

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE KENTUCKY STATE BOARD ON ELECTRIC GENERATION
AND TRANSMISSION SITING

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF GREEN RIVER)	
SOLAR, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE TO)	
CONSTRUCT AN APPROXIMATELY 200)	CASE NO.
MEGAWATT MERCHANT SOLAR ELECTRIC)	2020-00387
GENERATING FACILITY IN BRECKINRIDGE)	
COUNTY AND MEADE COUNTY, KENTUCKY)	
PURSUANT TO KRS 278.700 AND 807 KAR 5:110)	

ORDER

On December 21, 2020, Green River Solar, LLC (Green River Solar) filed a notice of intent to file an application for a Certificate of Construction for an approximately 200-megawatt solar facility to be located near Irvington, Kentucky, in both Breckinridge and Meade counties. On the same date, Green River Solar filed a motion to approve a modified form of public meeting and notice. 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. Green River 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, Green River Solar proposes the following process in conducting a public meeting as required by KRS 278.706(2)(f):

1. Project Website: Green River Solar will launch a website accessible to the public which contains the following key information:

a. The date and time of the virtual public information meeting and information on how to access and participate. The date, time, and location of 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;

b. Contact information for Green River Solar and instructions for submitting questions and comments to regarding the proposed solar project;

c. Summary of frequently asked questions and responses from Green River Solar's subject matter experts.

d. Information about the website (including the web address) will be included in the notice to neighboring landowners and the newspaper advertisement for the solar project.

2. Virtual Public Information Meeting targeted for the week of February 21, 2021: Green River Solar and its subject matter experts will host a live virtual presentation and question and answer session through a third party platform with options for attendees to join by either web or telephone. The virtual public information meeting will begin with an introduction of Green River Solar's subject matter experts and a brief description of the solar project as detailed in the PowerPoint presentation. Participants joining the virtual public information meeting via the project website will have access to the PowerPoint presentation, as well as a map of the solar project. In addition, Green River Solar will make a large-scale (24 inches by 36 inches) layout map of the proposed solar facility, which otherwise would have been made available to the public for inspection at a public meeting, available to the public by displaying the map at the Breckenridge and Meade County Fiscal Courts for the three business days prior to the public meeting, and

will include this information in the notices of and advertisements for the public meeting. The meeting can also be saved so that it can be available at a later time for viewing. For the Question & Answer portion of the virtual public information meeting:

- a. Participants will be able to interact with the subject matter experts.
- b. Questions will be addressed on a first come, first served basis, either by providing them in writing or asking orally.
- c. Any questions that Green River Solar is not able to address during the virtual public information meeting will be addressed after the presentation via telephone, email, mail, and/or updates to the Frequently Answered Questions section of the project website.

Green River 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.

Having reviewed the motion and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Siting Board finds that the protocols and process proposed by Green River 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:

(f) 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 Green River Solar for its public meeting strikes a balance in being able to provide information on the solar project development in Breckinridge and Meade counties 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, Green River 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. Green River Solar's motion to approve modified form of public meeting is granted.
2. Within three days of the publication of the public notice, Green River 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, Green River 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:


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

Case No. 2020-00387

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