

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. EMP-115, SUB 0

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of		
Application of Cherry Solar, LLC, for a)	
Certificate of Public Convenience and)	ORDER REQUIRING ADDITIONAL
Necessity to Construct a 180-MW Solar)	COST INFORMATION
Facility in Northampton County,)	
North Carolina)	

BY THE PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: On November 13, 2020, Cherry Solar, LLC (Cherry Solar or Applicant), filed an application (Application) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-110.1 and Commission Rule 8-63 for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to construct a 180-MWac solar photovoltaic (PV) electric generating facility to be located in Northampton County, North Carolina, and to be operated as a merchant generating facility. Cherry Solar noted that the Facility is part of PJM Interconnection Cluster AC1 (AC1 Cluster).

The Commission received multiple filings of testimony from the Applicant and the Public Staff.

On October 6, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Requiring Proposed Orders.

On October 27, the Applicant and the Public Staff filed Proposed Orders.

On April 3, 2024, the Applicant filed amended versions of the Interconnection Service Agreement (ISA) and Interconnection Construction Service Agreement (ICSA) between the Applicant and PJM Interconnection. The revised agreements did not reflect any changes in network upgrade costs or other costs associated with the project.

There has been an increase in the number of applications for CPCNs to construct electric merchant plants. As the Commission considers more of these applications, it better understands what information is necessary to analyze the applications considering the Commission's statutory duty to examine long-range needs for the generation of electricity in North Carolina. To aid its analysis of pending applications for CPCNs to construct electric merchant plants and their potential impacts on North Carolina ratepayers, the Commission is requiring applicants with pending applications, including Cherry Solar, to provide updated cost information on or before May 13, 2024. The updated cost information shall include: (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.

Cherry Solar 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 interconnection 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 Cherry Solar to update the Commission on the date on which the Facility is anticipated to be placed in service, or the anticipated time period in which the Facility realistically could be placed in service upon receipt of a CPCN.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That the Applicant shall provide updated cost information on or before May 13, 2024 including: (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;

2. That Cherry Solar shall 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;

3. That Cherry Solar shall update the Commission on the date on which the Facility is anticipated to be placed in service or the anticipated time period in which the Facility could be placed in service upon receipt of a CPCN.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 11th day of April 2024.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Shonta Dunston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "A." and last name "Dunston" clearly distinguishable.

A. Shonta Dunston, Chief Clerk