



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Roy Cooper
GOVERNOR

Pamela B. Cashwell
Secretary

October 29, 2021

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

Re: SCH File # 22-E-4600-0073 Application of Macadamia Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 484 MWac Solar Facility in Washington County. Docket #EMP-119 Sub 0. View document at <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type EMP-119 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Dear Kimberley Campbell:

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 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

Attachments

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

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Nov 01 2021

Control No.: 22-E-4600-0073
County.: WASHINGTON

Date Received: 9/28/2021
Agency Response: 10/28/2021
Review Closed: 10/28/2021

LYN HARDISON
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR
DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Project Information

Type: State Environmental Policy Act Environmental Review
Applicant: North Carolina Department of Commerce
Project Desc.: Application of Macadamia Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 484 MWac Solar Facility in Washington County. Docket #EMP-119 Sub 0. View document at <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type EMP-119 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located on approximately 4,813 fenced areas of privately-owned land located generally on and around Highway 32 and Highway 99 outside of Plymouth, North Carolina.

As a result of this review the following is submitted:

No Comment Comments Below Documents Attached

Reviewed By: LYN HARDISON

Date: 10/27/2021



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

To: Crystal Best
State Clearinghouse
NC Department of Administration

From: Lyn Hardison
Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service
Washington Regional Office

RE: 22-0073
Environmental Review - Application of Macadamia Solar,
LLC for Certificate to construct a 484 MW Solar Facility,
Docket #EMP-119 Sub O.
Washington County

Date: October 27, 2021

The Department of Environment Quality has reviewed the proposal for the referenced project. Based on the information provided, several of our agencies have identified permits that may be required and offered some valuable guidance to help minimize impacts to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources. The comments are attached for the applicant's review.

A project of this size should have a Scoping meeting to discuss the full scope of the project with the State and Federal permitting and resources agencies. The meeting is design to discuss all permits that will be required, any potential environmental impacts that may be present and will improve the permitting processes. Please ask the applicant to contact Lyn Hardison, Permit Assistance Coordinator, in the Department's Washington Regional office, to coordinate a scoping meeting. Her contact information is 252-948-3842 and lyn.hardison@ncdenr.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Attachments



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
217 West Jones Street | 1601 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1601
919.707.8600

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Nov 01 2021



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lyn Hardison, Environmental Assistance Coordinator
NCDEQ Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach (DEAO)

FROM: Maria T. Dunn, Coastal Habitat Coordinator
Habitat Conservation Division *Maria T. Dunn*

DATE: October 27, 2021

SUBJECT: Macadamia Solar, LLC 484 MW Solar Facility, Docket #EMP-119 Sub 0, Washington County, North Carolina.
OLIA No. 22-0073

Biologists with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) have reviewed the subject document and are familiar with the habitat values of the area. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of North Carolina General Statutes (G.S. 113-131 et seq.), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712 et seq.).

The applicant proposes to construct a 484 MW solar facility located on approximately 4,813 acres of mostly agricultural land on and around NC Highway 32 and NC Highway 99 outside of Plymouth, NC.

A map of the proposed project site indicates the area is primarily maintained in agriculture. The conversion of forests and wetlands to support solar development is causing increasing concern due to the loss of wildlife habitat, the fragmentation of wildlife habitat, and vegetative management needed post conversion for wetland and other forested areas.

Agricultural lands in eastern North Carolina often provide foraging opportunities for migratory waterfowl, particularly tundra swan. While the large agricultural areas in Washington and Beaufort counties have historically been known to be used by tens of thousands of individuals in a season, area within the project boundary has seen noticeably less use by these birds than other nearby areas. However, this large change in use removes over 4,800 acres of agriculture and coupled with the cumulative loss of agriculture from numerous other solar facilities has significantly reduced the amount of winter foraging habitat. The effect of this cumulative loss has yet to be determined. In addition to the direct removal of wintering habitat, photovoltaic panels may reflect sunlight and resemble a water surface, potentially

drawing waterfowl into land. We request that if this facility is constructed, any fatalities or injured birds be reported to NCWRC.

The project description states the over 4,800-acre site will be fenced. While the NCWRC understands the desire for the applicant to fence the project area, the miles and miles of fencing redirects free movement of animals. Fencing within this project area will likely not affect a particular species' overall population, but it will challenge individuals as they encounter the structure. Large mammals such as black bear and deer will be directed by the fence and may in some cases enter, causing harm to themselves or a nuisance to the applicant as they search for an exit. Smaller mammals and turtles may be impacted even greater if no movement is allowed or if the fencing or its installation traps individuals. To minimize impacts to wildlife travel, unfenced corridors through the facility could be installed to allow movement of pollinators, small mammals, and turtles. Fencing that allows movement of small wildlife can be done by using fixed-knot woven wire, security fencing, and/or deer mesh 75" in height (17/75/6) with no barbed wire. Fencing can be installed upside-down such that the bottom section of fence has a vertical wire spaced at least 7" apart. While the above statements are general recommendations, it is understood this area sees use by black bear that may necessitate a different design that still allows small mammal and turtle movement.

The rural, agricultural area where the project is proposed would be an excellent opportunity to implement pollinator friendly vegetative cover within the project design. Native plant communities can be a low maintenance option that provide an environmental, wildlife, and agricultural benefit. We suggest the applicant consult the *North Carolina Technical Guidance for Native Plantings on Solar Sites* (North Carolina Pollinator Conservation Alliance 2018). This document assists with understanding the benefits of native plantings.

Areas in northeast North Carolina generally exhibit slight differences in topography. These slight elevation changes as well as prevalent soil types can produce substantial drainage shifts when flow patterns are altered. Careful consideration should be given to any filling of drainage features.

In addition to the concerns above, the following statements should be observed:

1. Impacts to wetlands should be avoided or minimized to the greatest extent practicable. In addition to providing wildlife habitat, wetland areas perform important functions of flood control and water quality protection. US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permits and NC Division of Water Resources Section 401 Certifications are required for any impacts to jurisdictional streams or wetlands. Wetland surveys should be conducted to guide project development, prior to any site disturbance. Temporarily disturbed wetland areas should be returned to original soils and contours and reseeded with annual small grains appropriate for the season (e.g., oats, millet, rye, wheat, or rye grass) and should be allowed to revert to natural wetland vegetation.
2. Maintain or establish a minimum 100-foot undisturbed, native forested buffer along each side of perennial streams and 50-foot undisturbed, native forested buffer along each side of intermittent streams and wetlands. Forested riparian buffers provide habitat areas for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species and travel corridors for terrestrial wildlife. In addition, forested riparian buffers protect water quality by stabilizing stream banks and filtering stormwater runoff.
3. Sediment and erosion control measures should be installed prior to any land clearing or construction. The use of biodegradable and wildlife-friendly sediment and erosion control devices is strongly recommended. Silt fencing, fiber rolls and/or other products should have loose-weave netting that is made of natural fiber materials with movable joints between the vertical and horizontal twines. Silt fencing or similar materials that have been reinforced with plastic or metal

mesh should be avoided as they impede the movement of terrestrial wildlife species. All sediment and erosion control measures should be routinely inspected and properly maintained. Excessive silt and sediment loads can have numerous detrimental effects on aquatic resources including destruction of spawning habitat, suffocation of eggs, and clogging of gills of aquatic species.

4. If additional overhead transmission lines will be installed, then measures to minimize impacts to birds should be implemented. These can include increasing line visibility, insulating wires to cover exposed connections, and increasing the distance between wires so no contact with ground or other energized wire can be made. For more information see <http://www.fws.gov/birds/documents/powerlines.pdf>.
5. If site and/or transmission line maintenance is needed, avoid mowing between April 1 and October 1 to minimize impacts to nesting wildlife. We suggest a maintenance schedule that incorporates a portion of the area (e.g., one-third of the area) each year. Pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, and other chemicals should not be used in wetland areas or near streams.
6. If pesticides or chemicals will be used for site maintenance, then stormwater runoff from the site should be directed to bio-retention areas prior to discharge to streams or wetlands to provide additional protection for water quality and aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitats.
7. Consider establishing vegetative cover on the site that is beneficial to wildlife. Plantings should include native warm season grasses and/or wildflower seed mixes to create pollinator habitat within the project boundary. Shade-tolerant plants that are grow between 12 to 18 inches can be selected for planting both underneath and around solar panels. Further information and free technical guidance from the NCWRC are available upon request.
8. A plan should be developed that identifies the party responsible for decommissioning the facility as well as the conditions under which decommissioning will occur. In addition, the plan should emphasize that all equipment must be removed from the sites, and the land should be restored to pre-construction conditions.
9. Measures to mitigate secondary and cumulative impacts can be found in NCWRC's *Guidance Memorandum to Address and Mitigate Secondary and Cumulative Impacts to Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife Resources and Water Quality* (August 2002; http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Conserving/documents/2002_GuidanceMemorandumforSecondaryandCumulativeImpacts.pdf).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If our agency can be of further assistance, please contact me at (252) 948-3916 or at maria.dunn@ncwildlife.org

State of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
 INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROJECT COMMENTS

Reviewing Regional Office: Washington
 Project Number: 21-0073 Due Date: 10/25/2021
 County: Washington

After review of this project it has been determined that the DEQ permit(s) and/or approvals indicated may need to be obtained in order for this project to comply with North Carolina Law. Questions regarding these permits should be addressed to the Regional Office indicated on the reverse of the form. All applications, information and guidelines relative to these plans and permits are available from the same Regional Office.

	PERMITS	SPECIAL APPLICATION PROCEDURES or REQUIREMENTS	Normal Process Time (statutory time limit)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit to construct & operate wastewater treatment facilities, non-standard sewer system extensions & sewer systems that do not discharge into state surface waters.	Application 90 days before begins construction or award of construction contracts. On-site inspection may be required. Post-application technical conference usual.	30 days (90 days)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit to construct & operate, sewer extensions involving gravity sewers, pump stations and force mains discharging into a sewer collection system	Fast-Track Permitting program consists of the submittal of an application and an engineer's certification that the project meets all applicable State rules and Division Minimum Design Criteria.	30 days (N/A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	NPDES - permit to discharge into surface water and/or permit to operate and construct wastewater facilities discharging into state surface waters.	Application 180 days before begins activity. On-site inspection. Pre-application conference usual. Additionally, obtain permit to construct wastewater treatment facility-granted after NPDES. Reply time, 30 days after receipt of plans or issue of NPDES permit-whichever is later.	90-120 days (N/A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Use Permit	Pre-application technical conference usually necessary.	30 days (N/A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Well Construction Permit	Complete application must be received and permit issued prior to the installation of a groundwater monitoring well located on property not owned by the applicant, and for a large capacity (>100,000 gallons per day) water supply well.	7 days (15 days)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dredge and Fill Permit	Application copy must be served on each adjacent riparian property owner. On-site inspection. Pre-application conference usual. Filling may require Easement to Fill from N.C. Department of Administration and Federal Dredge and Fill Permit.	55 days (90 days)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit to construct & operate Air Pollution Abatement facilities and/or Emission Sources as per 15 A NCAC (2Q.0100 thru 2Q.0300)	Application must be submitted and permit received prior to construction and operation of the source. If a permit is required in an area without local zoning, then there are additional requirements and timelines (2Q.0113).	90 days
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Any open burning associated with subject proposal must be in compliance with 15 A NCAC 2D.1900	N/A	60 days (90 days)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demolition or renovations of structures containing asbestos material must be in compliance with 15 A NCAC 20.1110 (a) (1) which requires notification and removal prior to demolition. Contact Asbestos Control Group 919-707-5950	Please Note - The Health Hazards Control Unit (HHCU) of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, must be notified of plans to demolish a building, including residences for commercial or industrial expansion, even if no asbestos is present in the building.	60 days (90 days)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 must be properly addressed for any land disturbing activity. An erosion & sedimentation control plan will be required if one or more acres are to be disturbed. Plan must be filed with and approved by applicable Regional Office (Land Quality Section) at least 30 days before beginning activity. A NPDES Construction Stormwater permit (NCG010000) is also usually issued should design features meet minimum requirements. A fee of \$65 for the first acre or any part of an acre. An express review option is available with additional fees.		20 days (30 days)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sedimentation and erosion control must be addressed in accordance with NCDOT's approved program. Particular attention should be given to design and installation of appropriate perimeter sediment trapping devices as well as stable Stormwater conveyances and outlets.		(30 days)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sedimentation and erosion control must be addressed in accordance with _____ Local Government's approved program. Particular attention should be given to design and installation of appropriate perimeter sediment trapping devices as well as stable Stormwater conveyances and outlets.		Based on Local Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Compliance with 15A NCAC 2H .0126 - NPDES Stormwater Program which regulates three types of activities: Industrial, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System & Construction activities that disturb ≥1 acre.		30-60 days (90 days)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compliance with 15A NCAC 2H 1000 -State Stormwater Permitting Programs regulate site development and post-construction stormwater runoff control. Areas subject to these permit programs include all 20 coastal counties, and various other counties and watersheds throughout the state.		45 days (90 days)

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State of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
 INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROJECT COMMENTS

Reviewing Regional Office: Washington
 Project Number: 21-0073 Due Date: 10/25/2021
 County: Washington

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Nov 01 2021

	PERMITS	SPECIAL APPLICATION PROCEDURES or REQUIREMENTS	Normal Process Time (statutory time limit)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mining Permit	On-site inspection usual. Surety bond filed with DEQ Bond amount varies with type mine and number of acres of affected land. Affected area greater than one acre must be permitted. The appropriate bond must be received before the permit can be issued.	30 days (60 days)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dam Safety Permit	If permit required, application 60 days before begin construction. Applicant must hire N.C. qualified engineer to: prepare plans, inspect construction, and certify construction is according to DEQ approved plans. May also require a permit under mosquito control program. And a 404 permit from Corps of Engineers. An inspection of site is necessary to verify Hazard Classification. A minimum fee of \$200.00 must accompany the application. An additional processing fee based on a percentage or the total project cost will be required upon completion.	30 days (60 days)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oil Refining Facilities	N/A	90-120 days (N/A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit to drill exploratory oil or gas well	File surety bond of \$5,000 with DEQ running to State of NC conditional that any well opened by drill operator shall, upon abandonment, be plugged according to DEQ rules and regulations.	10 days N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geophysical Exploration Permit	Application filed with DEQ at least 10 days prior to issue of permit. Application by letter. No standard application form.	10 days N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Lakes Construction Permit	Application fee based on structure size is charged. Must include descriptions & drawings of structure & proof of ownership of riparian property	15-20 days N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	401 Water Quality Certification	Compliance with the T15A 02H .0500 Certifications are required whenever construction or operation of facilities will result in a discharge into navigable water as described in 33 CFR part 323.	60 days (130 days)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compliance with Catawba, Goose Creek, Jordan Lake, Randleman, Tar Pamlico or Neuse Riparian Buffer Rules is required. Buffer requirements: http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/401-wetlands-buffer-permits/401-riparian-buffer-protection-program		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nutrient Offset: Loading requirements for nitrogen and phosphorus in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River basins, and in the Jordan and Falls Lake watersheds, as part of the nutrient-management strategies in these areas. DWR nutrient offset information: http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/planning/nonpoint-source-management/nutrient-offset-information		
<input type="checkbox"/>	CAMA Permit for MAJOR development	\$250.00 - \$475.00 fee must accompany application	75 days (150 days)
<input type="checkbox"/>	CAMA Permit for MINOR development	\$100.00 fee must accompany application	22 days (25 days)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment of any wells, if required must be in accordance with Title 15A. Subchapter 2C.0100.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Notification of the proper regional office is requested if "orphan" underground storage tanks (USTS) are discovered during any excavation operation.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plans and specifications for the construction, expansion, or alteration of a public water system must be approved by the Division of Water Resources/Public Water Supply Section prior to the award of a contract or the initiation of construction as per 15A NCAC 18C .0300 et. seq., Plans and specifications should be submitted to 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1634. All public water supply systems must comply with state and federal drinking water monitoring requirements. For more information, contact the Public Water Supply Section, (919) 707-9100.		30 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	If existing water lines will be relocated during the construction, plans for the water line relocation must be submitted to the Division of Water Resources/Public Water Supply Section at 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1634. For more information, contact the Public Water Supply Section, (919) 707-9100.		30 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plans and specifications for the construction, expansion, or alteration of the _____ water system must be approved through the _____ delegated plan approval authority. Please contact them at _____ for further information.		

State of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
 INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROJECT COMMENTS

Reviewing Regional Office: Washington
 Project Number: 21-0073 Due Date: 10/25/2021
 County: Washington

Other Comments (attach additional pages as necessary, being certain to comment authority)

Division	Initials	No comment	Comments	Date Review
DAQ	FDB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Comments	9/29/2021
DWR-WQROS (Aquifer & Surface)	DRS &RCP	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Comments & delineation of any wetlands/waters/buffers will be necessary prior to application for impacts.	9/29/2021
DWR-PWS		<input type="checkbox"/>		/ /
DEMLR (LQ & SW)	SD	<input type="checkbox"/>	E&SC required, SW required	9/29/2021
DWM – UST	SNH	<input type="checkbox"/>	See attached comments	10/14/2021
Other Comments		<input type="checkbox"/>		/ /

REGIONAL OFFICES

Questions regarding these permits should be addressed to the Regional Office marked below.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asheville Regional Office
2090 U.S. 70 Highway
Swannanoa, NC 28778-8211
Phone: 828-296-4500
Fax: 828-299-7043 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fayetteville Regional Office
225 Green Street, Suite 714,
Fayetteville, NC 28301-5043
Phone: 910-433-3300
Fax: 910-486-0707 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mooreville Regional Office
610 East Center Avenue, Suite 301,
Mooreville, NC 28115
Phone: 704-663-1699
Fax: 704-663-6040 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Raleigh Regional Office
3800 Barrett Drive,
Raleigh, NC 27609
Phone: 919-791-4200
Fax: 919-571-4718 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Regional Office
943 Washington Square Mall,
Washington, NC 27889
Phone: 252-946-6481
Fax: 252-975-3716 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilmington Regional Office
127 Cardinal Drive Ext.,
Wilmington, NC 28405
Phone: 910-796-7215
Fax: 910-350-2004 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Winston-Salem Regional Office
450 Hanes Mill Road, Suite 300,
Winston-Salem, NC 27105
Phone: 336-776-9800
Fax: 336-776-9797 | |

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ROY COOPER

Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER

Secretary

MICHAEL SCOTT

Director



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

TO: Lyn Hardison, Environmental Coordinator

FROM: Sylvia Newsom-Hunneke, Regional UST Supervisor

COPY: Scott Bullock, Corrective Action Branch Head

COPY: Sharon Brinkley, Administrative Secretary

DATE: October 14, 2021

RE: Environmental Review – Project Number 22-0073– Application of Macadamia Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct 484 MW Solar Facility in Washington County.

I searched the Petroleum Underground Storage Tank (UST) and Non-UST Databases and review of those databases did not indicate any petroleum releases within the proposed project area. There is, however, a Logging Truck accident that occur along the highway near 2000 NC 99 North that resulted in a petroleum spill (UST #95829, issued a No Further Action status on 8/21/2020). If you would like to review this file please contact Sylvia Hunneke at (252) 948-3908 or sylvia.hunneke@ncdenr.gov.

I reviewed the above proposal and determined that this project should not have any adverse impact upon groundwater. The following comments are pertinent to my review:

1. The Washington Regional Office (WaRO) UST Section recommends removal of any abandoned or out-of-use petroleum USTs or petroleum above ground storage tanks (ASTs) within the project area. The UST Section should be contacted regarding use of any proposed or on-site petroleum USTs or ASTs. We may be reached at (252) 946-6481.
2. Any petroleum USTs or ASTs must be installed and maintained in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. For additional information on petroleum ASTs, it is advisable that the North Carolina Department of Insurance at (919) 661-5880 ext. 239, USEPA (404) 562-8761, local fire department, and Local Building Inspectors be contacted.
3. Any petroleum spills must be contained, and the area of impact must be properly restored. Petroleum spills of significant quantity must be reported to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality – Division of Waste Management Underground Storage Tank Section in the Washington Regional Office at (252) 946-6481
4. Any soils excavated during demolition or construction that show evidence of petroleum contamination, such as stained soil, odors, or free product must be reported immediately to the local Fire Marshall to determine whether explosive or inhalation hazards exist. Also, notify the UST Section of the Washington Regional Office at (252) 946-6481. Petroleum contaminated soils must be handled in accordance with all applicable regulations.
5. Any questions or concerns regarding spills from petroleum USTs, ASTs, or vehicles should be directed to the UST Section at (252) 946-6481.



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Waste Management | UST Section
Washington Regional Office | 943 Washington Square Mall | Washington, NC 27889 | (252) 946-6481



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

ROY COOPER
Governor
ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary
MICHAEL SCOTT
Director

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Nov 01 2021

Date: October 25, 2021

To: Michael Scott, Director
Division of Waste Management

Through: Janet Macdonald
Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch – Special Projects Unit

From: Bonnie S. Ware
Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch

Subject: NEPA Project # 22-0073, North Carolina Department of Commerce, Washington County, North Carolina

The Superfund Section has reviewed the proximity of sites under its jurisdiction to the North Carolina Department of Commerce project. Proposed project is for the Proposal is for Environmental Review - Application of Macadamia Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 484 MWac Solar Facility in Washington County. Located on approximately 4,813 fenced acres of privately-owned land located generally on and around Highway 32 and Highway 99 outside of Plymouth, North Carolina.

No Superfund Section sites were identified within one mile of the project as shown on the attached report.

Please contact Janet Macdonald at 919.707.8349 if you have any questions concerning the Superfund Section review portion of this SEPA/NEPA inquiry.



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Waste Management
217 West Jones Street | 1646 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1646
919.707.8200

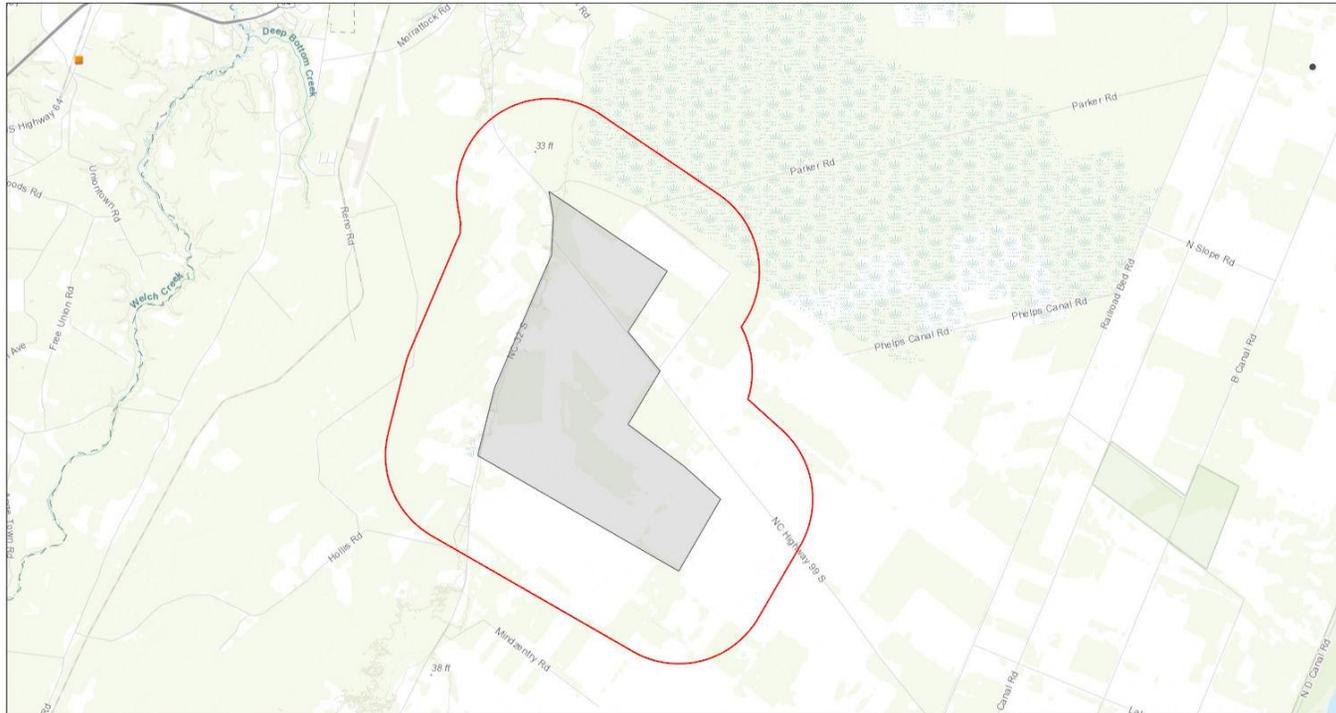


SUPERFUND SECTION SITES ONLY : SEPA/NEPA

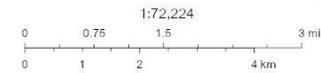
Area of Interest (AOI) Information

Area : 12,333.55 acres

Oct 25 2021 11:21:33 Eastern Daylight Time



■ Inactive Hazardous Sites



State of North Carolina DOT, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, METINASA, NGA, EPA, USDA

Superfund Section Sites Only : 22-0073 Washington County

Summary

Name	Count	Area(acres)	Length(mi)
Certified DSCA Sites	0	N/A	N/A
Federal Remediation Branch Sites	0	N/A	N/A
Inactive Hazardous Sites	0	N/A	N/A
Pre-Regulatory Landfill Sites	0	N/A	N/A
Brownfields Program Sites	0	N/A	N/A

Department of Environmental Quality Project Review Form

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Nov 01 2021

Project Number: 22-0073

County: Washington

Date Received: 9-28-2021

Due Date: 10-25-2021

Project Description: *Environmental Review - Application of Macadamia Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 484 MWac Solar Facility in Washington County. Docket #EMP-119 Sub 0. View document at <https://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/PSC/DocketDetails.aspx?DocketId=8f76827f-dc29-46ff-8d5c-595428fa6233>, Type EMP-119 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.*

Located on approximately 4,813 fenced areas of privately-owned land located generally on and around Highway 32 and Highway 99 outside of Plymouth, North Carolina. GPS Coordinates - 35.751548, -76.698616.

This Project is being reviewed as indicated below:

Regional Office	Regional Office Area	In-House Review
<input type="checkbox"/> Asheville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayetteville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DWR	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Mooresville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DWR - Public Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste Mgmt
<input type="checkbox"/> Raleigh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEMLR (LQ & SW)	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources Mgmt (Public Water, Planning & Water Quality Program)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DWM	<input type="checkbox"/> DWR-Transportation Unit
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilmington		<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Winston-Salem		<input type="checkbox"/> Marine Fisheries
		<input type="checkbox"/> Military Affairs
		<input type="checkbox"/> DMF-Shellfish Sanitation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife <u>Maria</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife/DOT

Manager Sign-Off/Region:	Date: 10/25/21	In-House Reviewer/Agency: Melodi Deaver, Hazardous Waste Section
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Response (check all applicable)

No objection to project as proposed.
 No Comment

Insufficient information to complete review
 Other (specify or attach comments)

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Lyn Hardison at lyn.hardison@ncdenr.gov or (252) 948-3842
943 Washington Square Mall Washington NC 27889
Courier No. 16-04-01**

Control No.: 22-E-4600-0073
County.: WASHINGTON

Date Received: 9/28/2021
Agency Response: 10/28/2021
Review Closed: 10/28/2021

JOSEPH HUDYNIA
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

Project Information

Type: State Environmental Policy Act Environmental Review
Applicant: North Carolina Department of Commerce
Project Desc.: Application of Macadamia Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 484 MWac Solar Facility in Washington County. Docket #EMP-119 Sub 0. View document at <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type EMP-119 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located on approximately 4,813 fenced areas of privately-owned land located generally on and around Highway 32 and Highway 99 outside of Plymouth, North Carolina.

As a result of this review the following is submitted:

No Comment Comments Below Documents Attached

Reviewed By: JOSEPH HUDYNIA

Date: 10/27/2021



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, NC 27699-1301

October 27, 2021
RE: S# 22-E-4600-0073

Dear Ms. Best:

We have cross-referenced all parcels in the proposed project area for existing easements related to agriculture and found four parcels to be enrolled in the Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD) program. NCD&CS contacted the VAD program coordinator in the county who indicated the parcels are in fact enrolled in the VAD program and are subject to a 10-year conservation agreement that restricts industrial and commercial development. The associated PINs for the parcels are: 6774545638, 6774516647, 6773661236, and 6773838456. The landowners must unenroll the parcels from the VAD program before any nonfarm development may occur. This unenrollment process is subject to the terms and conditions of the county program rules.

Further, the proposed ground-mounted photovoltaic electric generating facility has the potential to negatively impact agricultural, environmental and economic balance in the area of the development project. Development of all types continues to threaten two of the state's most valuable natural resources, i.e. productive farmland and forestland. As these lands are removed from production the associated potential for providing necessary agricultural products for a growing population is reduced, and with it a substantial amount of recurring, local agriculture and forestry related economic activity generated by local farming incomes.

We encourage conservation of highly productive soils for agricultural use and recommend locating ground-mounted solar arrays of this scale on less productive sites on the associated tracts if possible. Prioritization of potential sites to retain the most productive land for agricultural production may help mitigate impacts to agricultural resources. Alternatively, other mitigation options should be considered.

We encourage the use of best practices in construction and operation and maintenance of the facility to preserve the productive capabilities of the site for future agricultural use, while maintaining or enhancing 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) be incorporated into the development plan.

Respectfully,

Joe Hudyncia
Environmental Programs
N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
(919)707-3070

Control No.: 22-E-4600-0073
County.: WASHINGTON

Date Received: 9/28/2021
Agency Response: 10/28/2021
Review Closed: 10/28/2021

JINTAO WEN
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Project Information

Type: State Environmental Policy Act ironmental Review
Applicant: North Carolina Department of Commerce
Project Desc.: Application of Macadamia Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 484 MWac Solar Facility in Washington County. Docket #EMP-119 Sub 0. View document at <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type EMP-119 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located on approximately 4,813 fenced areas of privately-owned land located generally on and around Highway 32 and Highway 99 outside of Plymouth, North Carolina.

As a result of this review the following is submitted:

No Comment Comments Below Documents Attached

Reviewed By: JINTAO WEN

Date: 10/19/2021

Control No.: 22-E-4600-0073
County.: WASHINGTON

Date Received: 9/28/2021
Agency Response: 10/28/2021
Review Closed: 10/28/2021

JEANNE STONE
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

Project Information

Type: State Environmental Policy Act ironmental Review
Applicant: North Carolina Department of Commerce
Project Desc.: Application of Macadamia Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 484 MWac Solar Facility in Washington County. Docket #EMP-119 Sub 0. View document at <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type EMP-119 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located on approximately 4,813 fenced areas of privately-owned land located generally on and around Highway 32 and Highway 99 outside of Plymouth, North Carolina.

As a result of this review the following is submitted:

No Comment Comments Below Documents Attached

Reviewed By: JEANNE STONE

Date: 9/29/2021

Control No.: 22-E-4600-0073
County.: WASHINGTON

Date Received: 9/28/2021
Agency Response: 10/28/2021
Review Closed: 10/28/2021

DEVON BORGARDT
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR
DEPT OF NATURAL & CULTURAL
RESOURCE

Project Information

Type: State Environmental Policy Act ironmental Review
Applicant: North Carolina Department of Commerce
Project Desc.: Application of Macadamia Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 484 MWac Solar Facility in Washington County. Docket #EMP-119 Sub 0. View document at <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type EMP-119 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located on approximately 4,813 fenced areas of privately-owned land located generally on and around Highway 32 and Highway 99 outside of Plymouth, North Carolina.

As a result of this review the following is submitted:

No Comment Comments Below Documents Attached

Reviewed By: DEVON BORGARDT

Date: 10/20/2021



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary, Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

October 20, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Crystal Best
North Carolina State Clearinghouse
Department of Administration

crystal.best@doa.nc.gov

FROM: Ramona Bartos

RMB for Ramona M. Bartos

SUBJECT: Construct 484 MWac solar facility, 35.751548, -76.698616, (22-E-4600-0073) Washington County, ER 21-2266

Thank you for your email of September 28, 2021, concerning the above project. We apologize for the delay in our response and any inconvenience it may have caused.

We have conducted a review of the project and are aware of no historic resources which would be affected by the project. Therefore, we have no comment on the project as proposed.

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.