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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## Metcalfe County Solar Project Seeks OK from Siting Board 55-MW array would be located near Summer Shade

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (Mar. 31, 2020)** – The Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting has received an application requesting a construction certificate for a solar energy project in Metcalfe County. A review has determined that the application is complete as filed on March 27, 2020.

The application, from Glover Creek Solar, LLC, proposes construction of a 55-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic solar array on 400 acres of pasture and farm land north of the unincorporated community of Summer Shade.

Glover Creek Solar is a wholly owned subsidiary of Carolina Solar Energy of Durham, North Carolina. The company is also developing a smaller solar project in Garrard County.

The project would sell power into the regional wholesale electricity market operated by PJM Interconnection, interconnecting to the grid via an existing East Kentucky Power Cooperative transmission line that crosses the property.

The application and related documents are available on the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) website:

## https://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?case=2020-00043

The Siting Board is attached to the PSC for administrative purposes. Under a law passed in 2002 by the Kentucky General Assembly, the Siting Board is charged with reviewing applications for merchant power plants, also known as independent power producers (IPPs), which sell into wholesale electricity markets.

IPPs are not regulated by the Kentucky Public Service Commission. Applicants to the Siting Board are not required to meet the criteria set by the PSC for new facilities built by regulated utilities, and thus do not need to demonstrate, among other things, that the proposed facility is necessary to meet demand for electricity.

The Siting Board considers issues such as noise, visual impact, traffic, economic impacts and effects of the proposed facility on Kentucky's electric grid. It also addresses compliance with local planning and zoning requirements. It does not address environmental matters, which are under the jurisdiction of the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection.

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By law, the Siting Board has 120 days after an application is deemed complete (180 days if a formal hearing is requested) to decide whether to approve that application. The law and associated regulations set certain requirements and deadlines for public participation in the review process.

Persons or entities with a specific interest in the case may apply to the Siting Board to become parties to the case (intervenors). Intervenors are full participants in the case, with the right to request information from the applicant or other parties to the case and to cross-examine witnesses in the evidentiary hearing.

Intervenors are not required to reside in the county in which the facility is proposed, but must present a specific reason for seeking intervention that is within the Siting Board's jurisdiction. Intervention may also be granted if the person or entity shows that his or her participation in the proceeding will assist the Siting Board in reaching its decision without unduly interrupting the proceeding. Requests for intervenor status, citing the case number and the reason for intervention, must be made <u>in writing</u> to the Siting Board at the above address within 30 days of the filing of a complete application.

A formal evidentiary hearing may be held at the request of parties to the case or on the motion of the Siting Board. Participation in the hearing is limited to the applicants and to parties to the case. Testimony is taken under oath. Requests for a formal hearing must be made <u>in writing</u> to the Siting Board within 30 days of the filing of a complete application.

A local public hearing will be held if requested by a local government entity and may be held if requested by at least three residents of the county in which the facility is proposed. The local public hearing would provide an opportunity for the general public to be heard by the Siting Board in an informal setting. Requests for an informal local public hearing must be made <u>in</u> writing to the Siting Board within 30 days of the filing of a complete application.

The deadline to file requests for intervention, a formal evidentiary hearing or a local public hearing in the Glover Creek Solar case is Monday, April 27, 2020. Requests may be filed by e-mail to <a href="mailto:PSCED@ky.gov">PSCED@ky.gov</a> or through the PSC's electronic filing system.

More information on the public participation process is available on the Siting Board section of the PSC website. Any hearings in the case will be announced as they are scheduled.

The case number for Glover Creek Solar is 2020-00043.

By law, the Siting Board consists of the three members of the PSC, the secretary of the Kentucky Energy and Environmental Cabinet or a designee, the secretary of the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet or a designee and two local members appointed by the governor to serve for a specific case. The chairman of the PSC serves as chairman of the Siting Board.

The four non-PSC members of the Siting Board members for the Glover Creek Solar case have not yet been announced.

PSC employees provide staff and administrative support to the Siting Board.