## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY MONARCH SOLAR, LLC, FOR CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR A SOLAR GENERATING FACILITY, A BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM, AND ASSOCIATED INTERCONNECTION FACILITIES IN BRUNSWICK AND GREENSVILLE COUNTIES CASE NO. PUR-2025-00150

On August 18, 2025, Monarch Solar, LLC ("Monarch" or "Applicant") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to §§ 56-46.1, 56-265.2, and 56-580 D of the Code of Virginia, and the Commission's Filing Requirements in Support of Applications for Authority to Construct and Operate an Electric Generating Facility, 20 VAC 5-302-10 et seq., an application and supporting documents ("Application") for certificates of public convenience and necessity ("CPCNs") to construct and operate a solar generating facility, battery energy storage system, and associated interconnection facilities in Brunswick and Greensville Counties, Virginia.

Specifically, Monarch seeks Commission authority to construct and operate: (1) a solar generating facility totaling up to 400 megawatts alternating current ("AC" or "MWac") ("Solar Generating Facility"); (2) a 300 MWac battery energy storage system ("BESS"); and (3) associated facilities necessary to interconnect the Solar Generating Facility and BESS to the transmission system ("Interconnection Facilities"). The proposed Interconnection Facilities include: (a) a system of 34.5 kilovolt ("kV") feeder lines routed to a collection substation ("Collection System") and (b) an approximately 5.1 mile, 138 kV gen-tie line ("Gen-Tie Line") extending from the collection substation in Brunswick County to a new 138 kV substation at the point of interconnection with Virginia Electric and Power Company's ("Dominion") Carson to Rogers Road 500 kV transmission line #585 in Greensville County. Collectively, the Solar Generating Facility, BESS, and Interconnection Facilities are referred to as the "Project." If approved, Monarch states the Project is anticipated to be in service on or before the third quarter of 2030.

Monarch states that although the Conditional Use Permit ("CUP") issued by Brunswick County for the Project contemplates a configuration of the Solar Generating Facility that would allow 350 MWac of capacity, Monarch plans to file an amendment to the CUP with Brunswick County for an alternative configuration that would allow the Solar Generating Facility to be built with 400 MWac of capacity. To ensure appropriate notice and approval in this proceeding, the Applicant states that it is providing information on both configurations in the Application.

Monarch represents that it intends to build a BESS adjacent to the Project's 138 kV substation that would include either AC- or DC (direct current)- coupled lithium-ion batteries with 300 MWac of capacity and a four-hour class rating (1,200 megawatt-hours). According to Monarch, this BESS would provide grid stability services and overall grid reliability.

Per the Application, the Solar Generating Facility and associated Collection System would be located entirely in Brunswick County, and the Gen-Tie Line would begin in Brunswick County and traverse Greensville County to the point of interconnection. According to Monarch, if configured as a 350 MWac facility, the Solar Generating Facility and Collection System would use a combination of twenty parcels in Brunswick County and portions of five parcels that straddle the border between Brunswick and Greensville Counties. If configured as a 400 MWac facility, Monarch represents, the Project would use a different combination of twenty-six parcels in Brunswick County as well as portions of five parcels that straddle the Counties' border for the Solar Generating Facility and Collection System. The Applicant further asserts that the approximate total acreage of the parcels within Brunswick County would be between 4,326 acres (350 MWac configuration) and 5,997 acres (400 MWac configuration). Additionally, the approximate acreage within the fenced areas where the panels and stormwater retention areas would be located would be approximately 2,183 acres for the 350 MWac configuration, subject to finalizing the project design. Monarch states that Monarch Solar Land, LLC ("Monarch Land"), an affiliate, holds option contracts for all parcels for the site for the proposed Solar Generating Facility.

The Applicant states that the Project would use solar photovoltaic ("PV") modules mounted on racking systems supported by a pile-driven foundation design. The Applicant further states that it expects to design the racking configuration to be a single-axis tracking configuration with north-south trending rows that would track the sun from east to west over the course of the day. The PV modules would be electrically connected to combiner boxes located throughout the Solar Generating Facility. The output power cables from the combiner boxes would be consolidated and would feed the DC electricity to inverters, which would convert the DC to AC. The AC output from the inverters would be routed through 34.5 kV feeder lines to the Project's collection substation to be built in Brunswick County, where the power would be stepped up to 138 kV.

Monarch states that the Gen-Tie Line would transmit power from the Project's collection substation to a new 138 kV substation to be located in Greensville County adjacent to a to-bebuilt, Dominion-owned switching station, which would connect to Dominion's existing Carson to Rogers Road 500 kV transmission line #585. According to the Applicant, less than 0.25 miles of the Gen-Tie Line would be located in Brunswick County and 4.9 miles would be located in Greensville County. In addition, Monarch states that the Project would be located in the service territories of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative and Dominion, and that those entities have authorized Monarch to represent that they do not oppose construction of the Project.

Monarch represents that the land for the proposed Gen-Tie Line forms a corridor no greater than 120 feet wide in a remote part of Greensville County and that Monarch Land has secured easements or option contracts for the majority of the right-of-way for the Gen-Tie Line and associated facilities. Specifically, Monarch states that Monarch Land currently holds option contracts or easements for all but one parcel, for which Monarch Land is currently working to secure an overhead crossing agreement from Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative.

## <u>Description of the Proposed Solar Generating Facility and Gen-Tie Line</u>

The proposed site for the Solar Generating Facility and the BESS (collectively, the "Facilities") is exclusively within the boundary of Brunswick County. The Facilities would be located north of Smoky Ordinary Road, south of Windmill Road, and east of Old Stage Road.

As shown on Exhibit B.II.(a).(12).(b) to Monarch's Application, beginning at the border between Brunswick County and Greensville County, the proposed route for the Gen-Tie Line travels approximately 2.85 miles in a southeast direction, crossing Moores Swamp. The line then turns due south for approximately 0.5 miles, due east for approximately 0.35 miles, and due south for approximately 0.75 miles. After crossing Smoky Ordinary Road, the line travels due south for approximately 0.45 miles before terminating at the Project substation and Dominion switchyard in Greensville County.

The maximum proposed structure height for the Gen-Tie Line is 103 feet, the minimum structure height is 80.5 feet, and the average structure height is 90 feet, as stated in Appendix B to the Application. The heights are subject to final design.

All distances and directions are approximate. A map of the proposed Project, including the proposed route of the Gen-Tie Line, accompanies this notice. A more detailed map of the proposed routes may be viewed on the Commission's website: <a href="mailto:scc.virginia.gov/consumers/public-utility/electricity-faqs/transmission-line-projects/">scc.virginia.gov/consumers/public-utility/electricity-faqs/transmission-line-projects/</a>. A more complete description of the proposed Project may be found in the Application.

The Commission may consider Project site(s) and/or generation-tie line route(s) not significantly different from those described in this notice without additional notice to the public.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on the Application. The public hearings in Brunswick County, Virginia and telephonically from Richmond, Virginia will be held for the purpose of receiving testimony of public witnesses. Pursuant to the Commission's Order, a local public hearing will be held in-person on February 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Brunswick County Conference Center, 100 Athletic Field Road, Lawrenceville, Virginia 23868. Any person desiring to testify as a public witness in this matter should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled hearing and register to testify with the Commission's Bailiff. To promote fairness for all public witnesses, each witness will be allotted approximately five minutes to provide testimony.

In addition, on March 18, 2026, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner appointed to this case will hold the telephonic portion of the hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before March 4, 2026, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission: (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at <a href="scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments">scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments</a>; or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on March 18, 2026, the Hearing Examiner appointed to this case will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify, if any, as provided above. This public witness portion of the hearing will be webcast at https://www.scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting.

On March 18, 2026, at 10 a.m. or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene the evidentiary portion of the hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Application from Monarch, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff ("Staff").

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain

confidential information, and has required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the public version of the Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Applicant: James G. Ritter, Esquire, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, 951 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or <a href="mailto:ritterj@HuntonAK.com">ritterj@HuntonAK.com</a>. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the Application and other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: <a href="mailto:scc.virginia.gov/case-information">scc.virginia.gov/case-information</a>.

On or before March 4, 2026, any interested person may submit comments on the Application electronically by following the instructions on the Commission's website: <a href="scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments">scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments</a>. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00150.

On or before January 16, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at: <a href="scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling">scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling</a>. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Notices of participation shall include the email address of the party or its counsel. The respondent shall serve a copy of the notice of participation electronically on counsel to the Applicant, any other respondents, and Staff. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 et seq. ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, Counsel, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00150. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before January 30, 2026, each respondent may file electronically with the Clerk of the Commission at <a href="scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling">scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling</a> any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served electronically on Staff, the Applicant, and all other respondents simultaneous with their filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, Filing and service, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, Prepared testimony and exhibits. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00150.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Rules of Practice.

The Rules of Practice, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, the public version of the Application, and other documents filed in this case may be viewed at: <a href="mailto:scc.virginia.gov/case-information">scc.virginia.gov/case-information</a>.





