



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MACHELLE SANDERS
SECRETARY

January 17, 2019

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

Re: SCH File # 19-E-4600-0136; Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Certificate to construct a Microgrid Solar and Battery Storage Facility in Madison Co. Docket #E-2, Sub 1185

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. 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
cc: Region B

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

JAN 22 2019

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: MADISON

H11: ENERGY RELATED
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 19-E-4600-0136
DATE RECEIVED: 12/05/2018
AGENCY RESPONSE: 12/31/2018
REVIEW CLOSED: 01/04/2019

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

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DEPT OF NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCE
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
DNCR - NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
LAND OF SKY REGIONAL COUNCIL

PROJECT INFORMATION

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

DESC: Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Certificate to construct a Microgrid Solar and Battery Storage Facility in Madison Co. Docket #E-2, Sub 1185 - View document at <http://starwl.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type E-2 Sub 1185 in the Docket Number search line.

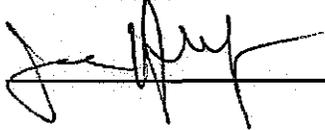
Located in Madison County, NC

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:

1/14/2019

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
- 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

*In +
101 Springs*

OFFICIAL COPY

Jan 22 2019



Dr. Alexander Stewart
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# 19-E-4600-0136

January 14, 2019

Dear Ms. Best:

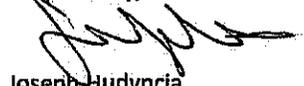
The proposed ground-mounted photovoltaic electric generating facility has the potential to negatively impact agricultural, environmental and economic balance in the immediate area of the development project. Development of all types continues to be a threat to one of the state's most valuable natural resources, i.e. productive farmland. As productive farmland is removed from agricultural production, the associated potential for providing necessary agricultural products for a growing population is reduced; and with it a substantial amount of recurring, local economic activity generated by local farm-related incomes.

We encourage conservation of highly productive soils for their best use – agriculture, and recommend locating ground-mounted solar arrays of this scale on less productive sites within the associated tract if possible. Prioritization of sites based on potential agricultural productivity, whereby less productive sites are selected for development and more productive sites are retained for agricultural production, may help mitigate impacts of this type of land use on agricultural resources. One means to assess the agronomic potential of soils is to first consult the published county soil survey to identify soil types (map units) and distribution, and then use the NC State Cooperative Extension Realistic Yield Expectations for NC Soils database tool (<https://realisticyields.ces.ncsu.edu/>) to compare yield potential of identified soil map units.

Additionally, the use of best practices in construction and maintenance of the facility are encouraged to preserve the productive capabilities of the land for any future agricultural use and maintain the integrity of unique or sensitive habitats. It is also recommended that a decommissioning plan that clearly defines the responsible party, process details, timeline, and specific responsibilities (including restoration to prior condition) be incorporated into the development agreement.

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

E-mail: joseph.hudyncia@ncagr.gov
1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-1001 (919) 707-3070 • Fax (919) 733-1141
An Equal Opportunity Employer

OFFICIAL COPY

Jan 22 2019