

**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)
)**

**ORDER GRANTING LOCAL
REVIEW COMMITTEE'S REQUEST
TO HIRE CONSULTANT**

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. Lookout Solar previously filed its required Notice of Intent to Apply for a Permit for an Energy Conversion Facility in Docket EL18-007.

On December 20, 2018, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 15, 2019, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On December 26, 2018, the Commission issued a Notice of Application; Order for and Notice of Public Input Hearing; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status. On January 4, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Assessing Filing Fee; Order Authorizing Executive Director to Enter into Consulting Contracts. On February 6, 2019, the Public Input Hearing was held as scheduled at the Hermosa School Gymnasium. On June 18, 2019, the Local Review Committee filed a letter and a proposal requesting \$13,500 to hire a consultant.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-8, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on June 26, 2019, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Local Review Committee's request for \$13,500 to hire a consultant. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Local Review Committee's request to hire a consultant for \$13,500 is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 1st day of July 2019.

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>Adam de Hueck</u>
Date: <u>7/1/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner