



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MACHELLE SANDERS
SECRETARY

December 28, 2018

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

Re: SCH File # 19-E-4600-0118; Application of Edgecombe Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 75 MW Solar Facility in Edgecombe Co. Docket #EMP-101, 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. The Department of Cultural Resources has requested additional information prior to their concurrence with the above referenced document.

Therefore, pursuant to 1 NCAC 25 .0506(c), this office requests that a supplemental document providing the additional information requested by the Department of Cultural Resources be submitted to the Clearinghouse for further review and comment.

Sincerely,

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

Crystal Best

State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Region L

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

COUNTY: EDGECOMBE

H11: ENERGY RELATED
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 19-E-4600-0118
DATE RECEIVED: 11/15/2018
AGENCY RESPONSE: 12/12/2018
REVIEW CLOSED: 12/17/2018

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

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

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

PROJECT INFORMATION

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

DESC: Application of Edgecombe Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 75 MW Solar Facility in Edgecombe Co. Docket #EMP-101, Sub 0. - View document at <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type EMP-101 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located at approximately 600 acres of land on the south side of US Highway 64 Alternate West, east of the intersection with April Lane, and west of the intersection with Alston Lane, near Kingsboro, 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: 12/19/2018

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

OFFICIAL COPY

Dec 28 2018



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-4600-0118

December 19, 2018

Dear Ms. Best:

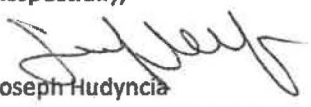
The proposed ground-mounted photovoltaic electric generating facility has the potential to negatively impact agricultural, environmental and economic balance in the immediate area of the development project. Development of all types continues to be a threat to one of the state's most valuable natural 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
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Dec 28 2018

Edgecombe

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: EDGECOMBE

H11: ENERGY RELATED
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STATE NUMBER: 19-E-4600-0118
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Dec 28 2018

MS RENEE GLEDHILL-EARLEY
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR
DEPT OF NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCE
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
MSC 4617 - ARCHIVES BUILDING
RALEIGH NC

Received: 12/03/2018
State Historic Preservation Office

CH 18-3970

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

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UPPER COASTAL PLAIN COG

Due -- 12/11/18

A- See comments
12/7/18

PROJECT INFORMATION

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

Due --

S- (NG) KBH
12/11/18

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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:

12.21.18

NOV 04 2018



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

December 13, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Crystal Best
North Carolina State Clearinghouse
Department of Administration

FROM: Ramona M. Bartos *RMB for Ramona M. Bartos*

SUBJECT: Construct 75 MW Edgecombe Solar Farm, US 64 Alternate, Kingsboro, Edgecombe County,
CH 18-0970

Thank you for your submission concerning the above referenced project. We have reviewed the materials provided and offer the following comments.

The proposed project area is located on bluffs adjacent to the Tar River floodplain, and therefore has a high probability for containing precolonial American Indian archaeological sites. Six sites of this nature have been identified within a half mile of the project area. In addition, historic records indicate that archaeological sites associated with the plantation of General William Ruffin Cox are likely present in the parcel. As a result, we recommend the following conditions for this application:

We recommend that prior to the initiation of any ground disturbing activities within the project area, a comprehensive archaeological survey of the project area be conducted by an experienced archaeologist. The purpose of this survey will be to identify and evaluate the significance of archaeological sites that may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed project. Potential effects on unknown resources must be assessed prior to the initiation of construction activities. Please note that our office now requests consultation with the Office of State Archaeology Review Archaeologist to discuss appropriate field methodologies prior to the archaeological field investigation.

One paper and one digital copy of all resulting archaeological reports, as well as paper and one digital copy of the North Carolina site form for each site recorded, should be forwarded to the Office of State Archaeology through this office for review and comment as soon as they are available and in advance of any construction or ground disturbance activities.

A list of archaeological consultants who have conducted or expressed an interest in contract work in North Carolina is available at www.archaeology.ncdcr.gov/ncarch/resource/consultants.htm. The archaeologists listed, or any other experienced archaeologist, may be contacted to conduct the recommended survey.

We have determined that there will be no effect on any historic properties.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.