

September 25, 2019



Honorable Josh Stein
North Carolina Attorney General
Consumer Protection - Utilities
9001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001

FILED
OCT 07 2019
Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

Reference Docket No. SP-11723 Sub 0 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
Apex Solar, LLC.

Your Honor:

My name is Ronald Ingram, and I am a resident of Cleveland County, North Carolina. I am writing concerning the Application of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for a solar farm project for Apex Solar, LLC.

The proposed site is 320.73 contiguous and non-contiguous acres. This project, if constructed will forever change the landscape and possibly jeopardize the safety of the land in the community where I and my neighbors live. I have enclosed a site plan for your convenience.

Since the time this project received its special use permit from Cleveland County, the Board of Commissioners has revised its solar farm standards. The new standards offer the county and its citizen's greater protection/livability both while the project is in operation and its subsequent decommissioning.

Cleveland County currently has a solar site on South Lafayette Street that has a phase that has been constructed for some time and is not in operation. The county has not issued a certificate of occupancy for this project because they have not installed the proper screening.

When I asked representatives with Cypress Creek Renewables, the proposed operator of the site seeking this Certificate, if they could possibly do the same, they said that this would not be the case, if they constructed it, it would be placed in operation.

Your Honor, I'm sure that those who constructed the phase on South Lafayette Street would not have constructed it without the intention of placing it in operation. While

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neither one of us knows why they did this, why should Cleveland County have a new site constructed, while one sits idle?

While we have met with representatives from Apex Solar LLC, Cypress Creek Renewables, who discussed, safety, land value, site operation, etc., decommissioning still remains a high priority on my list of concerns. Cypress Creek Renewables has been in the solar industry less than 10 years and has never decommissioned a site. Cypress Creek representatives told us that what could not be recycled from the site, could be safely disposed of in a landfill. I find that really hard to believe. Solar panels contain toxic chemicals such as lead, cadmium, and other chemicals that cannot be removed by breaking apart the panel. While most solar panels are largely constructed of glass, the glass cannot be recycled due to impurities. If there sites are so safe, why does Brunswick County not allow a decommissioned site to be used for 10 years to ensure that the land is safe?

While I value clean energy as much as anyone else, I hope that I am wrong in saying this, but once North Carolina starts to decommission sites, we are going to find out the true cost of solar energy. What are we going to do with all of the toxic waste from these panels? It will not be a burden on the solar farms operators, who will simply abandon the site; it will be a burden on the future generations of North Carolinians. This project received its special use permit before Cleveland County started requiring surety bonds for site decommissioning.

We have got to be more diligent in the regulation of solar sites to protect our beautiful state.

In closing, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my letter. While we need renewable energy, this proposed site, in my opinion, is not the best site for it to be located. Therefore I file this complaint against Apex Solar, LLC being given a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for this project.

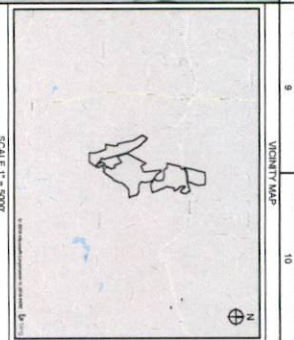
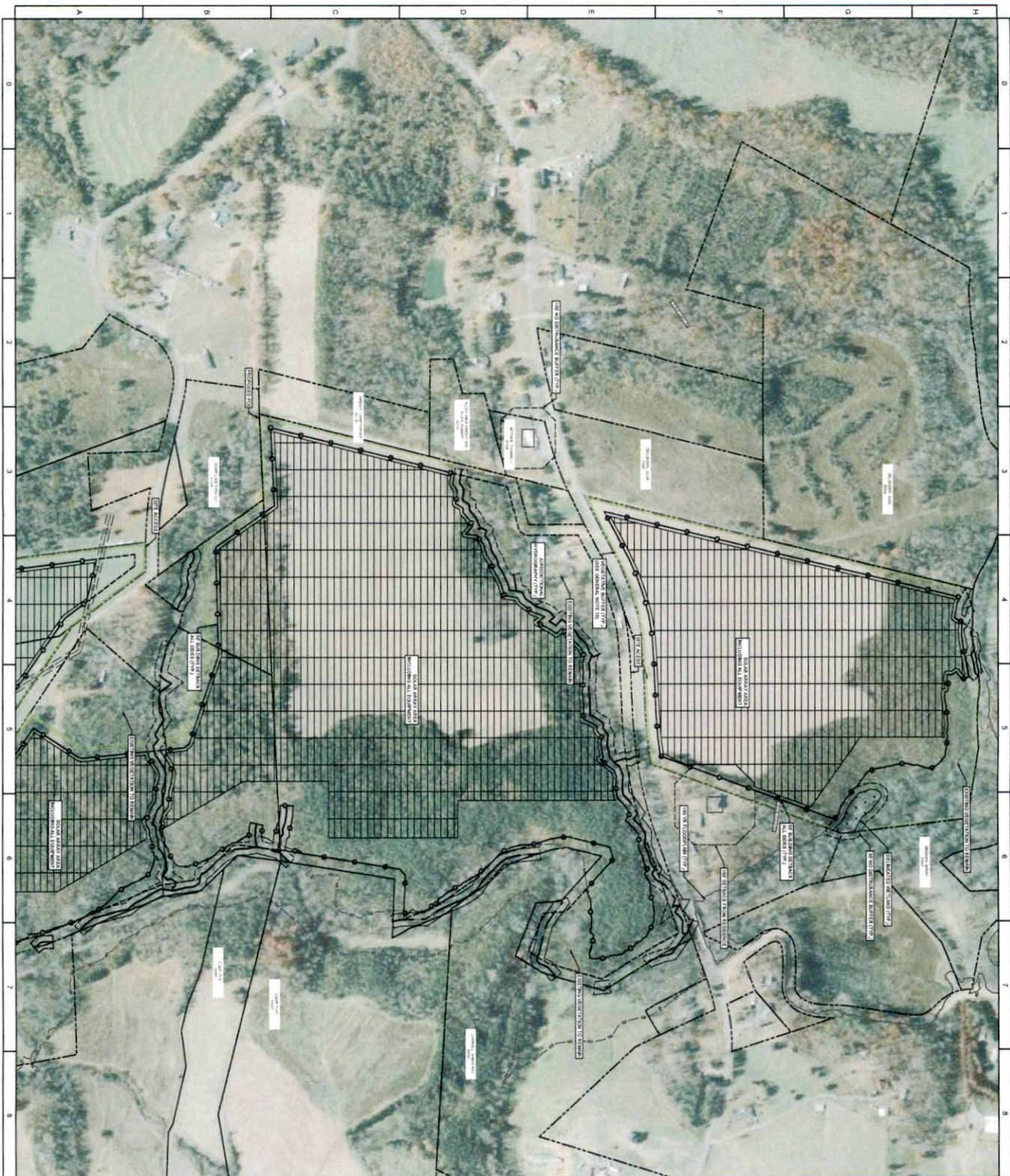
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (828) 244-3555. My mailing address is:

Ronald Ingram
PO Box 726
Fallston NC 28042-0726

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Ingram



SCALE 1" = 200'

SITE DATA

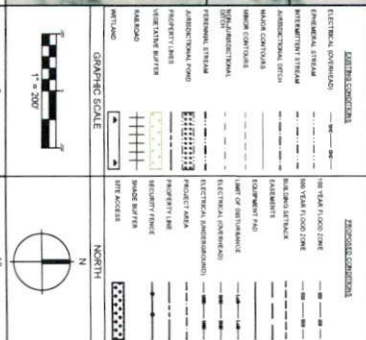
PROJECT NAME: APEX SOLAR, LLC
PROJECT ADDRESS: 168 PONY BARN ROAD, LAWNSDALE, NC 28090
OWNER: APEX SOLAR, LLC
DESIGNER: JENSEN & ASSOCIATES, INC.
DATE: 10/07/19

GENERAL NOTES

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN IS TO SHOW THE LOCATION AND APPROXIMATE LAYOUT OF THE SOLAR PANELS AND TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR THE LOCAL OFFICIALS TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE PROJECT.
2. THE SOLAR PANELS ARE TO BE INSTALLED ON THE EXISTING CLEARING AND TO BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.
3. THE SOLAR PANELS ARE TO BE INSTALLED ON THE EXISTING CLEARING AND TO BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.
4. THE SOLAR PANELS ARE TO BE INSTALLED ON THE EXISTING CLEARING AND TO BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.
5. THE SOLAR PANELS ARE TO BE INSTALLED ON THE EXISTING CLEARING AND TO BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.

LEGEND

| SYMBOL | DESCRIPTION |
|----------|---------------------|
| [Symbol] | ELECTRICAL SERVICE |
| [Symbol] | 100 YEAR FLOOD ZONE |
| [Symbol] | PROPERTY LINE |
| [Symbol] | ROAD |
| [Symbol] | WATER |
| [Symbol] | WETLAND |
| [Symbol] | WELL |
| [Symbol] | WELL ACCESS |
| [Symbol] | PROPERTY LINE |
| [Symbol] | ROAD |
| [Symbol] | WATER |
| [Symbol] | WETLAND |
| [Symbol] | WELL |
| [Symbol] | WELL ACCESS |



CYPRESSCREEK RENEWABLES

3150 OCEAN PARK BLVD SUITE 355 SANTA MONICA, CA 90405
 3110 S ALSTON AVE BLDG 300 CARRBORO, NC 27513
 35 A Smithfield Blvd #310 Pottsville, NY 12901

REVISIONS

| NO. | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|-----|------|-------------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |

APEX SOLAR, LLC
 168 PONY BARN ROAD
 LAWNSDALE, NC 28090

ZONING SITE PLAN
 Z 1.1

11-06-19

