

August 11, 2016

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

Re: SCH File # 16-E-4600-0400; Amended Application of Whiskey Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 4.99 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Montgomery Co. Docket #SP-5267 Sub 0.

Dear Ms. Mount:

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 G

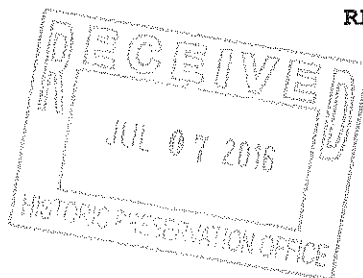
NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: MONTGOMERY

H11: ENERGY RELATED
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 16-E-4600-040
DATE RECEIVED: 06/28/2016
AGENCY RESPONSE: 07/25/2016
REVIEW CLOSED: 07/28/2016

MS RENEE GLEDHILL-EARLEY
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR
DNCR - DIV OF PARKS AND RECREATION
MSC 4617 - ARCHIVES BUILDING
RALEIGH NC



CH 15-0673

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DNCR - DIV OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL COUNCIL

PROJECT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: North Carolina Department of Commerce
TYPE: State Environmental Policy Act
Environmental Review

DESC: Amended Application of Whiskey Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 4.99 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Montgomery Co. Docket #SP-5267
Sub 0. - View document at
<http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type SP-5267
Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located at 105 S. Whiskey Road, Candor, NC

Amended due to the correction of address number.

CROSS-REFERENCE NUMBER: 15-E-4600-0511

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:

Renee Gledhill-Earley

DATE:

7-28-16



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Aug 11 2016

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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW**

COUNTY: MONTGOMERY

H11: ENERGY RELATED
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 16-E-4600-0400
DATE RECEIVED: 06/28/2016
AGENCY RESPONSE: 07/25/2016
REVIEW CLOSED: 07/28/2016

MS ELIZABETH HEATH
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
1001 MSC - AGRICULTURE BLDG
RALEIGH NC

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SIGNED BY: _____

DATE: 7/29/16



OFFICIAL COPY

Aug 11 2016



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

July 29, 2016

Dear Ms. Best:

The proposed Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility has the potential to negatively impact agricultural/environmental/economic balance in the immediate area. The NCDA&CS discourages taking agricultural or managed forestland out of production. Far too much productive farmland has been, and continues to be, lost to development of various types in North Carolina. As farmland is taken out of production the associated jobs and potential for producing food and fiber for a growing population is reduced, and with it a substantial amount of associated economic activity generated by farming dollars that contributes revenue to the local economy and beyond year after year.

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. If crop or forestry activities are a current component of land use, seek solar development on less productive sites on this tract if possible.

The use of best practices in construction and maintenance of the facility are encouraged to insure 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