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Public Hearing August 20 for 4.0 MW Solar Plant Proposed for Carroll County

For Immediate Release: August 6, 2024

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(BALTIMORE, MD) – Local residents and other interested members of the public are invited to comment on a proposal by Bear Branch Solar, LLC to construct a 4.0 MW solar facility in Carroll County. The virtual hearing will take place on **Tuesday, August 20, 2024** at **7 p.m.** before Public Utility Law Judge Christine L. Burke.

In April 2024, Bear Branch Solar applied to the Maryland Public Service Commission for what is known as a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), which grants an applicant the authority to construct an energy generating station or high-voltage transmission line in Maryland. According to the application, the solar facility, intended as part of the state's community solar program, would be built on 27 acres of a 65-acre property located east of Maryland Route 97 (Littlestown Pike) and Lamb Drive in Westminster.

To participate virtually, please sign up in advance to speak by sending an email referencing Case No. 9730 to psc.pulj@gmail.com by noon on August 19. Participants will receive an email with the link to join in on the virtual platform. For those who want to watch the hearing, please visit the Public Utility Law Judge Division's YouTube channel (MD PSC PULJs): <https://bit.ly/2X6wLiP>

The hearing will include a presentation by the developer, followed by brief statements from the Power Plant Research Program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Office of People's Counsel, and the Commission's Technical Staff, and then an opportunity for members of the public to comment on the proposed project.

In addition to the hearing, written comments can be sent electronically through the Commission's online portal at <https://www.psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/>, or by mail. Comments sent by mail should be addressed to: Jamie Bergin, Chief Clerk, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. So that they are noted in the proper case file, all comments should reference Case No. [9730](#).

In addition to the online docket, the application is available for public review at the Carroll County Department of Planning, 225 North Center Street in Westminster.

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About the Public Service Commission:

The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities and suppliers, telephone companies (land lines), certain water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire (sedans, limousines, buses, Uber, Lyft), taxicab companies (in Baltimore City and County, Charles County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.

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