

SUPPLEMENTAL PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
MATT CROOK  
ON BEHALF OF OAK TRAIL SOLAR, LLC

NCUC DOCKET NO. EMP-114, Sub 0

1 INTRODUCTION

2 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, TITLE AND BUSINESS**  
3 **ADDRESS.**

4 A. My name is Matt Crook. I am a project developer for Leeward  
5 Renewable Energy, LLC (“Leeward”). My business address is 800 Town and  
6 Country Blvd, Suite 500, Houston, TX 77024.

7 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE APPLICANT IN**  
8 **THIS DOCKET?**

9 A. I am the lead project developer for the Oak Trail Solar, LLC (“Oak  
10 Trail”) solar facility (the “Facility”).

11 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL**  
12 **EXPERIENCE.**

13 A. I have over 8 years of experience in the renewable energy field. I  
14 began working with First Solar, Inc. in 2018 on the development of multiple solar  
15 energy projects throughout North Carolina and the southeast more generally. I  
16 transitioned to working with Leeward in connection with the development portfolio  
17 sale from First Solar, Inc. to Leeward. I earned a bachelor’s degree in political  
18 science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master’s  
19 degree in business administration from the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School.

20 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR CURRENT EMPLOYMENT**  
21 **RESPONSIBILITIES.**

22           A.    My current responsibilities include managing new project  
23 identification, project development and acquisition activities for Leeward's solar  
24 energy business in the North Carolina and southeast region. This includes  
25 directing development activity for the Facility.

26           **Q.    HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS**  
27 **COMMISSION?**

28           A.    No, but I filed prefiled testimony in the above-referenced docket on  
29 September 17, 2020.

30           **Q.    WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR SUPPLEMENTAL**  
31 **TESTIMONY?**

32           A.    The purpose of my supplemental testimony is to update the  
33 Commission with background information about Leeward, the new indirect  
34 upstream owner of Oak Trail, and to provide information on Leeward's technical  
35 and managerial capabilities.

36           **Q.    DOES THE FACILITY REMAIN THE SAME AS DESCRIBED IN**  
37 **THE APPLICATION AND YOUR PREFILED TESTIMONY FILED ON**  
38 **SEPTEMBER 17, 2020?**

39           A.    Yes. The only material update in the amended application is to the  
40 upstream ownership of Oak Trail. All other material information in the application  
41 remains the same.

42           **Q.    PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT OAK TRAIL AND**  
43 **LEEWARD.**

44           A.    Oak Trail is a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of Leeward. Oak  
45 Trail is a limited liability company registered to do business in North Carolina.

46 Oak Trail was organized for the development of the Facility in Currituck County,  
47 North Carolina, which is the subject of the Application. Leeward is  
48 headquartered in Dallas, Texas.

49 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE LEEWARD'S EXPERIENCE DEVELOPING**  
50 **RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES, INCLUDING SOLAR FACILITIES.**

51 A. Leeward and its affiliated companies have owned and operated a  
52 fleet of renewable energy assets in the United States for nearly 20 years.  
53 Leeward currently owns and operates a portfolio of 22 renewable energy projects  
54 across nine states, totaling more than 2 GW of installed capacity. Leeward and  
55 its affiliated companies also develop large-scale wind, solar, and advanced  
56 energy storage electric generation assets in North America. Leeward has  
57 approximately 14 GW of new wind, solar, and energy storage projects under  
58 development across the United States including an expansive development  
59 pipeline of solar projects across more than 20 states. Leeward acquired  
60 approximately 10 GW of development-stage solar projects from First Solar, Inc.,  
61 including Oak Trail. As part of the acquisition, approximately 50 development  
62 personnel from First Solar, Inc. became Leeward employees.

63 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE LEEWARD'S TECHNICAL AND**  
64 **MANAGERIAL CAPABILITY TO OPERATE RENEWABLE ENERGY**  
65 **FACILITIES, INCLUDING SOLAR FACILITIES.**

66 A. Leeward is an experienced operator of renewable energy  
67 generation facilities. Leeward is staffed with experienced industry personnel and  
68 currently operates more than 2 GW of renewable energy generation projects in  
69 North America.

70 NovaSource Power Services (“NovaSource”) will provide operations and  
71 maintenance (“O&M”) services for the Facility. NovaSource operates more than  
72 1,000 commercial, industrial, and utility scale solar projects totaling 3.5 GW  
73 production and operates across 5 continents and 22 US states.

74 A Leeward-affiliated asset manager will have overall management  
75 responsibility for the Facility including all contract compliance. The asset  
76 manager will coordinate regional technicians to maintain and repair the Facility  
77 as necessary. Both the regional technicians and asset manager draw on the  
78 resources of Leeward for all other functions such as accounting, human  
79 resources, legal, finance and engineering.

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

81 A. Yes.