

Bright Mountain Solar Project

Case No. 2022-00274



TAB 7

TAB 7 EFFORTS TO LOCATE NEAR EXISTING ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITIES

KRS 278.706(2)(g) *A summary of the efforts made by the applicant to locate the proposed facility on a site where existing electric generating facilities are located.*

The Facility is not located on a site where existing electric generating facilities are located. The main site selection criteria utilized for solar projects are land availability, landowner willingness to lease land, proximity to the bulk power transmission system, available electrical injection capability, adequacy of solar irradiance, and topography of the site.

An existing bulk transmission line and transmission substation are located in the vicinity of the Facility Area. The transmission system in the area is currently owned and maintained by Kentucky Power, within the PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) regional transmission organization footprint. To establish a generation facility, the electrical grid must be able to accommodate a new facility's generating capacity at a selected point of interconnection (POI). The POI is the location on the specified transmission line or infrastructure where the facility will transmit power to the existing electric grid. The capacity of the nearby transmission line and anticipated costs of upgrades to accommodate a new interconnection at the POI were evaluated, and it was determined that an 80 MW project was viable in the general area of the proposed Facility.

While the Facility Area has no existing electric generating facilities, the site was previously used for the extraction of energy resources, as the Facility is located on the site of a former surface coal mine. Mining activities at the site, previously called the Jakes Branch Job Surface Mine, consisted of contour mining and mountaintop removal mining. Mining activities were conducted under permits issued by the Kentucky Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement (KDMRE) and were concluded in 2015. The reclamation bond was released in August 2020. As the site of a former surface coal mine, the land surface in the Facility Area has been subject to significant past disturbance.