start in December and will see 300 workers on the project at its peak, representatives of the company behind the project said last week. Project managers from Nextera Energy were in Heppner to brief locals on what to expect when construction gets underway. Construction will last until October of 2020.

First phase of the Wheatridge Energy project will be installing 292 wind turbines from north of Ione over by Butter Creek and into Umatilla County. Starting in February of next year a 150 MW solar farm will also be built and 100 workers will be on the site then. The windfarm will employ eight when completed and the solar farm between three and four.

There are two parts to the project. Wheatridge West is located in Morrow

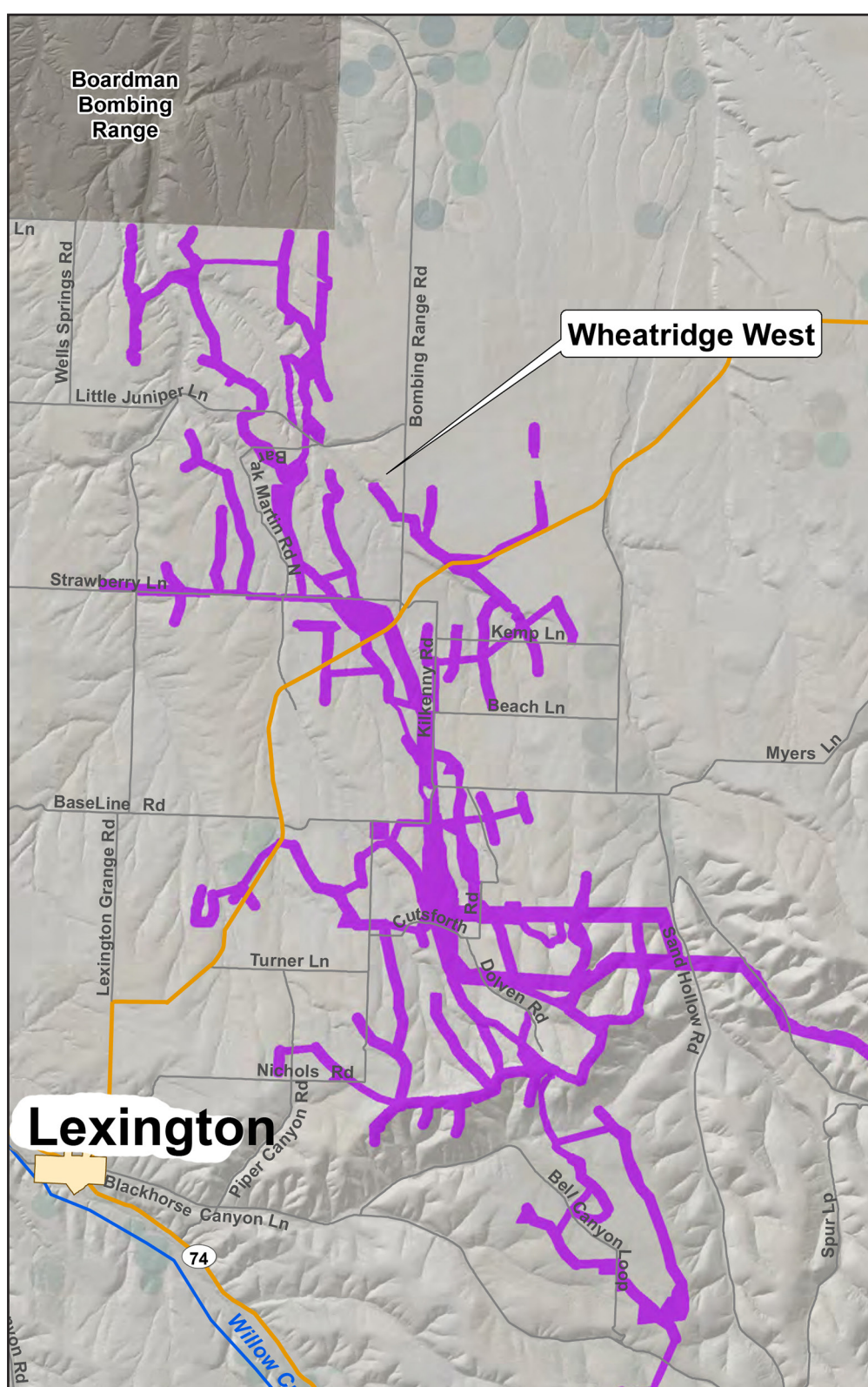
County and Wheatridge East is located in Umatilla County.

The entire project will span 14,624 acres and was originally designed to have a large battery storage facility included, however that has been changed to have battery storage as part of the tower design. The company also increased the blade length from the original plan, which will up the electrical output from each tower.

One concern of local people who came to the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group-sponsored meeting, was how to get the workers to spend money locally while here on the project. Project managers said Nextera, one of the largest renewable energy companies in the world, does not do the construction itself but has a couple of companies it works with. They said the construction

companies will bring in everything, including trailers for their workers to live in. Project Manager Alyssa Kruger said she is asking now for an inventory of all the available RV camping sites in the county where workers may be able to stay during construction. She said based on other projects she has worked on; construction can be an economic boon for the county if they can get the workers to spend locally. She said the company wants to do everything they can to help accomplish that.

The solar project will be about 1,000 acres and is located on Strawberry Rd. along Highway 207. Construction on that project will be from February until November of 2021. The project is a joint venture between Nextera and Portland General Electric which will initially buy a large portion of the output to meet its green energy requirements.



A new windfarm being constructed in Morrow County will stretch from Lexington north.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office has released the following information:

April 25 (cont.): Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report on NW Jones St, Heppner that two juveniles keep harassing RP's dogs.

-MCSO received a report at Kunze Ln/Peters Rd, Boardman of a person on an ATV with a toddler on the back with no helmet on. Unable to locate.

-MCSO received a report at AC Houghton on NE Main Ave, Irrigon that two dogs jumped the fence and proceeded to harass him and his wife. Owner was advised to keep their dog in the yard.

-MCSO received a report at Bob Kilkenny field, Heppner that a 28-year-old female fell and possibly broke her ankle. Transported.

-MCSO received a report on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that a Honda Civic went at a high rate of speed toward Tenth.

-MCSO received a report at Knight's Inn/Village

Restaurant on First St NW, Boardman that a male and female are fighting. Female yelling at male to quit and someone being thrown against the wall.

-MCSO received a report at Miller Rd/Kunze Ln, Boardman of cattle in the road. Unable to locate.

April 26: Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report at Love's Travel Stop on Tower Rd, Boardman that male advised he is working and is having issues with his sister. Deputy provided female a ride to Boardman.

-MCSO received a report on SE Fourth St, Irrigon that her ex is trying to take their daughter out of the state without her permission.

-MCSO received a report on I 84 E, Boardman that a blue Honda van with Idaho plates is passing people and going off the road. Vehicle located.

-MCSO received a re-

port on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that a white Honda is speeding from Tenth.

-MCSO received a report on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that there is a Ford pickup flatbed in the right of way. Contact was made and individuals will move the vehicle.

-MCSO received a report on Pioneer Ln, Boardman that someone hit their fence three weeks ago and advised he would come and fix the fence but hasn't showed up. Civil problem.

-MCSO received a report on Washington Ln, Irrigon that RP has been out of town for two weeks and came home and is missing irrigation sprinklers high rise heads, vandalism and items take out of barn.

-MCSO received a report on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that there is a vehicle playing music real loud. Unable to locate.

-MCSO received a report of a purse found in Spray, OR. Property will be

mailed to owner.

-MCSO received a report on SE third St, Irrigon that there is a party next door with loud music.

-MCSO received a report on I 84 W, Boardman of a dark gray Ford Excursion unable to maintain lane.

April 27: Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that his friend said he was going to kill himself, is having a hard time breathing and cannot move, advised he took pills. Transported to GSH.

-MCSO received a report at NE Twelfth St/NE Washington Ave, Irrigon that early 2000 white Chevy shot into a ditch and almost flipped.

-MCSO received a report at Love's Travel Stop on Tower Rd, Boardman that a driver came into Loves and has alcohol on his breath, is fueling his truck now. Unable to locate.

-MCSO received a re-

port on I 84 E, Boardman that a black Lexus is going at least 100 mph. Unable to locate.

-MCSO received a report on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that a vehicle was parked across the street and when neighbor drove off it pulled into his driveway. RP found this suspicious.

-MCSO received a report at Sinclair Station on Nain St N, Boardman of 81 male with a possible stroke. Patient transported to GSH.

-MCSO received a report on SE Utah Ave, Irrigon that a bigger white box car sped down toward Tenth.

-MCSO received a report at Linden Way, Heppner of two juveniles playing in the road. Parents have collected the children out of the rd.

-MCSO received a re-

port on Hwy 730, Irrigon that a red Toyota is parked on the hill with emergency flashers on.

-MCSO received a report at Riverview Mobile Court on E Hwy 730, Irrigon of a lift assist of 67-year-old female. Patient refusal.

-MCSO received a report at MCSO that fiber was cut in the Spray area and people may have trouble calling 911.

-MCSO received a report at Willow Creek Reservoir, Willow Creek Rd, Heppner of a loose dog. Under investigation.

-MCSO received a report on Toms Camp Rd, Boardman that her daughter is fighting with RP's husband. Dputy made contact with juvenile, they are continuing to work with a counselor.

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