



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MACHELLE SANDERS
SECRETARY

June 14, 2017

Ms. Lynn Jarvis
North Carolina Department of Commerce
Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325

Re: SCH File # 17-E-4600-0446; Amended Application of Johannes Gutenberg Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 79.9 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Northampton Co. Docket #SP-5434 Sub 0.

Dear Ms. Jarvis:

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,

Crystal Best
Crystal Best

State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Region L

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
1301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH, NC 27699-1301

Telephone: (919) 807-2425
Fax: (919) 733-9571
COURIER #51-01-00
Email: state.clearinghouse@doa.nc.gov
Website: www.ncadmin.nc.gov

Location:
116 WEST JONES STREET
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICIAL COPY

JUN 15 2017

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW**

COUNTY: NORTHAMPTON

H11: ENERGY RELATED
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 17-E-4600-0446
DATE RECEIVED: 05/09/2017
AGENCY RESPONSE: 06/05/2017
REVIEW CLOSED: 06/08/2017

MR JOSEPH HUDYNIA
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
1001 MSC - AGRICULTURE BLDG
RALEIGH NC

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

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DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
DNCR - NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
UPPER COASTAL PLAIN COG

PROJECT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: N.C. Department of Commerce
TYPE: State Environmental Policy Act
Environmental Review

DESC: Amended Application of Johannes Gutenberg Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 79.9 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Northampton Co.
Docket #SP-5434 Sub 0. - View document at
<http://starwl.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type SP-5434
Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located just east and west of Cornwallis Road within approximately a 1.5 mile radius of the intersection of Cornwallis Road and Hwy 186 in an unincorporated area of Garysburg Township Extra Territorial Jurisdiction, Northampton County, NC

Amended due to the additional parcels and capacity of facility has also increased.

CROSS-REFERENCE NUMBER: 15-E-4600-0563

The attached project has been submitted to the N. C. State Clearinghouse for intergovernmental review. Please review and submit your response by the above indicated date to 1301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1301.

If additional review time is needed, please contact this office at (919)807-2425.

AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED: ☐ NO COMMENT ☒ COMMENTS ATTACHED

SIGNED BY: _____

DATE: 6/5/2017

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JUN 15 2017

RECEIVED
Secretary's
JUN 13 2017
Office
DOA



Dr. Richard Reich
Assistant Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Agricultural Services

Joseph Hudyncia
Environmental Programs

Crystal Best
State Clearinghouse
N.C. Department of Administration
1301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1301

June 5th, 2017

Dear Ms. Best:

The proposed ground-mounted photovoltaic electric generating facility has the potential to negatively impact agricultural, environmental and economic balance in the immediate area. As farmland is removed from production, the associated potential for providing food and fiber for a growing population is reduced; and with it a substantial amount of associated, recurring economic activity generated by farming dollars. Development of all types continues to be a threat to one of the state's most valuable natural resources – farmland.

If implementation of the solar project moves forward on this tract of land, we encourage conservation of highly productive soils for their best use, i.e. agriculture, and we encourage the developer to locate solar installations on less productive sites located on this tract if possible. Prioritization of sites based on potential agricultural productivity may help mitigate some of the impact of this type of development.

Additionally, the use of best practices in construction and maintenance of the facility are encouraged to ensure that the productive capabilities of the land for any future agricultural activity is maintained and the integrity of unique or sensitive habitats is not destroyed. It is also recommended that a decommissioning plan that clearly defines the responsible party, process, time-line, and specific responsibilities (including restoration to prior condition) is incorporated.

We have cross-referenced the parcel for existing easements related to agriculture and found no CREP conservation easements, swine buyout easements, ADFP easements, plant conservation easements or plant conservation priority sites on the subject property.

Respectfully,

Joseph Hudyncia
Environmental Programs
NCDA&CS
joseph.hudyncia@ncagr.gov