



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

MACHELLE SANDERS  
SECRETARY

February 25, 2019

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

**Re: SCH File # 19-E-4600-0156; Amended Application of Overman Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 5 MW Solar Facility in Wayne Co.  
Docket #SP-5261, Sub 0.**

Dear Ms. Jarvis:

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Crystal Best".

Crystal Best  
State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments  
cc: Region P

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW**

COUNTY: WAYNE

H11: ENERGY RELATED  
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 19-E-4600-0156  
DATE RECEIVED: 01/03/2019  
AGENCY RESPONSE: 01/30/2019  
REVIEW CLOSED: 02/04/2019

MR JOSEPH HUDYNIA  
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR  
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE  
1001 MSC - AGRICULTURE BLDG  
RALEIGH NC

**REVIEW DISTRIBUTION**

DEPT OF AGRICULTURE  
DEPT OF ENVIR. QUALITY - COASTAL MG  
DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
DEPT OF NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCE  
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DNCR - NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
EASTERN CAROLINA COUNCIL

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

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

DESC: Amended Application of Overman Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 5 MW Solar Facility in Wayne Co. Docket #SP-5261, Sub 0. - View document at <http://starwl.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type SP-5261 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located at 191 Herring Road, Goldsboro, NC

Amended due to the additional land added to the facility site.

CROSS-REFERENCE NUMBER: 15-E-4600-0509

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: 2/11/2019

**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 ADFP 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

OFFICIAL COPY

Feb 25 2019



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, North Carolina 27699-1301

RE: S# 19-E-4600-0156

February 11, 2019

Dear Ms. Best:

The proposed ground-mounted photovoltaic electric generating facility has the potential to negatively impact agricultural, environmental and economic balance in the immediate 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 economic activity generated by local farm-related 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 are selected for development and more productive sites are retained for agricultural production, may help mitigate impacts of this type of land use on agricultural resources. One means to assess the agronomic potential of soils is to first consult the published county soil survey to identify soil types (map units) and distribution, and then use the NC State Cooperative Extension Realistic Yield Expectations for NC Soils database tool (<https://realisticyields.ces.ncsu.edu/>) to compare yield potential of identified soil map units.

Additionally, the use of best practices in construction and maintenance of the facility are encouraged to preserve the productive capabilities of the land for any future agricultural use and maintain 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 to prior condition) be incorporated into the development agreement.

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 or plant conservation priority sites on the subject property.

Respectfully,

Joseph Hudyncia  
Environmental Programs  
NCDA&CS  
[joseph.hudyncia@ncagr.gov](mailto:joseph.hudyncia@ncagr.gov)