

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

On April 24, 2023, El Paso Electric Company (EPE or Company) filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) requesting Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) authorization to construct, own and operate a 150-MW solar photovoltaic generating facility, to be known as Texas Solar One, as a Texas resource. The docket number and style of the application are PUC Docket No. 54929, “Application of El Paso Electric Company to Amend Its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity For a 150 MW Solar Facility.” EPE is not seeking to change its rates in this proceeding.

The 150 MW facility has two components. One part, which will be 50 MW, will be dedicated to serve a new rate offering of Texas Business Solar for businesses and governmental entities. The 50 MW portion was selected after a competitive solicitation for proposals. The other portion, which will be 100 MW, will be a resource to serve EPE's Texas service area, located at the same site as the 50 MW portion.

In order to meet customer demand, to satisfy its reliability standards, and to replace older generation units that EPE plans to retire, EPE has determined that it needs additional long-term energy supply resources. Consequently, in December 2021 EPE issued a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for 100-125 megawatts (MW) of resources to support short-term capacity needs from 2022 to 2024 and an additional 75-100 MW of long-term power resources to come online by no later than May 2025. EPE received proposals from 12 firms. Based on an evaluation of the bids EPE received using economic and other criteria, along with the oversight of an independent evaluator, EPE selected three proposals.

Following selection and commercial negotiations for one of the selections, EPE determined that a self-build of a 100 MW of solar generation to be available by the summer of

2025 and sited at the same location as the 50 MW portion was more economic for EPE's customers.

The precise location of the site where Texas Solar One will be built and operated is 31.549171°, -106.042481°, Fabens, Texas 79838, which is located southeast of El Paso in El Paso County, Texas.

Texas Solar One is a photovoltaic solar energy system (PV) using bifacial modules and single access tracking (SAT) technology. The single-axis tracking system will increase the solar radiation absorbed by the panels, thereby increasing the facility's capacity factor.

The Project will be built in Fabens, Texas, directly adjacent to EPE's planned transmission infrastructure expansion. The proposed point of interconnection will be the Seabeck to San Felipe 115kV line, which runs just west of the Project site and is scheduled to be in-service by October 2024. The Project will utilize already planned transmission infrastructure to create efficiencies and minimize development lag.

The estimated cash capital cost for the Project is approximately \$218 million. In addition, the cash capital costs for interconnection of the Project to the EPE system are estimated to be \$15.5 million. The cost does not reflect the federal Production Tax Credits for renewable energy projects provided by the provision in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

The deadline for intervention in this proceeding is June 8, 2023; a letter requesting intervention should be received by the Commission by that date. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing-and

speech-impaired individuals with text telephones ("TTY") may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) 1-800-735-2989. A copy of EPE's petition may be viewed on the Commission's webpage at [www.puc.state.tx.us](http://www.puc.state.tx.us). The Commission maintains an electronic copy of all filings on the "filings - interchange" section of its webpage. The control number for this proceeding on the Commission's webpage is 54929.

Persons with questions, who want more information on this petition, or who want to obtain a copy of a map that depicts the facilities may also contact EPE at 100 N. Stanton, El Paso, Texas 79901, or call 1-800-351-1621, a toll-free number, during normal business hours. When prompted, press the number 0 to speak to an operator and request information concerning the Texas Solar One CCN. A map depicting the location of the facilities may be reviewed at EPE's offices at 100 N. Stanton, El Paso, Texas 79901.