Location:

116 WEST JONES STREET

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

ROY COOPER PAMELA B. CASHWELL GOVERNOR SECRETARY

September 30, 2021

Kimberley Campbell North Carolina Department of Commerce **Utilities Commission** 4325 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325

Re: SCH File # 21-E-4600-0807 Application of Oak Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 120 MW Solar Facility in Northampton Co. Docket # EMP-112 Sub 0.

Dear Ms. Campbell:

The above referenced environmental 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

uptal Best

State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper Secretary D. Reid Wilson

September 9, 2021

Lauren Minford JMT 9201 Arboretum Parkway, Suite 310 Richmond, VA 23236 LMinford@jmt.com

Re: Addendum Report, Phase I Archaeological Survey, Gaston Solar Farm, Gaston Green Acres Solar 300

MW Facility

Addendum Report, Phase I Archaeological Survey, Portion of Baird-Allen Property, Gaston Solar Farm,

Gaston Green Acres Solar 300 MW Facility, Northampton County, ER 20-2521

Dear Ms. Minford:

Thank you for your submission of the revised archaeological addendum reports and avoidance plans for the project noted above. The submitted reports document the results of archaeological survey in two subsections of the Gaston Green Acres project area: the Belmont and Baird-Allen properties. We have reviewed the materials provided and offer the following comments for each subsection of the project area.

Belmont

The revised report contains additional information regarding the significance of site 31NP428 that is consistent with the recommendations made elsewhere in the report. This final report is consistent with Office of State Archaeology (OSA) Standards and Guidelines and will be incorporated into the OSA site file library.

The submitted construction plan indicates that archaeological sites 31NP425, 31NP426, 31NP428, 31NP432, and 31NP437, inclusive of 50-foot buffers, will be avoided by ground disturbing activities. Construction activities as illustrated in the submitted plan should have no effect on these sites.

Baird-Allen

The revised report contains maps clarifying which portions of the property will be impacted by ground disturbance associated with the proposed project. This final report is consistent with Office of State Archaeology (OSA) Standards and Guidelines and will be incorporated into the OSA site file library.

The submitted construction plan indicates that archaeological site 31NP440, inclusive of a 50-foot buffer, will be avoided by ground disturbing activities. Construction activities as illustrated in the submitted plan should have no effect on 31NP440.

Finally, we request you consult with the Office of State Archaeology Review Archaeologist to discuss appropriate methodologies prior to any additional archaeological investigations associated with this project. You can find the Review Archaeologist for your region at https://archaeology.ncdcr.gov/about/contact.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 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.

Sincerely,

Ramona Bartos, Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer

Zener Gledhill-Earley

cc: Nicholas Tillson, SunEnergy1

Douglas Taylor, Sun Energy 1

<u>nick.tillson@sunenergy1.com</u> douglas.taylor@sunenergy1.com