

North Carolina Department of Administration

Pat McCrory, Governor

Bill Daughtridge, Jr., Secretary

June 5, 2014

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

Re: SCH File # 14-E-4600-0454; Application of Innovative Solar 34, LLC for Certificate to construct a 50 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Richmond Co. Docket #SP-3475, 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,

Crystal Best

State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments

cc: Region N

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



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory Governor John E. Skvarla, III Secretary

MEMORANDUM

To:

Crystal Best

State Clearinghouse

From:

Lyn Hardison #7

Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service Environmental Assistance and Project Review Coordinator

RE:

14-0454

Environmental Review - Application of Innovative Solar 34, LLC for the Certificate to

construct 50 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility

Richmond County

Date:

May 30, 2014

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has reviewed the proposal for the referenced project. Based on the information provided, several of the agencies have identified permits that may be required. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission has offered some guidance to minimize impacts to the aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources within the project site 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. The proposed project is located within his geographic working territory.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Attachments



Gordon Myers, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Lyn Hardison

NCDENR Division of Environmental Assistance & Outreach

FROM:

Vann F. Stancil

Special Project Coordinator Habitat Conservation Program

DATE:

May 28, 2014

SUBJECT:

Comments on Innovative Solar 34, LLC Solar Facility in Richmond County;

Van F. Warie

Project No. 14-0454.

Biologists from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) have reviewed the proposed project description. Our comments are provided in accordance with certain provisions of the NC 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.).

Innovative Solar 34, LLC proposes to construct a 50 MW solar photovoltaic electric generating facility in Richmond County. The facility would be located at the intersection of Derby Road and Currie Road just south of the Montgomery County border. Aerial views of the site location and footprint of the facility shown on maps with the application materials indicate that the land for the project consists of agricultural and forested land. Clearing trees from a site and installing solar panels is expected to displace most wildlife species currently using the site. Maps also indicate a stream bisecting the property. Solar facilities should be sited to avoid impacts to streams, wetlands, and their buffers as well as habitat for listed species. If any wetlands are present at the site, they should be delineated and the solar arrays arranged to avoid wetland impacts. Currently the NCWRC does not anticipate significant impacts to wildlife and fisheries resources provided there are no impacts to streams or wetlands at the site.

The solar facility will need to connect to existing utility lines. Impacts to wildlife habitat will be minimized by connecting to existing utility lines along pathways that do not contain quality wildlife habitat, such as along cleared or agricultural land.

NCWRC recommends that 50 foot undisturbed, native forested buffers be established or maintained along each side of intermittent streams and along wetlands. For perennial streams, 100 foot buffers should be established or maintained. 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.

NCWRC encourages developers of solar facilities to use native vegetation wherever practical. Native grasses and wildflowers can provide habitat for birds and other wildlife and require relatively little maintenance. Please feel free to contact me for more details about planting native vegetation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me at <u>vann.stancil@ncwildlife.org</u> or 919-284-5218 if you have any questions or concerns about these project comments.



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Office of Land and Water Stewardship

Pat McCrory Governor Bryan Gossage Director May 29, 2014 John E. Skvarla, III Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Lyn Hardison, NCDENR State Clearinghouse Coordinator

AllisonWeakley

FROM:

Allison (Schwarz) Weakley, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program

SUBJECT:

Environmental Review – Application of Innovative Solar 34, LLC for Certificate to

construct a 50 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility, Richmond County,

North Carolina

REFERENCE:

Project No. 14-0454

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information from the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) database for the proposed project referenced above. The Natural Heritage Program database does not have any records of rare species, important natural communities, natural heritage areas, or conservation/managed areas within the proposed project area. However, the database shows several records within close proximity of the proposed project area.

Within one mile of the proposed project area, the NCNHP database has element occurrence records for the following rare species:

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	ELEMENT OCCURRENCE STATUS*	STATE STATUS*	FEDERAL STATUS*	
Chondestes grammacus	Lark Sparrow	Current	SR		
Etheostoma mariae	Pinewoods Darter	Current	SC	FSC	
Lysimachia asperulifolia	Rough-leaf Loosestrife	Historical	Е	E	
Masticophis flagellum	Coachwhip	Current	SR		
Picoides borealis	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Historical	E	E	
Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus	Northern Pine Snake	Current	SC	FSC	
Semotilus lumbee	Sandhills Chub	Current	SC	FSC	
Sistrurus miliarius	Pigmy Rattlesnake	Current	SC		
Trichostema setaceum	Narrowleaf Bluecurls	Current	SR-T		

^{*} For status definitions, please see the Help document at http://www.ncnhp.org/web/nhp/database-search.

In particular, there are records for Lark Sparrow, Rough-leaf Loosestrife, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Northern Pine Snake, Pinewoods Darter, and Sandhills Chub documented as occurring in close proximity

Environmental Review – Application of Innovative Solar 34, LLC for Certificate to construct a 50 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility, Richmond County, North Carolina Project No. 14-0454
May 29, 2014
Page 2

to the proposed project area. The occurrence records for Coachwhip, Pigmy Rattlesnake, and Narrowleaf Bluecurls have very low accuracy, but these species have also been documented in the area.

The Upper Drowning Creek Swamp Forest and Drowning Creek Aquatic Habitat natural heritage areas are located just east of and downstream of the proposed project area along and within Drowning Creek, respectively. A high-quality example of a Coastal Plain Small Stream Swamp occurs within the Upper Drowning Creek Swamp Forest natural heritage area that borders Drowning Creek, as does Rough-leaf Loosestrife. The Sandhills Chub and Pinewoods Darter occur in the Drowning Creek Aquatic Habitat, and Sandhills Chub has also been documented in tributaries draining to the Naked Creek Aquatic Habitat natural heritage area, just west of the proposed project area. In addition, the NCNHP database shows that the US Fish and Wildlife Service maintains Safe Harbor Agreements for the protection of Redcockaded Woodpecker just south of the proposed project area and adjacent to the Sandhills Game Lands. The applicant may wish to view the locations of these natural heritages areas and conservation/managed areas by visiting the online map viewer on our website at www.nchbp.org.

Please note that although the NCNHP database does not show records of natural heritage elements within the proposed project area, it does not necessarily mean that they are not present; it may simply mean that the area has not been surveyed. The use of Natural Heritage Program data should not be substituted for actual field surveys if needed, particularly if the project area contains suitable habitat for rare species.

Feel free to contact me at 919-707-8629 or <u>Allison.Weakley@ncdenr.gov</u> if you have questions or need additional information.

State of North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Reviewing Office:	FR0
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW - PROJECT COMMENTS Project Number: 14-0454 Due Date: 5/38/3
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.

····,			Normal Process
	PERMITS	SPECIAL APPLICATION PROCEDURES or REQUIREMENTS	Time (statutory time lin
U	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)
	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)
_	Water Use Permit	Pre-application technical conference usually necessary	30 days (N/A)
	Well Construction Permit	Complete application must be received and permit issued prior to the installation of a well.	7 days (15 days)
	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)
<u></u>	Permit to construct & operate Air Pollution Abatement facilities and/or Emission Sources as per 15 A NCAC (2Q.O100 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
J	Permit to construct & operate Transportation Pacility as per 15 A NCAC (2D.0800, 2Q.0601)	Application must be submitted at least 90 days prior to construction or modification of the source.	90 days
	Any open burning associated with subject proposal must be in compliance with 15 A NCAC 2D.1900		
	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.	N/A	60 days (90 days)
	Complex Source Permit required under 15 A NCAC 2D.0800		
		operly addressed for any land disturbing activity. An erosion & sedimentation control plan and with proper Regional Office (Land Quality Section) At least 30 days before beginning an express review option is available with additional fees.	20 days (30 days)
ال	Sedimentation and erosion control must be addressed in accinstallation of appropriate perimeter sediment trapping device	ordance with NCDOT's approved program. Particular attention should be given to design and es as well as stable stormwater conveyances and outlets.	(30 days)
	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 are mined greater than one acre must be permitted. The appropriate bond must be received before the permit can be issued.	30 days (60 days)
	North Carolina Burning permit	On-site inspection by N.C. Division Forest Resources if permit exceeds 4 days	l day (N/A)
	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."	l day (N/A)
	Oil Refining Facilities	N/A	90-120 days (N/A)
	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 or the total project cost will be required upon completion.	30 days (60 days)

	PERMITS	SPECIAL APPLICATION PROCEDURES OF REQUIREMENTS	Normal Process Tir (statutory time lim					
	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.	I0 days N/A					
ָ נ־	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					
	State Lakes Construction Permit	Application fee is charged based on structure size. Must include descriptions & drawings of structure & proof of ownership of riparian property.	15-20 days N/A					
	401 Water Quality Certification	N/A	60 days (130 days)					
ا ت	CAMA Permit for MAJOR development	\$250.00 fee must accompany application	55 days (150 days)					
	CAMA Permit for MINOR development	CAMA Permit for MINOR development \$50.00 fee must accompany application						
ונ	Several geodetic monuments are located in or near the proje N.C. Geodetic Survey, Box 27687 Rate	ct area. If any monument needs to be moved or destroyed, please notify: eigh, NC 27611						
[Abandonment of any wells, if required must be in accordance	ce with Title 15A. Subchapter 2C.0100.						
· Second	Notification of the proper regional office is requested if "orp	ohan" underground storage tanks (USTS) are discovered during any excavation operation.						
ן נ	Compliance with 15A NCAC 2H 1000 (Coastal Stormwater Rules) is required.							
ן	Tar Pamlico or Neuse Riparian Buffer Rules required.							
	Resources/Public Water Supply Section prior to the award of specifications should be submitted to 1634 Mail Service Center of the submitted to 1634 Mail Ser	teration of a public water system must be approved by the Division of Water Fa contract or the initiation of construction as per ISA NCAC 18C .0300 et. seq. Plans and ter, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1634. All public water supply systems must comply is. For more information, contact the Public Water Supply Section, (919) 707-9100.	30 days					
		on, plans for the water line relocation must be submitted to the Division of Water e Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1634. For more information, contact the Public	30 days					
(Other comments (attach additional pages as necessary, being or	ertain to cite comment authority)						
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REGIONAL OFFICES

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

- U Asheville Regional Office 2090 US Highway 70 Swannanoa, NC 28778 (828) 296-4500
- ☐ Fayetteville Regional Office 225 North Green Street, Suite 714 Fayetteville, NC 28301-5043 (910) 433-3300
- ☐ Mooresville Regional Office 610 East Center Avenue, Suite 301 Mooresville, NC 28115 (704) 663-1699
- ☐ Raleigh Regional Office 3800 Barrett Drive, Suite 101 Raleigh, NC 27609 (919) 791-4200
- Washington Regional Office 943 Washington Square Mall Washington, NC 27889 (252) 946-6481

- ☐ Wilmington Regional Office 127 Cardinal Drive Extension Wilmington, NC 28405 (910) 796-7215
- U Winston-Salem Regional Office 585 Waughtown Street Winston-Salem, NC 27107 (336) 771-5000

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: RICHMOND

H11: ENERGY RELATED

FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER:

14-E-4600-04

DATE RECEIVED:

05/02/2014

AGENCY RESPONSE: 05/28/2014

REVIEW CLOSED: 06/02/2014

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

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DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

LUMBER RIVER COG

PROJECT INFORMATION

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

DESC: Application of Innovative Solar 34, LLC for Certificate to construct a 50 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Richmond Co. Docket #SP-3475,

Sub 0. - View document at

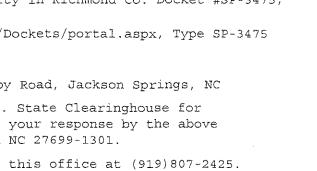
http://starwl.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx, Type SP-3475

Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located at the corner of Currie Road and Derby Road, Jackson Springs, 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	S SUBMITTED: NO	COMMENT	COMMENTS ATTACHED
SIGNED BY:	<u> </u>		DATE:	5/28/14





NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

H11: ENERGY RELATED

FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER:

14-E-4600-04

05/02/2014 DATE RECEIVED:

AGENCY RESPONSE: 05/28/2014

REVIEW CLOSED: 06/02/2014

MS ELIZABETH HEATH

COUNTY: RICHMOND

CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR

DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

1001 MSC - AGRICULTURE BLDG

RALEIGH NC

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DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

LUMBER RIVER COG

PROJECT INFORMATION

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

Environmental Review

DESC: Application of Innovative Solar 34, LLC for Certificate to construct a 50 MW

Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Richmond Co. Docket #SP-3475,

Sub 0. - View document at

http://starwl.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx, Type SP-3475

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SIGNED BY:		K	Di.	/m)				DATI	Ξ:	5/19/2014
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NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: RICHMOND

H11: ENERGY RELATED FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES STATE NUMBER:

14-E-4600-04

DATE RECEIVED: AGENCY RESPONSE: 05/28/2014

05/02/2014

REVIEW CLOSED:

06/02/2014

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 TRANSPORTATION

LUMBER RIVER COG

PROJECT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: N.C. Department of Commerce

TYPE: State Environmental Policy Act

Environmental Review

Du= 5/14/14

Due spilit A 1 April

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http://starwl.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx, Type SP-3475 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

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AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED:

NO COMMENT

COMMENTS ATTACHED



OFFICIAL CO

Jun 05 2014

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: RICHMOND

H11: ENERGY RELATED

FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER:

14-E-4600-04

DATE RECEIVED:

REVIEW CLOSED:

05/02/2014

AGENCY RESPONSE: 05/28/2014

06/02/2014

MS CAROLYN PENNY

CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR

CC&PS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

MSC # 4719

RALEIGH NC

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AS A RESUL	T OF THIS	REVIEW	THE I	FOLLOWING	IS	SUBMITTED:	NO	COMMENT		COMMENTS	ATTACHED
SIGNED BY:	_Du	Me	W	¥				DAT	Œ:	5/7/14	

NOTW STHA.



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MAY \$, 2014

