



## North Carolina Department of Administration

Pat McCrory, Governor

Bill Daughtride, Jr., Secretary

April 23, 2015

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

**Re: SCH File # 15-E-4600-0511; 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. Mount:

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Crystal Best".

Crystal Best  
State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments

cc: Region G

**Mailing Address:**  
1301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1301

**Telephone:** (919)807-2425  
Fax (919)733-9571  
State Courier #51-01-00  
e-mail [state.clearinghouse@doa.nc.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@doa.nc.gov)

**Location Address:**  
116 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina




North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory  
Governor

Donald R. van der Vaart  
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

To: Crystal Best  
State Clearinghouse

From: Lyn Hardison   
Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service  
Environmental Assistance and Project Review Coordinator

RE: 15-0511  
Environmental Review –Application of Whiskey Solar, LLC for the Certificate to construct  
a 4.99 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility  
Montgomery County

Date: April 17, 2015

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources 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 minimize impacts to the natural resources, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources within and around the project area. The comments are attached for the applicant review.

If the applicant has any questions pertaining to NCDENR permitting processes, please suggest to the applicant to contact David Lee, Permit Assistance Coordinator, in the Department's Raleigh Regional Office, (919)791-4200 for more permitting assistance. The proposed project is located within his geographic working territory.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Attachments



## ◆ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ◆

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Lyn Hardison, Environmental Assistance and SEPA Coordinator  
NCDENR Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Services

FROM: Gabriela Garrison  
Eastern Piedmont Coordinator *Gabriela Garrison*  
Habitat Conservation

DATE: April 13, 2015

SUBJECT: Comments on Whiskey Solar, LLC Solar Facility in Montgomery County; Project Number 15-0511.

Biologists with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) have reviewed the proposed project description. Comments are provided in accordance with certain provisions of the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act (G.S. 113A-1 through 113A-10; 1 NCAC 25) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

Whiskey Solar, LLC proposes to construct a 4.99 MW solar photovoltaic electric generating facility in Montgomery County. The facility would be located at the intersection of Whiskey and Center Baptist Church Roads, south of Candor. An aerial view of the proposed location suggests the project area is sited on cleared land. If the project footprint is limited to the area as indicated, there should be minimal impacts to streams or wetlands. Solar projects should be sited to avoid impacts to wetlands, streams, riparian buffers and priority wildlife habitat.

Aerial images and maps indicate a tributary to Drowning Creek flows north of the project site. There are records for the federal species of concern and state-special concern, Sandhills chub (*Semotilus lumbee*) in Drowning Creek. There are also records for the federal species of concern and state-special concern, pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus*) in close proximity of the property. The NCWRC offers the following recommendations to minimize impacts to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources:

1. 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 and travel corridors for wildlife species. In addition, forested riparian buffers protect water quality by stabilizing stream banks and filtering stormwater runoff.

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**Mailing Address:** Division of Inland Fisheries • 1721 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1721  
**Telephone:** (919) 707-0220 • **Fax:** (919) 707-0028

April 13, 2015  
Whiskey Solar, LLC  
DENR Project No. 15-0511

2. The solar facility will connect to existing utility lines; impacts to wildlife habitat will be minimized by connecting along pathways that do not contain quality wildlife habitat, such as cleared or agricultural land. If additional overhead transmission lines will be installed, 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>.
3. Consider establishing vegetative cover on the site that is beneficial to wildlife. Please contact Rupert Medford, District Wildlife Biologist, at (910) 571-9747 or [rupert.medford@ncwildlife.org](mailto:rupert.medford@ncwildlife.org) for information on developing a site-specific vegetation plan.
4. If pesticides or chemicals will be used for site maintenance, stormwater runoff from the site should be funneled to bio-retention areas prior to discharge to streams or wetlands. Pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals should not be used in wetland areas or near streams.
5. 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 that has been reinforced with plastic or metal mesh should be avoided as it impedes the movement of terrestrial wildlife species. Excessive silt and sediment loads can have detrimental effects on aquatic resources including destruction of spawning habitat, suffocation of eggs and clogging of gills.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (910) 409-7350 or [gabriela.garrison@ncwildlife.org](mailto:gabriela.garrison@ncwildlife.org).

ec: Rupert Medford, NCWRC

State of North Carolina  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW - PROJECT COMMENTS

Reviewing Office: FR1290.00  
1637.00  
~~Project~~ Number 15-0511 Due Date: 4/13/2015  
County MONTGOMERY

After review of this project it has been determined that the ENR 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, sewer system extensions & sewer systems not discharging into state surface waters.	Application 90 days before begin construction or award of construction contracts. On-site inspection. Post-application technical conference usual.	30 days (90 days)
<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 begin 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 well.	7 days (15 days)
<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Permit to construct & operate Transportation Facility as per 15A NCAC (2D.0800, 2Q.0601)	Application must be submitted at least 90 days prior to construction or modification of the source.	90 days
<input 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 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.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complex Source Permit required under 15 A NCAC 2D.0800		
<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 to be disturbed. Plan filed with proper Regional Office (Land Quality Section) At least 30 days before beginning activity. 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"/>	Mining Permit	On-site inspection usual. Surety bond filed with ENR Bond amount varies with type mine and number of acres of affected land. Any arc mined 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"/>	North Carolina Burning permit	On-site inspection by N.C. Division Forest Resources if permit exceeds 4 days	1 day (N/A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Ground Clearance Burning Permit - 22 counties in coastal N.C. with organic soils	On-site inspection by N.C. Division Forest Resources required "if more than five acres of ground clearing activities are involved. Inspections should be requested at least ten days before actual burn is planned."	1 day (N/A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oil Refining Facilities	N/A	90-120 days (N/A)
<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, certify construction is according to ENR approved plans. May also require 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 of the total project cost will be required upon completion.	30 days (60 days)

February 11, 2015

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Apr 24 2015

County <u>MONTGOMERY</u>		Project Number: <u>15-0511</u>	Due Date: <u>4/13/2015</u>	Normal Process Time (statutory time limit)
PERMITS		SPECIAL APPLICATION PROCEDURES or REQUIREMENTS		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit to drill exploratory oil or gas well	File surety bond of \$5,000 with ENR running to State of NC conditional that any well opened by drill operator shall, upon abandonment, be plugged according to ENR rules and regulations.		10 days N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geophysical Exploration Permit	Application filed with ENR 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	N/A		60 days (130 days)
<input type="checkbox"/>	CAMA Permit for MAJOR development	\$250.00 fee must accompany application		55 days (150 days)
<input type="checkbox"/>	CAMA Permit for MINOR development	\$50.00 fee must accompany application		22 days (25 days)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Several geodetic monuments are located in or near the project area. If any monument needs to be moved or destroyed, please notify: N.C. Geodetic Survey, Box 27687 Raleigh, NC 27611			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment of any wells, if required must be in accordance with Title 15A, Subchapter 2C.0100.			
<input checked="" 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"/>	Compliance with 15A NCAC 2H 1000 (Coastal Stormwater Rules) is required.			45 days (N/A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Catawba, Jordan Lake, Randolph, Tar Pamlico or Neuse Riparian Buffer Rules required.			
<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

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

Division	Initials	No comment	Comments	Date Review
DAQ	GWR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3/20/15
DWR-WQROS (Aquifer & Surface)	BSH	<input type="checkbox"/>		/ /
DWR-PWS		<input type="checkbox"/>		/ /
DEMLR (LQ & SW)	CDA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3/23/15
DWM - UST	KEC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3/25/15

**REGIONAL OFFICES**

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

☐ **Asheville Regional Office**  
2090 US Highway 70  
Swannanoa, NC 28778  
(828) 296-4500

☐ **Mooresville Regional Office**  
610 East Center Avenue, Suite 301  
Mooresville, NC 28115  
(704) 663-1699

☐ **Wilmington Regional Office**  
127 Cardinal Drive Extension  
Wilmington, NC 28405  
(910) 796-7215

☐ **Fayetteville Regional Office**  
225 North Green Street, Suite 714  
Fayetteville, NC 28301-5043  
(910) 433-3300

☐ **Raleigh Regional Office**  
3800 Barrett Drive, Suite 101  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
(919) 791-4200

☐ **Winston-Salem Regional Office**  
450 West Hanes Mill Road, Suite 300  
Winston-Salem, NC 27105  
(336) 771-9800

☐ **Washington Regional Office**  
943 Washington Square Mall  
Washington, NC 27889  
(252) 946-6481



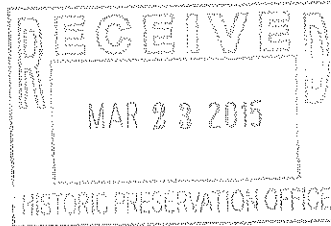
NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: MONTGOMERY

H11: ENERGY RELATED  
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 15-E-4600-051  
DATE RECEIVED: 03/18/2015  
AGENCY RESPONSE: 04/13/2015  
REVIEW CLOSED: 04/17/2015

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



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DEPT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES  
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL COUNCIL

PROJECT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: N.C. Department of Commerce  
TYPE: State Environmental Policy Act  
Environmental Review

DESC: 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 150 S. Whiskey Road, Candor, 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.

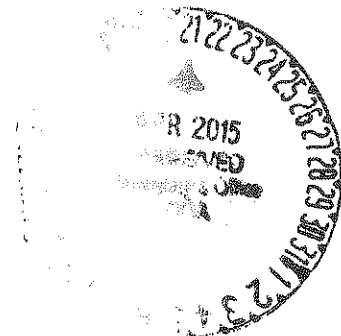
AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED: ☒ NO COMMENT ☐ COMMENTS ATTACHED

SIGNED BY:

Renee Gledhill-Earley

DATE:

4.17.15



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Apr 24 2015

Andy

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Wayne

COUNTY: MONTGOMERY

H11: ENERGY RELATED  
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 15-E-4600-051  
DATE RECEIVED: 03/18/2015  
AGENCY RESPONSE: 04/13/2015  
REVIEW CLOSED: 04/17/2015

MS CARRIE ATKINSON  
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR  
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATEWIDE PLANNING - MSC #1554  
RALEIGH NC

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DEPT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES  
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL COUNCIL

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

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Environmental Review

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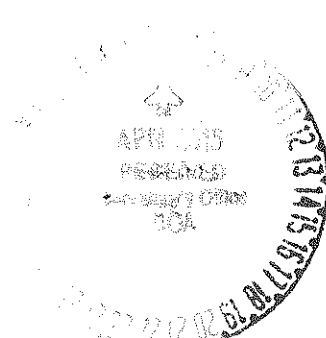
AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED: ☒ NO COMMENT ☐ COMMENTS ATTACHED

SIGNED BY:

John L. Baxter

DATE:

4/1/2015



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Apr 24 2015



NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: MONTGOMERY

H11: ENERGY RELATED  
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 15-E-4600-051  
DATE RECEIVED: 03/18/2015  
AGENCY RESPONSE: 04/13/2015  
REVIEW CLOSED: 04/17/2015

MS ELIZABETH HEATH  
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR  
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE  
1001 MSC - AGRICULTURE BLDG  
RALEIGH NC

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DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL COUNCIL

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

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SIGNED BY:

Charlotte Haumann

DATE:

3/20/15



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Apr 24 2015

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: MONTGOMERY

H11: ENERGY RELATED  
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 15-E-4600-0511  
DATE RECEIVED: 03/18/2015  
AGENCY RESPONSE: 04/13/2015  
REVIEW CLOSED: 04/17/2015

MS CAROLYN PENNY  
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR  
CC&PS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
MSC # 4719  
RALEIGH NC

MAR 20 2015

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DEPT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES  
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PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL COUNCIL

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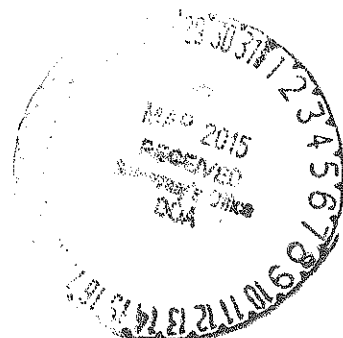
SIGNED BY:

*David Heilong*

DATE:

*3/26/15*

*Not on SFHA.*



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