

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

April 22, 2020

Re: Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity of Wood County Solar Project, LLC to Construct a Solar Electric Generation Facility Transmission Tie Line in the Town of Saratoga, Wood County, Wisconsin 9803-CE-101

To the Person Addressed:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) received an application from Wood County Solar Project, LLC (WCSP) for the construction of a new solar electric generation facility and associated facilities. The Commission also received an application from WCSP to construct an electric tie line to connect the solar facility to the existing transmission grid. The project is proposed to be constructed on approximately 1,882 acres in the Town of Saratoga in Wood County. The Commission is sending this letter to property owners near the proposed solar facility site or directly along the proposed routes of the tie line, as well as individuals who have asked to be placed on our mailing list. It is also being sent to public officials in the project area. If you are a municipal clerk and receive this letter, please post it in a location where it can be viewed by the public.

Commission and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff are now analyzing the application and conducting a review of the environmental impacts of the proposed project. As part of this effort, the agencies are requesting comments from the public to help the state agencies determine the potential impacts associated with the project and the scope of the environmental assessment (EA). The agencies encourage persons with local information or environmental concerns to provide comments.

Comments on the scope of the EA can be submitted:

1. By letter or email addressed to the environmental assessment coordinator for the docket (see contacts at the end of this letter); or
2. Through the Commission's website at <http://psc.wi.gov> where you can click "file a comment" on the lower left hand side of the page, then locate docket 9803-CE-101.

The deadline for submitting environmental review scoping comments is May 8, 2020.

Please note that comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's Electronic Records Filing System. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

There will be additional public comment periods throughout the review process, including comments on the preliminary determination of the EA, and comments submitted as part of the public hearing.

Topics for the EA scoping are most effective when they discuss:

- Any potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed solar generation project; or
- Any specific actions or changes to the proposed project that might minimize or mitigate the potential impacts of the project.

Project Description

WCSP is proposing a 150 megawatts of AC power using photovoltaic (PV) solar panels at a new electric generation facility. The project would be located on approximately 1,882 acres of primarily upland forested land in the Towns of Saratoga, in Wood County. Major components of the project include a substation, laydown yard, transformer, junction boxes, the collection system, and an operations and management (O&M) building. An approximately 4-mile 138- kV transmission line would also be required to connect the solar facility to the existing electric transmission grid. The solar arrays and substation would be fenced, and the applicant has provided some alternative solar array sites for evaluation and use if needed. The project would be located approximately 3 miles southeast of the City of Nekoosa, and the solar arrays are proposed to be built about 1 mile southwest of the intersection of WI Highways 13 and 73. See the attached map for a general layout of the proposed project facilities.

State and Federal Agency Jurisdiction

The proposed project requires a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Commission before construction can begin. Based on the record of analysis of potential environmental and societal impacts, the Commission will decide whether to approve, modify, or deny the applicant's proposal. DNR will consider the application for wetland and waterway permits, if applicable under Wis. Stat. ch. 30, potential impacts to rare species, and other affected resources under its jurisdiction. Other reviews, approvals, or permits may be necessary from local, state or federal entities.

Environmental Assessment

The solar electric generation facility is a Type III action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(3). Type III actions normally do not require preparation of an EA or an environmental impact statement (EIS) under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(3). However, an evaluation of a specific Type III proposal may indicate that the preparation of an EA is warranted for that proposal. The Commission will prepare an EA for this project that will evaluate the location of the project and its potential environmental, community, and private property impacts. There will be a preliminary determination when the EA is complete that will determine whether the preparation of an EIS is necessary. Comments on this preliminary determination will be accepted and

considered before a final determination is made. At the time of the preliminary determination, the Commission shall make copies of the EA available to those persons that request it.

Public Hearings and Commission Decision

The Commission intends to hold technical and public hearings (date and times have not yet been confirmed) on the proposed project. At least 30 days before the hearings, the Commission will mail a Notice of Hearing to those on the project mailing list and notify the local news media. The Notice will include the time, date, and location of the hearings, as well as instructions regarding how to provide testimony for the hearing record. If you have any concerns about the project, you should attend the hearing to make the Commission aware of your concerns. People can ask questions, speak about, and submit comments about the project at the hearing. The Commission must base its decisions about the project, in part, on the record of the hearing. The Commission will discuss the record for this project at a meeting open to the public prior to making to its decision.

Additional opportunities for public participation include the opportunity to comment on the preliminary determination on the need to prepare an EIS for the project, and the public hearing comment period. Notifications for these comment periods will be sent to the mailing list for this project, and you can be added to this mailing list by contacting the PSC Case Coordinator for this project listed below under project contacts.

For more information on becoming involved in the Commission review of construction cases, please visit our [public participation page](#), or call one of the project contacts listed below.

Information and Contacts

To review project application materials and additional related documents

- PSC website (<http://psc.wi.gov>) under the docket's "E-Services" tab, docket search number 9803-CE-100 (solar facility) and 9803-CE-101 (tie-line).
- Also on the PSC website, type "Wood County Solar Project" in the search field to navigate to the project specific webpage.
- An interactive webmap of the project is available via the project specific webpage.

Contacts

- PSC Docket Coordinator
Jeff Kitsembel
608 266-9658
Jeff.Kitsembel@wisconsin.gov
P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854

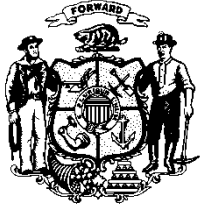
- PSC Environmental Assessment Coordinator
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P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854
- DNR Contact
Lindsay Tekler
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Sincerely,



Aaron Greene
Environmental Analysis and Review Specialist
Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs

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Electric Generation Facility in the Town of Saratoga, Wood
County, Wisconsin

9803-CE-100

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Lindsay Tekler
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- PSC Media Contact
Matthew Sweeney
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Sincerely,

/s/ Aaron Greene

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