

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. EMP-101, SUB 0

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of
Application of Edgecombe Solar, LLC for a) ORDER REQUIRING THE FILING
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity) OF ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY
to Construct a 75-MW Solar Facility in)
Edgecombe County, North Carolina)

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On December 2, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Allowing Limited Construction with Conditions allowing Edgecombe Solar, LLC (the Applicant) to engage in construction of minimal pile installations and associated erosion control measures on portions of the site of its proposed facility, subject to certain conditions.

On October 5, 2018, the Applicant filed an application pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-63 for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to construct a 75-MW solar photovoltaic (PV) electric generating facility in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, operated as a merchant generating facility

On July 29, 2020, the Public Staff filed a motion requesting the Commission require the Applicant to file supplemental testimony. In its motion, the Public Staff noted that it had recently learned that Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP), had conducted an affected system interconnection study for the PJM Interconnection Cluster AC 1. The Applicant's proposed facility is a part of the AC 1 Cluster. The Public Staff's motion asserts that the DEP Study indicates that the AC 1 Cluster would cause overloading on the line that would require reconductoring of the DEP Rocky Mount-Battleboro 115 kV line at an estimated cost of \$23 million. The Public Staff further asserts that the information in the affected system study was not available to the Public Staff when it previously filed testimony in this docket, and that it is in the public interest to require the Applicant to file testimony on this new information, and to allow interested parties to file additional testimony in response to the Applicant's testimony. In its motion, the Public Staff specifically requests the Applicant address in supplemental testimony all of the following:

(1) The levelized cost of transmission (LCOT) analysis for the study consistent with the Commission's Order Denying Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Merchant Generating Facility issued in Docket No. EMP-105, Sub 0, on June 11, 2020;

(2) A discussion of the other projects included in the AC1 Cluster discussed in the study and the Applicant's LCOT analysis; and

(3) Updated testimony concerning the continued need for the Facility in light of the additional transmission costs discussed in the affected system interconnection study.

The Commission has seen an increase in the number of merchant generating facility applications. Due to the increase in non-utility generation on the North Carolina system and the Commission's statutory duty to examine the long-range needs for the generation of electricity in North Carolina, the Commission has been requiring applicants seeking a CPCN for a merchant generating facility to file additional testimony and exhibits addressing the following questions (Additional Commission Questions):

(1) Provide the amount of network upgrades on DENC's or any affected system's transmission system, if any, required to accommodate the operation of the Applicant's proposed facility

(2) Provide the Levelized Cost of Transmission (LCOT) information for any required transmission system upgrades or modifications.

(3) Provide any interconnection study received for the proposed facility. If you have not received a study, provide a date by when the study is expected to be completed.

(4) Are you aware of any system other than the studied system that is or will be affected by the interconnection? If yes, explain the impact and basis.

(5) If the Applicant proposes to sell energy and capacity from the facility to a distribution utility regulated by the Commission, provide a discussion of how the facility's output conforms to or varies from the regulated utility's most recent IRP.

(6) If the Applicant proposes to sell energy and capacity from the facility to a distribution utility not regulated by the Commission but serving retail customers in North Carolina (e.g., a co-op or muni), provide a discussion of how the facility's output conforms to or varies from the purchasing distribution utility's long-range resource plan.

(7) If the Applicant proposes to sell energy and capacity from the facility to a purchaser who is subject to a statutory or regulatory mandate with respect to its energy sourcing (e.g., a REPS requirement or Virginia's new statutory mandate for renewables), explain how, if at all, the facility will assist or enable compliance with that mandate. Provide any contracts that support that compliance.

(8) Provide any PPA agreements, REC sale contracts, or contracts for compensation for environmental attributes for the output of the facility.

On August 18, 2020, the Applicant filed the supplemental testimony of Ryan Van Portfliet. In the filing, witness Portfliet states that the purpose of his supplemental testimony is to provide information in response to both the questions requested by the Public Staff in its June 22, 2020 Order, and the Additional Commission Questions required by the Commission in recent merchant generating facility CPCN applications.

Based on the record and the Public Staff's motion, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to direct the Public Staff to file additional testimony addressing the information contained in the supplemental testimony filed by the Applicant.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That the Public Staff shall file testimony and exhibits addressing the supplemental testimony of the Applicant on or before Friday, September 4, 2020; and
2. That the Applicant may file reply testimony and exhibits on or before Friday, September 18, 2020.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 20th day of August, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joann R. Snyder".

Joann R. Snyder, Deputy Clerk