

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE KENTUCKY STATE BOARD ON ELECTRIC GENERATION  
AND TRANSMISSION SITING

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF GOLDEN	)	
SOLAR, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF	)	
CONSTRUCTION FOR AN APPROXIMATELY 100	)	CASE NO.
MEGAWATT MERCHANT ELECTRIC SOLAR	)	2020-00243
GENERATING FACILITY IN CALDWELL COUNTY,	)	
KENTUCKY	)	

ORDER

On July 28, 2020, Golden Solar, LLC (Golden Solar) filed a notice of intent to file an application for a Certificate of Construction for an approximately 100-megawatt solar facility to be located approximately three miles southeast of Fredonia, Caldwell County, Kentucky. Also, on July 28, 2020, Golden Solar filed a motion to approve form of public meeting. The motion requests approval for a proposed format of a public meeting that would be conducted to conform to the current public gathering limitations and social distancing requirements imposed during the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Kentucky. Golden Solar states that the proposed public meeting format would satisfy the public meeting requirement set forth in KRS 278.706(2)(f) and requests a declaration regarding the same.

In particular, Golden Solar proposes the following process in conducting a public meeting as required by KRS 278.706(2)(f):

1. Project Website – By August 6, 2020, Golden Solar states that it will launch a website accessible to the public, which would contain the following key information on the solar project:

- a. PowerPoint presentation of the project;
  - b. Date, time, and other details of a subsequent public information meeting, which will be listed once this information is finalized;
  - c. Date time, and location of an in-person office hours for dissemination of relevant information to the public regarding the solar project, which will be listed once this information is finalized;
  - d. A map showing the project area, facility layout, aerial imagery, and parcel information for all participating properties in Caldwell County;
  - e. Contact information and instructions for submitting questions and comments regarding the project;
  - f. Summary of frequently asked questions and responses; and
  - g. Instructions on how to request more information, including paper copies of the PowerPoint presentation.
2. In-Person Office Hours – Golden Solar will publish notice, include on the website, and send to neighboring landowners at least two weeks prior information about specific hours for in-person discussion for the public in Caldwell County. Any member of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions about the project and obtain information. The In-Person Office Hours will comport with any social distancing and public gathering requirements. The In-Person Office Hours will take place prior to the Public Information Meeting.
  3. Virtual Public Information Meeting – At a date and time to be published locally and sent to neighboring landowners at least two weeks prior, Golden Solar and its subject matter experts will host a live presentation with a question and answer session which would be accessible to the public either by the internet or by telephone. The virtual public information meeting will be capable of hosting up to 1,000 participants, will allow the public to view a presentation from Golden Solar representatives, and will allow the public to ask any questions related to the project.

Golden Solar asserts that the proposed public meeting format provides the public with multiple options to attend the meeting and receiving information about the proposed solar facility and therefore satisfies the requirements of KRS 278.706(2)(f), while accommodating the health and safety concerns raised by the current COVID-19 State of Emergency. Golden Solar further asserts that it will publish notice of the public meeting and mail notice to all owners of property adjoining the proposed solar facility as required by KRS 278.706(2)(f)(2).

Having reviewed the motion and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Siting Board finds that the protocols and process proposed by Golden Solar to schedule and conduct its public meeting is consistent with the language and intent of KRS 278.706(2)(f). We note that KRS 278.706(2)(f) requires a completed application to include, among other things, a report identifying the various public outreach engagements performed by the applicant prior to the filing of an application. In particular, KRS 278.706(2)(f) provides, in relevant parts, as follows.

(2) A completed application shall include the following:

- (a) A complete report of the applicant's public involvement program activities undertaken prior to the filing of the application, including:
  1. The scheduling and conducting of a public meeting in the county or counties in which the proposed facility will be constructed at least ninety (90) days prior to the filing of an application, for the purpose of informing the public of the project being considered and receiving comment on it;
  2. Evidence that notice of the time, subject, and location of the public meeting was published in the newspaper of general circulation in the county, and that individual notice was mailed to all owners of property adjoining the proposed project at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting;

The process and protocols proposed by Golden Solar for its public meeting strikes a balance in being able to provide information on the solar project development in Caldwell County and to receive comment from the public on the project as required by KRS 278.706(2)(f) and doing so in a manner that takes into account the current public gathering limitations and social distancing requirements imposed by the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Kentucky. Accordingly, Golden Solar's motion should be approved as proposed. The Siting Board expects the details of the public meeting that will be reported in the application will mirror the format that has been proposed in the motion.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Golden Solar's motion to approve form of public meeting is granted.
2. Within three days of the publication of the public notice, Golden Solar shall submit a copy of the newspaper advertisement that will notify the public of the proposed public meeting format.
3. Within three days of the mailing of the notice to adjacent property owners, Golden Solar shall submit a copy of the notice of the public meeting format that is required to be provided to owners of property adjacent to the solar project.

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By the Kentucky State Board on Electric  
Generation and Transmission Siting



ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials and a surname, positioned above a horizontal line.

Acting Executive Director  
Public Service Commission  
*on behalf of* the Kentucky State  
Board on Electric Generation  
and Transmission Siting

\*Honorable Jason R Bentley  
Attorney at Law  
McBrayer PLLC  
201 East Main Street  
Suite 900  
Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507

\*Kathryn A Eckert  
McBrayer PLLC  
201 East Main Street  
Suite 900  
Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507

\*Katherine Yunker  
McBrayer PLLC  
201 East Main Street  
Suite 900  
Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507