

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. EMP-104, SUB 0

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Application of Fern Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 100-MW Solar Facility in Edgecombe County, North Carolina) ORDER SCHEDULING HEARINGS,) REQUIRING FILING OF) TESTIMONY, ESTABLISHING) PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES AND) REQUIRING PUBLIC NOTICE
--	--

BY THE CHAIRMAN: On November 27, 2018, Fern Solar, LLC (Applicant) filed an application pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-63 for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to construct a 100-MW_{AC} solar photovoltaic (PV) electric generating facility to be located in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, and to be operated as a merchant plant. The Applicant also filed a registration statement seeking registration of the facility as a new renewable energy facility.

In support of the application, the Applicant filed the direct testimony of Benjamin Lindermeier and Kara Price, as well as several exhibits. In summary, construction of the 100-MW_{AC} solar PV facility is anticipated to begin on June 1, 2019, with the expected commercial operation date being as early as January 1, 2020. The location of the proposed facility is on non-contiguous parcels of land located generally between Battleboro-Leggett Road, Cool Spring Road, and Speights Chapel Road, approximately 3.2 miles northeast of Rocky Mount and 6.7 miles northwest of Tarboro, in Edgecombe County, North Carolina. The facility will interconnect with the electric transmission system owned by Dominion North Carolina Power. The expected service life of the facility is 20 or more years.

On December 7, 2018, the Public Staff filed a Notice of Completeness stating that the Public Staff has reviewed the application as required by Commission Rule R8-63(d) and that the Public Staff considers the application to be complete. In addition, the Public Staff requested that the Commission issue a procedural order setting the application for hearing, requiring public notice pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-82, and addressing other procedural matters.

The Chairman finds good cause to schedule a public witness hearing and an expert witness hearing to consider the application. In addition, the Chairman finds good cause to apply the following guidelines regarding discovery in this docket, subject to modification for good cause shown:

1. Any deposition which a party desires to take shall be taken before the deadline for filing of Public Staff and intervenor testimony. Notice of deposition shall be served on all parties at least seven days prior to the taking of the deposition. Notice of

deposition and all other discovery notices, requests and motions shall be served on the appropriate parties by hand delivery or facsimile, or by electronic delivery if the receiving party has agreed to receipt by electronic delivery.

2. Any motion for subpoena of a witness to appear at the evidentiary hearing shall be filed with the Commission before the deadline for filing of Public Staff and intervenor testimony, shall be served by hand delivery or facsimile to the person sought to be subpoenaed at or before the time of filing with the Commission, and shall make a reasonable showing that the evidence of such person will be material and relevant to an issue in the proceeding. See N.C.G.S. § 62-62. Unless an objection is filed, the Chief Clerk shall issue the requested subpoena 24 hours after such motion is filed.

3. Formal discovery requests related to the application and the Applicant's prefiled direct testimony shall be served on the Applicant not later than fourteen days prior to the deadline for filing of Public Staff and intervenor testimony. The party served shall have up to ten calendar days to file with the Commission objections to the discovery requests on an item-by-item basis, but in no event shall objections be filed later than ten days prior to the deadline for filing of Public Staff and intervenor testimony.

4. Formal discovery requests of the Public Staff or intervenors shall be served not later than three days after such testimony is filed. The party served shall have up to three calendar days to file with the Commission objections to the discovery requests on an item-by-item basis, but in no event shall objections be filed later than five days after that party's testimony was filed.

5. Formal discovery requests related to the Applicant's prefiled rebuttal testimony shall be served on the Applicant not later than two days after such testimony is filed. The party served shall have up to two calendar days to file with the Commission objections to the discovery requests on an item-by-item basis, but in no event shall objections be filed later than three days after the rebuttal testimony was filed. Discovery related to rebuttal testimony shall be limited to new material introduced in such rebuttal testimony and will be carefully scrutinized upon objection that such discovery should have been sought during the initial period of discovery from the Applicant.

6. Discovery requests need not be filed with the Commission when served; however, any party filing objections shall attach a copy of the relevant discovery request to the objections. Each discovery request, or part thereof, to which no objection is filed shall be answered by the time objections are due, subject to other agreement of the affected parties or other order of the Commission. Upon the filing of objections, the party seeking discovery shall have two days to file a motion to compel with the Commission, and the party objecting to discovery shall have one day thereafter to file a response. All objections, motions to compel, and responses shall be served on the other affected party at or before the time of filing with the Commission.

7. A party shall not be granted an extension of time to pursue discovery because of that party's late intervention or other delay in initiating discovery.

The Commission recognizes that in the past most discovery has been conducted in an informal manner without the need for Commission involvement or enforcement, and that such has been generally successful. The above guidelines are without prejudice to the parties conducting informal discovery or exchanging information by agreement at any time with the understanding that such will not be enforceable by the Commission if outside the guidelines.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

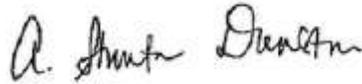
1. That a public witness hearing shall be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Edgecombe County Courthouse, 301 St. Andrews Street, Tarboro, North Carolina, for the purpose of receiving public witness testimony regarding the Applicant's application for a CPCN;
2. That the Commission may cancel the public witness hearing if no substantial written complaints regarding the proposed facility are filed with the Commission on or before Monday, January 28, 2019;
3. That an expert witness hearing, solely for the purpose of receiving expert testimony from the parties, shall be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 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 a CPCN;
4. That any person having an interest in this proceeding may file a petition to intervene stating such interest on or before Monday, January 28, 2019;
5. That the direct testimony and exhibits of the Public Staff and other intervenors shall be filed on or before Monday, January 28, 2019;
6. That the Applicant may file rebuttal testimony and exhibits on or before Friday, February 1, 2019;
7. That the Chief Clerk of the Commission shall deliver copies of the application and the Public Notice attached hereto as Appendix A to the Clearinghouse Coordinator of the Office of Policy and Planning of the Department of Administration for distribution by the Coordinator to State agencies having an interest in the application.
8. That the Applicant shall publish the Public Notice attached hereto as Appendix A in a newspaper having general circulation in Edgecombe County once a week for four successive weeks beginning at least 30 days prior to Monday, January 28, 2019;
9. That the Applicant shall file affidavits of publication on or before the date of the public hearing; and

10. That the parties shall comply with the discovery guidelines established herein.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 20th day of December, 2018.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Shonta Dunston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

A. Shonta Dunston, Acting Deputy Clerk

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. EMP-104, SUB 0

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
Application of Fern Solar, LLC for a Certificate)
of Public Convenience and Necessity to) PUBLIC NOTICE
Construct a 100-MW Solar Facility in)
Edgecombe County, North Carolina)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission has scheduled a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Edgecombe County Courthouse, 301 St. Andrews Street, Tarboro, North Carolina. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public witness testimony regarding the application of Fern Solar, LLC (Applicant). Public witness testimony will be received in accordance with Commission Rule R1-21(g).

On November 27, 2018, the Applicant filed an application pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-63 for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to construct a 100-MW_{AC} solar photovoltaic (PV) electric generating facility to be located in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, and to be operated as a merchant plant. The Applicant also filed a registration statement seeking registration of the facility as a new renewable energy facility.

In support of the application for a CPCN, the Applicant filed the direct testimony of Benjamin Lindermeier and Kara Price, as well as several exhibits. In summary, construction of the 100-MW_{AC} solar PV facility is anticipated to begin on June 1, 2019, with the expected commercial operation date being as early as January 1, 2020. The location of the proposed facility is on non-contiguous parcels of land located generally between Battleboro-Leggett Road, Cool Spring Road, and Speights Chapel Road, approximately 3.2 miles northeast of Rocky Mount and 6.7 miles northwest of Tarboro, in Edgecombe County, North Carolina. The facility will interconnect with the electric transmission system owned by Dominion North Carolina Power. The expected service life of the facility is 20 or more years.

On December 7, 2018, the Public Staff filed a Notice of Completeness stating that the Public Staff has reviewed the application as required by Commission Rule R8-63(d) and that the Public Staff considers the application to be complete. In addition, the Public Staff requested that the Commission issue a procedural order setting the application for hearing, requiring public notice pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-82, and addressing other procedural matters.

Specific information about the application for a CPCN may be obtained from the Office of the Chief Clerk, North Carolina Utilities Commission, Raleigh, North Carolina, where a copy of the application, exhibits and supporting testimony are available for review by the public, and on the Commission's website at www.ncuc.net.

The Public Staff is authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Written statements to the Public Staff should include any information that the writers wish to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter. Such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4326.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-9001.

Written statements are not evidence unless persons appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

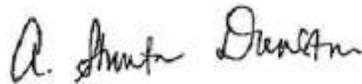
Any person desiring to intervene in the proceeding as a formal party of record should file a petition under North Carolina Utilities Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 on or before Monday, January 28, 2019. Such petitions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325. The direct testimony and exhibits of expert witnesses to be presented by intervenors should also be filed with the Commission on or before Monday, January 28, 2019.

The Commission may cancel the public witness hearing if no substantial written complaints regarding the proposed facility are received by the Commission's Chief Clerk on or before Monday, January 28, 2019.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 20th day of December, 2018.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION



A. Shonta Dunston, Acting Deputy Clerk