

July 14, 2021

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53703

Subject: 9811-CE-100 Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity of Koshkonong Solar Energy Center LLC to Construct a Solar Electric Generation Facility in the Towns of Christiana and Deerfield, Dane County, Wisconsin

5-BS-258 Joint Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, and Madison Gas and Electric Company for Approval to Acquire Ownership Interests in the Koshkonong Solar Electric Generation Facility in the Town of Christiana and the Town of Deerfield, Dane County, Wisconsin

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

We, the members of the Sustainable Madison Committee, providing sustainable and environmental leadership for the City of Madison, the Madison community, and the region, strongly support the development of the Koshkonong Solar Energy Center as proposed by Invenergy LLC. Located in eastern Dane County, the proposed project consists of a 300 megawatt (MW) solar power plant and a 165 MW battery system that will store solar-generated electricity onsite. On a parallel track, three Wisconsin utilities—We Energies, Wisconsin Public Service, and Madison Gas and Electric (MGE)—have proposed to acquire Koshkonong Solar if approved by the Public Service Commission. With this letter, we are also conveying our strong support for MGE’s request to acquire a 10% share in this project.

The City of Madison has long established itself as a leader in its commitment to renewable energy. In March 2017, the City of Madison passed RES-17-00213, which established a goal of 100% renewable energy and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions for City of Madison operations. In 2019, the City invested \$1,396,000 to acquire 25 years of Renewable Energy Credits produced from five smaller solar projects across western Wisconsin totaling 14 MWDC (10MWAC). By the end of 2020, installed solar capacity serving City facilities had risen to approximately 1,150 kilowatts, capable of producing on average about 1.4 million kilowatt-hours each year over its expected lifetime. The City continues to work toward its goal of 100% renewable energy through additional solar capacity, energy efficiency measures, and the widespread implementation of electric vehicles in City operations and the broader community.

If approved, Koshkonong Solar would dramatically increase the supply of renewable electricity to both the City and the broader Madison community. Indeed, the output from the project would equate to about 1% of electricity consumption statewide. MGE’s 10% share of Koshkonong Solar would suffice to supply more than 6,000 Madison households.

The Sustainable Madison Committee recognizes the importance of having such a large renewable energy and storage facility in proximity to our community. Koshkonong Solar would improve local air quality and reduce the volume of agricultural runoff into southern Wisconsin lakes and streams. Furthermore, its location will strengthen the Dane County grid without requiring additional transmission infrastructure.

Finally, we acknowledge the financial benefits that Koshkonong Solar would bring to the local economy. Each year, this project will yield \$1,200,000 in utility local aids each year divided between Dane County and the two host townships, as well as lease payments to the participating landowners in the towns of Christiana and Deerfield. Koshkonong Solar would recirculate Wisconsin energy dollars within the local economy throughout its lifetime.

The Sustainable Madison Committee fully supports the Koshkonong solar farm and urges the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to approve this application as well as the joint utilities' application to acquire this zero-emission, cost-effective source of clean, renewable electricity for our community.

Sincerely,
Members of the Sustainable Madison Committee