

PROJECT BASICS:

- **Capacity:** Up to **500 MW of wind and solar energy generation combined**, as well as up to an **additional 500 MW of energy storage capacity**. This is equivalent to the average consumption of more than 193,000 Oregon homes.
 - **The wind turbine model, height, and quantity are not yet determined.** The turbine blade tip heights are expected to fall in a range of 500 – 640 feet, which is ~100–200 feet taller than the nearby EDP Renewables North America (EDPR NA) turbines that were installed in 2008 and 2009 (Rattlesnake Road and Wheat Field Wind). The Big River turbines would have proportionally larger blades than the existing towers – they would likely have a hub height (the center point for the blades) about 70 feet taller than the existing turbines.
- **Location:** The site area is west of Highway 19, generally located between the John Day River, Blalock Canyon, and Barnett Road, southwest of Arlington and north of Mikkalo, near the historic Rock Creek School House.
- **Acreage:** Approximately 30,000 acres are under lease option for Big River. The leased area includes setbacks and other carveouts for non-buildable areas, meaning the majority of the site will remain unoccupied by project infrastructure. **Project infrastructure is expected to occupy less than 35% of the total leased acreage.** By acreage, the site would be approx. 90% wind, 10% solar.
 - **Landowners will still be free to use their land as they see fit on the wind portion of the site, including grazing cattle or growing crops up to the base of the turbine pads and access roads.** This is the same as the Rattlesnake Road and Wheat Field Wind sites that EDPR NA has operated since 2008 and 2009.
- **Timeline:** The project has filed its Notice of Intent to apply for a Site Certificate from the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). This is the first step in the permitting process, but there are many months ahead before permits could be obtained. Currently, the project is on track to have the EFSC permit hearing in 2028 and begin construction in 2029.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

LONG-TERM LOCAL IMPACTS

How does the project benefit Gilliam County residents?

The main benefits are millions in tax revenue to essential local services, the economic boost associated with construction, the creation of approximately 25 full-time permanent jobs, and a strengthened regional power grid. The tax contributions will be significant given the capacity of the project. The exact tax breakdown is to be determined by a Strategic Investment Program agreement with the County. Our best estimate is below:

ESTIMATED TAX PAYMENTS TO COMMUNITY FROM BIG RIVER RENEWABLE ENERGY*

Taxing District	Big River Year 1 Contributions	Big River Contributions Over 35 Years
Gilliam County	\$1,730,318	\$76,608,323
Arlington #3 School District	\$1,424,846	\$63,083,816
North Central Education Service Dist.	\$908,721	\$40,232,818
North Health	\$424,142	\$18,778,503
North Rural Fire Protection District	\$239,004	\$10,581,711
Arlington Port	\$72,453	\$2,839,190
TOTAL	\$4,863,611	\$215,332,148

These Project tax projections are relying on recent information, trends and expectations to calculate property tax estimates. Cents have been rounded. All assumptions are subject to change. Key Assumptions: Above numbers assume the project has entered a Strategic Investment Program agreement. SIP taxation requires local County approval. Assumes a Community Service fee, which is required by the SIP agreement. Assumes Community Service Fee distributions follow current property tax levies of the project locations. Tax rates assume 2026 rate for Gilliam County (Dept. of Revenue Code 004). Assumes a depreciation rate of 3% per year (subject to Dept. of Revenue assessment).

Can the land used for solar be farmed once the project is done?

Yes – less than 10% of the land used inside the solar site fence is actually touched by physical infrastructure and the decommissioning plan requires restoring to the previous use at the end of the project's life. Once the project ceases operation, EDPR NA is required to remove all infrastructure from the land, including the removal of the panels, the racking system is pulled out of the soil, and the land is remediated for agricultural use, with the benefit of decades of rested soil revitalized for crops. (See question below for more details on decommissioning bonds.)

One of the biggest appeals for landowners we work with is the opportunity to hold land in place for the next generation of family farmers while using the revenue from their lease agreements to make new investments in their farming operations.

What protections are in place to ensure the land will be restored after the project's life? How do I know the project won't be abandoned?

The permitting process requires there to be a decommissioning plan in place prior to issuing a permit and that a bond or letter of credit is in place prior to commencing construction. The decommissioning plan outlines how the infrastructure will be removed and restored after the project is taken out of service. Once fully decommissioned, the land, at the landowner's discretion, will be able to return it to its original use, including farming, ranching or wildlife habitat. The bond amount is adjusted annually throughout the project's operational period using the U.S. Gross Domestic Product Implicit Price Deflator to ensure it is sufficient to cover decommissioning, and would remain in place even if EDPR NA were to cease to exist.

CONSTRUCTION

Will work on existing roadways be part of Big River's eventual construction?

Yes. The project will be required to obtain a Road Use Agreement with Gilliam County, which will determine which routes can be used for various types of construction traffic and outline terms for any necessary upgrades to roads and bridges before construction, as well as repairs to roads and bridges

after construction is done. The exact structure of the RUA is yet to be determined, but its purpose is to ensure EDPR NA covers the costs of impacts to local roadways, and we are committed to leaving the roads in as good a condition as they were before, if not better.

How will the hundreds of construction workers be housed?

This project is still in early development stages and many details are not yet determined, including aspects of construction logistics. Closer to the start of construction, EDPR NA will contract a construction company that will be responsible for hiring the workforce. Part of their plans will include determining housing. At other EDPR NA projects, workers have found lodging in nearby towns' extended stay hotels/motels, locally owned rental properties, RV parks and campgrounds, or in temporary campgrounds constructed specifically for worker housing. EDPR NA welcomes input from local leaders regarding workforce housing if there are preferences or ways we can make the workforce presence smoother for local residents.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL

Is Big River Renewable Energy being developed to power data centers?

EDPR NA has been planning the potential development of Big River Renewable Energy for years **and is not moving the project forward now in relation to any particular data center. The intention of Big River Renewable Energy is to provide the region's electric grid with more domestic energy** from generation sources that do not pollute the air, water, or soil.

Data centers and AI – while heavy power users – are not the only industry contributing to significantly rising power demands our electric grid is struggling to meet. Power demand is also happening because more industry is re-shoring manufacturing in the US, population is growing, and different industries are electrifying rather than relying on traditional, volatile sources of thermal energy.

EDPR North America, and projects like Big River, help power the country with affordable, reliable renewable energy from wind, solar, and energy storage sites. We sell power to a range of energy users who need it – most commonly utilities, but also commercial & industrial customers such as manufacturers, tech companies, and data centers. **Big River Renewable Energy does not yet have a contract in place with a power purchaser.**

The reality is that data centers are here, and they are consuming power. Renewables are the best way to meet that energy demand and make sure all of us have the power we need. EDPR NA is open contracting with data center customers to ensure they have access to power that doesn't pollute and keeps our electric grid strong.

Where does the energy go?

The power will go onto the regional grid via a local substation. This project will help strengthen the overall electrical grid for all users by adding additional capacity to power the homes and businesses when needed, while adding price certainty for consumers over the life of the project.

There are two ways we typically sell the power produced from these projects to commercial offtakers:

- Purchase Power Agreements (**PPAs**), in which we sell the financial value of the power generated to a commercial purchaser in the form of renewable energy credits (RECs), a tradeable financial commodity.

Build-Transfer Agreements (BTAs), in which we transfer ownership of the project to a commercial partner (sometimes a utility) while continuing to operate the facilities.

Regardless of how the power is sold, the electrons generated at this project will flow through the grid to the closest place they are needed along the path of least resistance. So even if local utilities are not the purchasers of the power generated at our project, they will still benefit from it as likely consumers.

The electrical grid isn't like a pipeline that sends power directly from the generator to the purchaser. It's more like a larger water system with pipes connecting multiple generation sources with multiple consumers. Like water filling pipes, the electrons will fill the transmission lines and exit the system wherever the closest "open faucet" is. The companies we sell power to will use electrons from the grid, but there's no way to ensure they're using the exact electrons we generate.

My utility bills are going up, just as renewables are coming in. Am I paying for these projects?

No, ratepayers are not paying for renewable projects like EDPR NA's to be built. The cost of power is directly related to the demand. Utility bills have risen sharply across many parts of the country, but renewable energy deployment is not the cause. There are three big main reasons:

1) Our electric grid is aging and in need of costly upgrades, which are passed onto ratepayers.

Much of our electric grid was originally built in the 1960s and 70s. It has been somewhat modernized since, but most of it is still from before 2000.

2) When you combine power grid infrastructure from the 90s and earlier with the electricity demands of today, the grid struggles to keep up. Think about how different household electricity usage looks today, with most Americans having multiple smartphones, computers, televisions, video game consoles, appliances, etc., plugged in at once, compared to the 90s. Commercial energy use has risen exponentially alongside households. With the huge power demands of widespread AI data centers added in, the grid struggles to keep up with the demand it wasn't originally designed to meet. When demand goes up, prices go up.

3) Natural gas prices are volatile and easily affected by conflicts happening in countries on the other side of the world. American natural gas is shipped overseas—to Europe, Asia, and Latin America—where prices are much higher, so U.S. families are now competing with foreign buyers who are willing to pay more for the same gas and bid up prices.

Wind and solar energy are unequivocally the cheapest source of energy available and inherently stably priced. The "fuel" is free, and the vast majority of the costs are upfront, so we are able to lock purchasers, like utilities, into a guaranteed price for a decade-plus, which the volatile global oil and gas market could never do. Wind and solar projects sell power through fixed-price contracts, which protect buyers from market swings.

There are many reasons power bills are rising for Americans, but American wind and solar energy aren't one of them.^{1, 2, 3}

¹ NPR. "Electricity prices are climbing more than twice as fast as inflation." August 2025.

² CBS News. "Home electricity bills may reach a 12-year high this summer, driven by high temperatures, inflation." May 2025.

³ Daily Caller. "Utility Bills Spiking As America's Power Demand Takes Off." August 2025.

ENERGY STORAGE

What would Big River Renewable Energy's energy storage system look like?

The energy storage area would be contained within its own fenceline and have setbacks from vegetation, with a crushed aggregate base and perimeter to avoid potential safety concerns. The Lithium-ion batteries that make up the energy storage technology are housed inside rectangular white steel cabinets similar in look and size to a shipping container. These units have cabinet doors that technicians can open to work on the equipment. There are no interior walkways or enclosed spaces — everything opens outside.

Does the energy storage component pose a fire risk? Can it start a wildfire? What would happen if a wildfire encroached on it?

Fire Risk Safeguards —Most of us have a lithium-ion battery in our pocket all the time in our cell phone, laptops, cordless drills— these aren't risk-free either, but are manageable and considered safe for the public. This is similar to the acceptance of gas stations, natural gas tanks, propane tanks, etc. that tend to explode when exposed to fire (which energy storage sites do not do).

Energy storage facilities are equipped with Battery Management Systems (BMS) that monitor the operational and fault status of the system for all parameters required to ensure safe operation of the project, including State of Charge, voltage, current, power limits, and temperatures. Parameters are monitored at the appropriate level of the battery cell, module and rack as applicable. The BMS functions to prevent potential fires by shutting down battery modules/racks if monitored conditions are outside of those permissible for safe operation, similar to a smartphone shutting down after heating up in direct sunlight. Some storage systems also contain gas sensors that can release gases to prevent a buildup. Energy storage containers are built of non-combustible materials with exterior steel walls and interior insulation for better cooling and fire containment.

There is no risk-free battery, though modern chemistries such as safer lithium-iron phosphate (LFP), which have a higher thermal threshold, lowers the risk of fire occurrence. The fire incidents at energy storage sites that have grabbed headlines in recent years were on facilities built well before the safety codes that now govern the industry were created by Underwriters Laboratories and the National Fire Protection Association. Energy storage battery fires are very rare, and their rate of frequency is decreasing while the deployment of energy storage increases. In recent years, U.S. energy storage deployment has continued to grow rapidly—reaching more than 37,000 MWh added in 2024 alone while safety performance has improved significantly, with studies showing a ~97% reduction in global failure incident rates between 2018 and 2023.^{4, 5, 6}

Energy storage systems are highly regulated and subject to stringent certification and testing requirements. All EDPR battery systems comply with UL 9540 and UL 9540A, two of the industry's most stringent safety standards for energy storage. These requirements involve extensive testing and safety validation that exceed those applied to many common lithium-ion powered devices. Having more regulations around the quality and safety of utility-scale energy storage projects greatly reduces the risk of fire or other dangers.⁵

⁴A failure 'incident' according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is an occurrence, natural or man-made, that requires an emergency response to protect life or property, while an 'event' is a planned, non-emergency activity.

⁵ American Clean Power, REPORT: Energy Storage's Meteoric Rise Breaks Another Record, 2025.

⁶ Electric Power Research Institute, Insights from EPRI's Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Failure Incident Database, 2024.

One of the most critical safety measures on an energy storage site is the spacing of the containers. In the very rare instance of a fire in an individual battery unit, the container's materials and spacing help prevent it from spreading to adjacent units. There are also no materials at an energy storage unit that create embers, which makes it extremely difficult to propagate flames outside of the affected unit. This lack of embers, combined with the spacing, setbacks, and crushed aggregate groundcover, significantly reduce any risk of the energy storage site causing a fire on adjacent land outside of the project area.

Wildfires – We recognize Gilliam County has a wildfire season, and there is a chance fire could encroach into the project area. An energy storage site doesn't pose an additional unusual risk compared to any other built structure caught in a wildfire. All the systems that prevent fire from spreading also help prevent it from entering.

Emergency Response Planning – In addition to the advanced sensor systems, our teams work closely with fire departments and utilize national fire safety codes to establish fire response plans unique to each project we build. In the event of a fire or safety issue, unique responses are established that focus on active fire protection and suppressing and containing the fire. Safety is our top priority at all of our sites and we work closely with emergency services to ensure they have the resources necessary in the rare case a fire occurs.

Monitoring – Additionally, all of EDPR NA's operating projects are monitored 24/7/265 by a staffed Remote Operations Control Center at our headquarters in Houston, Texas. They are equipped to coordinate emergency response with local teams if necessary.

Will our local Rural Fire Protection District have the necessary equipment and training for a fire at the energy storage site?

No special equipment other than regular firefighting equipment is required during an emergency. Extra safety features are already installed inside and around the energy storage containers, and in the case of a fire, the energy storage systems are designed for the affected unit to safely burn out without spreading to adjacent containers. The fire department's role would be focused on ensuring the fire's containment while it safely burns out, not attempting to extinguish the affected unit. This is in line with the National Fire Protection Association's regulations around energy storage systems, NFPA 855.

EDPR's Health & Safety Department works with local emergency services to facilitate written and on-site emergency drills during the construction and operation of the project. EDPR prepares an Emergency Response Plan for every project. This is also required as part of permitting. The Emergency Response Plan ensures that project site employees and local first responders are up to date on the best methods for responding to potential emergencies such as fire, severe weather, or injury. The Emergency Response Plan also establishes protocols with local services for communicating increased risk and the required response with project neighbors to ensure the community's safety during rare emergency events.

Additional questions?

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