

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
KARA PRICE
ON BEHALF OF MACADAMIA SOLAR LLC
NCUC DOCKET NO. EMP-119, SUB 1

OFFICIAL COPY

Sep 13 2021

INTRODUCTION



Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, TITLE, AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Kara Price. I am senior vice president of permitting and development for Geenex Solar, LLC (“Geenex Solar”) based in Charlotte, North Carolina. The company’s address is 1930 Abbott Street, Suite 402, Charlotte, North Carolina 28203.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

A. I have more than ten (10) years of experience in the solar development industry. I have been personally involved in the development and permitting of more than 3,500 MW of solar projects in the southeastern United States. I have been employed with Geenex Solar for five years and have been actively engaged in the oversight of permitting and project development of Geenex Solar-initiated projects since August 2016. Prior to joining the solar industry, the majority of my career was spent in business development and project management. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE APPLICANT IN THIS DOCKET AND YOUR EMPLOYMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. Geenex Solar is the owner and developer of Macadamia Solar LLC (“Macadamia Solar” or “Applicant”), which has applied for a Certificate of Environmental

1 Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity (“CECPCN”) to construct a 6.53-
2 mile 230 kV transmission line (“Transmission Line”) to connect a proposed solar
3 generating facility (“Facility”) to the existing Trowbridge Substation owned by Virginia
4 Electric and Power Company d/b/a/ Dominion Energy North Carolina (“DENC”).
5 Macadamia Solar filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and
6 Necessity (“CPCN”) for the Facility under Commission Rule R8-63 on August 31, 2021.

7 As the owner and developer of the Facility and the Transmission Line, Geenex
8 Solar is currently responsible for certain stages of development for the project including
9 site identification, land acquisition, environmental reviews, local land use permitting, and
10 state permitting. In my current role for Geenex Solar and Macadamia Solar, I manage the
11 due diligence process to ensure that Macadamia Solar adheres to all regulations and obtains
12 all permits necessary for solar facility development construction and operation.

13 My current responsibilities in my role at Geenex Solar include obtaining or
14 overseeing all local land use permits for utility-scale solar projects. This oversight includes
15 understanding all zoning and comprehensive plan guidelines for each jurisdiction,
16 submitting permit applications and all required studies/documentation, coordinating expert
17 witnesses, engaging with local officials and the community, and managing legal processes
18 relating to permit approval. These responsibilities listed here are my primary focus in
19 directing development activity for the Macadamia Solar Project.

20 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS**
21 **COMMISSION?**

22 A. I have previously offered testimony before the North Carolina Utilities
23 Commission on behalf of Fern Solar LLC in its application for a Certificate of Public

1 Convenience and Necessity in NCUC Docket No. EMP-104, Sub 0; on behalf of Sumac
2 Solar LLC in its application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in
3 NCUC Docket No. EMP-110, Sub 0; and on behalf of Sweetleaf Solar LLC in its
4 application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in NCUC Docket No.
5 EMP-111, Sub 0. I also provided direct testimony in support of the Application for a CPCN
6 to construct the Facility filed by Macadamia in docket EMP-119, Sub 0.

7 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

8 A. The purpose of my testimony is to support the Application for a Certificate
9 of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity (“CECPCN”) to
10 construct the Transmission Line necessary to interconnect the Facility to the existing
11 Trowbridge Substation. The information I am providing will expand on topics in
12 Macadamia Solar’s application including the regulatory and permitting process, and
13 community engagement related to the Transmission Line.

14 **Q. WERE YOU INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF**
15 **MACADAMIA SOLAR’S CPCN APPLICATION?**

16 A. Yes. I collaborated in preparing the Application on behalf of Macadamia
17 Solar, both by providing information from my personal knowledge and also by gathering
18 information from other members of the Geenex team. I am familiar with the contents of
19 the Application, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

20 **COMPANY BACKGROUND AND PROJECT FINANCE**

21 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE APPLICANT’S TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE**
22 **AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES TO OWN AND OPERATE THE PROJECT.**

1 A. As described in the application, Geenex Solar is a Delaware Limited
2 Liability Company formed on July 18, 2013, with its principal place of business in
3 Charlotte, North Carolina. Geenex Solar develops high-quality solar projects ultimately
4 for sale to its partners and investors. Geenex Solar is skilled in all aspects of a solar
5 project's development including site evaluation, real estate procurement, facility and
6 interconnection engineering, environmental analysis, power purchase agreements, as well
7 as federal, state, and local permitting processes.

8 Macadamia Solar LLC was formed on April 15, 2015, as a North Carolina limited
9 liability company. Macadamia Solar and Geenex Solar are wholly-owned subsidiaries of
10 the same parent company, Geenex Holding LLC ("Geenex Holding"). More information
11 about Geenex Solar's corporate history, business model, financial capabilities, and
12 expertise in the development of solar projects, as well as a list of Geenex Solar-developed
13 projects, are set forth in **Exhibit 1, Items (ii) and (iii)** to the CPCN Application filed in
14 NCUC Docket No. EMP-119, Sub 0, which items are hereby incorporated by reference.

15 **Q. HOW WILL THE PROJECT BE FINANCED?**

16 A. The financing of the Transmission Line will be included with the financing of the
17 Facility as more fully described in my direct testimony located in NCUC Docket No. EMP-
18 119, Sub 0, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

19 **REGULATORY APPROVALS AND PERMITS**

20 **Q. DESCRIBE THE PERMITS AND APPROVALS YOU ANTICIPATE**
21 **WILL BE NECESSARY TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION OF THE**
22 **TRANSMISSION LINE.**

1 A. Macadamia Solar proposes to develop, install, and operate a Transmission
2 Line in Washington County in a manner consistent with all federal, state, local regulations
3 and electrical standards to ensure the safety and protection of local residents. The
4 anticipated local, state and federal permits required for construction of the Transmission
5 Line are set forth in Table 1 of the CECPCN Application.

6 **Q. WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF**
7 **THE TRANSMISSION LINE?**

8 A. The Applicant and its consultants have conducted several assessments of
9 the site to determine the environmental impacts of the Transmission Line. These are
10 described further in the direct testimony of Amanda Corll and Robert Turnbull and in
11 **Schedule 6** of the Application.

12 **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND BENEFITS**

13 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE ANTICIPATED BENEFITS OF THE**
14 **TRANSMISSION LINE AND FACILITY TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.**

15 A. The benefits of the Transmission Line and Facility to the local community
16 are more fully described in my direct testimony located in NCUC Docket No. EMP-119,
17 Sub 0, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

18 **Q. HAVE THE APPLICANTS ENGAGED THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**
19 **IN RELATION TO THE TRANSMISSION LINE AND THE FACILITY?**

20 A. Yes, the Applicant has been engaged with the local community. All
21 engagement on behalf of Macadamia Solar included the project and all supporting
22 infrastructure required for interconnection. These activities are more fully described in my
23 direct testimony filed on August 31, 2021, in Docket No. EMP-119, Sub 0, which is hereby

1 incorporated by reference. In addition, in August 2021 the Applicant met in person with
2 Washington County Planning Director Allen Pittman and Washington County
3 Commissioner Ann Keyes. The purpose of these meetings was to provide key updates on
4 Macadamia Solar's development and its intention to file an application with the NCUC for
5 a CPCN and CECPCN. In addition, Macadamia Solar sent letters to Washington County,
6 the Town of Plymouth and two North Carolina state legislators representing the region.
7 These letters provided key updates and explained the CPCN/CECPCN processes. The
8 Applicant further intends to keep local officials and the community informed during the
9 CPCN/CECPCN processes and to be available for any questions or concerns.

10 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

11 **A. Yes.**