

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. SP-8116, SUB 0

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of  
Application of Slender Branch Solar,  
LLC, for a Certificate of Public  
Convenience and Necessity to Construct a  
80-MWAC Solar Facility in Bladen  
County, North Carolina

**MOTION TO RENEW CERTIFICATE  
OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND  
NECESSITY**

NOW COMES Slender Branch Solar, LLC (“Slender Branch Solar” or “Applicant”), by and through its undersigned counsel, and respectfully requests that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (“Commission”) renew the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CPCN”) pursuant to Commission Rule R8-64(d)(2) in the above-referenced docket. In support of this request, Slender Branch Solar shows the Commission the following.

1. On October 11, 2016, the Commission issued an *Order Issuing Certificate and Accepting Registration of New Renewable Energy Facility* in which the Commission granted a CPCN to Slender Branch Solar for the construction of an 80-MWAC solar photovoltaic (PV) generating facility to be located along N.C. Highway 131, east of Faith Lane, west of Twisted Hickory Road, and approximately 3.4 miles south of the intersection of N.C. Highway 131 and Silver Spoon Road, Bladenboro, Bladen County, North Carolina, and accepting its registration as a new renewable energy facility.

2. On February 3, 2021, Slender Branch Solar filed an amendment to its application to add battery storage, including an updated site plan and a single-line diagram of the DC-coupled battery storage.

3. On March 22, 2021, the Commission issued an *Order Issuing Amended Certificate*, in which the Commission granted an amended CPCN to Slender Branch Solar for the construction of an 80-MWAC solar photovoltaic (PV) generating facility to be located along N.C. Highway 131, east of Faith Lane, west of Twisted Hickory Road, and approximately 3.4 miles south of the intersection of N.C. Highway 131 and Silver Spoon Road, Bladenboro, Bladen County, North Carolina.

4. Duke Energy Progress, LLC completed the System Impact Study for the project on October 20, 2017. Once FERC approves Duke Energy's FERC Queue Reform Proposal and the revised Standard Large Generator Interconnection Procedures become effective, Slender Branch Solar intends to enter the Transitional Cluster in which Slender Brach Solar and other Interconnection Customers will be grouped together for the Transitional Cluster Study Process so that Slender Brach Solar will be studied again.

5. The following environmental review has been completed for Slender Branch Solar:

- i. National Environmental Policy Act Assessment – November 15, 2017
- ii. Protected Species Evaluation – April 27, 2017
- iii. Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment – December 12, 2019
- iv. Wetlands Delineation – July 14, 2017
- v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jurisdictional Determination – February 28, 2020

- vi. Preliminary Geotechnical Evaluation – November 22, 2019
- vii. Preliminary ALTA survey – October 11, 2019
- 6. The facility is expected to be placed in service by December 31, 2025.

Slender Brach Solar has not yet commenced construction of the facility, and expects that it will not be able to commence construction of the facility within five years of the Commission's issuance of the original CPCN on October 11, 2016.

7. In compliance with Commission Rule R8-64(d)(2), Slender Brach Solar is also filing a CPCN Application in support of this request for a renewal of the CPCN.

8. Slender Brach Solar respectfully requests that the Commission renew the original CPCN issued on October 11, 2016 for an additional five years in accordance with Commission Rule R8-64(d)(2).

**WHEREFORE**, Slender Brach Solar respectfully requests that the Commission renew the CPCN issued on October 11, 2016 for an additional five years in accordance with Commission Rule R8-64(d)(2).

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of September, 2021.

/s/ Karen M. Kemerait  
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*Attorneys for Slender Branch Solar, LLC and BCD  
Project Holdings 1, LLC*

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

VERIFICATION

I, Ben Catt, being duly sworn, do hereby declare that I am duly authorized to act on behalf of BCD Project Holdings 1, LLC, that I have read the foregoing Motion to Renew Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, and that the same is true and accurate to my personal knowledge and belief.

This 23rd day of August, 2021.

Slender Branch Solar, LLC

By: BCD Project Holdings 1, LLC

By: [Signature]  
Name: Ben Catt  
Title: Authorized Representative

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2021.

[Signature]  
Notary Public (signature)

Corinne Wullmann  
Notary Public (printed)

[Notary Seal]

My Commission expires: 04.11.2024



## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that all persons on the docket service list have been served true and accurate copies of the foregoing **MOTION TO RENEW CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY** by first class mail deposited in the U.S. mail, postage pre-paid, or by email transmission to all parties of record.

This the 6th day of September, 2021.

/s/ Karen M. Kemerait  
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