



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2019

More information

Tyler Huebner, Executive Director

608.575.2201 (mobile)

tyler.huebner@renewwisconsin.org

PSC Approves 5-fold Solar Expansion in WI

Today at its Open Meeting, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission approved five interrelated cases that will lead to a **five-fold expansion of solar energy in Wisconsin**.

The PSC approved:

- The **Badger Hollow Solar Farm** project in **Iowa County**, totaling **300 megawatts**. Badger Hollow could become the largest solar electric plant in the Midwest when completed. In addition, the PSC approved a "tie line" that will deliver Badger Hollow's output to a nearby substation, where it will be injected into the existing southwest Wisconsin grid.
- The **Two Creeks Solar Project** in **Manitowoc County**, totaling **150 megawatts**. As with Badger Hollow, the PSC also approved a "tie line" that will deliver Two Creeks' output to a nearby substation.
- Finally, the **PSC approved an application from two Wisconsin utilities, Wisconsin Public Service based in Green Bay and Madison Gas & Electric, to acquire a total of 300 megawatts of this new solar capacity**. The utilities will acquire the entire Two Creeks Solar Farm and a 150 MW share of the Badger Hollow Solar Farm.

By RENEW Wisconsin's estimates, the state of Wisconsin closed 2018 with about 103 megawatts of solar power, with about 80% of that residing on homes and buildings, directly serving the customers who bought the solar arrays.

When completed, the 450 megawatts of solar would produce about 1.3% of Wisconsin's annual electricity consumption, and supply electricity equivalent to the usage of about 116,500 Wisconsin homes. Both projects should be operational by mid-2021.

RENEW Wisconsin's Executive Director, Tyler Huebner, said, "We are very happy to see the Public Service Commission approve these solar projects and find that it is cost-effective for two of our major utilities to own and operate these plants. It is a landmark day for solar energy in Wisconsin. Solar energy is a smart choice to meet the electricity needs of our citizens, businesses, and organizations, and without a state mandate to do so. With solar energy, we will produce homegrown, healthy energy right here in Wisconsin for years to come, and provide substantial economic benefits to the landowners and local governments who will host these projects."

450 MEGAWATTS OF UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR PV



Two Creeks Solar, LLC

Invenergy



300 Megawatts Solar

150 Megawatts Solar



Today's approvals build momentum for large-scale solar as a resource for power suppliers and utilities in Wisconsin.

- Three weeks ago, Dairyland Power Cooperative announced a commitment to purchase electricity from a 149 megawatt solar facility called Badger State Solar that would be located in Jefferson County. That project is subject to PSC approval as well.
- Just yesterday, April 10, the Richland County Board of Zoning gave final, and unanimous, approval to the 49.9 megawatt Richland County Solar Project developed by Savion Energy to be located in the Town of Buena Vista.
- In 2017, WPPI Energy announced it would purchase power from a 100 megawatt solar project near the Point Beach Nuclear Station. That project also will seek PSC approval in 2019.

Taken together, these five new solar projects account for approximately 749 megawatts of new solar power. If all are approved and built, they would supply 2.1% of Wisconsin's annual electricity needs, and produce enough power to equal to the annual usage of about 185,000 homes in Wisconsin.

Beyond these projects, at least 4,000 megawatts of additional large-scale solar projects are being explored and developed in Wisconsin. We encourage you to learn more about large-scale solar energy, including our long list of questions and answers, at <https://www.renewwisconsin.org/solarfarms/>.

-END-

About RENEW Wisconsin

RENEW Wisconsin is a nonprofit organization which promotes renewable energy in Wisconsin. We work on policies and programs that support solar power, wind power, biogas, local hydropower, geothermal energy, and electric vehicles in Wisconsin. More information is available on RENEW's website: <http://www.renewwisconsin.org/>.