Weed Control Plan

Prepared for:

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February 14, 2020

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1.0 Introduction

Applicant is proposing to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a utility scale solar photovoltaic energy generating facility in central Oregon.

The Crook Flat Solar Farm (the Facility) will be located in Crook County, OR, on TL 1228, at the corner of SW Millican and Portay Gravel Road in Prineville, OR, approximately four miles from the center of Prineville, OR. TL 1228 is a rectangular 156 acre lot which runs parallel to SW Millican Road.

The main electrical generation area within the Facility area will include solar modules, switchgear and transmission line substation, solar inverter stations, an energy storage subsystem, monitoring and maintenance facilities, collector lines, and temporary use areas on up to 160 acres of land.

The spread of noxious weeds can be a significant issue in construction facilities involving land disturbance. Measures must be taken to prevent the spread of noxious weeds during construction, operation, and maintenance (O&M). Earth moving activities and the use of contaminated fill, seed, or erosion control products contribute to the spread of weeds.

Disturbance from construction could introduce new noxious weed species or facilitate the spread of existing populations. It is important to note that much of the area where construction would occur is largely undeveloped land and consists of relatively flat terrain.

Applicant recognizes that prevention is the most cost-effective approach to noxious weed management. Applicant will assist county, state, and local agency weed control efforts, comply with preventative requirements, and implement control measures on areas of the facility identified to be of special concern.

1.1 PLAN PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

This Weed Control Plan (Plan) is intended to address methods to prevent, mitigate, and control the spread of noxious and invasive weeds during construction, operation, decommissioning, and reclamation of the facility. Weed management goals are to prevent the spread and establishment of noxious and invasive weeds in the facility area. Additional goals are to minimize potential effects from control treatments such as herbicide spraying. Effective control of noxious and invasive weeds can be a combination of chemical, mechanical, biological, or cultural controls.

Applicant and its contractors will be responsible for implementing the methods described in this Plan. Applicant will comply with State of Oregon, county and federal agency requirements implemented to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive weeds. Noxious and invasive weed control measures will be implemented in accordance with existing regulations and jurisdictional land management agencies or landowner agreements.

1.2 NOXIOUS WEEDS AND INVASIVE SPECIES

The terms "noxious weed" and "invasive weed" are often used interchangeably to describe any plant that is unwanted and grows or spreads aggressively. The term "noxious weed" is legally defined under both federal and state laws. Noxious weeds and invasive species are opportunistic and often exotic (non-indigenous) plant species that readily invade disturbed areas, often producing monocultures and preventing native plant species from establishing communities. Noxious weeds and invasive species also degrade agricultural productivity, soil and water, wildlife habitat, and recreational and wilderness values. Noxious weeds have become a growing concern in the western U.S. based on their ability to increase in cover relative to surrounding vegetation and exclude native plants from an area.

The State of Oregon defines noxious weeds as "a terrestrial, aquatic or marine plant designated by the State Weed Board under ORS 569.615 as among those representing the greatest public menace and as a top priority for action by weed control programs" (from Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Policy and Classification System 2019, Noxious Weed Control Program http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/AboutWeeds.aspx).

Oregon's noxious weed list are identified in the above referenced document, included as an attachment to this plan. Please see the Tables in the attached 2019 Plan for a comprehensive listing species.

In addition, the Oregon State designated weed list may be supplemented by Crook County details as specified by the County Weedmaster.

2.0 Inventory of Weed Species

Biological surveys for noxious and invasive weeds will be conducted prior as part of preconstruction activities to determine their occurrence within the facility area. A report of finding will become of the facility record.

3.0 Prevention

Prevention is the most effective method of preventing the spread and establishment of noxious and invasive weeds. The following generally accepted practices will be implemented as reasonable to minimize the spread and establishment of noxious and invasive weeds before and after construction, operation, decommissioning, and reclamation. During construction, decommissioning, and reclamation, Applicant will seek to minimize ground disturbance and vegetation removal as much as possible or practical.

3.1 Construction Methods

The following generally accepted practices will be implemented during construction:

- Prior to construction, contractor will mark all areas of the Facility area, which contain infestations of noxious, invasive species, or soil-borne pests. Such markings will clearly indicate the limits of the infestation in the Facility area.
- Contractor will implement pre-construction treatments such as mowing prior to seed development or herbicide application to areas of noxious and invasive weed infestation prior to other clearing, grading, trenching, or other soil disturbing work at locations identified in the construction drawings.
- During construction, contractor will clean the tracks, tires, and blades of equipment by hand (track shovel) or compressed air to remove excess soil prior to movement of equipment out of weed or soil-borne pest infested areas or utilize cleaning stations to remove vegetative materials using water under high pressure.

- Clean all equipment of dirt and vegetation. The contractor will pressure wash all construction equipment prior to mobilizing/demobilizing from the Facility. This includes timber mats, cars, transporting trailers and trucks, and recreational equipment brought on-site.
- Use only certified weed-free straw/hay or use fiber roll logs for sediment control.
- Use only certified weed-free straw/hay for mulch.
- Areas located outside of the Facility area related to the Facility (construction/storage yards) will be kept weed free. Inspection will be conducted on a regular basis to confirm weeds are not present. Weeds located outside the Facility areas will be treated in the same manner as Facility area locations.

3.2 Operation

- Noxious and invasive weed monitoring and control would continue for any area over which Applicant would retain control over the land surface use during operation. Inspections will occur on an annual basis while the SSF is in operation.

- Throughout the life of the facility, Applicant will work cooperatively with the local weed and pest district in order to properly manage noxious and invasive weeds in the SSF.

- Any weed control spraying performed by Applicant will be done by a state licensed pesticide applicator.

3.3 Temporary and Permanent Restoration Methods

Reclamation specific management practices include:

- Once construction is complete, temporary revegetation will be completed as soon as possible.
- As part of decommissioning, revegetation of the Facility area will be completed. Use seed and other plant materials that have been certified as weed free. Seed mixes will conform to the managing land agency specification(s).
- Use native materials where appropriate and feasible.

- Treat weeds adjacent to newly seeded areas prior to planting and treat planted areas for weeds in the first growing season.
- Monitoring will be conducted to assess Facility area stability, revegetation progress, and percentage of vegetative cover. Monitoring will assess whether applied treatment methods are effective in controlling weeds and make recommendations for further treatment.

3.4 Post-Reclamation Methods

Post-reclamation specific practices include:

- Re-vegetate or otherwise prevent the establishment of weeds in the Facility area and documenting all ground-disturbing operations in noxious weed infested areas. Herbicide applications to noxious weed infestation areas after grass species are established.
- Treatment methods other than herbicide application, such as mowing and biological methods, will be considered during the post-reclamation process.
- Noxious and invasive weed monitoring and control will continue for any area over which Applicant will retain control over land surface use after decommissioning. Any weed control spraying required will be done by a state licensed pesticide applicator.