



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

MACHELLE SANDERS  
SECRETARY

December 11, 2019

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

**Re: SCH File # 20-E-4600-0018; Amended Application of Whiskey Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 4.99 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Montgomery Co. Docket #SP-5267 Sub 0.**

Dear Ms. Jones:

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. 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  
State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments  
cc: Region G

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](mailto:state.clearinghouse@doa.nc.gov)  
Website: [www.ncadmin.nc.gov](http://www.ncadmin.nc.gov)

Location:  
116 WEST JONES STREET  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

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Dec 11 2019

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: MONTGOMERY

H11: ENERGY RELATED  
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 20-E-4600-0018  
DATE RECEIVED: 07/19/2019  
AGENCY RESPONSE: 08/14/2019  
REVIEW CLOSED: 08/19/2019

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  
PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL COUNCIL

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

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

DESC: Amended Application of Whiskey Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 4.99 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Montgomery Co. Docket #SP-5267 Sub 0. - View document at <http://starwl.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type SP-5267 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located at 105 S. Whiskey Road, Candor, NC

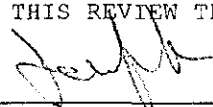
Amended due to the additional boundaries of the facility, proposed site access and interconnection point.

CROSS-REFERENCE NUMBER: 15-E-4600-0511 16-E-4600-0400

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: 11/5/19

**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 ADFFP 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

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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

November 6, 2019  
RE: S# 20-E-4600-0018

Dear Ms. Best:


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 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 ag-related economic activity generated by local farming 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 on the associated tract if possible. Prioritization of sites based on potential agricultural productivity, whereby less productive sites (e.g. marginal lands) are selected for development and more productive sites are retained for agricultural production, may help mitigate some impact to agricultural resources. One means to assess the agronomic potential of soils is to first consult the published county soil survey to identify soil types (soil map units) and distribution, and then use the NC State Cooperative Extension Realistic Yield Expectation for NC Soils database (<https://realisticyields.ces.ncsu.edu/>) to compare yield potential of soil map units on the tract. This analysis may help prioritize areas for retention in agricultural production.

Additionally, the use of best practices in construction and operation and maintenance of the facility are encouraged 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.

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, plant conservation priority sites, or Voluntary Agricultural Districts associated with the subject property.

Respectfully,

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

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