

Ex.-Grant County Intervenors-Cray-15

PSC REF# 364423

PSC 9696-CE-100

Public Service Commission Order – Two Creeks Solar
Stray Voltage
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The Commission finds it reasonable to require Two Creeks to construct, maintain, and operate all applicable project facilities to comply with the NEC or the NESC and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 114, as appropriate. In case of conflict or overlap between code requirements, Two Creeks shall construct, maintain, and operate all applicable project facilities to comply with the more stringent code requirement. This will ensure public safety. Absent such a condition, as a wholesale merchant facility the applicable codes and enforcement necessary to ensure public safety would be unclear. Further, this condition will ensure that if Wisconsin public utilities do purchase the facilities such facilities will not require additional code upgrades that could be an unnecessary cost.

Stray Voltage Testing

Specific concerns about stray voltage were raised during the joint environmental scoping meeting for this docket and the associated docket 9696-CE-101. These concerns came in the form of both oral comments and questions at the scoping meeting. Wisconsin Admin. Code § PSC 128.17 deals with stray voltage testing associated with wind energy systems, but the language of the code could also be employed to address stray voltage concerns the public raised about the proposed project. Previous Commission decisions have included language requiring stray voltage testing. Commission staff suggested that any Final Decision language requiring pre- and post-construction stray voltage testing be consistent with Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 128.17.

Given the proposed project is one of the first of its kind in Wisconsin, to ensure public safety and to facilitate possible mitigation of any impacts from stray voltage on agricultural animals, the Commission finds it reasonable to require Two Creeks to work with the applicable

distribution utility to test for stray voltage at each agricultural confined animal operation within the project area, prior to construction and after the project is energized. The Commission notes stray voltage has the potential to cause adverse impacts on agricultural property. Two Creeks shall work with the distribution utility and farm owner to rectify any identified stray voltage problem arising from the construction or operation of the project. Prior to testing, Two Creeks shall work with the applicable distribution utility and Commission staff to determine where and how it will conduct the stray voltage measurements. Two Creeks shall report the results of its testing to Commission staff.

Post-Construction Noise Study

There has been long-standing Commission precedent of requiring pre-construction and post-construction noise studies for any new proposed electric generation facility, for both renewable and conventional electric generation resources. Previous Commission decisions have included language that require noise studies by Two Creeks. Two Creeks completed and submitted an initial pre-construction noise study report. That noise study did not include sound level estimates for proposed generators required by the Commission's Noise Measurement Protocol, Section II.C. Two Creeks subsequently provided a revised noise study which did include the required sound level estimates.

The Commission finds it reasonable that Two Creeks perform pre-construction and post-construction noise studies as described in the most current version of the Commission's Noise Measurement Protocol. This will ensure that any noise created by the solar facilities will be identified and mitigated in accordance with the Commission's standards. Two Creeks should work with Commission staff to determine appropriate locations and conditions for the noise