

Southern Power's 80-MW Decatur solar project due for startup around Oct. 15

Company seeks approval of power sales deal at FERC

08/28/2015 by Barry Cassell

The unregulated Southern Power and regulated Georgia Power subsidiaries of Southern Co. (NYSE: SO) on Aug. 28 filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission an October 2014 "Agreement for the Purchase of Solar Energy and Environmental Attributes From A Renewable Resource" between **Decatur Parkway Solar Project LLC (DPSP)** and Georgia Power.

The Decatur Parkway PPA provides for the delivery by DPSP and purchase by its (now) affiliate Georgia Power of energy from the 80-MW Decatur Parkway solar generation project, which is now under construction by Southern Power. Until its purchase by Southern Power, DPSP was owned by **Tradewind Energy Inc.**

The applicants asked FERC to accept the Decatur Parkway PPA as an inter-affiliate power sales agreement effective Oct. 12, 2015 (45 days after initial filing). Applicants anticipate energizing the Decatur Parkway Project facilities for purposes of testing as soon as Oct. 15, 2015.

This contract came out of DPSP's successful bid in Georgia Power's 2015 and 2016 Advanced Solar Initiative Prime (ASI-Prime) request for proposals (RFP). The Decatur Parkway PPA was submitted for certification by the Georgia Public Service Commission in October 2014. On Dec. 18, 2014, the Georgia PSC issued an order (after hearing) adopting a stipulation between Georgia Power and the GPSC staff. As a result of approval of the stipulation, the GPSC approved and certified for retail rate recovery the Decatur Parkway PPA and nine other long-term power sale agreements resulting from the ASI and ASI-Prime RFP process.

On Feb. 9, 2015, the Georgia PSC granted approval of the assignment of the Decatur Parkway PPA to Southern Power, and, on Feb. 19, 2015, Southern Power completed the acquisition of DPSP from Tradewind and merged DPSP into Southern Power.

Southern Power is constructing this 79.9 (net) MW photovoltaic project in Decatur County, Ga., at the Industrial Airpark, approximately three miles north of Bainbridge, Georgia. The acquisition of solar and other renewable power generation facilities from project developers after the developers secured an executed long-term power purchase agreements is a core aspect of Southern Power's business, the company noted.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Barry Cassell is Chief Analyst for *GenerationHub* covering coal and emission controls issues, projects and policy. He has covered the coal and power generation industry for more than 26 years, beginning in November 2011 at *GenerationHub* and prior to that as editor of SNL Energy's *Coal Report*. He was formerly with *Coal Outlook* for 15 years as the publication's editor and contributing writer, and prior to that he was editor of *Coal & Synfuels Technology* and associate editor of *The Energy Report*. He has a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University.

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