



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MACHELLE SANDERS
SECRETARY

January 27, 2021

Kimberley Campbell
North Carolina Department of Commerce
Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325

Re: SCH File # 20-E-4600-0210; Application of American Beech Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 110 MW Solar Facility in Halifax Co. Docket #EMP-108, Sub 0.

Dear Ms. Campbell:

The above referenced environmental impact information has been reviewed through the State Clearinghouse under the provisions of the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act.

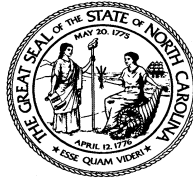
Attached to this letter are **additional comments** made in the review of this document. Because of the nature of the comments, it has been determined that no further State Clearinghouse review action on your part is needed for compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act. The attached comments should be taken into consideration in project development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Crystal Best".

Crystal Best
State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper

Secretary D. Reid Wilson

January 22, 2021

Whitney Rubin
BayWa R.E.
17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1050
Irvine, CA 92614

Whitney.rubin@baywa-re.com

Re: Archaeological Addendum Survey and Site Plans, Proposed American Beech 1 and 2 Solar Farm,
SCH # 20-E-4600-0210, Halifax County, ER 19-2192

Dear Ms. Rubin:

Thank you for your December 28, 2020, letter transmitting site plans for the project noted above. We have also received a revised archaeological report from Commonwealth Heritage Group. We have reviewed these materials and offer the following comments.

The revised report contains the requested revisions. This final report is consistent with Office of State Archaeology (OSA) Standards and Guidelines and will be incorporated into the OSA site file library. We look forward to consulting with Commonwealth Heritage Group regarding documentation for collections that will be returned to landowners at their request.

Project plans show that the identified cemeteries (31HX637 and 31HX644) and unassessed archaeological sites (31HX654, 31HX659, 31HX664, 31HX665, 31HX669, 31HX670, and 31HX671), inclusive of 100-meter and 25-meter buffers, respectively, will be avoided by the proposed solar arrays. We recommend high-visibility fencing be used to ensure that these areas are not impacted during construction. Given these conditions, we find that the proposed project will avoid the identified cemeteries and have no effect on any archaeological sites eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Please note that if human skeletal remains are encountered during construction, the provisions of North Carolina General Statute Chapter 70, Article 3 apply. All ground disturbing activities should stop and the county medical examiner be contacted immediately.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,



for Ramona Bartos, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Susan E. Bamann, Commonwealth Heritage Group
Crystal Best, North Carolina State Clearinghouse

susanbamann@chg-inc.com
crystal.best@doa.nc.gov