## STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. EMP-102, SUB 1

## BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Application of Pitt Solar, LLC for a	)	
Certificate of Public Convenience and	)	ORDER REQUIRING FILING OF
Necessity to Construct an 80 MW Solar	)	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Facility in Pitt County, North Carolina	)	

BY THE COMMISSION: On August 10, 2020, Pitt Solar, LLC (Pitt or Applicant)¹ filed an application pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule R8-63 for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to construct a 150 MW<sub>AC</sub> solar photovoltaic (PV) electric merchant generating facility (Facility) in Pitt County, North Carolina (Application).

On September 14, 2021, the Commission issued an Order Requiring Amendment of the Application and Revising Procedural Schedule ordering Pitt to file an amended application reflecting a two-stage or bifurcated process for the Commission to consider the two different portions of the proposed Facility. Phase 1 of the proposed Facility is 80 MW and is part of PJM Interconnection Cluster AC1 (AC1 Cluster).

On April 4, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Granting Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity with Conditions granting Pitt a CPCN to construct Phase 1 of the Facility (CPCN Order). The CPCN Order Finding of Fact No. 7 stated that PJM estimates that costs for the PJM network upgrades for Phase 1 of the Facility are \$8,922,829. Finding of Fact No. 8 stated that the affected systems costs for the AC1 cluster's impact on the Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP) system are \$31,285,275.

Commission Rule R8-63(f) requires Pitt to file Annual Progress Reports on the construction of the Facility, and the CPCN Order required Pitt to file any revisions to cost estimates for the construction of the Facility and for any network upgrades within 30 days of becoming aware of the revisions (Annual Progress Reports). On March 7, 2024, Pitt filed an Annual Progress Report, stating that it is in the process of negotiating with engineering, procurement, and construction contractors and vendors. According to Pitt, development of the project and discussions with potential off-takers continue. Engineering work on the Facility is approximately 85% complete. Pitt estimates that construction will begin in the second quarter of 2024. Pitt states that it continues to update financial modeling for the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bethel NC 11 Solar, LLC was the Applicant's original name. The Applicant later filed a Notice of Name Change and Motion to Amend Application and Caption that gave notice of the name change to Pitt Solar, LLC.

Facility as it receives material, engineering, and construction estimates, and that currently there are no cost revisions.

To aid the Commission's oversight of the construction of merchant generating facilities and their impacts on North Carolina ratepayers, all Annual Progress Reports must include affirmative and specific statements of costs. The Commission directs Pitt to amend its most recently filed Annual Progress Report to itemize the construction costs to show: (1) the cost of the generating plant; (2) the cost of the interconnection facilities; (3) the cost of network upgrades; and (4) the cost of affected system upgrades.

Pitt is also directed to provide an updated LCOT calculation assuming that the Facility is responsible for all affected system costs necessitated by the facilities in its cluster, regardless of whether any of those costs presently are assigned or allocated to the Facility or to any other facility in the cluster, or whether any facility has a signed ASOA, and using the expected annual generator output in MWh of only the Facility.

The Commission further directs Pitt to update the Commission on the date on which the Facility was placed into service or is anticipated to be placed in service. To the extent the Facility is not yet in service and additional Annual Progress Reports must be filed, the reports should follow the directives set forth in this Order.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that Pitt shall file a revised Annual Progress Report on or before Monday, May 6, 2024.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 4th day of April, 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk

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