

May 13, 2024

Dr. Sez Russcher
Distinguished Professor
Zucker Graduate Education Center
1240 Supply St. North Charleston, SC 29405

Subject: Letter of Commitment to Clemson University in Support of the McClellanville Microgrid Project

Dear Dr. Russcher,

As long-standing, community-oriented businesses and organizations located in McClellanville, SC, we are proud to partner with Clemson University, Dominion Energy, and the Town of McClellanville, SC to address the frequent power interruptions the town has faced for decades. The project will benefit the local community by increasing its energy resilience, fostering technology integration, and spurring workforce development.

The proposal will support the construction of a microgrid to serve the village of McClellanville and surrounding areas. The microgrid will be an inverter-based resource (IBR), likely consisting of a minimum 25-acre solar farm with an on-site battery electric storage system (BESS). The solar farm will produce electric energy for daily consumption and charge the BESS, which will provide energy during the night hours or short daytime durations when solar energy production cannot fully meet the electric load. If approved, the microgrid will connect to the existing power grid.

Benefits to the McClellanville community would include:

1. Dominion Energy provides electric service to McClellanville from a substation near Wando High School in Mt. Pleasant (~25 miles). If approved for interconnection, the McClellanville microgrid will improve resiliency and reliability for the village and surrounding areas served by Dominion for outage durations < 8 hours utilizing BESS, which provides a local and alternate source of electric capacity and service.
2. The McClellanville microgrid has environmental benefits due to it being a renewable energy resource (solar+ battery).
3. The McClellanville microgrid may have the ability to defer some future electrical line construction or upgrades for the area, depending upon its performance.
4. The McClellanville microgrid will offer flexibility and power control for the town since it will be a local source of electric capacity.
5. The microgrid creates an economic benefit and educational opportunity for the village and surrounding area in renewable energy production and distribution.
6. The project can provide service to electric vehicles via a fast charge station since the area is
7. strategically located on a highway corridor.

Thank you for your time and support for this important initiative, which will greatly benefit our community and the quality of life of McClellanville residents.

Sincerely,