



City of De Soto Paves Way for Utility-Scale Solar
Council Approves Special Use Permit to Allow a USSF

De Soto, Kansas – April 7, 2023 – The De Soto City Council last night approved a zoning regulation that will pave the way for a Utility Scale Solar Facility (USSF) on the southern portion of Astra Enterprise Park. The special permit will allow for a project site of up to 3,000-acres that could house a USSF capable of generating 600 - 800 megawatts. A USSF that size would be the largest solar project in the state and one of the largest in the country.

The project site spans north to south from 119th Street to 143rd Street and east to west from Stringtown Road to Evening Star. The site was selected because a USSF in that area would pose minimal impact on residents. The area is not adjacent to any current or planned residences, is not served by utilities and will be buffered by approximately 2,000 acres of passive-use parkland that will be owned by Johnson County Parks and Recreation. The area also provides significant natural screening.

“A utility scale solar facility of this scale would be a significant green energy boost to the local and regional power capacity needed to support future jobs, businesses, and homes in De Soto,” said Mike Brungardt, De Soto City Administrator.

The De Soto Planning Commission spent nine months drafting its recommendations for the Council. The final ordinance includes requirements for developers on a range of factors, including visual, glare, environmental and noise impact as well as traffic and construction management plans and fire and light safety. The new regulations provide a framework for the consideration of a future solar project to ensure the design of the facility adequately addresses any possible negative impacts that may arise.

“We need additional power sources in this area and this ordinance will allow for an affordable, renewable energy source in a way that will have minimal impact on residents,” said Brad Weisenburger, De Soto Community Development Director.

Astra Enterprise Park is 9,000 acres and will be home to a new Panasonic Electric Vehicle Battery Manufacturing Facility, scheduled to open in Spring, 2025.

Additional requirements

Additional requirements around a USSF include:

- The ordinance is restricted to approximately 3,000 acres on the southern edge of Astra Enterprise Park and does not apply to any other land.
- The special permit is viable for a maximum of 40 years.
- The USSF must meet 100 feet setback requirements.
- The developer must provide a decommissioning plan to the city.

To receive updates from the City about the facility, subscribe to the [City's e-newsletter](#).
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