Attention: Orrick LLP 1152 15th Street NW Washington, DC 20005 202.339.8617

Lookout Solar Park I, LLC | 8215 El Rio | Houston, TX 77054

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Capitol Building, 1st Floor 500 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Houston, 2017/02/05

# RE: Notification of Intent to Apply for a Permit for an Energy Conversion Facility for the Lookout Solar Park I Project

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B and ARSD 20:10:22:02, Lookout Solar Park I, LLC ("Lookout Solar") is filing this Notification of Intent ("NOI") for an energy conversion facility permit for the Lookout Solar Park I Project ("Project").

### Facility Description [ARSD 20:10:22:02(1)]

Lookout Solar is proposing to construct, own and operate a 110 megawatt ("MW-AC") solar generating facility located on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation in Oglala Lakota County, South Dakota and approximately eighteen 34.5 kilovolt ("kv") single line transmission cables crossing eleven miles in Custer County, South Dakota. The Project would also include a substation with 110 MVA.

### Estimated Project Costs [ARSD 20:10:22:02(2)]

Lookout Solar estimates that the energy conversion facility will cost approximately \$ 12 Mio. and the associated transmission will cost approximately \$15 million including transmission interconnection and escalation costs.

### Site Description [ARSD 20:10:22:02(3)]

The proposed site of the solar generating facility on the Pine Ridge reservation. Specifically, the solar generating facility would be located on the following tracts: the 3395 and 3395-A tracts of Section 36, Township 41N and Range 48W; and the 6368 tract of Section 35, Township 41N and Range 48W. The proposed site of the transmission facilities is in Township 6S, Range 8E and Township 6S, Range 9E in Custer County, South Dakota. Exhibit I shows the anticipated route of the transmission line and the potential location of the substation.

The transmission line would originate at the edge of the Project site, which is adjacent to the boundary between Custer County and Oglala Lakota County in the southeastern corner of TS6, Range 8E. Specifically, the transmission line would be installed along county roads – Riverside Road, 148th Avenue, and Cottonwood Cutoff. Lookout Solar would use horizontal directional drilling ("HDD") to place the

transmission line under the Cheyenne River. The substation would be located on parcel 003477, as shown in Exhibit 1, or on parcel 003468, depending on the cost and timeline for obtaining site access. The anticipated affected area for the transmission line facilities is approximately 16 feet on either side of the county road in which the transmission line is placed and a 5- to 10-acre area around the substation.

### Estimated Social and Economic Impact [ARSD 20:10:22:02(4)]

Lookout Solar anticipates that the construction effort will provide significant economic benefits to the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Custer County through contractor expenditures in the area, local project purchases of materials and services, and short- and long-term employment and operation in the area. During construction, we anticipate that the Project will employ an average of 200 workers. We anticipate that a portion of the construction, maintenance, and operation workforce will be hired locally from the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Custer County areas.

Lookout Solar is currently conducting a review of the Project's impacts pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), with the oversight of the Western Area Power Authority ("WAPA") and the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA"). The NEPA process will assess potential social and environmental impacts and determine whether mitigation measures are warranted.

# Anticipated Permit Authorization Date, Construction Schedule, and Commercial Operation Schedule [ARSD 20:10:22:02(5)]

The schedule for commencement of construction and commercial operation is not yet finalized, and depends in large part on the procurement of permits and approvals required to commence construction. Lookout Solar is seeking to be ready to commence construction as early as June 2019, in anticipation of completing construction before the 2019-20 winter. But several of the required approvals may require more time. The main critical path item (aside from review by the Commission) is WAPA's approval of an interconnection plan, including the completion of the NEPA review, which could result in delays beyond Lookout Solar's desired dates. Lookout Solar will provide a more complete timeline for development and construction in its formal application.

# List of Names and Addresses of County Commissioners, School District Presidents, Tribal Governments, and Municipalities in the Anticipated Affected Area [ARSD 20:10:22:02(6)]

Table 1: Chairs of County Commissions, Presidents of School Boards, Mayors of Municipalities, and Tribal Presidents in the Anticipated Affected Area

Custer County	Travis Bies, Chairman	
	Phone: 605.255.4667	
	Email: tbies@custercountysd.com	
	420 Mount Rushmore Road	
	Custer, SD 57730-1934	

Custer County School District 16-1	Mark Naugle, Superintendent
	Phone: 605.673.3154
	Email: mark.naugle@k12.sd.us
	527 Montgomery St
	Custer, SD 57730
Municipalities	
Town of Buffalo Gap	Ron Shook, Town President
	Phone: 605.833.2371/605.833.2332
	202 Main Street/PO Box 295
	Buffalo Gap, SD 57722-0295
Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes	
Oglala Sioux Tribe	Troy "Scott" Weston, President
	Phone: 605.867.4009
	Email: tsweston@gwtc.net
	107 West Main Street
	PO Box 2070
	Pine Ridge, SD 57770

## Facility Questions or Requests [ARSD 20:10:22:02(7)]

Lookout Solar requests a prefiling conference pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-5.

## State, Local, and Federal Permits Known to be Required [ARSD 20:10:22:02(8)]

Table 2: State, Local, and Federal Permits

Government Level	Agency	Permits/Approvals/Consultations	Timing
Federal	Western Area Power Administra- tion	Interconnection Approval; NEPA Review	Prior to Construction
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Special Use Permit; NEPA Review; National Historic Preservation Act ("NHPA") Consultation (if required)	Prior to Con- struction
Federal	U.S Army Corps of Engineers	Wetlands Jurisdictional Determination; Nationwide Permit Authorizations	Permit by Rule
Federal	Bureau of Indian Af- fairs	Approval of Lease; NEPA Review	Prior to Con- struction
Federal	U.S. Fish and Wild- life Service	Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Review; NEPA Review	Prior to Con- struction
State	South Dakota Public Utility Commission	Permit for Energy Conversion Facility	Prior to Construction
State	South Dakota School and Public Lands	Easement for HDD under Cheyenne River	Prior to Construction

State	South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources ("DENR")	Temporary Water Use Permit for Construction Activities, Drilling, or Testing Purposes	Prior to Construction
State	DENR	Permit to Construct for a Non-PSD Minor Source of Air Emissions	Prior to Construction
State	DENR	Water Right Permit for Nonirrigation Use	Prior to Construction
State	DENR	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Construction Stormwater Discharge Permit	Prior to Construction
State	DENR	No Exposure Certification (for exclusion from stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities)	Prior to Construction
State	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	State-listed Endangered Species Review	Prior to Construction
State	State Historic Preservation Office	Cultural and Historic Resources Review; NHPA Consultation (if required)	Prior to Construction
Local	Custer County	Floodplain Permit	Prior to Construction
Local	Custer County	Grant of Right to Occupy County Right of Way in County Roads	Prior to Con- struction
Local	Custer County	Building Permit	Prior to Construction
Tribal	Oglala Sioux Tribe	Business License	Prior to Construction
Tribal	Oglala Sioux Tribe Historic Preserva- tion Office	Cultural and Historic Resources Review; NHPA Consultation (if required)	Prior to Construction

If you have any questions regarding this NOI or the Project, please contact Christian at +49 162 2920 667 or <a href="mailto:christian.bohn@wirsol.com">christian.bohn@wirsol.com</a>, or Shani Harmon at 202.339.8617 or <a href="mailto:sharmon@orrick.com">sharmon@orrick.com</a>.

Kind regards,

Christian Bohn

**CFO** 

Lookout Solar Park I, LLC

Enclosure: Exhibit 1: Map showing energy conversion facility and transmission line