## STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. EMP-93, SUB 0

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## BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Application of Wilkinson Solar LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 74-MW Solar Facility in Beaufort County, North Carolina

ORDER SCHEDULING FURTHER HEARINGS, REQUIRING FILING OF TESTIMONY, ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES AND REQUIRING PUBLIC NOTICE

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On October 11, 2017, the Commission issued an Order granting Wilkinson Solar LLC (Applicant) a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for the construction of a 74-MW merchant plant solar generating facility to be located in Beaufort County, North Carolina.

On November 29, 2017, the Applicant filed a letter with the Commission stating that the footprint of the facility has been expanded to the south and will incorporate additional land south of Terra Ceia Road, as shown on the revised site plan map attached thereto.

Considering the Applicant's November 29, 2017 letter and revised site plan as an application to amend the CPCN previously granted in this docket, the Commission issued an Amended Order Requiring Publication of Notice and Further Review by State Clearinghouse on December 6, 2017, requiring the Applicant to publish notice of the application and requesting further review by the State Clearinghouse. In its Order, the Commission stated that if a complaint is received within ten days after the last date of the publication of the notice, the Commission will schedule a public hearing to determine whether a certificate should be awarded, will give reasonable notice of the time and place of the hearing to the Applicant and to each complainant, and will require the Applicant to publish notice of the hearing in the newspaper in which the notice of the application was published.

On December 7, 2017, the Applicant filed a certificate of service stating that it had served a copy of the application on Dominion Energy.

On January 16, 2018, and January 26, 2018, the State Clearinghouse filed comments indicating that no further State Clearinghouse review action by the Commission was required for compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act.

On February 1, 2018, the Applicant filed its affidavit of publication stating that it had published notice of the application in The Washington (N.C.) Daily News on December 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2017, as required by the Commission's December 6, 2017 Order.

Numerous letters of complaint were filed in this docket in response to the proposed amendment subsequent to the initial newspaper publication. The Presiding Commissioner, therefore, finds good cause to schedule a public witness hearing and an expert witness hearing to consider the application. In addition, the Presiding Commissioner finds good cause to require the Applicant to publish notice of the public hearing and to pre-file testimony in this docket.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That a public witness hearing shall be held on Monday, March 19, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Beaufort County Courthouse, District Courtroom 211, 112 W. Second Street, Washington, North Carolina, for the purpose of receiving public witness testimony regarding the Applicant's application for amendment of its CPCN;

2. That an expert witness hearing, solely for the purpose of receiving expert testimony from the parties, shall be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the purpose of considering the Applicant's application for amendment of its CPCN;

3. That the Applicant shall publish the Public Notice attached hereto as Appendix A hereto one time at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the public witness hearing in the newspaper in which the Applicant previously published notice of the application, and the Applicant shall file an affidavit of publication with the Commission on or before the date of the hearing;

4. That the Applicant shall prefile its direct expert witness testimony and exhibits in support of its application on or before Friday, February 16, 2018;

5. That other persons having an interest in this proceeding and desiring to become formal participants and parties of record shall file verified petitions to intervene stating such interest in accordance with Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 on or before Friday, March 9, 2018;

6. That the Public Staff and other intervenors shall prefile their direct expert witness testimony and exhibits on or before Friday, March 9, 2018;

7. That the Applicant shall prefile its rebuttal testimony and exhibits, if any, on or before Friday, March 16, 2018; and

8. That the Chief Clerk of the Commission shall mail a copy of this Order to each of the complainants.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the <u>7<sup>th</sup></u> day of February, 2018.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Janie H. Julmone

Janice H. Fulmore, Deputy Clerk

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## DOCKET NO. EMP-93, SUB 0 APPLICATION OF WILKINSON SOLAR LLC FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on November 29, 2017, Wilkinson Solar LLC (Applicant) filed an application for an amended certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for construction of a 74-MW merchant plant solar generating facility to be located south of Terra Ceia Road, east and west of Christian School Road, and south of Vreugdenhil Road, with a portion on the north side of Terra Ceia Road, on the west side of Gaylord Road, Beaufort County, North Carolina.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on or after December 12, 2017, complaints were filed with the Commission in this docket. Based upon the complaints and the record herein, the Commission has scheduled a hearing to receive testimony from public witnesses as to whether an amended CPCN should be awarded to the Applicant. The public witness hearing will be held on Monday, March 19, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Beaufort County Courthouse, District Courtroom 211, 112 W. Second Street, Washington, North Carolina. A further hearing solely for the purpose of receiving expert witness testimony from the parties will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Details of the application may be obtained from the Office of the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 430 N. Salisbury Street, 5th Floor, Dobbs Building, Raleigh, North Carolina 27603 or on the Commission's website at <u>www.ncuc.net</u>.

Any person desiring to intervene in the proceeding as a formal party of record should file a petition under North Carolina Utilities Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 on or before Friday, March 9, 2018. Such petitions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300. The direct testimony and exhibits of expert witnesses to be presented by intervenors should also be filed with the Commission on or before Friday, March 9, 2018.

NOTE TO PRINTER: Advertising cost shall be paid by the Applicant. It is required that the Affidavit of Publication be filed with the Commission by the Applicant.