

# Senate Bill 736

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Allows exemption to energy facility site certificate requirement for energy facilities using oil seeds, waste vegetable oil or cellulosic biomass as source of material for conversion to liquid fuel.  
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to energy facility siting; creating new provisions; amending ORS 469.320; and declaring an  
3 emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 469.320 is amended to read:

6 469.320. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (5) of this section, no facility shall be  
7 constructed or expanded unless a site certificate has been issued for the site thereof in the manner  
8 provided in ORS 469.300 to 469.563, 469.590 to 469.619, 469.930 and 469.992. No facility shall be  
9 constructed or operated except in conformity with the requirements of ORS 469.300 to 469.563,  
10 469.590 to 469.619, 469.930 and 469.992.

11 (2) [No] A site certificate [*shall be*] **is not** required for:

12 (a) An energy facility for which no site certificate has been issued that, on August 2, 1993, had  
13 operable electric generating equipment for a modification that uses the same fuel type and increases  
14 electric generating capacity, if:

15 (A) The site is not enlarged; and

16 (B) The ability of the energy facility to use fuel for electricity production under peak steady  
17 state operating conditions is not more than 200 million Btu per hour greater than it was on August  
18 2, 1993, or the energy facility expansion is called for in the short-term plan of action of an energy  
19 resource plan that has been acknowledged by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon.

20 (b) Construction or expansion of any interstate natural gas pipeline or associated underground  
21 natural gas storage facility authorized by and subject to the continuing regulation of the Federal  
22 Energy Regulatory Commission or successor agency.

23 (c) An energy facility, except coal and nuclear power plants, if the energy facility:

24 (A) Sequentially produces electrical energy and useful thermal energy from the same fuel source;  
25 and

26 (B) Under normal operating conditions, has a useful thermal energy output of no less than 33  
27 percent of the total energy output or the fuel chargeable to power heat rate value is not greater  
28 than 6,000 Btu per kilowatt hour.

29 (d) Temporary storage, at the site of a nuclear-fueled thermal power plant for which a site cer-  
30 tificate has been issued by the State of Oregon, of radioactive waste from the plant.

31 (e) An energy facility as defined in ORS 469.300 (11)(a)(G), if the plant also produces a secondary

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 fuel used on site for the production of heat or electricity, if the output of the primary fuel is less  
2 than six billion Btu of heat a day.

3 (f) An energy facility as defined in ORS 469.300 (11)(a)(G), if the facility:

4 (A) **Exclusively** uses [*biomass exclusively from*] grain, whey [*or*], potatoes, **oil seeds, waste**  
5 **vegetable oil or cellulosic biomass** as the source of material for conversion to a liquid fuel;

6 (B) Has received local land use approval under the applicable acknowledged comprehensive plan  
7 and land use regulations of the affected local government and the facility complies with any state-  
8 wide planning goals or rules of the Land Conservation and Development Commission that are di-  
9 rectly applicable to the facility;

10 (C) Requires no new electric transmission lines or gas or petroleum product pipelines that would  
11 require a site certificate under subsection (1) of this section; and

12 (D) Produces synthetic fuel, at least 90 percent of which is used in an industrial or refueling  
13 facility located within one mile of the facility or is transported from the facility by rail or barge.

14 (g) A temporary energy generating facility, if the facility complies with all applicable carbon  
15 dioxide emissions standards adopted by the Energy Facility Siting Council or enacted by statute and  
16 the applicant agrees to provide funds to a qualified organization in an amount determined by the  
17 council to be sufficient to produce any required reductions in carbon dioxide as specified in ORS  
18 469.501. To support the council's finding that the facility complies with all applicable carbon dioxide  
19 emissions standards, the applicant shall provide proof acceptable to the council that shows the  
20 contracted nominal electric generating capacity of the facility and the contracted heat rate in  
21 higher heating value. The applicant shall pay the funds to the qualified organization before com-  
22 mencing construction on the temporary facility. The amount of the carbon dioxide offset funds for  
23 a temporary facility shall be subject to adjustment as provided in subsection (7)(c) of this section.

24 (h) A standby generation facility, if the facility complies with all of the following:

25 (A) The facility has received local land use approval under the applicable acknowledged com-  
26 prehensive plan and land use regulations of the affected local government and the facility complies  
27 with all statewide planning goals and applicable rules of the Land Conservation and Development  
28 Commission;

29 (B) The standby generators have been approved by the Department of Environmental Quality  
30 as having complied with all applicable air and water quality requirements. For an applicant that  
31 proposes to provide the physical facilities for the installation of standby generators, the requirement  
32 of this subparagraph may be met by agreeing to require such a term in the lease contract for the  
33 facility; and

34 (C) The standby generators are electrically incapable of being interconnected to the trans-  
35 mission grid. For an applicant that proposes to provide the physical facilities for the installation of  
36 standby generators, the requirement of this subparagraph may be met by agreeing to require such  
37 a term in the lease contract for the facility.

38 (3) The Energy Facility Siting Council may review and, if necessary, revise the fuel chargeable  
39 to power heat rate value set forth in subsection (2)(c)(B) of this section. In making its determination,  
40 the council shall ensure that the fuel chargeable to power heat rate value for facilities set forth in  
41 subsection (2)(c)(B) of this section remains significantly lower than the fuel chargeable to power  
42 heat rate value for the best available, commercially viable thermal power plant technology at the  
43 time of the revision.

44 (4) Any person who proposes to construct or enlarge an energy facility and who claims an ex-  
45emption under subsection (2)(a), (c), (f) or (h) of this section from the requirement to obtain a site

1 certificate shall request the Energy Facility Siting Council to determine whether the proposed fa-  
2 cility qualifies for the claimed exemption. The council shall make its determination within 60 days  
3 after the request for exemption is filed. An appeal from the council's determination on a request for  
4 exemption shall be made under ORS 469.403, except that the scope of review by the Supreme Court  
5 shall be the same as a review by a circuit court under ORS 183.484. The record on review by the  
6 Supreme Court shall be the record established in the council proceeding on the exemption.

7 (5) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a separate site certificate shall not be re-  
8 quired for:

9 (a) Transmission lines, storage facilities, pipelines or similar related or supporting facilities, if  
10 such related or supporting facilities are addressed in and are subject to a site certificate for another  
11 energy facility;

12 (b) Expansion within the site or within the energy generation area of a facility for which a site  
13 certificate has been issued, if the existing site certificate has been amended to authorize expansion;  
14 or

15 (c) Expansion, either within the site or outside the site, of an existing council certified surface  
16 facility related to an underground gas storage reservoir, if the existing site certificate is amended  
17 to authorize expansion.

18 (6) If the substantial loss of the steam host causes a facility exempt under subsection (2)(c) of  
19 this section to substantially fail to meet the exemption requirements under subsection (2)(c) of this  
20 section, the electric generating facility shall cease to operate one year after the substantial loss of  
21 the steam host unless an application for a site certificate has been filed in accordance with the  
22 provisions of ORS 469.300 to 469.563.

23 (7)(a) Any person who proposes to construct or enlarge a temporary energy generating facility  
24 and who claims an exemption under subsection (2)(g) of this section from the requirement to obtain  
25 a site certificate shall request the Energy Facility Siting Council to determine whether the proposed  
26 facility qualifies for the claimed exemption. The council shall make its determination within 30 days  
27 of receiving all of the information necessary to support the determination. Such exemption shall  
28 provide that the applicant may not begin construction of the temporary energy generating facility  
29 until the facility has received the required local land use approval under the applicable acknowl-  
30 edged comprehensive plan and land use regulations of the affected local government and the facility  
31 complies with all statewide planning goals and applicable rules of the Land Conservation and De-  
32 velopment Commission. The exemption shall also require that the temporary energy generating fa-  
33 cility cease operation no later than 24 months after the date of first commercial operation or  
34 January 2, 2006, whichever is earlier. An appeal from the council's determination on a request for  
35 exemption shall be made under ORS 469.403, except that the order may not be stayed and review  
36 by the Supreme Court is limited to the record made by the council.

37 (b) The council may not grant an exemption for a temporary energy generating facility pursuant  
38 to subsection (2)(g) of this section after July 1, 2003.

39 (c) Within 30 days of ceasing operation of a temporary energy generating facility, the applicant  
40 shall report the total actual fuel used during commercial operation of the temporary energy gener-  
41 ating facility. Based on the total actual fuel used during commercial operation, the council shall  
42 determine whether additional offset funds, as defined in ORS 469.503, and contracting and selection  
43 funds are owed to the qualified organization. If the council determines that additional offset funds  
44 are owed to the qualified organization, the applicant shall pay such amounts within 60 days of the  
45 council's order determining the amount of additional funds.

1 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection that require a temporary  
 2 energy generating facility granted an exemption pursuant to subsection (2)(g) of this section to cease  
 3 operation within 24 months of first commercial operation, if the owner of a temporary energy gen-  
 4 erating facility submits an application for a site certificate prior to the last day of the period con-  
 5 stituting the exemption or January 1, 2005, whichever date is earlier, the council shall extend the  
 6 period constituting the exemption and shall allow the temporary energy generating facility to con-  
 7 tinue operation until the council concludes its review of the site certificate application. The council  
 8 may specify a date by which the application must be completed. If the application is not completed  
 9 by the date specified by the council, or is rejected by the council, the energy facility shall cease  
 10 operation on the specified date. An energy facility operating pursuant to this paragraph shall cease  
 11 operation if the applicant for the site certificate suspends the application.

12 (8) As used in this section:

13 (a) "Standby generation facility" means an electric power generating facility, including standby  
 14 generators and the physical structures necessary to install and connect standby generators, that  
 15 provides temporary electric power in the event of a power outage and that is electrically incapable  
 16 of being interconnected with the transmission grid.

17 (b) "Temporary energy generating facility" means an electric power generating facility, includ-  
 18 ing a thermal power plant and a combustion turbine power plant, but not including a hydropower  
 19 plant, with a nominal electric generating capacity of no more than 100 megawatts that is operated  
 20 for no more than 24 months from the date of initial commercial operation.

21 (c) "Total energy output" means the sum of useful thermal energy output and useful electrical  
 22 energy output.

23 (d) "Useful thermal energy" means the verifiable thermal energy used in any viable industrial  
 24 or commercial process, heating or cooling application.

25 (9) Notwithstanding the definition of "energy facility" in ORS 469.300 (11)(a)(J), an electric  
 26 power generating plant with an average electric generating capacity of less than 35 megawatts  
 27 produced from wind energy at a single energy facility or within a single energy generation area may  
 28 elect to obtain a site certificate in the manner provided in ORS 469.300 to 469.563, 469.590 to  
 29 469.619, 469.930 and 469.992. An election to obtain a site certificate under this subsection shall be  
 30 final upon submission of an application for a site certificate.

31 **SECTION 2.** ORS 469.320, as amended by section 8, chapter 683, Oregon Laws 2001, and section  
 32 77, chapter 186, Oregon Laws 2003, is amended to read:

33 469.320. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (5) of this section, no facility shall be  
 34 constructed or expanded unless a site certificate has been issued for the site thereof in the manner  
 35 provided in ORS 469.300 to 469.563, 469.590 to 469.619, 469.930 and 469.992. No facility shall be  
 36 constructed or operated except in conformity with the requirements of ORS 469.300 to 469.563,  
 37 469.590 to 469.619, 469.930 and 469.992.

38 (2) [No] **A** site certificate [*shall be*] **is not** required for:

39 (a) An energy facility for which no site certificate has been issued that, on August 2, 1993, had  
 40 operable electric generating equipment for a modification that uses the same fuel type and increases  
 41 electric generating capacity, if:

42 (A) The site is not enlarged; and

43 (B) The ability of the energy facility to use fuel for electricity production under peak steady  
 44 state operating conditions is not more than 200 million Btu per hour greater than it was on August  
 45 2, 1993, or the energy facility expansion is called for in the short-term plan of action of an energy

1 resource plan that has been acknowledged by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon.

2 (b) Construction or expansion of any interstate natural gas pipeline or associated underground  
3 natural gas storage facility authorized by and subject to the continuing regulation of the Federal  
4 Energy Regulatory Commission or successor agency.

5 (c) An energy facility, except coal and nuclear power plants, if the energy facility:

6 (A) Sequentially produces electrical energy and useful thermal energy from the same fuel source;  
7 and

8 (B) Under normal operating conditions, has a useful thermal energy output of no less than 33  
9 percent of the total energy output or the fuel chargeable to power heat rate value is not greater  
10 than 6,000 Btu per kilowatt hour.

11 (d) Temporary storage, at the site of a nuclear-fueled thermal power plant for which a site cer-  
12 tificate has been issued by the State of Oregon, of radioactive waste from the plant.

13 (e) An energy facility as defined in ORS 469.300 (11)(a)(G), if the plant also produces a secondary  
14 fuel used on site for the production of heat or electricity, if the output of the primary fuel is less  
15 than six billion Btu of heat a day.

16 (f) An energy facility as defined in ORS 469.300 (11)(a)(G), if the facility:

17 (A) **Exclusively** uses [*biomass exclusively from*] grain, whey [*or*], potatoes, **oil seeds, waste**  
18 **vegetable oil or cellulosic biomass** as the source of material for conversion to a liquid fuel;

19 (B) Has received local land use approval under the applicable acknowledged comprehensive plan  
20 and land use regulations of the affected local government and the facility complies with any state-  
21 wide planning goals or rules of the Land Conservation and Development Commission that are di-  
22 rectly applicable to the facility;

23 (C) Requires no new electric transmission lines or gas or petroleum product pipelines that would  
24 require a site certificate under subsection (1) of this section; and

25 (D) Produces synthetic fuel, at least 90 percent of which is used in an industrial or refueling  
26 facility located within one mile of the facility or is transported from the facility by rail or barge.

27 (g) A standby generation facility, if the facility complies with all of the following:

28 (A) The facility has received local land use approval under the applicable acknowledged com-  
29 prehensive plan and land use regulations of the affected local government and the facility complies  
30 with all statewide planning goals and applicable rules of the Land Conservation and Development  
31 Commission;

32 (B) The standby generators have been approved by the Department of Environmental Quality  
33 as having complied with all applicable air and water quality requirements. For an applicant that  
34 proposes to provide the physical facilities for the installation of standby generators, the requirement  
35 of this subparagraph may be met by agreeing to require such a term in the lease contract for the  
36 facility; and

37 (C) The standby generators are electrically incapable of being interconnected to the trans-  
38 mission grid. For an applicant that proposes to provide the physical facilities for the installation of  
39 standby generators, the requirement of this subparagraph may be met by agreeing to require such  
40 a term in the lease contract for the facility.

41 (3) The Energy Facility Siting Council may review and, if necessary, revise the fuel chargeable  
42 to power heat rate value set forth in subsection (2)(c)(B) of this section. In making its determination,  
43 the council shall ensure that the fuel chargeable to power heat rate value for facilities set forth in  
44 subsection (2)(c)(B) of this section remains significantly lower than the fuel chargeable to power  
45 heat rate value for the best available, commercially viable thermal power plant technology at the

1 time of the revision.

2 (4) Any person who proposes to construct or enlarge an energy facility and who claims an ex-  
3 emption under subsection (2)(a), (c), (f) or (g) of this section from the requirement to obtain a site  
4 certificate shall request the Energy Facility Siting Council to determine whether the proposed fa-  
5 cility qualifies for the claimed exemption. The council shall make its determination within 60 days  
6 after the request for exemption is filed. An appeal from the council's determination on a request for  
7 exemption shall be made under ORS 469.403, except that the scope of review by the Supreme Court  
8 shall be the same as a review by a circuit court under ORS 183.484. The record on review by the  
9 Supreme Court shall be the record established in the council proceeding on the exemption.

10 (5) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a separate site certificate shall not be re-  
11 quired for:

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13 such related or supporting facilities are addressed in and are subject to a site certificate for another  
14 energy facility;

15 (b) Expansion within the site or within the energy generation area of a facility for which a site  
16 certificate has been issued, if the existing site certificate has been amended to authorize expansion;  
17 or

18 (c) Expansion, either within the site or outside the site, of an existing council certified surface  
19 facility related to an underground gas storage reservoir, if the existing site certificate is amended  
20 to authorize expansion.

21 (6) If the substantial loss of the steam host causes a facility exempt under subsection (2)(c) of  
22 this section to substantially fail to meet the exemption requirements under subsection (2)(c) of this  
23 section, the electric generating facility shall cease to operate one year after the substantial loss of  
24 the steam host unless an application for a site certificate has been filed in accordance with the  
25 provisions of ORS 469.300 to 469.563.

26 (7) As used in this section:

27 (a) "Standby generation facility" means an electric power generating facility, including standby  
28 generators and the physical structures necessary to install and connect standby generators, that  
29 provides temporary electric power in the event of a power outage and that is electrically incapable  
30 of being interconnected with the transmission grid.

31 (b) "Total energy output" means the sum of useful thermal energy output and useful electrical  
32 energy output.

33 (c) "Useful thermal energy" means the verifiable thermal energy used in any viable industrial  
34 or commercial process, heating or cooling application.

35 (8) Notwithstanding the definition of "energy facility" in ORS 469.300 (11)(a)(J), an electric  
36 power generating plant with an average electric generating capacity of less than 35 megawatts  
37 produced from wind energy at a single energy facility or within a single energy generation area may  
38 elect to obtain a site certificate in the manner provided in ORS 469.300 to 469.563, 469.590 to  
39 469.619, 469.930 and 469.992. An election to obtain a site certificate under this subsection shall be  
40 final upon submission of an application for a site certificate.

41 **SECTION 3. The amendments to ORS 469.320 by sections 1 and 2 of this 2005 Act do not**  
42 **apply to applications for site certificates filed before the effective date of this 2005 Act.**

43 **SECTION 4. This 2005 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
44 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2005 Act takes effect**  
45 **on its passage.**

