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Public Hearing Scheduled for Solar Facility Proposed to be Sited in Garrett and Allegany Counties

For Immediate Release: April 1, 2025

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(BALTIMORE, MD) – Local residents and other interested members of the public are invited to comment on a proposal by Jade Meadow III, LLC to construct a 300 MW solar project in Garrett and Allegany counties. The virtual hearing will take place on **Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** before Public Utility Law Judge Christine L. Burke.

In December 2024, Jade Meadow III 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 in Maryland. According to the application, the developer proposes to build the project on more than 1,800 acres of a nearly 6,000-acre site previously used for coal mining along Route 36/135 near Westernport and Barton. A small segment of overhead line is proposed to occupy approximately 20 acres in Allegany County.

In addition to taking comments from the public, the hearing will include a presentation by the applicant, brief statements by the parties, including the Power Plant Research Program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Office of People's Counsel (the state's ratepayer advocate), and the Commission's Technical Staff, as to their respective roles in the case.

Anyone wishing to provide public comment must sign up (by Monday, April 14, 2025) through the Calendly app on the Commission's website, www.psc.state.md.us:

- Under 'Featured Topics' on the right side of the webpage, click on 'Public Comment Hearing Sign Up';
- Click on 'Case 9769', and the hearing date and time (April 15 at 7:00 pm);
- Click 'Next', enter name and email
- Click 'Schedule Event'

Once the sign up process is complete, registrants will receive a Zoom link. Otherwise, the hearing can be viewed on the PULJ Division's (MD PSC PULJs) YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/2X6wLiP>

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. [9769](#).

In addition to the online docket, the application is available for review at:

- The Garrett County Department of Community Development, Planning and Land Management Division, 203 South Fourth Street (Room 207) in Oakland;
- The Allegany County Department of Planning and Zoning, 701 Kelly Road in Cumberland; and,
- The Westernport Branch of the Allegany County Public Library, 66 Main Street in Westernport.

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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), private water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire, taxicab companies in some jurisdictions and bay pilot rates. The Commission implements the energy policy of the State and also regulates the siting of energy generating facilities and high-voltage transmission lines.

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