



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MACHELLE SANDERS
SECRETARY

January 26, 2018

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

Re: SCH File # 18-E-4600-0154; Amended Application of Wilkinson Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 74 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Beaufort Co. Docket #EMP-93, 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Crystal Best".

Crystal Best
State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Region Q

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: BEAUFORT

H11: ENERGY RELATED
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 18-E-4600-0154
DATE RECEIVED: 12/12/2017
AGENCY RESPONSE: 01/08/2018
REVIEW CLOSED: 01/11/2018

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

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

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DEPT OF ENVIR. QUALITY - COASTAL MG
DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DEPT OF NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCE
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
DNCR - NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
MID EAST COMMISSION

PROJECT INFORMATION

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

DESC: Amended Application of Wilkinson Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 74 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Beaufort Co. Docket #EMP-93, Sub 0. - View document at <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type EMP-93 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located south of Terra Ceia Road, east and west of Christian School Road, south of Vreugdenhil Road, with a portion on the north side of Terra Ceia Road, west side of Gaylord Road.

Pantegap

Amended due to the revised site plan

CROSS-REFERENCE NUMBER: 17-E-4600-0415

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: *[Signature]*

This application

- Did / Did Not - have a CREP conservation easement on the subject property.
- Did / Did Not - have a Swine buyout easement on the subject property *See attached maps*
- Did / Did Not - have ADFP easement on the subject property
- Did / Did Not - have a plant conservation easement on the subject property
- Did / Did Not - have a plant conservation priority site on the subject property

OFFICIAL COPY

Jan 26 2018



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

RE: S# 18-E-4600-0154

January 12, 2018

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. Development of all types continues to be a threat to one of the state's most valuable natural resources – productive farmland. As productive farmland is removed from agricultural 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 local farming dollars. As diverse and interconnected components of certain local agricultural economies are disrupted, they may face difficulties recovering.

If development of the solar power facility does move 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, whereby less productive sites are prioritized for development, 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 a swine buyout easement associated with the subject property with potential restrictions on land use. The landowner should consult the conditions of the easement for guidance on allowable uses.

Respectfully,

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

- SP_5436
- NCI_Map_Parcel
- Parcel_Centroids
- Parcels
- Counties
- Major_Roads
 - Interstates (Major)
 - Interstates (Minor)
 - US Highways (Major)
 - US Highways (Minor)
 - NC Highways (Major)
 - NC Highways (Minor)
 - dot_roads
- Military_Installation and 5mile Buffer
- CREP easements
- Swine Buyout Properties
- ADFP conservation easements
- Future PID Plant Conservation Acquisitions
- County parcel
- Municipality

