

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE KENTUCKY STATE BOARD ON ELECTRIC GENERATION
AND TRANSMISSION SITING

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF SONG)	
SPARROW SOLAR LLC FOR CERTIFICATE OF)	
CONSTRUCTION FOR AN APPROXIMATELY 104)	CASE NO.
MEGAWATT MERCHANT ELECTRIC SOLAR)	2023-00256
GENERATING FACILITY IN BALLARD COUNTY,)	
KENTUCKY PURSUANT TO KRS 278.700 AND)	
807 KAR 5:110)	

SITING BOARD STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
TO SONG SPARROW SOLAR LLC

Song Sparrow Solar LLC (Song Sparrow), pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, shall file with the Commission an electronic version of the following information. The information requested is due on October 20, 2023. The Siting Board directs Song Sparrow to the Kentucky Public Service Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085¹ regarding filings with the Commission. Electronic documents shall be in portable document format (PDF), shall be searchable, and shall be appropriately bookmarked.

Each response shall include the question to which the response is made and shall include the name of the witness responsible for responding to the questions related to the information provided. Each response shall be answered under oath or, for representatives of a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or a governmental agency, be accompanied by a signed certification of the preparer or the

¹ Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19* (Ky. PSC July 22, 2021), Order (in which the Commission ordered that for case filings made on and after March 16, 2020, filers are NOT required to file the original physical copies of the filings required by 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8).

person supervising the preparation of the response on behalf of the entity that the response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Song Sparrow shall make timely amendment to any prior response if Song Sparrow obtains information that indicates the response was incorrect or incomplete when made or, though correct or complete when made, is now incorrect or incomplete in any material respect.

For any request to which Song Sparrow fails or refuses to furnish all or part of the requested information, Song Sparrow shall provide a written explanation of the specific grounds for its failure to completely and precisely respond.

Careful attention shall be given to copied or scanned material to ensure that it is legible. When the requested information has been previously provided in this proceeding in the requested format, reference may be made to the specific location of that information in responding to this request. When applicable, the requested information shall be separately provided for total company operations and jurisdictional operations. When filing a paper containing personal information, Song Sparrow shall, in accordance with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(10), encrypt or redact the paper so that personal information cannot be read.

1. Submit a copy of the lease or purchase agreements, including options, separate agreements, or deeds which Song Sparrow has entered into in connection with the proposed solar facility, including the agreements for each of the parcels of the project.
2. Detail any contracts by which Song Sparrow has paid, has negotiated to pay, or any compensation paid to non-participating landowners, whether cash or

otherwise, near the project. Include the terms of the agreements and which properties are involved in terms of distance to the project boundaries.

3. Provide a schedule for the project, starting from the receipt of the proposed certificate for construction to the completion of the project, including the length of each construction phase. Include in the response when Song Sparrow believes peak construction will occur within the timeline.

4. Refer to Case No. 2020-00392.²

a. Provide the number of miles between the Song Sparrow project and the McCracken County Solar, LLC (McCracken County Solar) project.

b. Provide any overlaps in the projected construction schedules of the Song Sparrow project and the McCracken County Solar project.

c. Describe what steps have been taken to communicate with the developers of McCracken County Solar to limit the adverse impacts of the projects. If no contact has been initiated, explain when that will occur.

5. Provide the company that will employ the individuals that are or will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the statements in the application and any conditions imposed by the Siting Board during construction and operations of the project.

6. Refer to the Application, Record of Environmental Violations, page 16. Provide the entities with a direct ownership interest in Song Sparrow. Also provide the corporate structure of those entities.

² Case No. 2020-00392, *Electronic Application of McCracken County Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Construction for an Approximately 60 Megawatt Merchant Electric Solar Generating Facility in McCracken County, Kentucky Pursuant to KRS 278.700 and 807 KAR 5:110.*

7. Provide a list of permits that will be required from any other local, state, or federal agencies for the project. Include in the response the status of those permits.

8. Refer to the Application, Attachment A, Context Map. Provide an updated context map that includes a 2,000-foot radius around the project site. Also include in the context map any notable community structures, other than schools and churches, within the 2,000-foot radius.

9. Refer to the Site Assessment Report (SAR), Appendix B, Preliminary Site Layout. Explain whether there will be vegetation clearing for construction. Provide in the response the number of acres that will be cleared and any permits that will be required.

10. Refer to the SAR, Appendix B, Preliminary Site Layout. Provide a one-page site map that includes:

- a. Construction entrances.
- b. Operations entrances.
- c. Operations and maintenance (O&M) area.
- d. Meteorological station.
- e. Laydown areas.
- f. Solar array.
- g. Substation.
- h. Transmission line.

11. Refer to the SAR, Appendix B, Preliminary Site Layout. Provide a one-page site map that contains the locations water features, including rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. Also include any known or suspected karst features.

12. Explain whether the perimeter security will be we installed according to National Electric Safety Code (NESC) standards.

13. Provide the security measures for the O&M areas and substation within the project's boundaries.

14. Refer to the SAR, Appendix B, Preliminary Site Layout, page 15. Explain the difference between Buffer Screen Type A and Buffer Screen Type B.

15. Refer to the SAR, Appendix B, Preliminary Site Layout, page 15. Explain why it was decided that different areas of the project need different types of vegetative buffers.

16. Explain whether any existing structures on the project site will be demolished during construction.

17. Provide a copy of the stormwater management plan for the project.

18. Provide any geotechnical reports for the project.

19. Provide any communication with local emergency services on security and emergency protocols during construction and operations. If contact has not been made, explain when that contact will occur.

20. The National Pipeline Mapping System indicates the Trunkline Gas Company 30-inch pipeline runs parallel to the western-boundary of the project. Explain whether the project will cross the pipeline in anyway. Include in the response, any discussions with Trunkline Gas Company regarding the pipeline and any crossing agreements that must be obtained.

21. Refer to the SAR, Compatibility with Scenic Surroundings, page 4. Provide any communication with the Barkley Regional Airport regarding the project.

22. Refer to the SAR, Compatibility with Scenic Surroundings, page 4. Provide the glare study.

23. Refer to the SAR, Compatibility with Scenic Surroundings, page 4. Provide any communication with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) or the Kentucky Airport Zoning Commission regarding the project.

24. Refer to the Application, Public Notice Report, pages 9-11. Provide the communications between Song Sparrow and the Ballard County School Superintendent. Include any concerns the Superintendent had about the project and what Song Sparrow proposed to alleviate the concerns.

25. Refer to the Application, Public Notice Report, pages 9-11. Provide any written comments, or a summary of oral comments, by members of the public regarding the project. Include in the response any changes in the project design that Song Sparrow has made due to those comments.

26. Explain how Song Sparrow will coordinate with local property owners, or others, during construction about issues that could arise as a result of the construction.

27. Refer the Application, Attachment G, Economic Impact Report, page 13. Also refer to the Application, Attachment E, Public Meeting Documentation, page 4. Also refer to the SAR, Appendix F, page 8. All list different numbers for full time employment during operations. State the correct number of full-time operational jobs.

28. Refer to the SAR, Proposed Site Development Plan, Item 6, page 3. Provide the utility that will provide retail water during construction and operations.

29. Refer to the SAR, Appendix D, Noise Analysis Report. Provide the source of the estimate of 84 dBA at 50 feet for pile driving. State whether that estimate came

from the specifications of the pile driver to be used or from the United States Federal Highway Administration or United States Environmental Protection Agency.

30. Refer to the SAR, Appendix D, Noise Analysis Report, page 6. Explain the basis for the statement that solar pile drivers are quieter than other pile drivers.

31. Refer to the SAR, Appendix D, Noise Analysis Report. Provide the distance at which the sound power level of the substation transformer was estimated.

32. Refer to the SAR. Provide any mitigation measures that Song Sparrow Solar will be using for construction noise.

33. Refer to the SAR, Appendix F, Traffic Impact Study. Provide:

- a. Provide the weight limits of each local roadway to be used for construction traffic.
- b. Provide the number of worker vehicles traveling to the site each day during construction.
- c. The number and approximate weight classes of the heavy and light duty trucks anticipated on site per day during the construction phase.
- d. The estimated weight of the project's required substation transformer and the truck class necessary for its delivery.

34. Explain whether any traffic stoppages will be necessary to accommodate large truck deliveries. If yes, provide the expected locations, frequency and length of those stoppages.

35. Provide any communications with the Ballard County Road Department regarding permits or agreements necessary for the project. If no communication has been initiated, explain when that contact will occur.

36. Provide any communication with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District Engineer regarding permits or agreements necessary for the project. If no communication has been initiated, explain when that contact will occur.

37. Refer to the Application, Attachment G, Economic Impact Report, page 14. Provide the occupational taxes generated by the operations phase of the Project.

38. Explain whether Song Sparrow will pursue an Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB) and Payment In Lieu of Taxes Agreement (PILOT) with Ballard County. If yes, explain how that might change the cumulative tax revenues of the Project.

39. Explain whether Song Sparrow intends to hire as many local workers for the construction and operations phases of the project as possible, all other qualifications for the positions being equal.

40. Refer to the Application, Attachment H, Decommissioning Plan. Explain whether the lease agreements for the property contain additional decommissioning requirements.



Linda C. Bridwell, PE
Executive Director
Public Service Commission *on behalf*
of the Kentucky State Board on
Generation and Transmission Siting
P.O. Box 615
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DATED OCT 05 2023

cc: Parties of Record

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