



North Carolina Department of Administration

Pat McCrory, Governor

Bill Daughtridge, Jr., Secretary

August 11, 2015

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

Re: SCH File # 16-E-4600-0001; Amended Application of Pecan Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 74.9 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Northampton Co. Docket #SP-5273 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 L

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

RE: 16-0001 (15-0562)
Environmental Review –AMENDED Application of Pecan Solar, LLC for Certificate to
construct a 74.9 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility
Northampton County

Date: August 7, 2015

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has completed its review of the proposal for the referenced project. Based on the information provided, several of our agencies have identified permits that may be required. The agencies have offered some valuable guidance to be performed prior to application submittals and ground disturbance which will help reduce any impacts to the natural resources within the project area. The comments are attached for the applicant's review.

It is suggested to the applicant to contact NC Wildlife Resources Commission if the site attracts large numbers of migratory bird or observes fatalities or injured bird.

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.

Attachment



◆ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ◆

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lyn Hardison, Environmental Assistance Coordinator
NCDENR Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach (DEAO)

FROM: Maria T. Dunn, Northeast Coastal Region Coordinator *Maria T. Dunn*
Habitat Conservation Program

DATE: July 28, 2015

SUBJECT: AMENDED - Pecan Solar, 74.9 MW Solar Facility, SP-5273 Sub 0, Northampton County, North Carolina.
OLIA No. 16-0001

Biologists with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) have reviewed the subject document and we are familiar with the habitat values of the area. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661-667e), and North Carolina General Statutes (G.S. 113-131 et seq.).

The applicant proposes to amend a previously reviewed project by including additional parcels to construct a 74.9 MW photovoltaic solar facility located east and west of Bethel Church Road approximately 0.6 to 2 miles north of the intersection of Bethel Church Road and Highway 186, 2 miles west of Seaboard, NC. This project was reviewed and commented on prior to the current proposal (Dunn, 11 May 2015).

The NCWRC has reviewed the available information and would like to state concern with the portion of the proposed project that lies within the wooded area. The proposed solar facility is very large and combined with other large facilities will have a cumulative impact to wildlife habitats. The newly added parcel as well as portions of the previously proposed project contains significant wooded areas. In general the NCWRC supports solar facilities located in open areas. However, the conversion of forests and wetlands to support solar development is causing increasing concern due to the loss of wildlife habitat, the fragmentation of wildlife habitat, and vegetative management needed post conversion for wetland and other forested areas.

We would also like to state concern regarding the location and size of this project in relation to foraging habitats for migratory waterfowl. Agricultural lands in eastern North Carolina often provide foraging opportunities for migratory waterfowl, especially in areas near natural waterbodies. The photovoltaic panels may reflect sunlight and resemble a water surface, potentially drawing waterfowl in to land. We request that

if this facility is constructed, any fatalities or injured birds be reported. It should also be noted that as agricultural lands are transformed into solar facilities, winter foraging habitats for migratory waterfowl are lost. The cumulative loss of land may be of significant concern in time.

In addition to these concerns, the following statements should be observed:

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 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.
2. Avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands during construction. In addition to providing wildlife habitat, wetland areas perform important functions of flood control and water quality protection. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permits and N.C. Division of Water Resources Section 401 Certifications are needed for any impacts to jurisdictional streams or wetlands. Temporarily disturbed wetland areas should be returned to original soils and contours, and reseeded with annual small grains appropriate for the season (e.g. oats, millet, rye, wheat, or rye grass) and should be allowed to revert to natural wetland vegetation.
3. If additional overhead transmission lines will be installed, then 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>
4. Where feasible, consider establishing grassland habitats on the site. These are drought tolerant and require minimal mowing maintenance once established. Grasslands provide habitat for migratory and resident birds and small mammals particularly if mowing is done only in late winter/early spring after winter cover needs are reduced and before nesting occurs. For more information on grassland habitats and establishment, please contact Laura Fogo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at (910) 695-3323 or laura_fogo@fws.gov.
5. If pesticides or chemicals will be used for site maintenance, then stormwater runoff from the site should be directed to bio-retention areas prior to discharge to streams or wetlands to provide additional protection for water quality and aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitats.
6. Sediment and erosion control measures should be installed prior to any land clearing or construction. These measures should be routinely inspected and properly maintained. Excessive silt and sediment loads can have numerous detrimental effects on aquatic resources including destruction of spawning habitat, suffocation of eggs, and clogging of gills of aquatic species.
7. Measures to mitigate secondary and cumulative impacts can be found in NCWRC's *Guidance Memorandum to Address and Mitigate Secondary and Cumulative Impacts to Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife Resources and Water Quality* (August 2002; http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Conserving/documents/2002_GuidanceMemorandumforSecondaryandCumulativeImpacts.pdf).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If our agency can be of further assistance, please contact me at (252) 948-3916 or at maria.dunn@ncwildlife.org.

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

Reviewing Office: RRO

Project Number 16-0001 Due Date: 8/5/2015
County NORTHAMPTON

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 checked="" 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 acre 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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Aug 11 2015

County <u>NORTHAMPTON</u>		Project Number: <u>16-0001</u>	Due Date: <u>8/5/2015</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 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 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, Randalman, 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	ddm	<input type="checkbox"/>		7/17/20
DWR-WQROS (Aquifer & Surface)	ds rb	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>- 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)</p> <p>-The project is in the Chowan River Basin (unnamed tributary to Cypress Creek Class C - NSW).</p> <p>The USGS Topographic map depicted crenulations that are within the project footprint. (Note: the soil survey was not reviewed.)</p> <p>- I recommend a stream determination to ensure compliance with 404/401 expectations and riparian buffer rules</p> <p>If stream or wetland impacts are proposed, this project will need to comply with/secure a 404 permit from the USACE, and obtain a 401 Water Quality Certification authorization .</p> <p>- In addition to the solar panel production field area, access roads and utilities impacts to waters or wetlands will need to be properly permitted.</p>	8/4/15 8/5/15
DWR-PWS	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		/ /
DEMLR (LQ & SW)	JLH	<input type="checkbox"/>	Although mentioned in the report, the S&E plan item is checked for additional detail.	7/24/15
DWM - UST	MRP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		8/5/15

REGIONAL OFFICES

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

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asheville Regional Office
2090 US Highway 70
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 296-4500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mooresville Regional Office
610 East Center Avenue, Suite 301
Mooresville, NC 28115
(704) 663-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilmington Regional Office
127 Cardinal Drive Extension
Wilmington, NC 28405
(910) 796-7215 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fayetteville Regional Office
225 North Green Street, Suite 714
Fayetteville, NC 28301-5043
(910) 433-3300 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raleigh Regional Office
3800 Barrett Drive, Suite 101
Raleigh, NC 27609
(919) 791-4200 | <input type="checkbox"/> Winston-Salem Regional Office
450 West Hanes Mill Road, Suite 300
Winston-Salem, NC 27105
(336) 771-9800 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Regional Office
943 Washington Square Mall
Washington, NC 27889
(252) 946-6481 | |

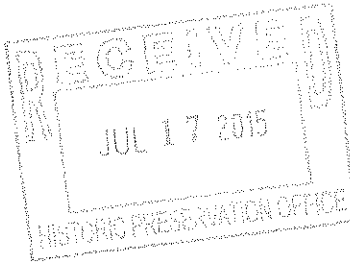
NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: NORTHAMPTON

H11: ENERGY RELATED
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 16-E-4600-0001
DATE RECEIVED: 07/09/2015
AGENCY RESPONSE: 08/05/2015
REVIEW CLOSED: 08/10/2015

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



CH 15-0848

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

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DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
DEPT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
UPPER COASTAL PLAIN COG

PROJECT INFORMATION

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

DESC: Amended Application of Pecan Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 74.9 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Northampton Co. Docket #SP-5273 Sub 0. - View document at <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type SP-5273 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Located just east and west of Bethel Church Road approximately .06 to 2 miles north of the intersection of Bethel Church Road and Hwy 186 in an unincorporated area approximately 2 miles east of Seaboard, NC.

Amended due to additional parcel of land to be used in construction of the facility.

CROSS-REFERENCE NUMBER: 15-E-4600-0562

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

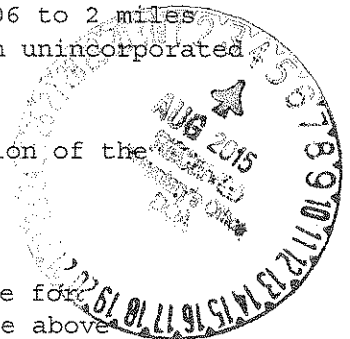
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7.29.15

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Carlos Moya

COUNTY: NORTHAMPTON

H11: ENERGY RELATED
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 16-E-4600-0001
DATE RECEIVED: 07/09/2015
AGENCY RESPONSE: 08/05/2015
REVIEW CLOSED: 08/10/2015

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
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
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PROJECT INFORMATION

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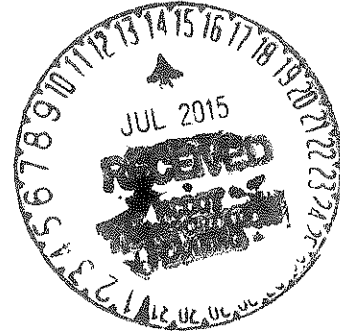
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SIGNED BY: _____

DATE: July 16, 2015



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NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: NORTHAMPTON

H11: ENERGY RELATED
FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES

STATE NUMBER: 16-E-4600-0001
DATE RECEIVED: 07/09/2015
AGENCY RESPONSE: 08/05/2015
REVIEW CLOSED: 08/10/2015

MS CAROLYN PENNY
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
MSC # 4218
RALEIGH NC

JUL 15 2015

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DEPT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
DPS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
UPPER COASTAL PLAIN COG

PROJECT INFORMATION

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

DESC: Amended Application of Pecan Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 74.9 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Northampton Co. Docket #SP-5273 Sub 0. - View document at <http://starwl.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type SP-5273 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

SIGNED BY:

David F. Long

DATE:

7/20/15

Not in SFHA.

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