

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF LOOKOUT SOLAR PARK I, LLC FOR)
A PERMIT OF A SOLAR ENERGY)
FACILITY IN OGLALA LAKOTA)
COUNTY)
)
)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION; ORDER
FOR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC INPUT
HEARING; NOTICE OF
OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR
PARTY STATUS

EL18-059

On December 17, 2018, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for an Energy Facility Permit (Application) from Lookout Solar Park I, LLC (Lookout Solar or Applicant). Lookout Solar proposes to construct and operate a 110-megawatt (MW) solar generation facility to be located in Oglala Lakota County, South Dakota, known as the Lookout Solar Project (Project). The Project is located approximately 22 miles east of Buffalo Gap, South Dakota, on 810 acres of privately owned land in Township 41 North, Range 48 West, Section 36 and the southern portion of Section 35 on individually-owned Indian trust land on the Pine Ridge Reservation (Project Area). The Project includes 500,000 solar panels, an energy storage facility, access roads, underground 34.5 kilovolt (kV) electrical collector lines, an underground fiber-optic cable, a collection substation, an operations and maintenance facility, and temporary construction areas. The Project would interconnect to the high-voltage transmission lines owned by the Western Area Power Administration near Cottonwood Cutoff. The Project is expected to be in-service by the second quarter of 2021. Applicant estimates the total construction cost to be \$100 million.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, **the Commission will hold a public input hearing on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., MST, at the Hermosa School Gymnasium, 11 Fourth St., Hermosa, South Dakota.**

The purpose of the public input hearing will be to hear public comments regarding the Application and the Project. At the hearing, Lookout Solar will present a brief description of the Project, after which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments, and questions regarding the Application. A copy of the Application is on file with the Custer and Oglala Lakota County Auditors pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5) and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other documents in the case, including detailed maps of the Project, may be accessed on the Commission's web site at www.puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2018 Electric Dockets, EL18-059 or by contacting the Commission in person at the Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD, or by phone at (605) 773-3201 or (800) 332-1782.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently Lookout Solar and the Commission. Any person residing in the area of the Project; each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the Project is proposed to be sited; any non-profit organization formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the area in which the Project is to be sited; or any interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission. Applications for party status will be available at the public input hearing or may be obtained from the

Commission's web site or by contacting the Commission. **Applications for party status must be received by the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m., CST, February 15, 2019.** The Commission will also be accepting comments in writing from anyone, either by mail, personal delivery, or e-mail right up until the time of the decision. You only need to apply for party status if you want to participate formally in the case by putting on actual testimony or other factual evidence, conducting discovery, cross-examining witnesses, making legal arguments, and to preserve your right to appeal to the courts if you do not believe the Commission's decision is legally correct.

Following the public input hearing, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, the Commission's staff, or the Commission itself. At such a formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, cross-examine the other parties' witnesses, and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts.

For approval, Lookout Solar must show that the proposed Project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether a permit to construct should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a public input hearing on the Application and Project on **Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., MST, at the Hermosa School Gymnasium, 11 Fourth St., Hermosa, South Dakota.** It is further

ORDERED, that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, **applications for party status must be filed on or before 5:00 p.m., CST, on February 15, 2019.**

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, these hearings will be held in physically accessible locations. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at (605) 773-3201 or (800) 332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 26th day of December 2018.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.	
By:	<u>Karen E. Cremer</u>
Date:	<u>12/26/18</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Eiegen
KRISTIE EIEGEN, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner