

North Carolina Department of Administration

Pat McCrory, Governor

Bill Daughtridge, Jr., Secretary

April 20, 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-4600-0482; Application of Runway Farm, LLC for Certificate to construct a 5 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Warren Co.

Docket #SP-5250 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 K

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

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 AV

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

RE:

15-0482

Environmental Review –Application of Runway Farm, LLC for the Certificate to construct

a 5 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility

Warren County

Date:

April 9, 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

Habitat Conservation

DATE:

April 6, 2015

SUBJECT:

Comments on Runway Farm, LLC Solar Facility in Warren County; Project Number 15-

(Popular Garage

0482.

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.).

Runway Farm, LLC proposes to construct a 5 MW solar photovoltaic electric generating facility in Warren County. The facility would be located east of the intersection of Airport and Warren Plains Roads, north of Warrenton. 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 not be 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 Reedy Creek flows north of the project site and an unnamed tributary to Reedy Creek flows south of the project site. The NCWRC offers the following recommendations to minimize impacts to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources:

- 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.
- 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

Mailing Address: Division of Inland Fisheries • 1721 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1721

Telephone: (919) 707-0220 • Fax: (919) 707-0028

Page 2

April 6, 2015 Runway Farm, LLC DENR Project No. 15-0482

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.fvs.gov/birds/documents/powerlines.pdf.

- 3. Consider establishing vegetative cover on the site that is beneficial to wildlife. Please contact Tom Padgett, District Wildlife Biologist, at (910) 645-4115 or thomas.padgett@newildlife.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.

ec: Tom Padgett, NCWRC



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory Governor Donald R. van der Vaart Secretary

April 7, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Lyn Hardison, Environmental Assistance Coordinator Department of Environment and Natural Resources

FROM:

Harold Brady, SEPA Review Coordinator

SUBJECT:

Environmental Review – Runway Farm, LLC

DENR# 15-0482

Thank you for providing the Division of Water Resources (DWR) an opportunity to provide comments regarding the application of Runway Farm, LLC for Certificate to construct a 5 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Warren Co.

DWR has no objection to the proposed project, but offer the following comments from Danny Smith ((919) 791-4252) of the Raleigh Regional Office:

- 1. A project that disturbs 1 acre or greater is required to secure an erosion and sedimentation control plan and must comply with construction stormwater permit conditions (NCG010000).
- 2. The project is in the Tar River Basin (unnamed tributary to Reedy (Class C- NSW). The USGS Topographic depicted crenulations that is within or adjacent/boarders the project. (Note: the soil survey was not reviewed.).
- 3. If stream, wetland or riparian buffer impacts are proposed, this project will need to comply with/secure a 404 permit from the USACE, obtain a 401 Water Quality Certification and secure a riparian buffer authorization, as appropriate.

If you have any questions about this comment, please contact me at (919) 707-9005 or harold.m.brady@ncdenr.gov. Thank you.

Reviewing Office: RRO

Project Number 15-0482

Due Date: <u>4/6/2015</u>

County Warren

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 pennits 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)
	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.	
	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
	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
\boxtimes	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		
	The Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 must be proportionally be required if one or more acres to be disturbed days before beginning activity. A fee of \$65 for the first acre fees.	20 days (30 days)	
	Sedimentation and erosion control must be addressed in accor to design and installation of appropriate perimeter sediment tra	(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 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)
	North Carolina Burning permit	On-site inspection by N.C. Division Forest Resources if permit exceeds 4 days	1 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)

County Warren				Project Number: <u>15-0482</u> Due Date: <u>4/6/2015</u>	Normal Process Time
PERMITS				SPECIAL APPLICATION PROCEDURES or REQUIREMENTS	(statutory time limit)
	Permit to drill exploratory oil or gas well		s 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
	Geophysical Exploration Permit			Application filed with ENR at least 10 days prior to issue of permit. Application by letter. No standard application form.	I0 days N/A
	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
	401 Water Quality Certification			N/A	60 days (130 days)
	CAMA Permit for MAJOR development		oment	\$250.00 fee must accompany application	55 days (150 days)
	CAMA Permit for MINOR development			\$50.00 fee must accompany application	22 days (25 days)
	Several geodetic monu N.C. Geodetic Survey,			project area. If any monument needs to be moved or destroyed, please notify:	
X	Abandonment of any v	vells, if requi	red must be in acc	ordance with Title 15A. Subchapter 2C.0100.	
	Notification of the pro	per regional o	office is requested	if "orphan" underground storage tanks (USTS) are discovered during any excavation operation.	
	Compliance with 15A	NCAC 2H 10	000 (Coastal Storn	nwater Rules) is required.	45 days (N/A)
	Catawba, Jordan Lake	, Randalman,	Tar Pamlico or N	euse Riparian Buffer Rules required.	
	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	
	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.				
				certain to cite comment authority)	
Division Ini		initials	No comment	Comments	Date Review
DAQ		ddm			3/25/15
DWR-WQROS		ds			4/5/15
(Aquifer & Surface)		rb			3/26/15
DWR-PWS		N/A			/ /
DE	MLR (LQ & SW)	JLH		Although mentioned in the report, S&E plan requirements are checked additional detail.	for 3/23/15
DΝ	/M - UST	MRP			4/1/15
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 Mooresville, NC 28115 Mooresville, NC 28115 Wilmington Regional Office 127 Cardinal Drive Extension Wilmington, NC 28405 (704) 663-1699 (910) 796-7215					ension
225 North Green Street, Suite 714 31 Fayetteville, NC 28301-5043 R			Suite 714	Raleigh Regional OfficeWinston-Salem Region3800 Barrett Drive, Suite 101450 West Hanes Mill RRaleigh, NC 27609Winston-Salem, NC 27(919) 791-4200(336) 771-9800	oad, Suite 300
				Washington Regional Office 943 Washington Square Mall Washington, NC 27889 (252) 946-6481	

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

H11: ENERGY RELATED

FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER:

15-E-4600-048

DATE RECEIVED: 03/11/2015

AGENCY RESPONSE: 04/06/2015

REVIEW CLOSED: 0

04/10/2015

MS CARRIE ATKINSON

COUNTY: WARREN

CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

STATEWIDE PLANNING - MSC #1554

RALEIGH NC

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DEPT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

KERR TAR REGIONAL COG

PROJECT INFORMATION

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

DESC: Application of Runway Farm, LLC for Certificate to construct a 5 MW Solar

Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Warren Co. Docket #SP-5250 Sub 0. -

View document at

http://starwl.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx, Type SP-5250

Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located on north side of Airport Road, east of the intersection with Warren Plains Road, Warrenton, 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:

DATE: 3/18/15





NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: WARREN

H11: ENERGY RELATED

FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER:

15-E-4600-048

DATE RECEIVED: 03/11/2015

AGENCY RESPONSE: 04/06/2015

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04/10/2015

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TYPE: State Environmental Policy Act

Environmental Review

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Plains Road, Warrenton, NC

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	·		/	
AS A RESULT OF THIS	REVIEW THE FOLLOWING	IS SUBMITTED:	NO COMMENT	COMMENTS ATTACHED
SIGNED BY:	Que Parhan		DATE:	4/2/15
				/ /

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

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FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER:

15-E-4600-048

DATE RECEIVED:

AGENCY RESPONSE: 04/06/2015

REVIEW CLOSED:

03/11/2015 04/10/2015

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



3/22/15

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AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED: K NO COMMENT

COMMENTS ATTACHED

DATE:



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NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: WARREN

H11: ENERGY RELATED

FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER:

15-E-4600-04

DATE RECEIVED: 03/11/2015

AGENCY RESPONSE: 04/06/2015

REVIEW CLOSED: 04/10/2015

MS CAROLYN PENNY

CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR

CC&PS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

MSC # 4719

RALEIGH NC

WAR 13 2015

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AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED:	NO COMMENT COMMENTS ATTACHED
SIGNED BY: David Halbry	DATE: 3/20/16
Not w Stort A	572324252633



NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

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STATE NUMBER:

15-E-4600-048

DATE RECEIVED: 03/11/2015

AGENCY RESPONSE: 04/06/2015

REVIEW CLOSED: 04/10/2015

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

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COUNTY: WARREN

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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: Charlotte House	DATE: 3/19/16				