

The main points of the siting standards that are being reviewed

By the Umatilla County Board of Commissioner

1. **Setbacks** – After almost 3 years of study, the Umatilla County Planning Commission came to the decision that a 2-mile setback from all homes is necessary to protect people that live in industrial wind turbine project areas. Whether the homes are in city limits, unincorporated communities, or homes in the County. 2-miles give a homeowner more control of their property, whether they are part of the development or not. They also have the option to sign waivers for distance or sound.
2. **Protection** – A 2-mile setback gives homeowners protection from being put in a position to prove harm *after* the industrial wind turbine project goes in, *at their personal expense*. The 2-mile setback gives them protection from sound disturbance from the air and from the ground vibrations, as well as other adverse effects of wind turbines. This protection allows property owners the means to negotiate for the health and safety of them and their families. Reports in the US and other countries in the world say that when wind turbines are less than two miles from homes it impacts negatively on property values.
3. **Pre-application meeting** – This meeting will make the wind developer aware of the people, agencies and ordinances they need to follow to apply for a land-use variance for their industrial wind turbine project. These projects usually include needing miles of new roads, crossing or being in close proximity to waterways and homes, and will need one or more substations within their project area, along with miles of underground as well as above ground power lines crossing many properties and along established roads. Wind developers are asking for changes like “the County recommends” rather than “the developer is required”. Our County needs protections in place to be sure we don’t become the wasteland of Oregon.
4. **Erosion Prevention and Control** – These changes are important to protect water quality on and around wind development sites. This would include proper and adequate road development, and plans to prevent soil erosion and protect water for fish on endangered species list and the health of our agricultural valley.
5. **Emergency Management Plan** – To date, requirements are outdated and roads and turbines need improved identification for emergency services to respond as quickly as possible.
6. **Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) requirements and Umatilla County sitingstandards** – The EFSC standards were created during the 1990’s when turbines were of smaller size and power and have not been updated since that time.

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