Applicant: **Bader Sun LLC**. A wholly owned entity of 22c Development, LLC

SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR

SCHUYLER COUNTY, ILLINOIS PIN 09-01-200-003

DECEMBER 2023 | VERSION 1

Prepared By: **Sean Hickey**, P.E. of Kimley-Horn &

Alex Farkes (Owner) of 22c Development, LLC & Bader Sun LLC

Kimley»Horn

22c

Contents

Exhibits

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Bader Sun LLC, a wholly owned entity of 22c Development, LLC (collectively, the "**Applicant**" or "**Bader Sun LLC**" or "**22c**"), hereby submits this application for a Special Use Permit (Application) to construct, operate, and maintain the Bader Sun solar project. Bader Sun LLC is a proposed 5 MW AC Commercial Solar Energy Facility (Project) on approximately 45.4 acres (Project Area) in Browning Township in Schuyler County, Illinois. As shown on the Zoning Site Plan in **Exhibit D**, the Project's site layout meets the required minimum road right-of-way setbacks and property line setbacks per the Design and Installation Section, Section G of the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, Resolution No. 2023-R-22.

The Project at the time of submission is developed over across approximately a little less than 35 acres of leased property off Bader Road, south of a Private Drive, near N County Highway 33, east of forested area and situated on agricultural land. The Project has partnered via an executed lease agreement with the Kenneth N Walters Trust. The subject parcel is County Parcel ID 09-01-200-003 and will host the Project's infrastructure. The project's current land usage can be characterized as cultivated agricultural fields. Bader Rd is a Schuyler County Road which will require an access permit from the Schuyler County Highway Department and will be obtained and shown at building permit submission. This Project will deliver power to the electrical grid through one point of interconnection via the Ameren power lines on the east side of Bader Road on the 34.5 kV line.

The Applicant has considered recent updates to the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, Resolution No. 2023 R-22, adopted 08/14/2023 to ensure the Project meets the latest requirements and submits this Application to obtain a Special Use Permit (SUP) from the Schuyler County Board.

In preparation for filing the SUP application, the Applicant has or will have reached out to the adjacent residential neighbors to provide Project awareness and will follow all local notice guidelines as well for other properties at the appropriate time prior to the SUP public hearing. Vegetative screening has been proposed along any portion of the project fence that is visible to non-participating residences. The Project team has also reached out to Schuyler County for application clarification and to provide a preliminary introduction of the project. The project has an executed AIMA agreement, a fully signed and paid for interconnection agreement with Ameren, and has been approved by the Illinois Power Agency.

If the Application is approved and a Building Permit is secured, construction of the Project is scheduled to commence after harvest in 2024. 22c feels this is a proper place for solar development due to its distance from non-participating residences and agricultural/forested land to the south and west along with its proposed screening. We look forward to presenting our project, getting to hear the county's feedback and starting construction over the next 12 months. Thank you so much- Sincerely, 22c and Kimley Horn

22c is an IL based small company on a clear mission: 1. To help prepare the world for the next century through sustainable infrastructure investments primarily through community solar & 2. To help prepare students for the clean energy revolution by supporting education, mentorship, and professional development locally in Uptown, Chicago and other cities in the Chicagoland area.

22c has no foreign investors, is wholly owned by IL residents, and will see you soon! Thank you.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project Area is currently cultivated cropland. The Project, if approved, will be a ground-mounted Commercial Solar Energy Facility comprised of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, a racking system, inverters, and underground electrical conduits connecting PV array blocks with inverters. The access road, with a gated entrance, is located on the site for access and maintenance of inverters as well as construction access.

Proposed site access to existing roads will be limited to the driveway shown on the Zoning Site Plan, provided on **Exhibit D**. Security fencing will enclose the perimeter of the Project, with road access secured through locked metal gates. A series of internal access roads will be used to provide access to Project equipment for future maintenance. These roads are typically gravel and will be verified upon final design with the geotechnical engineer recommendations.

One (1) landowner, Kenneth N Walters Trust, has signed agreements to participate in the Project.

2.1 ECONOMIC BENEFITS

It is estimated that for every MWac generated by The Project, likely five (5) to ten (10) temporary jobs will be created.

2.2 INTERCONNECTION FACILITIES

The Project has an approved interconnection agreement with Ameren.

2.3 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Dust and noise from construction will be mitigated with industry standard best management practices. Work hours will be limited to 9am – 5pm, Monday through Friday, or as otherwise directed by the County. Below is a high-level construction schedule including number of vehicle trips.

Estimated Vehicles During Construction				
Time Period	**Construction Activity**	**Estimated Increase in Vehicles (All Vehicles)**	**Estimated Total Vehicles Per Day**	**Estimated Total Heavy Vehicles Per Month**
Month 1	Mobilization, Site Clearing, Erosion Control, and Initial Access Drive Improvements	8 – 10 personal vehicles per work day, 3 – 6 contractor vehicles per work day, 1 – 2 material deliveries (tractor-trailer trucks, tandem dump trucks) per work day, 1 – 2 equipment delivery (30-foot bed, box trucks) per week	13 – 20	24 – 48
Months 2 – 5	Fence, Solar Array, and Final Access Road Improvements	20 – 30 personal vehicles per work day, 6 – 8 contractor vehicles per work day, 3 – 4 material deliveries (tractor-trailer truck) per work day, and 1 – 2 equipment deliveries (30-foot bed, box trucks, concrete trucks) per work day.	30 – 44	80 – 120
Month 6	Commissioning and Demobilization	6 – 8 personal vehicles per work day, 3 – 6 contractor vehicles per work day, and approx.. 1 equipment removal (tractor-trailer truck) per week.	9 - 14	4

All equipment uses and operations will be conducted to avoid impeding the flow of traffic on adjacent roadways. Contractor shall maintain access to adjacent landowners for the duration of the project construction. The Contractor shall be fully responsible to provide signs, barricades, warning lights, guard rails, and employ flaggers as necessary when construction endangers either vehicular or pedestrian traffic. These devices shall remain in place until the traffic may proceed normally again. Equipment will operate in the road right-of-way only to add gravel and make minor improvements to proposed site access driveways. Project construction shall ensure all equipment is properly maintained and equipped with manufacturer's standard noise control devices. Overweight/Oversize Permits will be acquired from the Illinois Department of Transportation prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.

2.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY

During the Building Permit process, the Project will coordinate with the appropriate fire safety personnel to ensure adequate plans and systems are in place in the unlikely event a safety issue emerges. Appropriate signage containing necessary contact and safety information for the Commercial Solar Energy Facility will be displayed in accordance with local code and coordination with staff. Upon request, a walk-through of the site with the local authorities and emergency agencies will be scheduled once construction is complete. Emergency personnel will also be given the key or code to access the facility.

Commercial Solar Energy Facilities do not raise concern for fire and explosive hazards. The solar panels and racking, which comprise most of the Project's equipment, are not flammable. Tempered glass offers protection from heat and the elements, and the panels are designed to absorb heat as solar energy. From a study titled Health and Safety Impacts of Solar Photovoltaics by North Carolina State University:

> "…Concern over solar fire hazards should be limited because only a small portion of materials in the panels are flammable, and those components cannot self-support a significant fire. Flammable components of PV panels include the thin layers of polymer encapsulates surrounding the PV cells, polymer back sheets (framed panels only), plastic junction boxes on rear of panel, and insulation on wiring. The rest of the panel is composed of non-flammable components, notably including one or two layers of protective glass that make up over three quarters of the panel's weight." (Cleveland, 2017, p.16).

Refer to **Exhibit L** for the Health and Safety Impacts of Solar Photovoltaics study.

2.5 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Once constructed, the solar farm will operate throughout the year, passively generating renewable energy. The site and equipment will be designed, approved, maintained, and inspected to ensure safety and security. Maintenance activities during operation are expected to be minimal with occasional service for inverters and transformers. Solar panels are monitored remotely. Traffic is not anticipated to increase during the operations of the Project.

Maintenance operations will likely be carried out rarely and with minimal traffic as only one vehicle will likely be needed to carry out maintenance tasks several times a year. To prevent shading of the panels for solar energy production and maintain aesthetics of the Project, an on-going vegetation maintenance program will be implemented for all vegetated areas within the fenced boundary and buffer areas. After construction is complete and stabilized vegetation has been established within the fenced Project Area, the Project will conduct vegetative management at appropriate frequency based on weather and moisture conditions. This management schedule would continue each year until implementation of the Decommissioning Plan, included in **Exhibit E**.

3.0 FEDERAL AND STATE APPROVALS, PERMITS, AND AGREEMENTS

3.1 FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA)

The FAA's policy for Solar Energy System Projects on Federally Obligated Airports only requires glint and glare screening for solar projects located on federally-obligated towered airports. Since this project is not on an airport, it does not require a glint and glare screening. Based on the result of the FAA Notice Criteria Tool included in **Exhibit J**, the coordinates of this project and structure heights "do not exceed notice criteria".

3.2 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) portal was consulted to determine if any FEMA 100-year floodplains are on the site. There are no FEMA 100-year floodplain Zone A areas located throughout the site. The FEMA Firmette is included in **Exhibit K**. During final engineering, the Project will be designed to avoid jurisdictional wetland impacts to the greatest extent possible.

3.3 U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS)

The Project will be designed such that federally listed species will not be significantly impacted. Solar projects typically impose only minimal impacts on wildlife species. Bader Sun LLC evaluated the Project's potential to impact federally protected species. The assessment performed by Kimley-Horn identified seven species of plants and animals that may be present within the project area: Myotis sodalis (Indiana Bat), Myotis septentrionalis (Northern Long-eared Bat), Perimyotis subflavus (Tricolored Bat), Grus americana (Whooping Crane), Danaus plexippus (Monarch Butterfly), Boltonia decurrens (Decurrent False Aster), and Platanthera leucophaea (Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid). Please see **Exhibit H** for more information on mitigation efforts and details of each species. Prior to construction, consultation with the USFWS will occur to confirm a "No Effect" determination for these species.

3.4 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (IDNR) STATE ECOLOGICAL REVIEW

The Applicant consulted with IDNR for potential impacts to state threatened or endangered species. This consultation is conducted pursuant to IDNR's EcoCAT process. EcoCAT refers to IDNR's Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool (EcoCAT). EcoCAT contains the Section, Township, and Range data of the Project and generates a Project map. Species of concern within the identified Project Area (and/or which may be affected by migrating through or, by reason of the Project, avoiding the identified area) are examined as part of the EcoCAT review process.

EcoCAT requires that state agencies and units of local government consider the potential adverse effects of proposed actions on Illinois endangered and threatened species and sites listed on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory.

The Applicant submitted an EcoCAT review request to IDNR in September 2023. The Applicant consulted with IDNR through the department's online EcoCAT program for potential impacts to the State threatened or endangered species. The Applicant received a formal response letter, dated 09/28/2023, from IDNR's EcoCAT review provided in **Exhibit G**. The review indicated there is no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves in the project area. In other words, pursuant to 17 III. Adm. Code Part 1075, the IDNR consultation is terminated.

3.5 ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW (SHPO)

Under the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Protection Act, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) division at IDNR is responsible for studying possible Project effects on archaeological and/or architectural (cultural) resources. Agencies requiring SHPO evaluation concurrent with their review include the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, IDNR, and USACE. The Project contacted the SHPO to determine if any historic or archaeological sites are located within the Project Area. A response letter provided by the SHPO, dated August 25th, 2023 (**Exhibit I**) states that the Phase I archeological reconnaissance report determined that there were no significant historic, architectural, or archeological resources within the proposed Project Area.

3.6 ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (IEPA) - SWPPP

IEPA's Bureau of Water is responsible for overseeing the issuance of permits within the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program that regulates construction stormwater discharges. Permits require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which is a site-specific document that outlines the measures a project will take to reduce pollutants in the stormwater discharges from a construction site. Stormwater controls reduce silt transport and sedimentation during precipitation events.

Prior to construction, the Project will prepare a SWPPP as well as sediment and erosion control plans for submittal and approval for an NPDES Permit through IEPA. The SWPPP will ensure construction activity compliance with guidelines and regulations for controlling sediment and erosion runoff.

3.7 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (IDOA)

The Illinois Renewable Energy Facilities Agricultural Impact Mitigation Act (505 ILCS 147/1 et seq.) requires the owner of a Commercial Solar Energy Facility to have an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) in place within 45 days prior to the commencement of Project construction. The intent of the AIMA is to preserve and/or restore the integrity of affected agricultural land during construction and decommissioning activities. Illinois State Legislature passed Amendment to House Bill 4412 in January 2023. The Amendment requires that facility owners enter into an AIMA prior to the date of the required public hearing. The Project entered into an agreement on April 13, 2023 which is included as **Exhibit F**.

4.0 SCHUYLER COUNTY SOLAR ORDINANCE AND OTHER LOCAL APPROVALS (RESOLUTION 2023 R-22)

The Project will comply with Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, Resolution No. 2023 R-22 (adopted 08/14/2023), as described below and as shown on the Zoning Site Plan, included as **Exhibit D**. The Project will be a ground-mounted Commercial Solar Energy Facility comprised of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, racking system, inverters and medium voltage transformers, and underground electrical conduits connecting PV array blocks with inverters. The access road with a gated entrance shall be located just south of Private Drive and N County Highway 33 along N Bader Road for site maintenance, maintenance of inverters, as well as construction access.

4.1 HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS

According to Design and Installation Section C1 of the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, no component of a solar panel, cell or modules may exceed twenty (20) feet in height above the ground at full tilt. The Project will ensure no component of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility exceeds the maximum height requirement.

4.2 SETBACKS

Per Design and Installation Section G1 of the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, the nearest edge of any component of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility are subject to the following setbacks:

- Occupied Community Buildings and Dwellings on Nonparticipating Properties: one hundred fifty (150) feet to the nearest point on the outside wall of the structure.
- Boundary Lines of Participating Property: None.
- Boundary Lines of Nonparticipating Property: fifty (50) feet to the nearest point on the property line of the nonparticipating property.
- Public Road Rights-of-Way: fifty (50) feet to the nearest edge of the public road right-of-way.

The Project will adhere to the requirements set forth above. The Project demonstrates its compliance in the Zoning Site Plan, included as **Exhibit D**.

4.3 GLARE

The Commercial Solar Energy Facility will be designed, constructed, and sited to minimize glare or reflections on adjacent properties and roadways and to not interfere with traffic, including air traffic, or otherwise create a safety hazard. The Project is designed to meet the required setbacks and the proposed solar panels include an anti-reflective coating. Utilizing these measures, the Project will not adversely affect nearby properties or traffic.

4.4 SOILS AND GROUND COVER

Per Design and Installation Section, Section D1, in the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, a vegetative screening is required for any part of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility that is visible to

Nonparticipating Residences. The screening shall be located between the required fencing and the property line. The vegetative screening shall be comprised of native evergreen foliage, native shrubs, native trees, existing wooded area, tall native grasses, or native flowering plants. The Project will adhere to these ordinance requirements. The AIMA includes additional requirements for conservation and topsoil protection which shall also be followed during project construction. During final engineering, a Landscape Plan will be developed by a licensed landscape architect to detail all proposed vegetation, a combination of native grasses and pollinator friendly seed mix, in compliance with state and national requirements.

Per Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Required Section D6 in the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, the facility owner shall submit a Soil Erosion Control Plan to be reviewed by the Schuyler County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) at the time of the site development and/or building permit applications. The SWCD reserves the right to request access to the site to conduct visual inspections and assess the condition of the native planting areas and soil erosion and sediment controls. The Applicant understands these requirements for a Soil Erosion Control Plan review and shall prepare a plan accordingly at the time of the building permit application. The Project shall comply with the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance and the AIMA, included in **Exhibit F**.

Per Operation Section A1 in the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, the Applicant shall submit an Operations and Maintenance Plan on an annual basis on the anniversary date of the Special Use Permit application. This Plan will follow the report requirements listed in Operation Section A1(i-v) while also including all required vegetation and soil maintenance measures and schedules of maintenance.

Per Design and Installation Section P in the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, a State of Illinois registered structural engineer shall certify that the specific soils and subsurface conditions at the site can support the apparatus, given local soil, subsurface and climate conditions. Record of this certification can be found in **Exhibit R**.

4.5 SECURITY BARRIER

Per Design and Installation Section E1 of the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, a fence of at least six (6) feet and not more than twenty-five (25) feet in height shall enclose and secure the Commercial Solar Energy Facility. The Project will adhere to the security barrier requirements set forth in the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance.

4.6 NOISE

Per Design and Installation Section K of the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, Commercial Solar Energy Facilities must provide proof of compliance with noise regulations of the Illinois Pollution Control Board. Manufacturer's sound power level characteristics will be included as a demonstration of compliance with the applicable requirements. The Project has been designed to locate all noise-emitting equipment (inverters and transformers) in the center of the project, furthest away from the surrounding properties. See proof of compliance in the Noise Analysis included in **Exhibit Q**.

4.7 LIGHTING

Per Design and Installation Section D2 of the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance**,** if lighting is provided at the site, lighting shall be shielded and downcast such that the light does not spill onto the adjacent parcel. Due to the proposed security fence and the nature of the operations of a Solar Energy Facility, additional

lighting is not typically needed. The Project will have no permanent lighting systems on site, so the Project shall comply with this requirement.

4.8 DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

A Decommissioning Plan is included in **Exhibit E** to ensure the solar facility elements will be properly removed after the solar energy system is inoperable for 12 months per the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance section titled Decommissioning and Site Reclamation. The Decommissioning Plan will also be triggered if Applicant has not paid landowners an amount owed in accordance with their lease agreements for a period of six (6) consecutive months, the Applicant dissolves or abandons the Commercial Solar Energy Facility without first transferring the Commercial Solar Energy Facility to a successor-in-interest or assigned successor, or if any part of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility falls into disrepair or creates any other health and safety issue. The Decommissioning Plan was developed in accordance with both the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance and the AIMA. The Decommissioning Plan outlines a strategy for the removal of Project components such as panels, roads, fences, and racking, including any applicable recyclable items once the solar facility is no longer in use. The Decommissioning Plan also includes the removal of landscape and restoration of soil and vegetation. The combination of the native grasses and pollinator friendly seed mix established during the Project life and temporary rest of the soils from agricultural planting will promote soil restoration and more productive farmland after decommissioning.

Prior to commercial operation, the Applicant shall provide Schuyler County with a decommissioning bond to ensure proper decommissioning at the end of the Project life.

4.9 STORMWATER AND NPDES

During final engineering, the pre- and post-drainage areas shall be analyzed for quantity of runoff in the 10-year and 100-year storm events. This analysis is anticipated to show an overall decrease in runoff quantity in the post-condition. This expectation is supported by the Hydrologic Response to Solar Farms (included in **Exhibit M**), an article accepted by the American Society of Civil Engineers which analyzes the hydrologic patterns of a typical solar farm. The industry standard follows this article and assumes that a change in use from row crop to meadow in developing a Commercial Solar Energy Facility will reduce runoff. A NPDES Permit will be applied for and received prior to the commencement of construction activities.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a federally mandated program established under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. Its goal being to protect, preserve, and improve the Nation’s water resources by controlling polluted storm water runoff. To ensure adequate runoff, a NPDES Permit will be applied for and received prior to the commencement of construction activities.

4.10 STANDARDS AND CODES

The Project will comply with all relevant state, national, and international standards, the State of Illinois Electric Code, the State of Illinois Uniform Building Code, the National Electric Code, and all Schuyler County Health Department requirements. The Applicant understands these requirements and all final engineering documents shall be designed in accordance with these standards.

Per Design and Installation Section D3 of the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, all on-site power lines and utility connections must be placed underground unless otherwise expressly approved as part of the Special Use Permit. The Project will route all medium-voltage electrical lines underground within the Project security fence. The proposed interconnection to existing Ameren power poles shall comply with the Interconnection Agreement with the utility provided.

4.11 AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION OF DAMAGES TO PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Per Design and Installation Section I1 of the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance, the Project Team has identified all public roads to be used for transporting materials, construction, operation, or maintenance of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility. These roads were identified using IDOT approved truck routes and are outlined in the Transportation and Access Plan, found in **Exhibit N**. The Project team has also sent a letter to all authority having jurisdiction of these roads to inform them of the project. Records of this Roadway Coordination Correspondence can be found in **Exhibit O**. Any necessary Overweight/Oversize Permits will be acquired from the Illinois Department of Transportation prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.

Per Design and Installation Section I2.b of the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance**,** the Project will enter into a Road Use Agreement with the local government and the Road Use Agreement shall require the facility owner be responsible for the reasonable cost of improving roads used by the facility owner to construct the Commercial Solar Energy Facility and the reasonable cost of repairing roads used by the facility owner during construction of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility so that those roads are in a condition that is safe for the driving public after the completion of the facility's construction. Roadways improved in preparation for and during the construction of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility will be repaired and restored to the improved condition at the reasonable cost of the developer if the roadways have degraded or were damaged as a result of construction-related activities.

The Project Owner shall fulfill all requirements of the Design and Installation Section I of the Schuyler County Solar Ordinance.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Bader Sun project adheres to all requirements of Schuyler County and State of Illinois and should qualify for a Special Use Permit to construct a Commercial Solar Energy Facility on Bader Road in Browning Township, Schuyler County. Bader Sun LLC a wholly owned entity of 22c Development, LLC seeks a Special Use Permit that can be transferred if Bader Sun LLC is sold by 22c Development.

EXHIBIT A: CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant:

Alex Farkes

4753 N Broadway Street, Floor 2, Chicago, IL 60640

(779) 774-5151

x@22c-development.com

Property Owner:

Kenneth N Walters

6735 Woodland Hills Road, Rushville, IL 62681

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Contact Person:

Sean Hickey, P.E.

570 Lake Cook Road, Suite 200, Deerfield, IL 60015

(708) 621-5007

Sean.Hickey@kimley-horn.com

EXHIBIT B: PROPOSED CUT SHEETS

Preliminary

Vertex

BIFACIAL DUAL GLASS MONOCRYSTALLINE MODULE

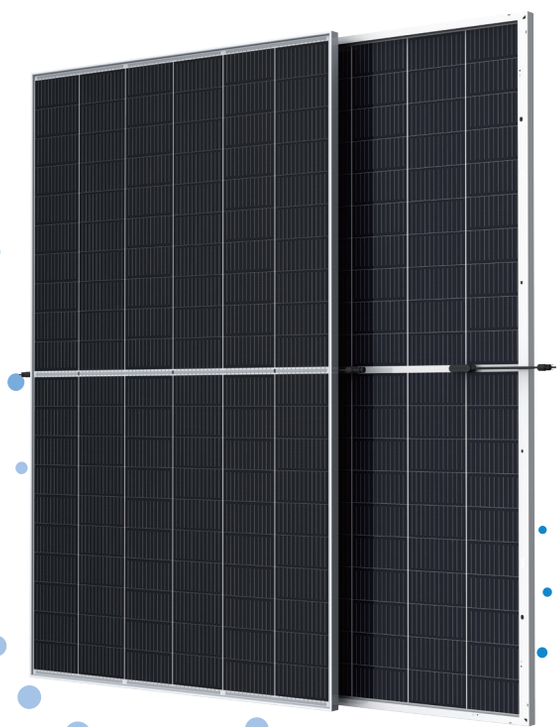
PRODUCT: TSM-DEG20C.20

PRODUCT RANGE: 580-600W

600W+
MAXIMUM POWER OUTPUT

0~+5W
POSITIVE POWER TOLERANCE

21.2%
MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY



High customer value

- Lower LCOE (Levelized Cost Of Energy), reduced BOS (Balance of System) cost, shorter payback time
- Lowest guaranteed first year and annual degradation;
- Designed for compatibility with existing mainstream system components
- Higher return on Investment

High power up to 600W

- Up to 21.2% module efficiency with high density interconnect technology
- Multi-busbar technology for better light trapping effect, lower series resistance and improved current collection

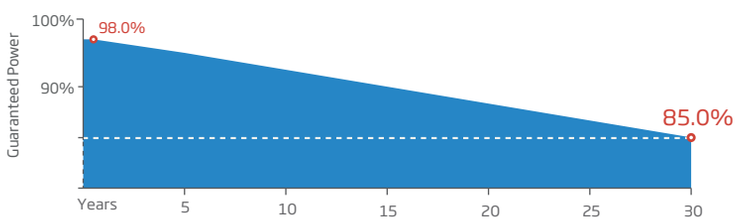
High reliability

- Minimized micro-cracks with innovative non-destructive cutting technology
- Ensured PID resistance through cell process and module material control
- Resistant to harsh environments such as salt, ammonia, sand, high temperature and high humidity areas
- Mechanical performance up to 5400 Pa positive load and 2400 Pa negative load

High energy yield

- Excellent IAM (Incident Angle Modifier) and low irradiation performance, validated by 3rd party certifications
- The unique design provides optimized energy production under inter-row shading conditions
- Lower temperature coefficient (-0.34%) and operating temperature
- Up to 25% additional power gain from back side depending on albedo

Trina Solar's Vertex Bifacial Dual Glass Performance Warranty



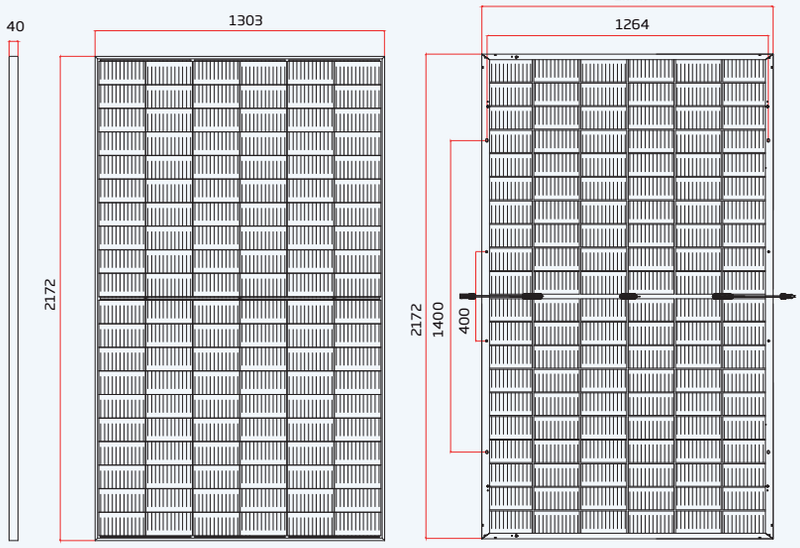
Comprehensive Products and System Certificates

IEC61215/IEC61730/IEC61701/IEC62716/UL61730
ISO 9001: Quality Management System
ISO 14001: Environmental Management System
ISO14064: Greenhouse Gases Emissions Verification
ISO45001: Occupational Health and Safety Management System

Trinasolar

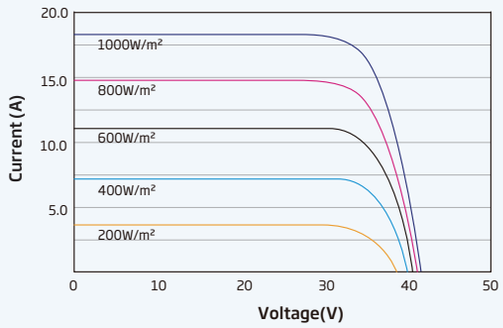
Vertex BIFACIAL DUAL GLASS MONOCRYSTALLINE MODULE

DIMENSIONS OF PV MODULE(mm)

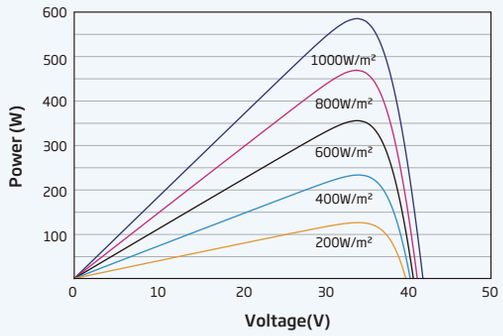


Front View Back View

I-V CURVES OF PV MODULE(590 W)



P-V CURVES OF PV MODULE(590 W)



ELECTRICAL DATA (STC)

Peak Power Watts-PMAX (Wp)*	580	585	590	595	600
Power Tolerance-PMAX (W)			0 ~ +5		
Maximum Power Voltage-VMPP (V)	33.8	34.0	34.2	34.4	34.6
Maximum Power Current-IMPP (A)	17.16	17.21	17.25	17.30	17.34
Open Circuit Voltage-VOC (V)	40.9	41.1	41.3	41.5	41.7
Short Circuit Current-ISC (A)	18.21	18.26	18.31	18.36	18.42
Module Efficiency η m (%)	20.5	20.7	20.8	21.0	21.2

STC: Irradiance 1000W/m2, Cell Temperature 25°C, Air Mass AM1.5. *Measuring tolerance: ±3%.

Electrical characteristics with different power bin (reference to 10% Irradiance ratio)

Total Equivalent power -PMAX (Wp)	621	626	631	637	642
Maximum Power Voltage-VMPP (V)	33.8	34.0	34.2	34.4	34.6
Maximum Power Current-IMPP (A)	18.36	18.41	18.46	18.51	18.55
Open Circuit Voltage-VOC (V)	40.9	41.1	41.3	41.5	41.7
Short Circuit Current-ISC (A)	19.48	19.54	19.59	19.65	19.71
Irradiance ratio (rear/front)			10%		

Power Bifaciality:70±5%.

ELECTRICAL DATA (NOCT)

Maximum Power-PMAX (Wp)	439	443	447	451	454
Maximum Power Voltage-VMPP (V)	31.5	31.7	31.9	32.0	32.2
Maximum Power Current-IMPP (A)	13.93	13.97	14.01	14.06	14.10
Open Circuit Voltage-VOC (V)	38.5	38.7	38.9	39.1	39.3
Short Circuit Current-ISC (A)	14.68	14.72	14.76	14.80	14.84

NOCT: Irradiance at 800W/m², Ambient Temperature 20°C, Wind Speed 1m/s.

MECHANICAL DATA

Solar Cells	Monocrystalline
No. of cells	120 cells
Module Dimensions	2172×1303×40 mm (85.51×51.30×1.57 inches)
Weight	35.3 kg (77.8 lb)
Front Glass	2.0 mm (0.08 inches), High Transmission, AR Coated Heat Strengthened Glass
Encapsulant material	POE/EVA
Back Glass	2.0 mm (0.08 inches), Heat Strengthened Glass (White Grid Glass)
Frame	40mm(1.57 inches) Anodized Aluminium Alloy
J-Box	IP 68 rated
Cables	Photovoltaic Technology Cable 4.0mm² (0.006 inches²), Portrait: 280/280 mm(11.02/11.02 inches) Landscape: 1400/1400 mm(55.12/55.12 inches)
Connector	MC4 EVO2 / TS4*

*Please refer to regional datasheet for specified connector.

TEMPERATURE RATINGS

NOCT(Nominal Operating Cell Temperature)	43°C (±2°C)
Temperature Coefficient of PMAX	- 0.34%/°C
Temperature Coefficient of VOC	- 0.25%/°C
Temperature Coefficient of ISC	0.04%/°C

MAXIMUMRATINGS

Operational Temperature	-40~+85°C
Maximum System Voltage	1500V DC (IEC)
	1500V DC (UL)
Max Series Fuse Rating	35A

WARRANTY

12 year Product Workmanship Warranty

30 year Power Warranty

2% first year degradation

0.45% Annual Power Attenuation

(Please refer to product warranty for details)

PACKAGING CONFIGUREATION

Modules per 40' container: 448 pieces

Trinasolar

CAUTION: READ SAFETY AND INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING THE PRODUCT.

Version number: TSM_EN_2020_PA2

www.trinasolar.com

A partner you can trust.

Bankability. Reliability. Serviceability.

TMEIC, a multi-billion $ joint venture between Toshiba & Mitsubishi-Electric, is a global leader for PV inverter technology innovation.

Bankability

The financial strength you need in an inverter partner. TMEIC is a diversified industrial systems company, serving steel, oil & gas, mining, container crane and a wide variety of power electronics applications.

- #1 market share leader in the Japanese market and #1 worldwide for inverters >99kW
- More than 13 GW of PV Inverters installed world-wide
- Over 35 years of PV inverter manufacturing and R&D experience

Reliability

A level above the competition. TMEIC was the first company to implement advanced 3-level NPS topology and an advanced hybrid cooling system for PV central inverters.

- First central inverter to achieve 99% maximum efficiency
- Heatpipe-based cooling minimizes particle entrance, increasing uptime & reducing O&M cost
- With over 10 GW installed, TMEIC has only had two IGBT field failures.

Serviceability

We're there when you need us! TMEIC's well proven technology is further enhanced with the industry's leading service structure.

- 24/7 US based phone support
- Comprehensive customer training system
- Extended warranty of up to 20 years
- Optional performance guarantee

Global Locations

2060 Cook Dr., Salem, VA 24153 • +1 (540) 283-2000
Email: SolarPV@tmeic.com • www.tmeic.com

Contents subject to change without notice
The Samurai Series name is used by TMEIC exclusively in North America.
Cover photo courtesy of Signal Energy

P-1307-Z
Revised May 2018

SOLAR WARE
Samurai Series

Utility-Scale Photovoltaic Inverters
Up to 3360kW, 1500V

SOLAR WARE® SAMURAI

Multiple Power Classes
- 2500kW to 3360 kW (1500 V)

1500Vdc Series
- UL 1741 Certified
- Reduces cable mass to minimize cost & enhance flexible plant design
- Reduces combiner box and number of inverters

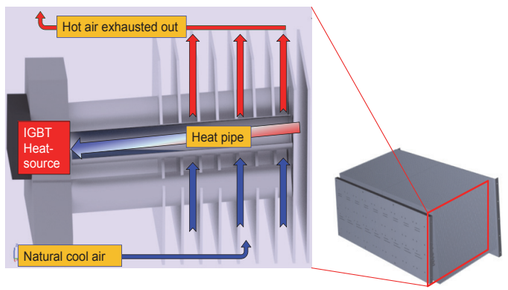
Award Winning Central Inverters
- Advanced multilevel inverter - 56% of switching loss reduction
- Maximized and optimized efficiency at high load
- Wide MPPT range allowing for best in class DC/AC Ratios
- Flexible DC-input configuration to meet complex array configuration

Maximize Revenue & Improve ROI
- High-yield power generation – Maximum efficiency of 99%
- High-efficiency in any weather
- Realize large capacity with fewer inverters
- Reduce site work and BOS investment

Grid Connection Features
TMEIC developed the grid connection features working with Japanese power companies. All of TMEIC's utility scale inverters include the latest interconnection technology. These features include:
- Power factor control
- Reactive/Active power control
- TMEIC's proprietary anti-islanding technique utilizes a slip mode frequency shift method
- Advanced Fault Ride Through Features

Advanced Hybrid Cooling System
The first heat pipe air-cooled PV inverter
Utilizing TMEIC heat pipe technology, the inverter runs without fan operation up to 50% load. Heat-pipe cooling significantly simplifies thermal management, because it uses fewer parts and only a slow-speed fan with a heat pipe heat sink. TMEIC's advanced hybrid cooling solution:
- Simple & Robust
- High Reliability
- Significantly reduces O&M costs
- Small Footprint

The Fan-less mode runs when the inverter is below 50% load @ 50°C. Natural convection provides necessary cooling. Cool air enters from the bottom, flows through the heat pipe, and hot air is exhausted from the top.



SPECIFICATIONS

Type		PVH-L2500GR	PVH-L2700GR	PVH-L3200GR	PVH-L3360GR
Output side (AC)	Rated Power	2500 kW / 2500 kVA	2700 kW / 2700 kVA	3200 kW / 3200 kVA	3360 kW / 3360 kVA
	Rated Voltage (3-phase)	550V +10%*1	600V +10%*1	600V +10%*1	630V +10%*1
	Rated Frequency	60/50 Hz	60/50 Hz (+0.5Hz, -0.7Hz)	60/50 Hz (+0.5Hz, -0.7Hz)	60/50 Hz (+0.5Hz, -0.7Hz)
	Rated Power Factor	Over 0.99	Over 0.99	Over .99	Over .99
	Reactive Capability	+/-980 kVAR *4	+/-1020 kVAR*4	1394 kVAR	1464 kVAR*5
	Rated Current	2624 Arms	2598 Arms	3079 Arms	3079 Arms
	Maximum Current	2624 Arms	2598 Arms	3079 Arms	3079 Arms
	Maximum Efficiency	98.8%	98.8%	98.8%	98.9%*5
	CEC Efficiency	98.5%	98.5%	98.5%	98.5%*5
Input side (DC)	Maximum Voltage	1500 Vdc	1500 Vdc	1500 Vdc	1500 Vdc
	MPPT Operation Range	800 Vdc ~ 1300 Vdc	875 Vdc ~ 1300 Vdc	875 Vdc ~ 1300 Vdc	915 Vdc ~ 1300 Vdc
Environ. Conditions	Ingress Protection Ratings	NEMA3R			
	Installation	Outdoor			
	Ambient Temperature Range	-20°~40°C (-4°~104°F)*3		-25°~40°C (-13°~104°F)*3	
	Maximum Altitude	2000 m (contact TMEIC for ratings above 2000 m)			
Protective Functions	Input (DC) Side	Ground Fault, DC Reverse Current, Over Voltage, Over Current			
	Grid (AC) Side	Anti-islanding, Over/Under Voltage, Over/Under Frequency, Over Current			
	Grid Assistance	Reactive/Active Power Control, Power Factor Control, Fault Ride Through (optional)			
User Interface	User Interface	LCD (3.8 inch, QVGA) with Touch-Screen			
	Communication	Modbus/TCP			
Fault Analysis		Fault Event Log, Waveform Acquisition via memory card			
Compliance		UL1741/IEEE1547; UL1741 Supplement SA; NEC standard		UL1741/CSA C22.1 107.1/IEEE1547; UL1741 Supplement SA; NEC standard	
Cooling Method		Advanced Hybrid Cooling			
Number of Inputs		Up to 32			
Standard Control Power Supply		Control Power Supply from Inverter output and Capacitor backup circuit (3 sec. compensation)			
Weight		13,228 lbs (6000 kg)			13,228 lbs. (6,000 kg)*5
Dimensions (H x W x D)		92 x 197 x 46 inch (2286x5000x1150 mm)			
Floor Space		8,914 sq. in. (5.75 m^2)			
Color		Cabinet: Sand White #Dic583, Roof: Gray #Munsel N4.5			

Notes:
*1 Full power available at and above nominal voltage. Derate will apply below nominal voltage.
*2 Transition from constant DC voltage mode to MPPT mode occurs between 595V and 605V.
*3 Contact a TMEIC Sales Manager for detailed temperature derates and operational ranges.
*4 Available reactive capability with reduction in active power.
*5 Preliminary testing.

® TMEIC Corporation, 2018. All Rights Reserved

EXHIBIT C: PROOF OF LAND OWNERSHIP

22c

20230515

SCHUYLER COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Filed for record
05/19/2023 09:48:19 AM
Fee Paid 89.00
RHSP FEE: 10.00

MINDY D. GARRETT
County Clerk & Recorder

MEMORANDUM OF OPTION AND GROUND LEASE

This instrument is requested to be recording by the owner of 22c Holdings, LLC, Alex Farkes; after recording return to:

22c Holdings, LLC
c/o 22c Development, LLC
4649 N Broadway Street,
Chicago, Illinois 60640

MEMORANDUM OF OPTION AND LEASE

THIS MEMORANDUM OF OPTION AND LEASE (the "***Memorandum***"), is made as of November 15th, 2022, by and between **KENNETH W. WALTERS**, having its principal location at 6735 Woodland Hills Rd Rushville, Illinois 62681 ("***Landlord***") and **22C HOLDINGS, LLC**, an Illinois limited liability company with its principal place of business located at 4649 N Broadway Street, Chicago, Illinois 60640 ("***Tenant***").

1. Landlord and Tenant are parties to that certain Option and Lease Agreement (the "***Lease***"), dated as of November 14th, 2022 (the "***Effective Date***") covering a portion of that certain parcel of land and the improvements thereon identified in the Official Records of Schuyler County as Permanent Tax PIN #0901200003 in Astoria Township (61501), County of Schuyler, State of Illinois (the "***Property***").

2. Under the Lease, Tenant has an option to lease a portion of the Property and acquire easements over a portion of the Property as shown in **Exhibit A** annexed ed hereto (the "***Property Description***"), which option commences on the Effective Date and lasts for 12 months thereafter. The option term may be extended for five (4) additional terms of three hundred sixty five (365) days each.

3. The commencement date of Landlord's lease of the Lease Area shall be the date of Tenant's exercise of the option.

4. If the option is exercised, the initial term of the lease and the easements will be for twenty-five (25) years, and Tenant shall have the option to extend the lease for four (4) additional five (5) year terms, subject to earlier termination or extension pursuant to the terms of the Lease or applicable law.

5. The Solar Facility, as defined in the Lease, installed and operated by Tenant at the Lease Area shall not be deemed a fixture. The Solar Facility is Tenant's personal property and Landlord has no right, title or interest in the Solar Facility. Further, Landlord has waived all right of levy for rent, all claims and demands against the Solar Facility and all rights it may have to place a lien on the Solar Facility.

6. All of the terms, covenants and conditions of the Option and Lease are incorporated herein and made a part hereof. The purpose of this Memorandum is to give notice of the existence of the tenancy and Easements created by the Option and Lease; and shall not

be construed to vary or otherwise affect the rights or obligations of the parties under the Option and Lease as it may be amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have duly executed this Memorandum as of the date first above written.

TENANT

22C HOLDINGS, LLC,
an Illinois Limited Liability Company

By: _____

Name: Alexander Farkes

Title: Sole Owner

LANDLORD

Kenneth N. Walters

By: _____

Name: Kenneth N. Walters

Title: Sole Owner

be construed to vary or otherwise affect the rights or obligations of the parties under the Option and Lease as it may be amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have duly executed this Memorandum as of the date first above written.

TENANT

22C HOLDINGS, LLC,

an Illinois Limited Liability Company

By: _____

Name: Alexander Farkes

Title: Sole Owner

LANDLORD

Kenneth N. Walters

By: _____

Name: Kenneth N. Walters

Title: Sole Owner

LANDLORD ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
: ss.
COUNTY OF SCHUYLER)

This instrument was acknowledged before me on October 27, 2022 (date) by Kenneth N. Walters (name of person(s)).

Brentney M. Hickenbottom
Notary Public

OFFICIAL SEAL
BRENTNEY M HICKENBOTTOM
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS
My Commission Expires 6/19/23

LANDLORD ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
: ss.
COUNTY OF)

This instrument was acknowledged before me on _____ (date) by _____ (name of person(s)).

_____
Notary Public

TENANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
: ss.
COUNTY OF COOK)

This instrument was acknowledged before me on NOV 15, 2022 (date) by ALEXANDER FARKES (name of person) as SOLE OWNER (type of authority, e.g., officer, trustee, etc.) of 22c HOLDINGS, LLC (name of company).

Condisha L. Skipper
Notary Public

OFFICIAL SEAL
CONDISHA L. SKIPPER
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS
My Commission Expires 09-21-2024

EXHIBIT A: Legal Description of the Property

For APN/Parcel ID(s): 09-01-200-003 and 09-01-400-004

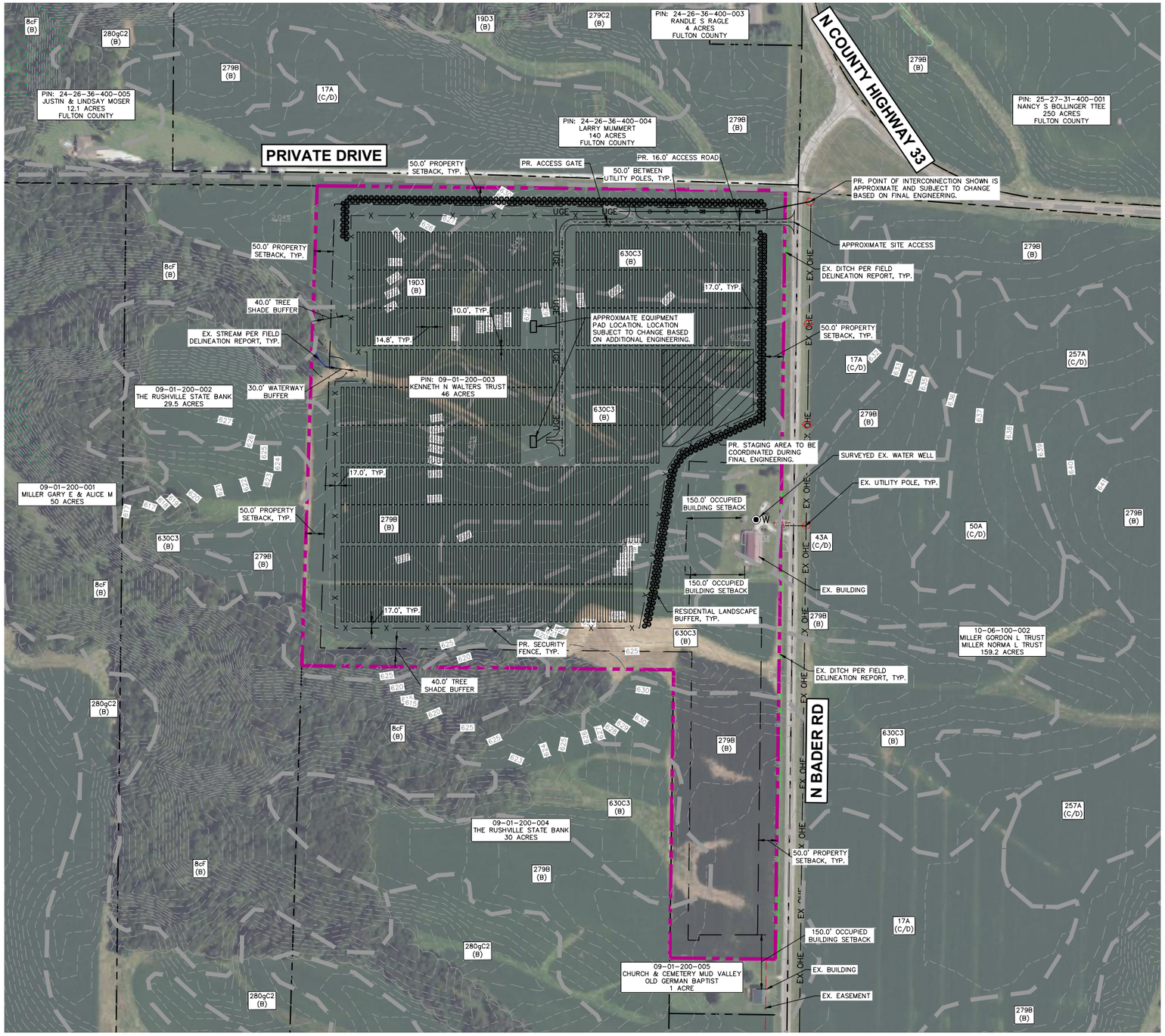
PARCEL 1:

THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) AND THE NORTH SIX (6) ACRES OF THE EAST TEN (10) ACRES OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) ALL IN SECTION ONE (1), TOWNSHIP TWO NORTH, RANGE ONE EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN SCHUYLER COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 2:

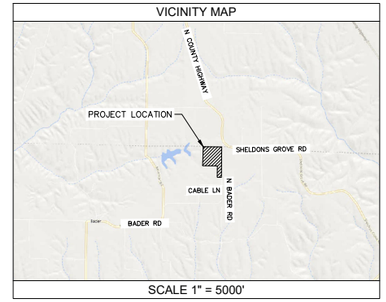
THIRTY ACRES OFF THE SOUTH SIDE OF FIFTY ACRES OFF THE EAST END OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION (1), IN TOWNSHIP (2) NORTH OF THE BASE LINE, AND RANGE (1) EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF SCHUYLER IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

EXHIBIT D: ZONING SITE PLAN



GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET
0 75 150 300

VICINITY MAP



SCALE 1" = 5000'

LEGEND

ROAD LABEL	N 2200TH ST
PROJECT BOUNDARY	
PROPERTY LINE	
PROPERTY LINE SETBACK/ ROW SETBACK	
RIGHT-OF-WAY	R/W
EX. ROAD CENTERLINE	
EX. DITCH (FIELD DELINEATED DATA RECEIVED 09/20/2023)	
EX. STREAM (FIELD DELINEATED DATA RECEIVED 09/20/2023)	
WATERWAY/WETLAND BUFFER	
TREE SHADE BUFFER	
EX. OVERHEAD ELECTRIC	EX OHE
EX. UTILITY POLE	
EX. RESIDENCE/STRUCTURE	
EX. TREE LINE	
EX. FLOW (DIRECTION AND SLOPE)	XX%
EX. TERRAIN CONTOURS	XXX
EX. WELL	W
EX. SOIL TYPE BOUNDARY	
PR. SECURITY FENCE	X X
PR. UTILITY POLE	
PR. EQUIPMENT PAD	
PR. SOLAR ARRAY	
PR. OVERHEAD ELECTRIC	OH
PR. UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC	UGE
PR. GRAVEL ACCESS ROAD	
PR. STAGING AREA	
EX. EASEMENT	

SITE DATA TABLE

PIN #	09-01-200-003
PROPERTY OWNER	KENNETH N WALTERS TRUST
SITE ADDRESS	30393 BADER RD, BROWNING TOWNSHIP, IL 62624
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	S1 T2N R1E & NE COR SE-NE
ZONING JURISDICTION	SCHUYLER COUNTY
CURRENT LAND USE	AGRICULTURE
PROPOSED USE	COMMERCIAL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY
TOTAL PARCEL AREA	45.4 ± AC
PRELIMINARY DISTURBED AREA	26.4 ± AC (AREA WITHIN FENCE)
PRELIMINARY SOLAR AREA	22.2 ± AC
RIGHT-OF-WAY SETBACK	50'
PROPERTY LINE SETBACK	50'
RESIDENTIAL SETBACK	150'
DC/AC RATIO	1.71
TOTAL POWER OUTPUT (DC)	8.53 MW
TOTAL MODULES	14,712
TOTAL POWER OUTPUT (AC)	5.0 MW
GROUNDCOVER RATIO (GCR)	50.0%

*ZONING SITE PLAN IS BEING SUBMITTED FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT/OPERATE A COMMERCIAL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

SOILS DATA TABLE

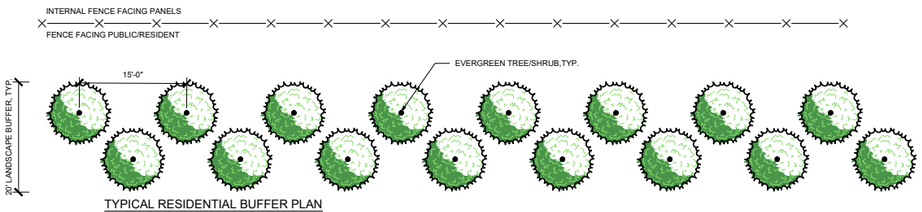
MAP UNIT SYMBOL	MAP UNIT NAME	HYDROLOGIC SOIL GROUP
8cF	HICKORY SILT LOAM, COOL MESIC, 18 to 35 PERCENT SLOPES	B
17A	KEOMAH SILT LOAM, 0 TO 2 PERCENT SLOPES	C/D
19D3	SYLVAN SILTY CLAY LOAM, TO TO 18 PERCENT SLOPES, SEVERELY ERODED	B
257A	CLARKSDALE SILT LOAM, 0 TO 2 PERCENT SLOPES	C/D
279C2	ROZETTA SILT LOAM, 5 TO 10 PERCENT SLOPES, ERODED	B/D
280gC2	FAYETTE SILT LOAM, GLACIATED, 5 TO 10 PERCENT SLOPES, ERODED	B
279B	ROZETTA SILT LOAM, 2 TO 5 PERCENT SLOPES	B
43A	IPAVA SILT LOAM, 0 TO 2 PERCENT SLOPES	C/D
50A	VIRDEN SILTY CLAY LOAM, 0 TO 2 PERCENT SLOPES	C/D
274F	SEATON SILT LOAM, 18 TO 35 PERCENT SLOPES	B
280B	FAYETTE SILT LOAM GLACIATED, 2 TO 5 PERCENT SLOPES	B
630C3	NAVLYS SILTY CLAYLOAM, 5 TO 10 PERCENT SLOPES, SEVERELY ERODED	B

CONCEPT PLANT SCHEDULE

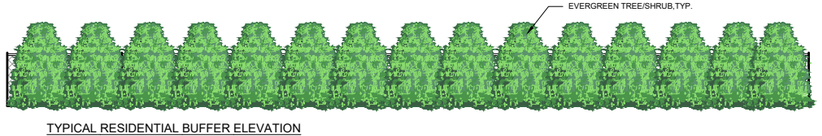
EVERGREEN TREE/SHRUB
NOOTKA CYPRESS
EASTERN RED CEDAR
FAIRVIEW JUNIPER
MOUNTBATTEN JUNIPER
FAT ALBERT COLORADO SPRUCE
PYRAMIDAL WHITE PINE
AMERICAN ARBORVITEA

NOTES

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN IS FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY SCHUYLER COUNTY TO CONSTRUCT A COMMERCIAL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY.
2. THIS PLAN WAS PRODUCED UTILIZING GIS RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES, INCLUDING SCHUYLER COUNTY, GOOGLE EARTH, NRCS SOIL INFORMATION, AND USGS TOPOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.
3. SUBJECT PROPERTY DOES NOT LIE WITHIN A SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AS SHOWN ON THE FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FEMA PANEL #17169C0275D) PUBLISHED BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA).
4. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED AS REQUIRED BY COUNTY AND/OR NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMITTING. REQUIREMENTS TO BE DETERMINED DURING FINAL ENGINEERING.
5. THE LOCATIONS OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: ACCESS ROAD, FENCING, SOLAR ARRAY RACKING, INVERTER/TRANSFORMER PADS, OVERHEAD POLES AND LINES, ETC., SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION DUE TO SITE CONDITIONS, ADDITIONAL PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS, EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS, AND/OR OTHER CONSTRAINTS IDENTIFIED DURING FINAL ENGINEERING.
6. SETBACKS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN ARE BASED ON THE SCHUYLER COUNTY SOLAR ORDINANCE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION SECTION, SECTION G.1.
7. PER THE SCHUYLER COUNTY SOLAR ORDINANCE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION SECTION, SECTION C, THE MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF A SOLAR PANEL SHALL NOT EXCEED 20' ABOVE GROUND WHEN THE SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY'S ARRAYS ARE AT FULL TILT.
8. ALL DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE AT 90 DEGREES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
9. THE VEGETATIVE BUFFER WILL BE FURTHER DESIGNED DURING FINAL ENGINEERING TO MEET THE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION SECTION D.1 OF THE SCHUYLER COUNTY SOLAR ORDINANCE



TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL BUFFER PLAN



TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL BUFFER ELEVATION
VEGETATION SHOWN AT ESTIMATED ESTABLISHED SIZE.

Call Before You Dig
811
1-800-892-0123

No.	REVISIONS	DATE

Kimley»Horn

570 LAKE COOK RD SUITE 200
DEERFIELD, IL 60015
WWW.KIMLEY-HORN.COM

PRELIMINARY- NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

KHA PROJECT	268330014
DATE	12/01/2023
SCALE	AS SHOWN
DESIGNED BY	CK
DRAWN BY	CK
CHECKED BY	SMH

ZONING SITE PLAN

BADER SUN LLC

SCHUYLER COUNTY, IL

SHEET NUMBER
EX-1

EXHIBIT E: DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

BADER SUN LLC.
SCHUYLER COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Prepared for:

22C DEVELOPMENT, LLC

4649 N Broadway, Chicago, IL 60640

Contact: Alex Farkes

Prepared By:

Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.

570 Lake Cook Rd, Suite 200

Deerfield, IL 60015

Contact: Sean Hickey, P.E.

Prepared on: Decemeber 1st, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exhibits

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Background

Bader Sun LLC. (Applicant), a subsidiary wholly owned by 22c Development, Inc., is developing a commercial solar energy facility (Project) on approximately 45.4-acres of land that will be leased by the Applicant. The Project will be located in Schuyler County, Illinois. The project will be located at 30393 Bader Rd, Browning Township, IL, and the geographical coordinates are 40° 11’ 11.71" N, 90° 20' 22.60" W. Refer to **Special Use Permit Application Exhibit D: Zoning Site Plan** for general location and project layout.

The Project will be sited over approximately 26.4 acres of leased property west of Bader Road, north of Cable Lane, east of forested area and agricultural land, and south of a private drive. In existing conditions, the site is relatively flat with low points on the west side and south side of the site.

This Decommissioning Plan (Plan) is developed in compliance with Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) and the Schuyler County Zoning Ordinance Resolution 2023 R-22 section Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan Required.

This Plan covers and addresses the following elements outlined in the conditions of the AIMA and Schuyler County Zoning Ordaince:

- Removal of Above Ground and Below Ground Infrastrucutre;
- Repair of compaction and rutting;
- Prevention of soil erosion;
- Access roads;
- Weed/vegetation control;
- Decommissioning plans and financial assurance of commercial solar energy facilities.

In addition, the Decommissioning Plan is triggered i) an Applicant has not paid landowners an amount owed in accordance with their lease agreements for a period of six (6) months, ii) the Applicant dissolves or abandons the Commercial Solar Energy Facility without first transferring the Commercial Solar Energy Facility to a successor-in-interest or assign, iii) if any part of the Commercial Solar energy Facility falls into disrepair or creates any other health and safety issue.

The Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan shall be binding upon the Applicant including any of its successors-in-interest and assigns. A confirmation by affadavit that the obligation to decommission the Commercial Solar Energy Facility will be included in the lease agreement for every parcel included in the Special Use Permit application.

2.0 PROJECT COMPONENTS

The Project Components that are subject to decommission include the equipment summarized below. The decommission activities associated with these components are discussed in Section 3.0 of this Plan.

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Equipment

The project will use Solar Photovoltaic (PV) modules mounted on single axis tracker steel pile foundations.

Internal Power Collection System

The PV-generated DC power will be collected from each of the multiple rows of PV modules through one or more combiner boxes and conveyed to inverters. The inverters will convert the DC power to AC power, which will be interconnected into the existing power line running along the east side of Bader Rd.

Transformers and PV combining switchgear will be mounted on concrete foundations.

Earthwork

It is anticipated that the site will require minimal grading for the Project. Site grading and drainage will be conducted in accordance with Final Civil Construction plans.

Roads

Access to the Project will be off of Bader Rd. The site access will be constructed in accordance with County and/or Township requirements and the Final Civil Construction Plans. The on-site site access road is anticipated to be gravel. A culvert may be required and will be designed during Final Engineering.

Fencing

The Project site will be fenced with a eight foot fence. An entry gate will be provided near the site access Bader Rd.

3.0 PROJECT DECOMMISSION AND RECYLCING

Decommission includes removal of above-ground and below-ground structures. Only minor grading is anticipated during construction; and therefore, will require limited or no grading following decommission. Temporary erosion and sedimentation control Best Management Practices should be implemented during the decommission phase of the Project. Work hours on site will be typical 9 am – 5 pm or as otherwise required by the County.

Decommission Preparation

Prior to commencement of the decommission process, assess existing site conditions and prepare the site for demolition. Demolition debris shall be placed in temporary onsite storage area(s) pending final transportation and disposal and/or recycling according to the procedures listed below.

Permits and Approvals

It is anticipated that an NPDES Permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and a SWPPP will be required. The proposed development area of the site does not contain waters of the United States or Threatened or Endangered species; thus, no federal approvals are expected. Appropriate applications for permits from the state and/or local authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) shall be submitted and approved prior to decommission activities.

PV Equipment Removal and Recycling

During decommissioning, Project components shall be removed from the site and recycled or disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal facility. Above ground portions of the PV module supports shall be removed. Below ground portions of the PV module supports shall be removed entirely where practical, but to a depth of 5 feet at a minimum. Those supports that are more firmly anchored (e.g., such as embedded in bedrock) may be cut off at least five feet below ground or to the depth of bedrock, and the remaining support left in place. This depth will avoid impact of underground equipment on future farming or other construction activities. The demolition debris and removed equipment may be cut or dismantled into pieces that can be safely lifted or carried with the onsite equipment being used. The debris and equipment shall be processed for transportation and delivery to an appropriately licensed disposal facility or recycling center. Modules shall be recycled in accordance with the solar module manufacturer's (or equivalent) recycling program. No hazardous materials or waste will be used during operation of the solar facility, and disposal of hazardous material or waste will not be required during decommission.

Internal Power Collection System

The cables, inverters, and transformers shall be dismantled. The concrete foundations shall be broken up, removed and recycled. If ground-screw foundations are used, they shall be removed and recycled. According to the AIMA, underground cables that are buried greater than 5' are not required to be removed; however, for this estimate, they will be counted as removed. Overhead conductors shall be removed from the poles, and the poles and pole foundations shall be removed. Aluminum from the conductors shall be recycled or removed from the site to an appropriately licensed disposal facility.

Roads

Gravel from on-site access roads shall be removed and recycled. Once the gravel is removed, the soil below the access roads shall be scarified a depth of 18-inches and blended as noted in the Site Restoration section below.

Fencing

Project site perimeter fence shall be removed at the end of the decommission project. Since the project site is not currently fenced, this includes removal of all posts, footings, fencing material, gates, etc. to return the site to pre-project condition.

Landscaping

Unless requested in writing to remain in place by the land Owner, all vegetative landscaping and screening installed as part of the Project will be removed. Any weed control equipment used during the project, including weed-control fabrics or other ground covers shall be removed. Landscape areas will be restored as noted in the Site Restoration section below.

Site Restoration

Once removal of all project equipment and landscaping is complete, all areas of the project site that are unvegetated or where vegetation was disturbed/removed as part of decommissioning shall be restored by the applicant. Restoration shall consist of applying additional topsoil, seed, and necessary fertilizer to ensure that adequate vegetation is established throughout the project site. Areas that exhibit compaction and/or rutting shall be scarified a depth of 18-inches prior to placement of topsoil and seed. The existence of drainage tile lines or underground utilities may necessitate less scarification depth. The applicant is responsible for promptly repairing damage to drain tiles and other drainage systems that result from decommissioning of the commercial solar energy facility.

4.0 FUTURE LAND USE

Per the requirements of the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) must be signed by the Facility owner and filed with the County Board prior to the Commencement of Construction. The IDOA prepared the AIMA to help preserve the integrity of any Agricultural Land that is impacted by the Construction and Decommission of a Commercial Solar Energy Facility. Per the AIMA, all solar panels shall be removed from the property and the land must be restored to its pre-existing condition for agricultural use at the end of the project life cycle. This Decommissioning Plan is consistent with the AIMA requirements to return the land to its pre-project conditions as an agricultural field. Refer to **Special Use Permit Application Exhibit F: Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement** for the signed AIMA.

5.0 PROJECT DECOMMISSION COSTS AND FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

The AIMA and Schuyler County Code Resolution 2023-R-22 section titled Decomissioning and Site Reclamation Plan Required requires the Owner and/or Operator to provide a present-day decommission cost estimate, and provide the County with Finanacial Assurance to cover the estimated costs of Decommission of the Facility. Provisions of this Financial Assurance shall be phased in over the first 11 years of the Project's operations. Additional detail can be found in the Standard Solar AIMA and Schuyler County Resolution 2023-R-22 section titled Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan Required. See **Exhibit A: Opinion of Probable Construction Cost with Salvage.** Industry standard prices in 2023 for removal costs were determined using RS Means cost data. Removal cost includes materials, contractor installation/demolition, mobilization and demobilization, overhead and profit, and performance bonding.

EXHIBIT A

Opinion of Probable Construction Cost With Salvage

Bader Sun
Schuyler County, IL
Decommissioning Estimate Pro Forma with Salvage

Kimley»Horn

The Engineer has no control over the cost of labor, materials, equipment, or over the Contractor's methods of determining prices or over competitive bidding or market conditions. Opinions of probable costs provided herein are based on the information known to Engineer at this time and represent only the Engineer's judgment as a design professional familiar with the construction industry. The Engineer cannot and does not guarantee that proposals, bids, or actual construction costs will not vary from its opinions of probable costs. LS = Lump Sum, HR = Hours, EA = Each, LF = Linear Feet.

Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total Salvage	Total Price (incl. markups)	Total Price
Mobilization	1	LS		$ -	$13,100.00	$ (13,100.00)
Contractor's G&A	1	LS		$ -	$2,230.00	$ (2,230.00)
SWPPP, Erosion Control Measures	24	AC	$670.00	$ -	$16,080.00	$ (16,080.00)
Seeding	1.5	AC	$2,780.19	$ -	$4,170.29	$ (4,170.29)
Tilling 6" topsoil/scarifying access road and rough grading existing soil	1	AC	$17,237.94	$ -	$17,237.94	$ (17,237.94)
Remove and Recycle Chainlink Fence, 8' High	4,217	LF	$5.93	$ 2,168.68	$25,003.85	$ (22,835.16)
Remove Power Pole	7	EA	$718.98	$ -	$5,032.86	$ (5,032.86)
Remove and Recycle AC Cables	981	LF	$6.38	$ 145.24	$6,260.95	$ (6,115.71)
Remove and Recycle DC Cables	96,724	LF	$0.39	$ 14,315.18	$37,722.44	$ (23,407.26)
Backfill AC and DC trenches	44,786	LF	$0.56	$ -	$25,079.90	$ (25,079.90)
Remove and Recycle Inverters	2	EA	$4,291.88	$ 10,800.00	$8,583.76	$ 2,216.24
Remove and Recycle Photovoltaic Modules	12,048	EA	$6.50	$ 38,847.43	$78,312.00	$ (39,464.57)
Remove and Recycle Piles	2,117	EA	$10.90	$ 27,998.76	$23,075.30	$ 4,923.46
Remove and Recycle Support Assemblies	385,809	LB	$0.04	$ 35,434.63	$15,432.36	$ 20,002.27
			Subtotal:	**$ 129,709.93**	**$277,321.64**	**$ (147,611.71)**
				40-Year Inflation (3%/year):		**$ (333,903.27)**
					Total:	**$ (481,514.98)**

Notes:

1. Quantities were recorded on 10/11/2023.
2. Equipment rental rates and labor productivity and unit rates were derived from RSMeans Online (Heavy Construction, 2023 data).
3. Labor, material, and equipment rates are based on the RSMeans City Cost Index (CCI) for Peoria, IL.
4. PV Module Removal/Recycle labor and equipment costs are computed at present values.
5. The age at decommissioning of this estimate is 40 years.
6. This estimate assumes 72 modules/tracker for full length trackers and 24 modules/tracker for two-thirds length trackers.
7. This estimate assumes 13 piles/tracker for full length trackers and 9 piles/tracker for two-thirds length trackers.
8. This estimate assumes 77,162 LB of support assemblies per 1 MW output.
9. Material salvage values were based off of current US salvage exchange rates.
10. Photovoltaic Module material salvage rate is based on straight-line depreciation of modules (-0.5% per year).
11. Material salvage values were determined using the most prevalent salvageable metal in each component. Copper Wire @$2.96/LF (AC and DC Cables) and Steel @0.09/LF of fence, @$0.09/pile, and @$0.09/LB.
12. Inverter resale value is dependent on the assumption that all inverters will be decommissioned and resold half way through their useful life (every 5 years).
13. Costs for official decommissioning bond shall include but not be limited legal fees, engineering fees, accounting fees, insurance costs, and the above estimated costs per Schuyler County Zoning Ordinance.

EXHIBIT F: AGRICULTURAL IMPACT MITIGATION AGREEMENT (AIMA)

Illinois Department of Agriculture

JB Pritzker, Governor
Jerry Costello II, Director

Bureau of Land and Water Resources
State Fairgrounds • P.O. Box 19281 • Springfield, IL 62794-9281 • 217/782-6297 • TDD 866/287-2999 • Fax 217/557-0993

April 18, 2023

Dear Landowner:

As the landowner across which the Bader Sun LLC is planning to construct a community scale solar farm and related ±5 MW Commercial Solar Energy Facility, that will consist of solar panel arrays, racking systems, access roads, an onsite underground collection system, inverters and transformers, the Illinois Department of Agriculture would like to inform you of the following matter.

Effective April 13, 2023, Bader Sun LLC and the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) entered into an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) establishing standards and policies that Bader Sun LLC will follow as it constructs a ±5 MW community scale commercial Solar Energy Facility over agricultural land in Schuyler County. The enclosed AIMA will provide a high level of protection to such land, but it may not address specific concerns that you may have. Such concerns must be addressed individually in your own easement contract to accomplish your specific goals.

As you review the AIMA, you may identify procedures that you would like to change. Your right to negotiate changes is preserved by Paragraph B. on page one of the AIMA. It states, "Except for Section 17B. through F., all actions set forth in this AIMA are subject to modification through negotiation by Landowners and the Facility Owner, provided such changes are negotiated in advance of the respective Construction or Deconstruction activities." It is your decision as to whether you discuss the changes you desire with the right-of-way agent that is assigned to you. Of course, you also have the option to seek your own attorney to make sure your interests are protected.

As you consider your personal interests, you may want to include the owner indemnification clause in your individual easement agreement to protect yourself, your family and future heirs against future claims or expenses arising from the commercial solar energy facility's construction, repairs and maintenance. This item is covered in Section 16 of the AIMA. We feel it is best that such issues are left to landowners to address in their individual easement contracts if specific items are of concern.

Please note that although the IDOA has entered the AIMA with the Bader Sun LLC it does not constitute our endorsement of the project. The AIMA's sole purpose is to provide a high level of protection to landowners and agricultural land that will be impacted by the construction of the Solar Farm.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Jeffrey Evers of my staff at 217-785-5594, the address listed above or agr.aima@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

Brian Rennecker, Chief
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

Enclosure
BR:JE

cc: Jerry Costello II, IDOA Director
Tess Feagans, IDOA
Bill Bodine, Laura Harmon - IL Farm Bureau
Garrett W. Thalgott – IL Farm Bureau
Schuyler Co. Farm Bureau Manager
Schuyler Co. Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
Regional Representatives

STANDARD AGRICULTURAL IMPACT MITIGATION AGREEMENT
between
BADER SUN LLC

and the
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Pertaining to the Construction of a Commercial Solar Energy Facility
in
SCHUYLER County, Illinois

Pursuant to the Renewable Energy Facilities Agricultural Impact Mitigation Act (505 ILCS 147), the following standards and policies are required by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) to help preserve the integrity of any Agricultural Land that is impacted by the Construction and Deconstruction of a Commercial Solar Energy Facility. They were developed with the cooperation of agricultural agencies, organizations, Landowners, Tenants, drainage contractors, and solar energy companies to comprise this Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA).

BADER SUN LLC, hereafter referred to as Commercial Solar Energy Facility Owner, or simply as Facility Owner, plans to develop and/or operate a 5 MW AC Commercial Solar Energy Facility in SCHUYLER County [GPS Coordinates: 40.187137, -90.339850], which will consist of up to 40 acres that will be covered by solar facility related components, such as solar panel arrays, racking systems, access roads, an onsite underground collection system, inverters and transformers and any affiliated electric transmission lines. This AIMA is made and entered between the Facility Owner and the IDOA.

If Construction does not commence within four years after this AIMA has been fully executed, this AIMA shall be revised, with the Facility Owner's input, to reflect the IDOA's most current Solar Farm Construction and Deconstruction Standards and Policies. This AIMA, and any updated AIMA, shall be filed with the County Board by the Facility Owner prior to the commencement of Construction.

The below prescribed standards and policies are applicable to Construction and Deconstruction activities occurring partially or wholly on privately owned agricultural land.

Conditions of the AIMA

The mitigative actions specified in this AIMA shall be subject to the following conditions:

A. All Construction or Deconstruction activities may be subject to County or other local requirements. However, the specifications outlined in this AIMA shall be the minimum standards applied to all Construction or Deconstruction activities. IDOA may utilize any legal means to enforce this AIMA.

B. Except for Section 17. B. through F., all actions set forth in this AIMA are subject to modification through negotiation by Landowners and the Facility Owner, provided such changes are negotiated in advance of the respective Construction or Deconstruction activities.

C. The Facility Owner may negotiate with Landowners to carry out the actions that Landowners wish to perform themselves. In such instances, the Facility Owner shall offer Landowners the area commercial rate for their machinery and labor costs.

D. All provisions of this AIMA shall apply to associated future Construction, maintenance, repairs, and Deconstruction of the Facility referenced by this AIMA.

E. The Facility Owner shall keep the Landowners and Tenants informed of the Facility's Construction and Deconstruction status, and other factors that may have an impact upon their farming operations.

F. The Facility Owner shall include a statement of its adherence to this AIMA in any environmental assessment and/or environmental impact statement.

G. Execution of this AIMA shall be made a condition of any Conditional/Special Use Permit. Not less than 30 days prior to the commencement of Construction, a copy of this AIMA shall be provided by the Facility Owner to each Landowner that is party to an Underlying Agreement. In addition, this AIMA shall be incorporated into each Underlying Agreement.

H. The Facility Owner shall implement all actions to the extent that they do not conflict with the requirements of any applicable federal, state and local rules and regulations and other permits and approvals that are obtained by the Facility Owner for the Facility.

I. No later than 45 days prior to the Construction and/or Deconstruction of a Facility, the Facility Owner shall provide the Landowner(s) with a telephone number the Landowner can call to alert the Facility Owner should the Landowner(s) have questions or concerns with the work which is being done or has been carried out on his/her property.

J. If there is a change in ownership of the Facility, the Facility Owner assuming ownership of the Facility shall provide written notice within 90 days of ownership transfer, to the Department, the County, and to Landowners of such change. The Financial Assurance requirements and the other terms of this AIMA shall apply to the new Facility Owner.

K. The Facility Owner shall comply with all local, state and federal laws and regulations, specifically including the worker protection standards to protect workers from pesticide exposure.

L. Within 30 days of execution of this AIMA, the Facility Owner shall use Best Efforts to provide the IDOA with a list of all Landowners that are party to an Underlying Agreement and known Tenants of said Landowner who may be affected by the Facility. As the list of Landowners and Tenants is updated, the Facility Owner shall notify the IDOA of any additions or deletions.

M. If any provision of this AIMA is held to be unenforceable, no other provision shall be affected by that holding, and the remainder of the AIMA shall be interpreted as if it did not contain the unenforceable provision.

Definitions

Abandonment	When Deconstruction has not been completed within 12 months after the Commercial Solar Energy Facility reaches the end of its useful life. For purposes of this definition, a Commercial Solar Energy Facility shall be presumed to have reached the end of its useful life if the Commercial Solar Energy Facility Owner fails, for a period of 6 consecutive months, to pay the Landowner amounts owed in accordance with an Underlying Agreement.

Aboveground Cable	Electrical power lines installed above ground surface to be utilized for conveyance of power from the solar panels to the solar facility inverter and/or point of interconnection to utility grid or customer electric meter.
Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA)	The Agreement between the Facility Owner and the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) described herein.
Agricultural Land	Land used for Cropland, hayland, pastureland, managed woodlands, truck gardens, farmsteads, commercial ag-related facilities, feedlots, livestock confinement systems, land on which farm buildings are located, and land in government conservation programs used for purposes as set forth above.
Best Efforts	Diligent, good faith, and commercially reasonable efforts to achieve a given objective or obligation.
Commercial Operation Date	The calendar date of which the Facility Owner notifies the Landowner, County, and IDOA in writing that commercial operation of the facility has commenced. If the Facility Owner fails to provide such notifications, the Commercial Operation Date shall be the execution date of this AIMA plus 6 months.
Commercial Solar Energy Facility (Facility)	A solar energy conversion facility equal to or greater than 500 kilowatts in total nameplate capacity, including a solar energy conversion facility seeking an extension of a permit to construct granted by a county or municipality before June 29, 2018. "Commercial solar energy facility" does not include a solar energy conversion facility: (1) for which a permit to construct has been issued before June 29, 2018; (2) that is located on land owned by the commercial solar energy facility owner; (3) that was constructed before June 29, 2018; or (4) that is located on the customer side of the customer's electric meter and is primarily used to offset that customer's electricity load and is limited in nameplate capacity to less than or equal to 2,000 kilowatts.
Commercial Solar Energy Facility Owner deemed (Facility Owner)	A person or entity that owns a commercial solar energy facility. A Commercial Solar Energy Facility Owner is not nor shall it be to be a public utility as defined in the Public Utilities Act.
County	The County or Counties where the Commercial Solar Energy Facility is located.
Construction	The installation, preparation for installation and/or repair of a Facility.
Cropland	Land used for growing row crops, small grains or hay; includes land which was formerly used as cropland, but is currently enrolled in a government conservation program; also includes pastureland that is classified as Prime Farmland.

Deconstruction	The removal of a Facility from the property of a Landowner and the restoration of that property as provided in the AIMA.
Deconstruction Plan	A plan prepared by a Professional Engineer, at the Facility's expense, that includes: (1) the estimated Deconstruction cost, in current dollars at the time of filing, for the Facility, considering among other things: i. the number of solar panels, racking, and related facilities involved; ii. the original Construction costs of the Facility; iii. the size and capacity, in megawatts of the Facility; iv. the salvage value of the facilities (if all interests in salvage value are subordinate to that of the Financial Assurance holder if abandonment occurs); v. the Construction method and techniques for the Facility and for other similar facilities; and (2) a comprehensive detailed description of how the Facility Owner plans to pay for the Deconstruction of the Facility.
Department	The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA).
Financial Assurance	A reclamation or surety bond or other commercially available financial assurance that is acceptable to the County, with the County or Landowner as beneficiary.
Landowner	Any person with an ownership interest in property that is used for agricultural purposes and that is party to an Underlying Agreement.
Prime Farmland	Agricultural Land comprised of soils that are defined by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as "Prime Farmland" (generally considered to be the most productive soils with the least input of nutrients and management).
Professional Engineer	An engineer licensed to practice engineering in the State of Illinois.
Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)	A unit of local government that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible Landowners for the conservation of soil and water resources.
Tenant	Any person, apart from the Facility Owner, lawfully residing or leasing/renting land that is subject to an Underlying Agreement.
Topsoil	The uppermost layer of the soil that has the darkest color or the highest content of organic matter; more specifically, it is defined as the "A" horizon.
Underlying Agreement	The written agreement between the Facility Owner and the Landowner(s) including, but not limited to, an easement, option, lease, or license under the terms of which another person has constructed, constructs, or intends to construct a Facility on the property of the Landowner.

Underground Cable	Electrical power lines installed below the ground surface to be utilized for conveyance of power within a Facility or from a Commercial Solar Energy Facility to the electric grid.
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	An agency of the United States Department of Agriculture that provides America's farmers with financial and technical assistance to aid with natural resources conservation.

Construction and Deconstruction Standards and Policies

1. Support Structures

A. Only single pole support structures shall be used for the Construction and operation of the Facility on Agricultural Land. Other types of support structures, such as lattice towers or H-frames, may be used on nonagricultural land.

B. Where a Facility's Aboveground Cable will be adjacent and parallel to highway and/or railroad right-of-way, but on privately owned property, the support structures shall be placed as close as reasonably practicable and allowable by the applicable County Engineer or other applicable authorities to the highway or railroad right-of-way. The only exceptions may be at jogs or weaves on the highway alignment or along highways or railroads where transmission and distribution lines are already present.

C. When it is not possible to locate Aboveground Cable next to highway or railroad right-of-way, Best Efforts shall be expended to place all support poles in such a manner to minimize their placement on Cropland (i.e., longer than normal above ground spans shall be utilized when traversing Cropland).

2. Aboveground Facilities

Locations for facilities shall be selected in a manner that is as unobtrusive as reasonably possible to ongoing agricultural activities occurring on the land that contains or is adjacent to the Facility.

3. Guy Wires and Anchors

Best Efforts shall be made to place guy wires and their anchors, if used, out of Cropland, pastureland and hayland, placing them instead along existing utilization lines and on land other than Cropland. Where this is not feasible, Best Efforts shall be made to minimize guy wire impact on Cropland. All guy wires shall be shielded with highly visible guards.

4. Underground Cabling Depth

A. Underground electrical cables located outside the perimeter of the (fence) of the solar panels shall be buried with:

1. a minimum of 5 feet of top cover where they cross Cropland.
2. a minimum of 5 feet of top cover where they cross pastureland or other non-Cropland classified as Prime Farmland.
3. a minimum of 3 feet of top cover where they cross pastureland and other Agricultural Land not classified as Prime Farmland.

4. a minimum of 3 feet of top cover where they cross wooded/brushy land.

B. Provided that the Facility Owner removes the cables during Deconstruction, underground electric cables may be installed to a minimum depth of 18 inches:

1. Within the fenced perimeter of the Facility; or

2. When buried under an access road associated with the Facility provided that the location and depth of cabling is clearly marked at the surface.

C. If Underground Cables within the fenced perimeter of the solar panels are installed to a minimum depth of 5 feet, they may remain in place after Deconstruction.

5. Topsoil Removal and Replacement

A. Any excavation shall be performed in a manner to preserve topsoil. Best Efforts shall be made to store the topsoil near the excavation site in such a manner that it will not become intermixed with subsoil materials.

B. Best Efforts shall be made to store all disturbed subsoil material near the excavation site and separate from the topsoil.

C. When backfilling an excavation site, Best Efforts shall be used to ensure the stockpiled subsoil material will be placed back into the excavation site before replacing the topsoil.

D. Refer to Section 7 for procedures pertaining to rock removal from the subsoil and topsoil.

E. Refer to Section 8 for procedures pertaining to the repair of compaction and rutting of the topsoil.

F. Best Efforts shall be performed to place the topsoil in a manner so that after settling occurs, the topsoil's original depth and contour will be restored as close as reasonably practicable. The same shall apply where excavations are made for road, stream, drainage ditch, or other crossings. In no instance shall the topsoil materials be used for any other purpose unless agreed to explicitly and in writing by the Landowner.

G. Based on the mutual agreement of the landowner and Facility Owner, excess soil material resulting from solar facility excavation shall either be removed or stored on the Landowner's property and reseeded per the applicable National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit/Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). After the Facility reaches the end of its Useful Life, the excess subsoil material shall be returned to an excavation site or removed from the Landowner's property, unless otherwise agreed to by Landowner.

6. Rerouting and Permanent Repair of Agricultural Drainage Tiles

The following standards and policies shall apply to underground drainage tile line(s) directly or indirectly affected by Construction and/or Deconstruction:

A. Prior to Construction, the Facility Owner shall work with the Landowner to identify drainage tile lines traversing the property subject to the Underlying Agreement to the extent reasonably practicable. All drainage tile lines identified in this manner shall be shown on the Construction and Deconstruction Plans.

B. The location of all drainage tile lines located adjacent to or within the footprint of the Facility shall be recorded using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology. Within 60 days after Construction is complete, the Facility Owner shall provide the Landowner, the IDOA, and the respective County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) with "as built" drawings (strip maps) showing the location of all drainage tile lines by survey station encountered in the Construction of the Facility, including any tile line repair location(s), and any underground cable installed as part of the Facility.

C. **Maintaining Surrounding Area Subsurface Drainage**

If drainage tile lines are damaged by the Facility, the Facility Owner shall repair the lines or install new drainage tile line(s) of comparable quality and cost to the original(s), and of sufficient size and appropriate slope in locations that limit direct impact from the Facility. If the damaged tile lines cause an unreasonable disruption to the drainage system, as determined by the Landowner, then such repairs shall be made promptly to ensure appropriate drainage. Any new line(s) may be located outside of, but adjacent to the perimeter of the Facility. Disrupted adjacent drainage tile lines shall be attached thereto to provide an adequate outlet for the disrupted adjacent tile lines.

D. **Re-establishing Subsurface Drainage Within Facility Footprint**

Following Deconstruction and using Best Efforts, if underground drainage tile lines were present within the footprint of the facility and were severed or otherwise damaged during original Construction, facility operation, and/or facility Deconstruction, the Facility Owner shall repair existing drainage tiles or install new drainage tile lines of comparable quality and cost to the original, within the footprint of the Facility with sufficient capacity to restore the underground drainage capacity that existed within the footprint of the Facility prior to Construction. Such installation shall be completed within 12 months after the end of the useful life of the Facility and shall be compliant with Figures 1 and 2 to this Agreement or based on prudent industry standards if agreed to by Landowner.

E. If there is any dispute between the Landowner and the Facility Owner on the method of permanent drainage tile line repair, the appropriate County SWCD's opinion shall be considered by the Facility Owner and the Landowner.

F. During Deconstruction, all additional permanent drainage tile line repairs beyond those included above in Section 6.D. must be made within 30 days of identification or notification of the damage, weather and soil conditions permitting. At other times, such repairs must be made at a time mutually agreed upon by the Facility Owner and the Landowner. If the Facility Owner and Landowner cannot agree upon a reasonable method to complete this restoration, the Facility Owner may implement the recommendations of the appropriate County SWCD and such implementation constitutes compliance with this provision.

G. Following completion of the work required pursuant to this Section, the Facility Owner shall be responsible for correcting all drainage tile line repairs that fail due to Construction and/or Deconstruction for one year following the completion of Construction or Deconstruction, provided those repairs were made by the Facility Owner. The Facility Owner shall not be responsible for drainage tile repairs that the Facility Owner pays the Landowner to perform.

7. Rock Removal

With any excavations, the following rock removal procedures pertain only to rocks found in the uppermost 42 inches of soil, the common freeze zone in Illinois, which emerged or were brought to the site as a result of Construction and/or Deconstruction.

A. Before replacing any topsoil, Best Efforts shall be taken to remove all rocks greater than 3 inches in any dimension from the surface of exposed subsoil which emerged or were brought to the site as a result of Construction and/or Deconstruction.

B. If trenching, blasting, or boring operations are required through rocky terrain, precautions shall be taken to minimize the potential for oversized rocks to become interspersed in adjacent soil material.

C. Rocks and soil containing rocks removed from the subsoil areas, topsoil, or from any excavations, shall be removed from the Landowner's premises or disposed of on the Landowner's premises at a location that is mutually acceptable to the Landowner and the Facility Owner.

8. Repair of Compaction and Rutting

A. Unless the Landowner opts to do the restoration work on compaction and rutting, after the topsoil has been replaced post-Deconstruction, all areas within the boundaries of the Facility that were traversed by vehicles and Construction and/or Deconstruction equipment that exhibit compaction and rutting shall be restored by the Facility Owner. All prior Cropland shall be ripped at least 18 inches deep or to the extent practicable, and all pasture and woodland shall be ripped at least 12 inches deep or to the extent practicable. The existence of drainage tile lines or underground utilities may necessitate less ripping depth. The disturbed area shall then be disked.

B. All ripping and disking shall be done at a time when the soil is dry enough for normal tillage operations to occur on Cropland adjacent to the Facility.

C. The Facility Owner shall restore all rutted land to a condition as close as possible to its original condition upon Deconstruction, unless necessary earlier as determined by the Landowner.

D. If there is any dispute between the Landowner and the Facility Owner as to what areas need to be ripped/disked or the depth at which compacted areas should be ripped/disked, the appropriate County SWCD's opinion shall be considered by the Facility Owner and the Landowner.

9. Construction During Wet Weather

Except as provided below, construction activities are not allowed on agricultural land during times when normal farming operations, such as plowing, disking, planting or harvesting, cannot take place due to excessively wet soils. With input from the landowner, wet weather conditions may be determined on a field by field basis.

A. Construction activities on prepared surfaces, surfaces where topsoil and subsoil have been removed, heavily compacted in preparation, or otherwise stabilized (e.g. through cement mixing) may occur at the discretion of the Facility Owner in wet weather conditions.

B. Construction activities on unprepared surfaces will be done only when work will not result in rutting which may mix subsoil and topsoil. Determination as to the potential of subsoil and topsoil mixing will be made in consultation with the underlying Landowner, or, if approved by the Landowner, his/her designated tenant or designee.

10. Prevention of Soil Erosion

A. The Facility Owner shall work with Landowners and create and follow a SWPPP to prevent excessive erosion on land that has been disturbed by Construction or Deconstruction of a Facility.

B. If the Landowner and Facility Owner cannot agree upon a reasonable method to control erosion on the Landowner's property, the Facility Owner shall consider the recommendations of the appropriate County SWCD to resolve the disagreement.

C. The Facility Owner may, per the requirements of the project SWPPP and in consultation with the Landowner, seed appropriate vegetation around all panels and other facility components to prevent erosion. The Facility Owner must utilize Best Efforts to ensure that all seed mixes will be as free of any noxious weed seeds as possible. The Facility Owner shall consult with the Landowner regarding appropriate varieties to seed.

11. Repair of Damaged Soil Conservation Practices

Consultation with the appropriate County SWCD by the Facility Owner shall be carried out to determine if there are soil conservation practices (such as terraces, grassed waterways, etc.) that will be damaged by the Construction and/or Deconstruction of the Facility. Those conservation practices shall be restored to their preconstruction condition as close as reasonably practicable following Deconstruction in accordance with USDA NRCS technical standards. All repair costs shall be the responsibility of the Facility Owner.

12. Compensation for Damages to Private Property

The Facility Owner shall reasonably compensate Landowners for damages caused by the Facility Owner. Damage to Agricultural Land shall be reimbursed to the Landowner as prescribed in the applicable Underlying Agreement.

13. Clearing of Trees and Brush

A. If trees are to be removed for the Construction or Deconstruction of a Facility, the Facility Owner shall consult with the Landowner to determine if there are trees of commercial or other value to the Landowner.

B. If there are trees of commercial or other value to the Landowner, the Facility Owner shall allow the Landowner the right to retain ownership of the trees to be removed and the disposition of the removed trees shall be negotiated prior to the commencement of land clearing.

14. Access Roads

A. To the extent practicable, access roads shall be designed to not impede surface drainage and shall be built to minimize soil erosion on or near the access roads.

B. Access roads may be left intact during Construction, operation or Deconstruction through mutual agreement of the Landowner and the Facility Owner unless otherwise restricted by federal, state, or local regulations.

C. If the access roads are removed, Best Efforts shall be expended to assure that the land shall be restored to equivalent condition(s) as existed prior to their construction, or as otherwise agreed to by the Facility Owner and the Landowner. All access roads that are removed shall be ripped to a depth of 18 inches. All ripping shall be performed consistent with Section 8.

15. Weed/Vegetation Control

A. The Facility Owner shall provide for weed control in a manner that prevents the spread of weeds. Chemical control, if used, shall be done by an appropriately licensed pesticide applicator.

B. The Facility Owner shall be responsible for the reimbursement of all reasonable costs incurred by owners of agricultural land where it has been determined by the appropriate state or county entity that weeds have spread from the Facility to their property. Reimbursement is contingent upon written notice to the Facility Owner. Facility Owner shall reimburse the property owner within 45 days after notice is received.

C. The Facility Owner shall ensure that all vegetation growing within the perimeter of the Facility is properly and appropriately maintained. Maintenance may include, but not be limited to, mowing, trimming, chemical control, or the use of livestock as agreed to by the Landowner.

D. The Deconstruction plans must include provisions for the removal of all weed control equipment used in the Facility, including weed-control fabrics or other ground covers.

16. Indemnification of Landowners

The Facility Owner shall indemnify all Landowners, their heirs, successors, legal representatives, and assigns from and against all claims, injuries, suits, damages, costs, losses, and reasonable expenses resulting from or arising out of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility, including Construction and Deconstruction thereof, and also including damage to such Facility or any of its appurtenances, except where claims, injuries, suits, damages, costs, losses, and expenses are caused by the negligence or intentional acts, or willful omissions of such Landowners, and/or the Landowners heirs, successors, legal representatives, and assigns.

17. Deconstruction Plans and Financial Assurance of Commercial Solar Energy Facilities

A. Deconstruction of a Facility shall include the removal/disposition of all solar related equipment/facilities, including the following utilized for operation of the Facility and located on Landowner property:

1. Solar panels, cells and modules;
2. Solar panel mounts and racking, including any helical piles, ground screws, ballasts, or other anchoring systems;
3. Solar panel foundations, if used (to depth of 5 feet);

4. Transformers, inverters, energy storage facilities, or substations, including all components and foundations; however, Underground Cables at a depth of 5 feet or greater may be left in place;
5. Overhead collection system components;
6. Operations/maintenance buildings, spare parts buildings and substation/switching gear buildings unless otherwise agreed to by the Landowner;
7. Access Road(s) unless Landowner requests in writing that the access road is to remain;
8. Operation/maintenance yard/staging area unless otherwise agreed to by the Landowner; and
9. Debris and litter generated by Deconstruction and Deconstruction crews.

B. The Facility Owner shall, at its expense, complete Deconstruction of a Facility within twelve (12) months after the end of the useful life of the Facility.

C. During the County permit process, or if none, then prior to the commencement of construction, the Facility Owner shall file with the County a Deconstruction Plan. The Facility Owner shall file an updated Deconstruction Plan with the County on or before the end of the tenth year of commercial operation.

D. The Facility Owner shall provide the County with Financial Assurance to cover the estimated costs of Deconstruction of the Facility. Provision of this Financial Assurance shall be phased in over the first 11 years of the Project's operation as follows:

1. On or before the first anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date, the Facility Owner shall provide the County with Financial Assurance to cover ten (10) percent of the estimated costs of Deconstruction of the Facility as determined in the Deconstruction Plan.
2. On or before the sixth anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date, the Facility Owner shall provide the County with Financial Assurance to cover fifty (50) percent of the estimated costs of Deconstruction of the Facility as determined in the Deconstruction Plan.
3. On or before the eleventh anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date, the Facility Owner shall provide the County with Financial Assurance to cover one hundred (100) percent of the estimated costs of Deconstruction of the Facility as determined in the updated Deconstruction Plan provided during the tenth year of commercial operation.

The Financial Assurance shall not release the surety from liability until the Financial Assurance is replaced. The salvage value of the Facility may only be used to reduce the estimated costs of Deconstruction if the County agrees that all interests in the salvage value are subordinate or have been subordinated to that of the County if Abandonment occurs.

E. The County may, but is not required to, reevaluate the estimated costs of Deconstruction of any Facility after the tenth anniversary, and every five years thereafter, of the Commercial Operation Date. Based on any reevaluation, the County may require changes in the level of Financial Assurance used to calculate the phased Financial Assurance levels described in Section 17.D. required from the Facility Owner. If the County is unable to its satisfaction to perform the investigations necessary to approve the Deconstruction Plan filed by the Facility Owner, then the County and Facility may mutually agree on the selection of a Professional Engineer independent of the Facility Owner to conduct any necessary investigations. The Facility Owner shall be responsible for the cost of any such investigations.

F. Upon Abandonment, the County may take all appropriate actions for Deconstruction including drawing upon the Financial Assurance.

Concurrence of the Parties to this AIMA

The Illinois Department of Agriculture and BADER SUN LLC concur that this AIMA is the complete AIMA governing the mitigation of agricultural impacts that may result from the Construction and Deconstruction of the solar farm project in SCHUYLER County within the State of Illinois.

The effective date of this AIMA commences on the date of execution.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Jerry Costello II

By: Jerry Costello II, Director

T Feagans

By [redacted], General Counsel
Tess Feagans, Acting

801 E. Sangamon Avenue, 62702
State Fairgrounds, POB 19281 Springfield,
IL 62794-9281

April 13, 2023

BADER SUN LLC

DocuSigned by:
alexander v farkes
C5181BAE55D5405...

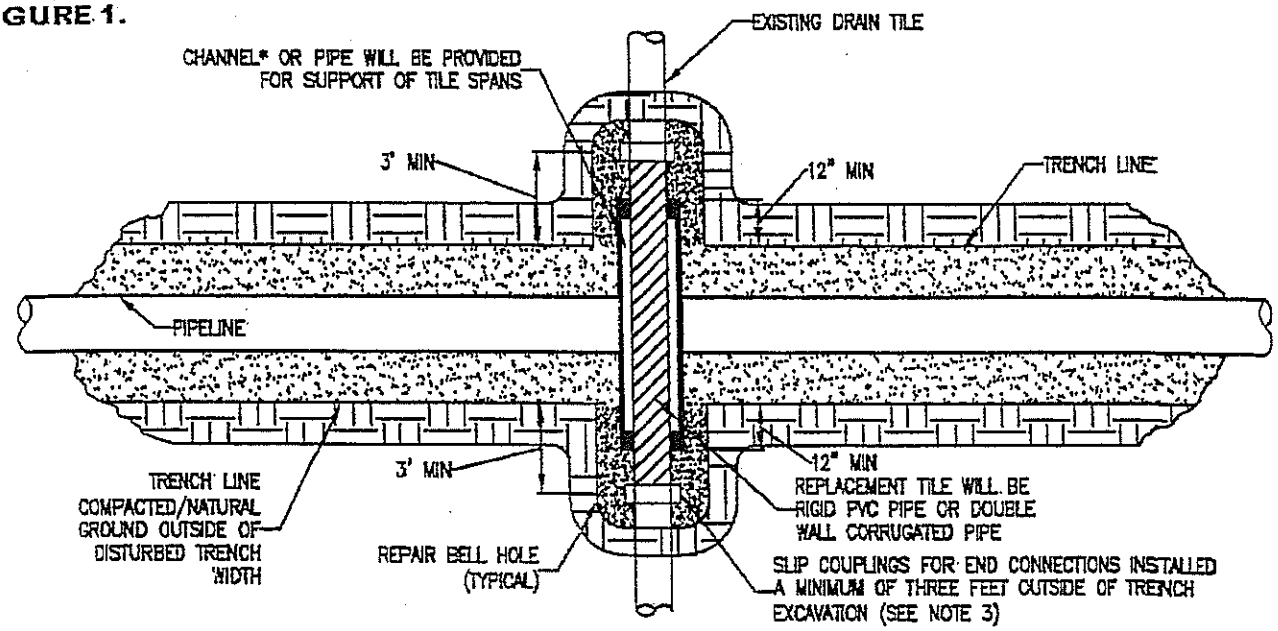
By ALEXANDER FARKES, OWNER

4649 N BROADWAY STREET,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60640

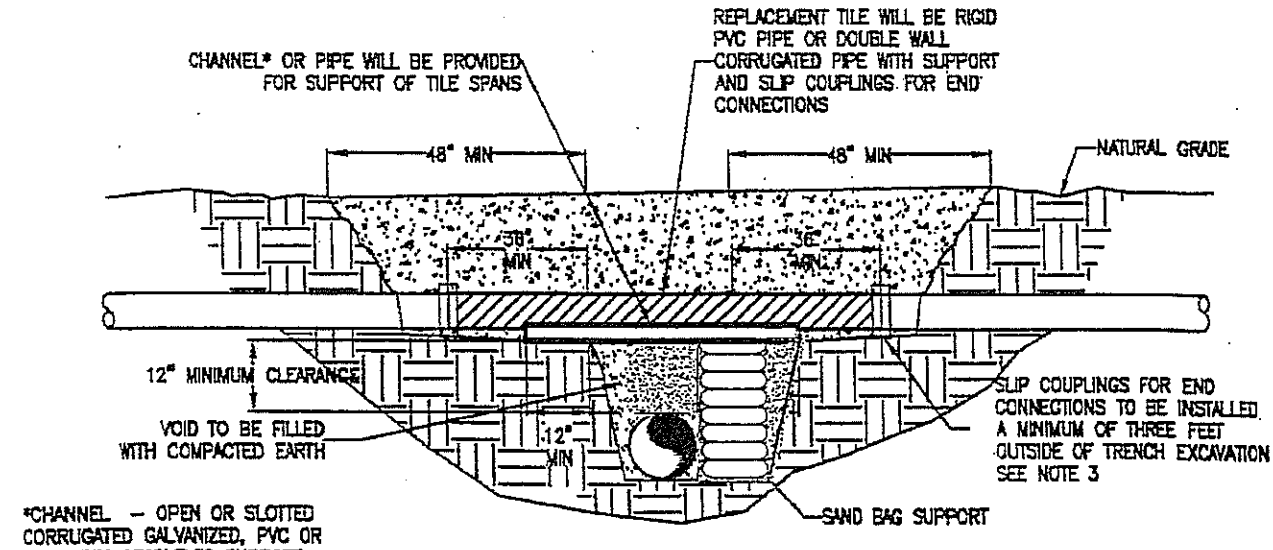
Address

MARCH 9TH, 2023

FIGURE 1.



PLAN
N.T.S.



*CHANNEL – OPEN OR SLOTTED CORRUGATED GALVANIZED, PVC OR ALUMINUM CRADLE TO SUPPORT DRAIN TILE.

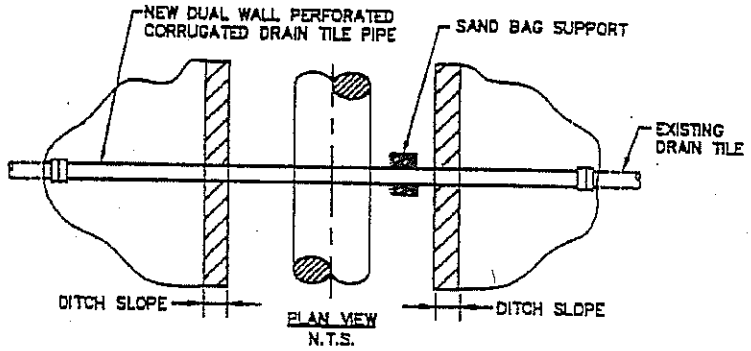
CROSS SECTION
N.T.S.

NOTE:

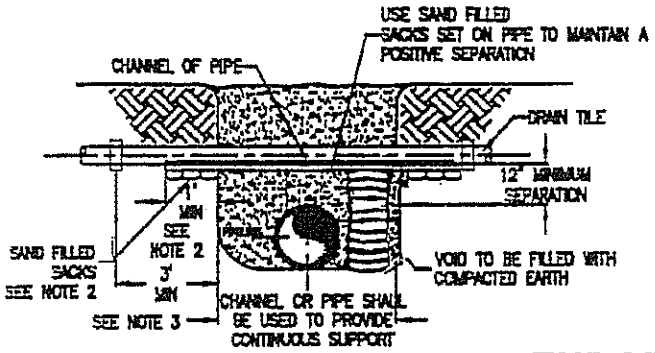
1. IMMEDIATELY REPAIR TILE IF WATER IS FLOWING THROUGH TILE AT TIME OF TRENCHING. IF NO WATER IS FLOWING AND TEMPORARY REPAIR IS DELAYED, OR NOT MADE BY THE END OF THE WORK DAY, A SCREEN OR APPROPRIATE 'NIGHT CAP' SHALL BE PLACED ON OPEN ENDS OF TILE TO PREVENT ENTRAPMENT OF ANIMALS ETC.
2. CHANNEL OR PIPE (OPEN OR SLOTTED) MADE OF CORRUGATED GALVANIZED PIPE, PVC OR ALUMINUM WILL BE USED FOR SUPPORT OF DRAIN TILE SPANS.
3. INDUSTRY STANDARDS SHALL BE FOLLOWED TO ENSURE PROPER SEAL OF REPAIRED DRAIN TILES.

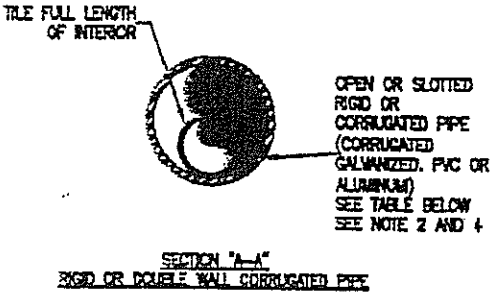
TEMPORARY DRAIN TILE REPAIR

FIGURE 2.



PLAN VIEW





END VIEWS

MINIMUM SUPPORT TABLE			
TILE SIZE	CHANNEL SIZE	PIPE SIZE	
3"	4" @ 5.4 #/ft	4"	STD. WT.
4"-5"	5" @ 8.7 #/ft	6"	STD. WT.
8"-9"	7" @ 9.8 #/ft	8"-10"	STD. WT.
10"	10" @ 15.3 #/ft	12"	STD. WT.

NOTE:

1. TILE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT SHALL MAINTAIN ORIGINAL ALIGNMENT GRADIENT AND WATER FLOW TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. IF THE TILE NEEDS TO BE RELOCATED, THE INSTALLATION ANGLE MAY VARY DUE TO SITE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS AND LANDOWNER RECOMMENDATIONS.
2. 1'-0" MINIMUM LENGTH OF CHANNEL OR RIGID PIPE (OPEN OR SLOTTED CORRUGATED GALVANIZED, PVC OR ALUMINUM CRADLE) SHALL BE SUPPORTED BY UNDISTURBED SOIL, OR IF CROSSING IS NOT AT RIGHT ANGLES TO PIPELINE, EQUIVALENT LENGTH PERPENDICULAR TO TRENCH. SHIM WITH SAND BAGS TO UNDISTURBED SOIL FOR SUPPORT AND DRAINAGE GRADIENT MAINTENANCE (TYPICAL BOTH SIDES).
3. DRAIN TILES WILL BE PERMANENTLY CONNECTED TO EXISTING DRAIN TILES A MINIMUM OF THREE FEET OUTSIDE OF EXCAVATED TRENCH LINE USING INDUSTRY STANDARDS TO ENSURE PROPER SEAL OF REPAIRED DRAIN TILES INCLUDING SLIP COUPLINGS.
4. DIAMETER OF RIGID PIPE SHALL BE OF ADEQUATE SIZE TO ALLOW FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE TILE FOR THE FULL LENGTH OF THE RIGID PIPE.
5. OTHER METHODS OF SUPPORTING DRAIN TILE MAY BE USED IF ALTERNATE PROPOSED IS EQUIVALENT IN STRENGTH TO THE CHANNEL/PIPE SECTIONS SHOWN AND IF APPROVED BY COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES AND LANDOWNER IN ADVANCE. SITE SPECIFIC ALTERNATE SUPPORT SYSTEM TO BE DEVELOPED BY COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES AND FURNISHED TO CONTRACTOR FOR SPANS IN EXCESS OF 20', TILE GREATER THEN 10" DIAMETER, AND FOR "HEADER" SYSTEMS.
6. ALL MATERIAL TO BE FURNISHED BY CONTRACTOR.
7. PRIOR TO REPAIRING TILE, CONTRACTOR SHALL PROBE LATERALLY INTO THE EXISTING TILE TO FULL WIDTH OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY TO DETERMINE IF ADDITIONAL DAMAGE HAS OCCURRED. ALL DAMAGED/DISTURBED TILE SHALL BE REPAIRED AS NEAR AS PRACTICABLE TO ITS ORIGINAL OR BETTER CONDITION.

PERMANENT DRAIN TILE REPAIR

EXHIBIT G: ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (IDNR) ECOCAT

EcoCAT
Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Applicant: 22c Development, LLC
Contact: Sean Hickey
Address: 4649 N Broadway
Chicago, IL 60640

IDNR Project Number: 2405213
Date: 09/28/2023

Project: Bader Sun 1,LLC
Address: Intersection of Bader rd and Sheldons Grove Rd, Astoria

Description: Construction of solar farm with associated access to roads and utilities

Natural Resource Review Results

Consultation for Endangered Species Protection and Natural Areas Preservation (Part 1075)

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves in the vicinity of the project location.

Consultation is terminated. This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary. Termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement.

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Fulton

Township, Range, Section:
3N, 1E, 36
3N, 2E, 31
, ,
, ,

County: Schuyler

Township, Range, Section:
, ,
, ,
2N, 1E, 1
2N, 2E, 6

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact
Adam Rawe
217-785-5500
Division of Ecosystems & Environment

Government Jurisdiction
IL Environmental Protection Agency
Terri LeMasters
1020 North Grand Avenue East
Springfield, Illinois 62794 -9276

Disclaimer

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database cannot provide a conclusive statement on the presence, absence, or condition of natural resources in Illinois. This review reflects the information existing in the Database at the time of this inquiry, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations is required.

Terms of Use

By using this website, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to these terms. These terms may be revised by IDNR as necessary. If you continue to use the EcoCAT application after we post changes to these terms, it will mean that you accept such changes. If at any time you do not accept the Terms of Use, you may not continue to use the website.

1. The IDNR EcoCAT website was developed so that units of local government, state agencies and the public could request information or begin natural resource consultations on-line for the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act, Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, and Illinois Interagency Wetland Policy Act. EcoCAT uses databases, Geographic Information System mapping, and a set of programmed decision rules to determine if proposed actions are in the vicinity of protected natural resources. By indicating your agreement to the Terms of Use for this application, you warrant that you will not use this web site for any other purpose.

2. Unauthorized attempts to upload, download, or change information on this website are strictly prohibited and may be punishable under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986 and/or the National Information Infrastructure Protection Act.

3. IDNR reserves the right to enhance, modify, alter, or suspend the website at any time without notice, or to terminate or restrict access.

Security

EcoCAT operates on a state of Illinois computer system. We may use software to monitor traffic and to identify unauthorized attempts to upload, download, or change information, to cause harm or otherwise to damage this site. Unauthorized attempts to upload, download, or change information on this server is strictly prohibited by law.

Unauthorized use, tampering with or modification of this system, including supporting hardware or software, may subject the violator to criminal and civil penalties. In the event of unauthorized intrusion, all relevant information regarding possible violation of law may be provided to law enforcement officials.

Privacy

EcoCAT generates a public record subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Otherwise, IDNR uses the information submitted to EcoCAT solely for internal tracking purposes.

EXHIBIT H: ECOSPHERE INFORMATION FOR PLANNING AND CONSULTATION (IPAC)

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Illinois-Iowa Ecological Services Field Office
Illinois & Iowa Ecological Services Field Office
1511 47th Ave
Moline, IL 61265-7022
Phone: (309) 757-5800 Fax: (309) 757-5807

In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2023-0078883
Project Name: Bader Sun LLC

May 08, 2023

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The attached species list identifies federally threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project or may be affected by your proposed project. The list also includes designated critical habitat, if present, within your proposed project area or affected by your project. This list is provided to you as the initial step of the consultation process required under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, also referred to as Section 7 Consultation.

Under 50 CFR 402.12(e) (the regulations that implement Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act) **the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days**. This verification can be completed formally or informally. You may verify the list by visiting the ECOSPHERE Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov at regular intervals during project planning and implementation and completing the same process you used to receive the attached list.

Section 7 Consultation

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by Federal agencies not jeopardize federally threatened or endangered species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. To fulfill this mandate, Federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representative) must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) if they determine their project “may affect” listed species or designated critical habitat. Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or its designated representative to determine if a proposed action may affect endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have

no effect on threatened or endangered species or their respective designated critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service.

Note: For some species or projects, IPaC will present you with *Determination Keys*. You may be able to use one or more Determination Keys to conclude consultation on your action.

Technical Assistance for Listed Species

1. For assistance in determining if suitable habitat for listed, candidate, or proposed species occurs within your project area or if species may be affected by project activities, you can obtain information on the species life history, species status, current range, and other documents by selecting the species from the thumbnails or list view and visiting the species profile page.

No Effect Determinations for Listed Species

1. If there are *no* species or designated critical habitats on the Endangered Species portion of the species list: conclude "no species and no critical habitat present" and document your finding in your project records. No consultation under ESA section 7(a)(2) is required if the action would result in no effects to listed species or critical habitat. Maintain a copy of this letter and IPaC official species list for your records.

2. If any species or designated critical habitat are listed as potentially present in the **action area** of the proposed project the project proponents are responsible for determining if the proposed action will have “no effect” on any federally listed species or critical habitat. No effect, with respect to species, means that no individuals of a species will be exposed to any consequence of a federal action or that they will not respond to such exposure.

3. If the species habitat is not present within the action area or current data (surveys) for the species in the action area are negative: conclude “no species habitat or species present” and document your finding in your project records. For example, if the project area is located entirely within a “developed area” (an area that is already graveled/paved or supports structures and the only vegetation is limited to frequently mowed grass or conventional landscaping, is located within an existing maintained facility yard, or is in cultivated cropland conclude no species habitat present. Be careful when assessing actions that affect: 1) rights-of-ways that contains natural or semi-natural vegetation despite periodic mowing or other management; structures that have been known to support listed species (example: bridges), and 2) surface water or groundwater. Several species inhabit rights-of-ways, and you should carefully consider effects to surface water or groundwater, which often extend outside of a project’s immediate footprint.

4. Adequacy of Information & Surveys - Agencies may base their determinations on the best evidence that is available or can be developed during consultation. Agencies must give the benefit of any doubt to the species when there are any inadequacies in the information. Inadequacies may include uncertainty in any step of the analysis. To provide adequate information on which to base a determination, it may be appropriate to conduct surveys to determine whether listed species or their habitats are present in the action area. Please contact our office for more information or see the survey guidelines that the Service has made available in IPaC.

May Effect Determinations for Listed Species

1. If the species habitat is present within the action area and survey data is unavailable or inconclusive: assume the species is present or plan and implement surveys and interpret results in coordination with our office. If assuming species present or surveys for the species are positive continue with the may affect determination process. May affect, with respect to a species, is the appropriate conclusion when a species might be exposed to a consequence of a federal action and could respond to that exposure. For critical habitat,

‘may affect’ is the appropriate conclusion if the action area overlaps with mapped areas of critical habitat and an essential physical or biological feature may be exposed to a consequence of a federal action and could change in response to that exposure.

2. Identify stressors or effects to the species and to the essential physical and biological features of critical habitat that overlaps with the action area. Consider all consequences of the action and assess the potential for each life stage of the species that occurs in the action area to be exposed to the stressors. Deconstruct the action into its component parts to be sure that you do not miss any part of the action that could cause effects to the species or physical and biological features of critical habitat. Stressors that affect species’ resources may have consequences even if the species is not present when the project is implemented.

3. If no listed or proposed species will be exposed to stressors caused by the action, a ‘no effect’ determination may be appropriate – be sure to separately assess effects to critical habitat, if any overlaps with the action area. If you determined that the proposed action or other activities that are caused by the proposed action may affect a species or critical habitat, the next step is to describe the manner in which they will respond or be altered. Specifically, to assess whether the species/critical habitat is "not likely to be adversely affected" or "likely to be adversely affected."

4. Determine how the habitat or the resource will respond to the proposed action (for example, changes in habitat quality, quantity, availability, or distribution), and assess how the species is expected to respond to the effects to its habitat or other resources. Critical habitat analyses focus on how the proposed action will affect the physical and biological features of the critical habitat in the action area. If there will be only beneficial effects or the effects of the action are expected to be insignificant or discountable, conclude "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" and submit your finding and supporting rationale to our office and request concurrence.

5. If you cannot conclude that the effects of the action will be wholly beneficial, insignificant, or discountable, check IPaC for species-specific Section 7 guidance and conservation measures to determine whether there are any measures that may be implemented to avoid or minimize the negative effects. If you modify your proposed action to include conservation measures, assess how inclusion of those measures will likely change the effects of the action. If you cannot conclude that the effects of the action will be wholly beneficial, insignificant, or discountable, contact our office for assistance.

6. Letters with requests for consultation or correspondence about your project should include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header. Electronic submission is preferred.

For additional information on completing Section 7 Consultation including a Glossary of Terms

used in the Section 7 Process, information requirements for completing Section 7, and example letters visit the Midwest Region Section 7 Consultations website at: https://www.fws.gov/office/midwest-region-headquarters/midwest-section-7-technical-assistance.
You may find more specific information on completing Section 7 on communication towers and transmission lines on the following websites:

- Incidental Take Beneficial Practices: Power Lines - https://www.fws.gov/story/incidental-take-beneficial-practices-power-lines
- Recommended Best Practices for Communication Tower Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Maintenance, and Decommissioning. - https://www.fws.gov/media/recommended-best-practices-communication-tower-design-siting-construction-operation

Northern Long-eared Bat Update

Please note that on March 23, 2022, the Service published a proposal to reclassify the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia has ordered the Service to complete a new final listing determination for the NLEB by November 2022 (Case 1:15-cv-00477, March 1, 2021). The bat, currently listed as threatened, faces extinction due to the range-wide impacts of white-nose syndrome (WNS), a deadly fungal disease affecting cave-dwelling bats across the continent. The proposed reclassification, if finalized, would remove the current 4(d) rule for the NLEB, as these rules may be applied only to threatened species. Depending on the type of effects a project has on NLEB, the change in the species' status may trigger the need to re-initiate consultation for any actions that are not completed and for which the Federal action agency retains discretion once the new listing determination becomes effective (anticipated to occur by December 30, 2022). If your project may result in incidental take of NLEB after the new listing goes into effect this will first need to addressed in an updated consultation that includes an Incidental Take Statement. If your project may require re-initiation of consultation, please contact our office for additional guidance.
Other Trust Resources and Activities

Bald and Golden Eagles

Although no longer protected under the Endangered Species Act, be aware that bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as are golden eagles. Projects affecting these species may require measures to avoid harming eagles or may require a permit. If your project is near an eagle nest or winter roost area, please contact our office for further coordination. For more information on permits and other eagle information visit our website https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management.
We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please feel free to contact our office with questions or for additional information.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries

- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

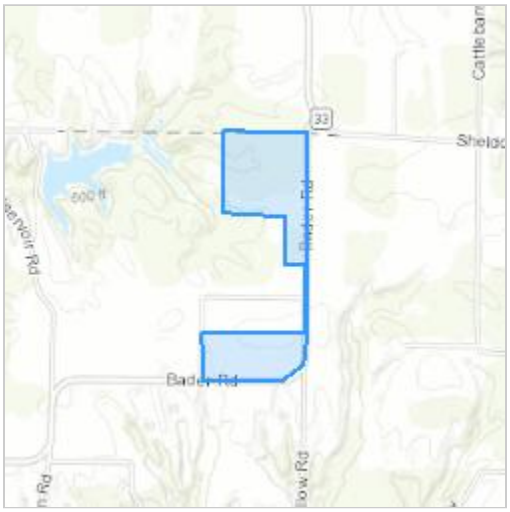
Illinois-Iowa Ecological Services Field Office
Illinois & Iowa Ecological Services Field Office
1511 47th Ave
Moline, IL 61265-7022
(309) 757-5800

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0078883
Project Name: Bader Sun LLC
Project Type: Power Gen - Solar
Project Description: On behalf of 22c, Kimley-Horn is initiating consultation with the USFWS to determine potential impacts to federally listed threatened and endangered species for a proposed solar facility, referred to as Bader Solar, LLC. The site primarily consists of cropland. The solar facility will include access roads and associated utilities.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@40.18298695,-90.33815768581184,14z



Counties: Fulton and Schuyler counties, Illinois

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 7 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

---

1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat *Myotis sodalis* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Endangered
Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflavus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Experimental Population, Non-Essential

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Decurrent False Aster *Boltonia decurrens* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7705	Threatened
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid *Platanthera leucophaea* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/601	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

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1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season (▪)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

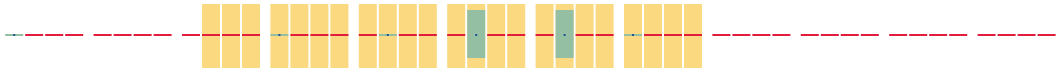
No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

▪ probability of presence ▪ breeding season | survey effort – no data

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Chimney Swift
BCC Rangewide
(CON)



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf

MIGRATORY BIRDS FAQ

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?
To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?
Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects
For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?
If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report
The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

WETLANDS

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

RIVERINE

- R4SBC

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Kimley-Horn
Name: Cole Kiernan
Address: 767 Eustis Street
City: Saint Paul
State: MN
Zip: 55774
Email cole.kiernan@kimley-horn.com
Phone: 6124009099

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Fulton and Schuyler counties, Illinois

Local office

Illinois-Iowa Ecological Services Field Office

(309) 757-5800
(309) 757-5807

Illinois & Iowa Ecological Services Field Office

Illinois & Iowa Ecological Services Field Office
1511 47th Ave
Moline, IL 61265-7022

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

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1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).

2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat Myotis sodalis Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Endangered
Tricolored Bat Perimyotis subflavus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Whooping Crane Grus americana No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	EXPN

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS

Decurrent False Aster Boltonia decurrens Threatened

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7705

Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Platanthera leucophaea Threatened

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/601

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

There are no documented cases of eagles being present at this location. However, if you believe eagles may be using your site, please reach out to the local Fish and Wildlife Service office.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Managment https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply). To see a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur. Please contact your local Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office if you have questions.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats[3] should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

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1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (▪)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

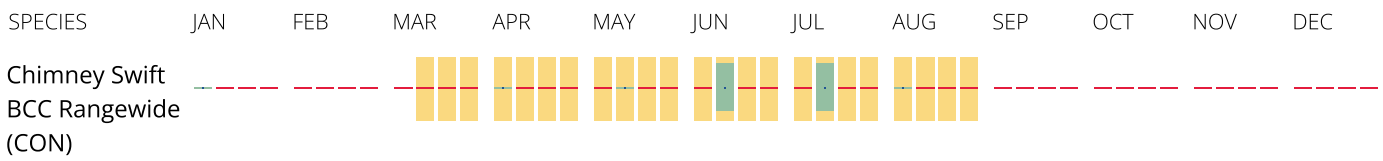
Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

▪ probability of presence ▪ breeding season | survey effort – no data



Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

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on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

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Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is

the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Wetland information is not available at this time

This can happen when the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map service is unavailable, or for very large projects that intersect many wetland areas. Try again, or visit the NWI map to view wetlands at this location.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

EXHIBIT I: STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO) CONCURRENCE

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
JB Pritzker, Governor • Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director
One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Schuyler County
Astoria
SW of N Bader Road & Sheldona Grove Road E
Section:1-Township:2N-Range:1E
PSAAP-23-131, IEPA
New construction, solar development

PLEASE REFER TO: SHPO LOG #007080123

August 25, 2023

Kevin P. McGowan, Ph.D.
Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program
Department of Anthropology
1707 S. Orchard St.
Urbana, IL 61801

Acres: 44 Sites: 0
Archaeological Contractor: PSAAP/McGowan

Thank you for your submittal. The Illinois State Historic Preservation Office is required by the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act (20 ILCS 3420, as amended, 17 IAC 4180) to review all state funded, permitted or licensed undertakings for their effect on cultural resources.

Our staff has reviewed the Phase I archaeological reconnaissance report for the project referenced above. The survey methodology and assessment of the archaeological resources appear to be adequate. Accordingly, we have determined that no significant historic, architectural, or archaeological resources are within the proposed project area.

According to the information you have provided there is no federal involvement in your project. Be aware that the state law is less restrictive than the federal cultural resource laws concerning archaeology. Therefore, if your project will use federal loans or grants, need federal agency permits, use federal property, or involve the assistance of federal agencies then your project must be reviewed under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Retain this letter in your files as evidence of compliance with the Illinois State Historic Resources Preservation Act. This clearance remains in effect for two (2) years from date of issuance. It does not pertain to any discovery during construction, nor is it a clearance for purposes of the Illinois Human Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440).

If further assistance is needed contact Jeff Kruchten, Principal Archaeologist, at 217/785-1279 or jeff.kruchten@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

Carey L. Mayer

Carey L. Mayer, AIA
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
CLM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE 44-ACRE NORTH BADER ROAD SOLAR DEVELOPMENT IN SCHUYLER COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Project No. 23-131

for submission to & funded by:

Mr. Alex Farkes.
22c Development, LLC
4649 North Broadway Street
Chicago, Illinois 60640

by:

Dr. Kevin McGowan
Director

29 July 2023

PUBLIC SERVICE
ARCHAEOLOGY&
ARCHITECTURE
PROGRAM

Department of Anthropology
1707 South Orchard Street
University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign,
Urbana, Illinois 61801

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY SHORT REPORT
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Old State Capitol Building
Springfield, Illinois 62701 (217/785-4997)

REVIEWER_____
Date: _____
_____Accepted _____Rejected
IHPA USE ONLY (Form ASSR0886)

SHPO Log:

Locational Information and Survey Conditions

County: Schuyler

Quadrangle: Augusta 7.5"

Project Type/Title: New Construction/ Solar Energy Array – North Bader Road Solar

Funding and/or Permitting Federal/State Agencies: IEPA
(i.e., CoE, HUD, IEPA, FmHA, etc.)

Sec: 01 **T.:** 02 N **R.:** 01 E **Natural Division (No.):** 7a

U.T.M.: E. 726255 to E. 726660 and N. 4451345 to N. 4452000, UTM Zone 15 North WGS84.

Project Description: Project is a proposed solar power collection array facility to be located southwest of the corner of North Bader Road and Sheldons Grove Road East near Astoria in Schuyler County, Illinois 61501.

Topography: The project area is located in the uplands between two intermittent drainages.

Soils: Soils mapped as occurring within the project area include: Keomah silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes; Sylvan silty clay loam, 10 to 18 percent slopes, severely eroded; Rozetta silt loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes; and Navlys silty clay loam, 5 to 10 percent slopes, severely eroded (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2023a).

Drainage: Intermittent to Illinois River.

Land Use/Ground Cover (Include % Visibility): The project area consists of agricultural fields that featured corn and soybeans with an average of 30 percent surface visibility.

Survey Limitations: Crop height limited visibility to individual rows.

Archaeological and Historical Information

Historic Plats/Atlases/Sources: See Selected Sources.

Previously Reported Sites: There are no previously reported sites in the project area.

Previous Surveys: The project area is not recorded as previously surveyed.

Regional Archaeologists Contacted: None.

Investigation Techniques: The project area was investigated by a 5-meter interval pedestrian reconnaissance.

Time Expended: 8 field hours.

Sites/Find Spots Located: n/a.

Cultural Material: None.

(Curated at) n/a.

Collection Techniques: n/a.

Areas Surveyed (Acres & Square Meters): 44.0 Acres (178,068 Square Meters).

(OVER)

Results of Investigation and Recommendations: *(Check One)*

XXX Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Has Located No Archaeological Material; Project Clearance Is Recommended.

___ Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Has Located Archaeological Materials; Site(s) Does (Do) Not Meet Requirements For National Register Eligibility; Project Clearance Is Recommended.

___ Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Has Located Archaeological Materials; Site(s) May Meet Requirements For National Register Eligibility; Phase II Testing Is Recommended.

___ Phase II Archaeological Investigation Has Indicated That Site(s) Does (Do) Not Meet Requirements For National Register Eligibility; Project Clearance Is Recommended.

___ Phase II Archaeological Investigation Has Indicated That Site(s) Meet Requirements For National Register Eligibility; Formal Report Is Pending And A Determination of Eligibility Is Recommended.

Comments: See Continuation Section.

Archaeological Contractor Information:

Archaeological Contractor: Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program

Address/Phone: Department of Anthropology (217) 333-1636
1707 South Orchard Street
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Surveyor(s): A. Coker, C. Jones **Survey Date(s):** 07/17/2023

Report Completed By: Kevin McGowan **Date:** 07/29/2023

Submitted By (Signature and Title): Kevin McGowan **Director**

Attachment Check List: (#1 Through #4 Are **MANDATORY**)

xxx 1) Relevant Portion of USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle Map(s) Showing Project Location And Any Recorded Sites;

xxx 2) Project Map(s) Depicting Survey Limits And, When Applicable, Approximate Site Limits, And Concentrations of Cultural Materials;

n/a 3) Site Form(s): One Copy of Each Form;

xxx 4) All Relevant Project Correspondence;

xxx 5) Additional Information Sheets As Necessary

Address Of Owner/Agent/Agency To Whom SHPO Comment Should Be Mailed:

22c Development, LLC
4649 North Broadway Street
Chicago, Illinois 60640

Contact Person: Mr. Alex Farkes **Phone Number:** (779) 774-5151

Reviewers Comments:

CONTINUATION PAGE

Comments

The Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was contacted by 22c Development, LLC to conduct a cultural resource reconnaissance survey of the proposed 17.8-hectare (44-acre) North Bader Road Solar Project located southwest of the corner of North Bader Road and Sheldons Grove Road East near Astoria in Schuyler County, Illinois 61501 (Figure 1). The objective of the survey was to utilize standard archaeological survey techniques to inventory cultural resources at the proposed project location. Project investigations included standard background research (including Illinois State Historic Preservation Office's Review and Compliance Determinations of Eligibility List, Illinois Historic Preservation Office's National Register Positive Preliminary Opinion List, National Park Service 2023a, 2023b, Schwegman 1984), a field survey, and preparation of this report.

A review of the Illinois Inventory of Archaeological Sites maintained by the Illinois State Museum and hosted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources found that there are no previously recorded archaeological sites located within the project area and that the project area has not been reported as surveyed). There are no listed structural resources in the project area (National Park Service 2023a, 2023b). An examination of the historical documents on the Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales database indicates that the original land purchase was to John Miller on 29 November 1817 (Illinois State Archives 2023a). The 1816 United States General Land Office survey plat (Figure 2) for Township 02 North Range 01 East of the 4th Principal Meridian indicates that the project area was covered by timber with no evidence for improvements (Illinois State Archives 2023b). Historic atlas, plat, and topographic maps (Figure 2) depict the project area as rural that wraps around a residential structure as early as 1872 (Andreas, Lyter and Company 1872; George A. Ogle and Company 1892; United States Geological Survey 1926). The historic records suggest that the project area has been primarily rural agricultural land near a farmstead since Euro-American settlement.

Field investigation of the 17.8-hectare (44-acre) project area was undertaken on 17 July 2023. The survey area is located southwest of the corner of North Bader Road and Sheldons Grove Road East near Astoria in Schuyler County, Illinois 61501. The project area is bound to the north by Fulton County and agricultural land, to the east by Bader Road and a modern farmstead, to the south by agricultural fields, woods, and a cemetery, and to the west by agricultural fields and woods (Figure 3). The field area featured an agricultural field with 36-acres of corn and 8-acres of soybeans with an average of 30 percent surface visibility. The entire cropped project area was investigated using pedestrian reconnaissance at 5-meter intervals. No structures were present within the project limits. The field investigations located no archaeological materials or indications for the presence of archaeological sites.

The Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program conducted a Phase I archaeological reconnaissance of a 17.8-hectare (44-acre) survey area for a proposed solar energy facility to be located near Astoria in Schuyler County, Illinois. The investigations undertaken were designed to identify cultural resources and to determine, if possible, resource eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the criteria for which are described in 36CFR60. The investigations did not identify any structures or archaeological sites. As a result, a recommended finding of *No Historic Properties* is made for this project. Based on this finding, it is recommended that the project be cleared for cultural resource concerns.

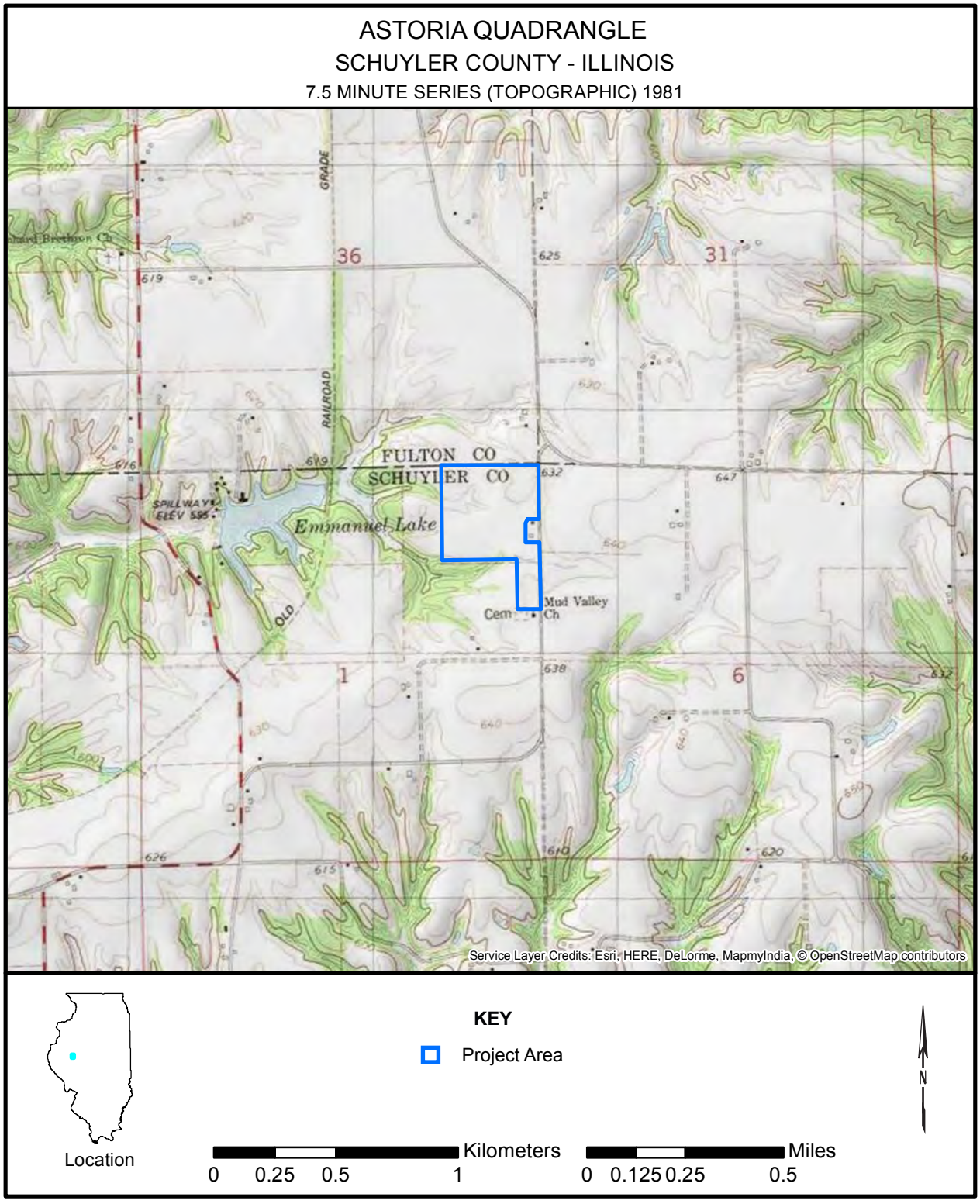

Figure 1. Location of project area.

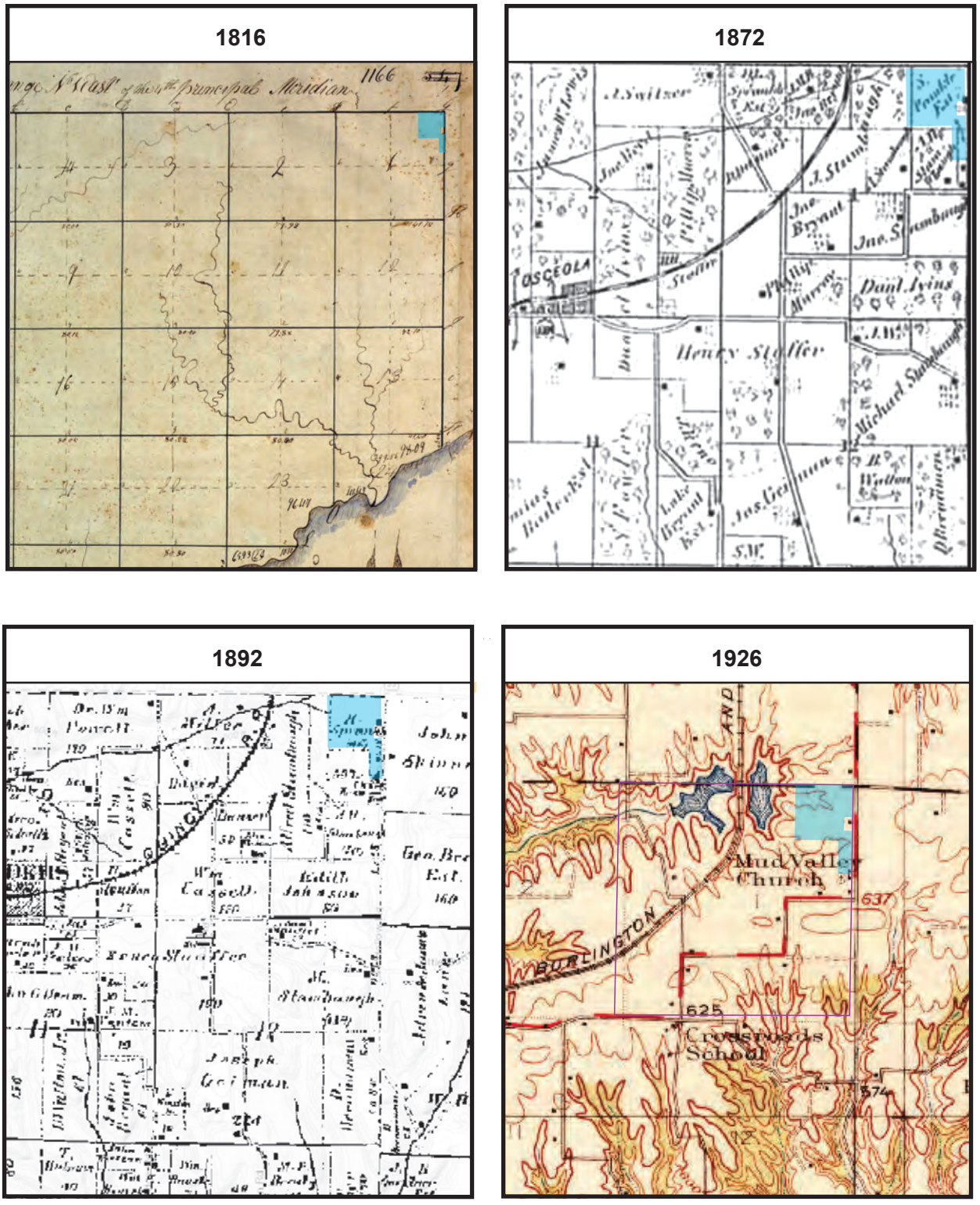

Figure 2. Portions of the 1816 United States General Land Office survey plat, 1872 and 1892 maps of Schuyler County, Illinois, and the 1926 Beardstown 15' quadrangle.

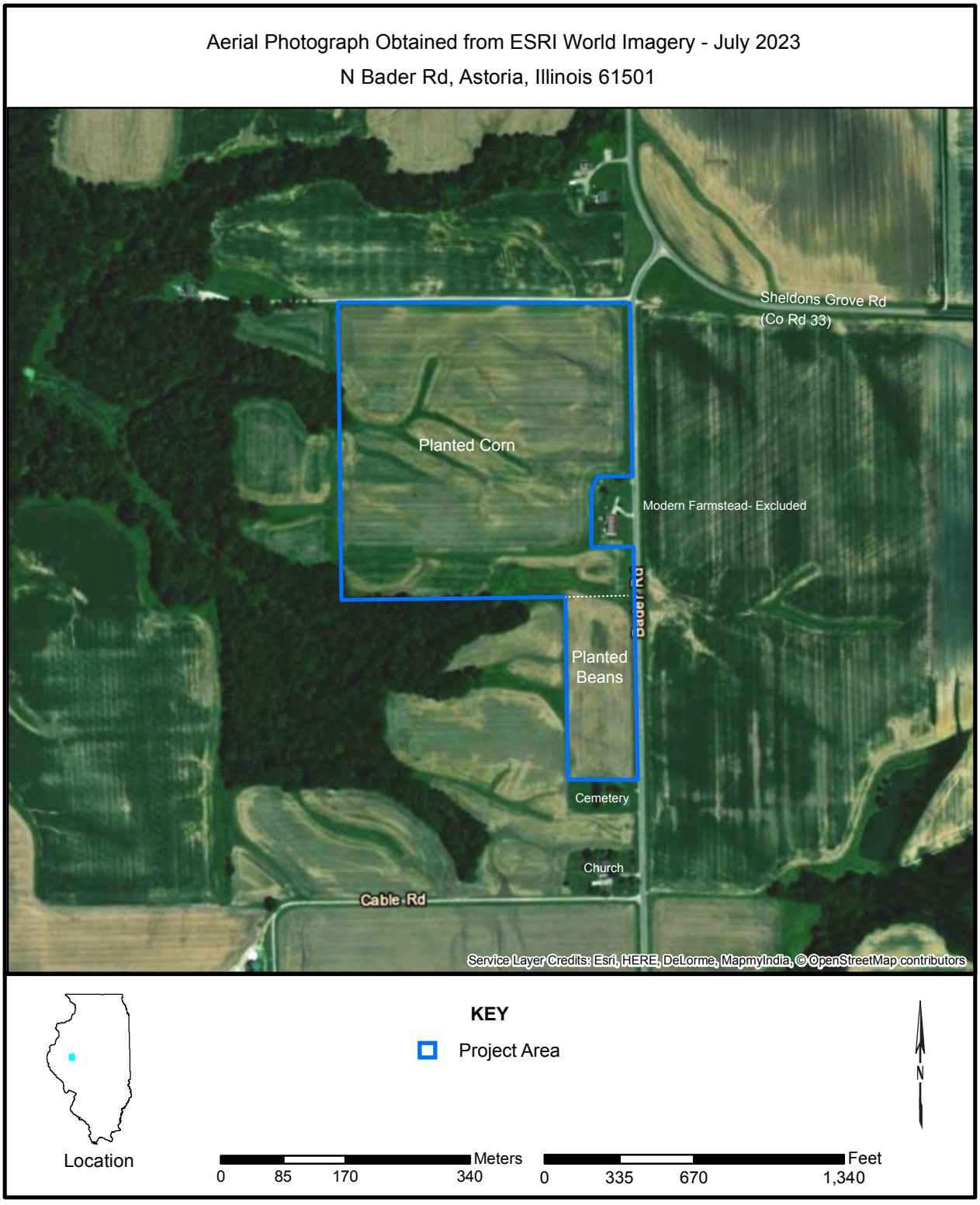

Figure 3. Aerial photo and sketch map of project area.

CITED SOURCES

Andreas, Lyter and Company
1872 *Atlas Map of Schuyler County, Illinois*. Andreas, Lyter and Company. Davenport, Iowa.

George A. Ogle and Company
1892 *Plat Book of Schuyler County, Illinois*. George A. Ogle and Company. Chicago, Illinois.

Illinois National Register Positive Preliminary Opinion List, accessed 05 July 2023.

Illinois Review and Compliance Determinations of Eligibility List, accessed 05 July 2023.

Illinois State Archives
2023a *Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales.* Electronic Document: Illinois State Archives http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/data_lan.html, accessed 05 July 2023.
2023b *Federal Township Plats of Illinois (1804-1891).* Illinois State Archives. On file Public Service Archaeology & Architecture Program, Urbana, Illinois.

Illinois State Museum, Illinois Inventory of Archaeological Sites, Springfield, Illinois, accessed 05 July 2023.

Middle-West Publishing Company
1904 *Atlas of Hancock County, Illinois*. Middle-West Publishing Company. Chicago, Illinois.

National Park Service
2023a National Historic Landmarks Program. National Park Service, Washington D.C. Electronic document: http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl, accessed 05 July 2023.
2023b National Register of Historic Places. National Park Service, Washington D.C. Electronic document: http://www.cr.nps.gov/nrl, accessed 05 July 2023.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
2023a *Web Soil Survey.* Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Electronic document. http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.udsda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx, accessed 10 June 2023.
2023b *Official Soil Series Descriptions.* Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Electronic document. http://ortho.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/cgi-bin/osd/osdname.cgi, accessed 10 June 2023.

Schwegman, John E.
1984 *Comprehensive Plan for the Illinois Nature Preserves System. Part 2: The Natural Divisions of Illinois.* Illinois Nature Preserves System, Springfield, Illinois.

United States Geological Survey
1926 Beardstown 15' Quadrangle Map. United States Geological Survey, Washington D.C.
1981 Astoria, IL 7.5' Quadrangle Map. United States Geological Survey, Washington D.C.

EXHIBIT J: FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY NOTICE OF CRITERIA

Notice Criteria Tool

Notice Criteria Tool - Desk Reference Guide V_2018.2.0

The requirements for filing with the Federal Aviation Administration for proposed structures vary based on a number of factors: height, proximity to an airport, location, and frequencies emitted from the structure, etc. For more details, please reference CFR Title 14 Part 77.9.

You must file with the FAA at least 45 days prior to construction if:

- your structure will exceed 200ft above ground level
- your structure will be in proximity to an airport and will exceed the slope ratio
- your structure involves construction of a traverseway (i.e. highway, railroad, waterway etc...) and once adjusted upward with the appropriate vertical distance would exceed a standard of 77.9(a) or (b)
- your structure will emit frequencies, and does not meet the conditions of the FAA Co-location Policy
- your structure will be in an instrument approach area and might exceed part 77 Subpart C
- your proposed structure will be in proximity to a navigation facility and may impact the assurance of navigation signal reception
- your structure will be on an airport or heliport
- filing has been requested by the FAA

If you require additional information regarding the filing requirements for your structure, please identify and contact the appropriate FAA representative using the Air Traffic Areas of Responsibility map for Off Airport construction, or contact the FAA Airports Region / District Office for On Airport construction.

The tool below will assist in applying Part 77 Notice Criteria.

* **Structure Type:**	SOLAR | Solar Panel Please select structure type and complete location point information.
Latitude:	40 Deg 11 M 11.71 S N
Longitude:	90 Deg 20 M 22.60 S W
Horizontal Datum:	NAD83
Site Elevation (SE):	630 (nearest foot)
Structure Height :	35 (nearest foot)
Is structure on airport:	(•) No ( ) Yes

Results

You do not exceed Notice Criteria.

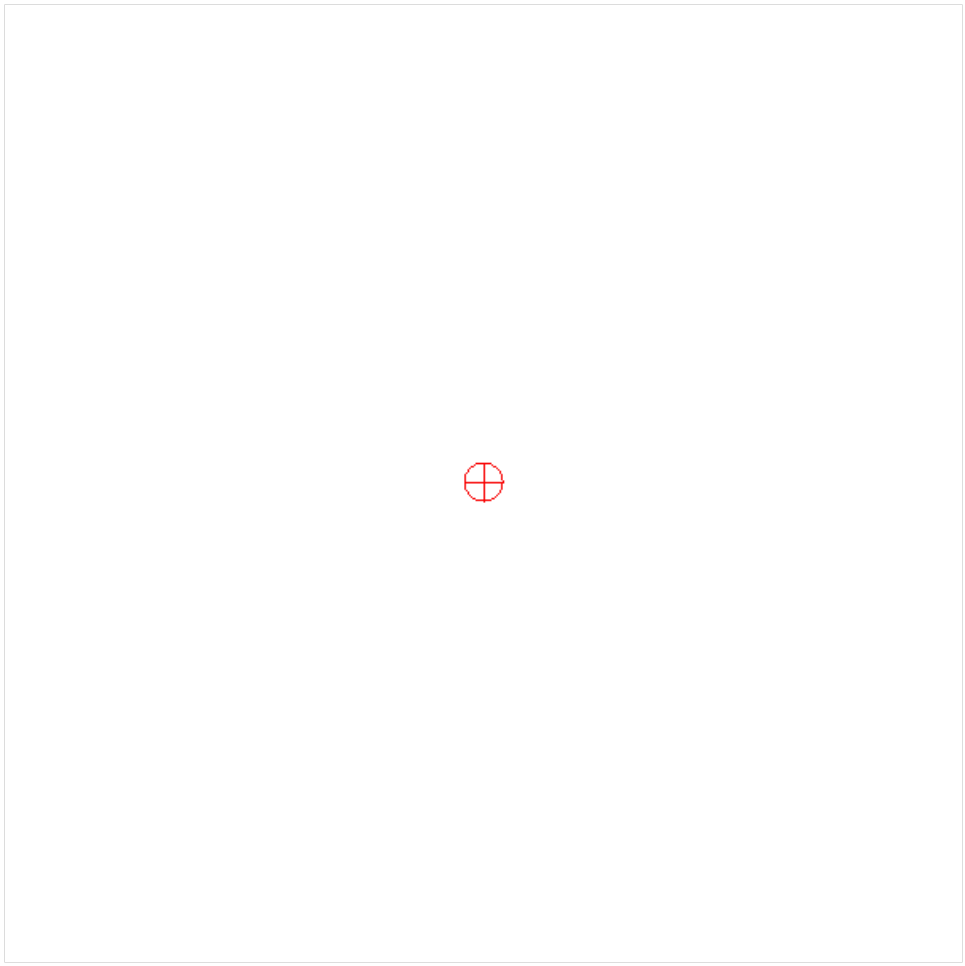

EXHIBIT K: FEMA FIRMETTE

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

FEMA

90°20'43"W 40°11'24"N

90°20'6"W 40°10'56"N

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

1:6,000

Basemap Imagery Source: USGS National Map 2023

Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS
- Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) *Zone A, V, A99*
- With BFE or Depth *Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR*
- Regulatory Floodway

OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile *Zone X*
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard *Zone X*
- Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. *Zone X*
- Area with Flood Risk due to Levee *Zone D*

OTHER AREAS
- NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard *Zone X*
- Effective LOMRs
- Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard *Zone D*

GENERAL STRUCTURES
- Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
- Levee, Dike, or Floodwall

OTHER FEATURES
- 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance
- 17.5 Water Surface Elevation
- Coastal Transect
- Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
- Limit of Study
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Coastal Transect Baseline
- Profile Baseline
- Hydrographic Feature

MAP PANELS
- Digital Data Available
- No Digital Data Available
- Unmapped

N

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 10/13/2023 at 11:08 AM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

EXHIBIT L: CONTAMINATION STUDIES

WHITE PAPER

Health and Safety Impacts of Solar Photovoltaics

By Tommy Cleveland
May 2017

NC CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Contents

Health and Safety Impacts of Solar Photovoltaics

The increasing presence of utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) systems (sometimes referred to as solar farms) is a rather new development in North Carolina's landscape. Due to the new and unknown nature of this technology, it is natural for communities near such developments to be concerned about health and safety impacts. Unfortunately, the quick emergence of utility-scale solar has cultivated fertile grounds for myths and half-truths about the health impacts of this technology, which can lead to unnecessary fear and conflict.

Photovoltaic (PV) technologies and solar inverters are not known to pose any significant health dangers to their neighbors. The most important dangers posed are increased highway traffic during the relative short construction period and dangers posed to trespassers of contact with high voltage equipment. This latter risk is mitigated by signage and the security measures that industry uses to deter trespassing. As will be discussed in more detail below, risks of site contamination are much less than for most other industrial uses because PV technologies employ few toxic chemicals and those used are used in very small quantities. Due to the reduction in the pollution from fossil-fuel-fired electric generators, the overall impact of solar development on human health is overwhelmingly positive. This pollution reduction results from a partial replacement of fossil-fuel fired generation by emission-free PV-generated electricity, which reduces harmful sulfur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Analysis from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, both affiliates of the U.S. Department of Energy, estimates the health-related air quality benefits to the southeast region from solar PV generators to be worth 8.0 ¢ per kilowatt-hour of solar generation.[1] This is in addition to the value of the electricity and suggests that the air quality benefits of solar are worth more than the electricity itself.

Even though we have only recently seen large-scale installation of PV technologies, the technology and its potential impacts have been studied since the 1950s. A combination of this solar-specific research and general scientific research has led to the scientific community having a good understanding of the science behind potential health and safety impacts of solar energy. This paper utilizes the latest scientific literature and knowledge of solar practices in N.C. to address the health and safety risks associated with solar PV technology. These risks are extremely small, far less than those associated with common activities such as driving a car, and vastly outweighed by health benefits of the generation of clean electricity.

This paper addresses the potential health and safety impacts of solar PV development in North Carolina, organized into the following four categories:
(1) Hazardous Materials
(2) Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)
(3) Electric Shock and Arc Flash
(4) Fire Safety

1 • Hazardous Materials

One of the more common concerns towards solar is that the panels (referred to as "modules" in the solar industry) consist of toxic materials that endanger public health. However, as shown in this section, solar energy systems may contain small amounts of toxic materials, but these materials do not endanger public health. To understand potential toxic hazards coming from a solar project, one

must understand system installation, materials used, the panel end-of-life protocols, and system operation. This section will examine these aspects of a solar farm and the potential for toxicity impacts in the following subsections:

(1.2) Project Installation/Construction
(1.2) System Components
  1.2.1 Solar Panels: Construction and Durability
  1.2.2 Photovoltaic technologies
    (a) Crystalline Silicon
    (b) Cadmium Telluride (CdTe)
    (c) CIS/CIGS
  1.2.3 Panel End of Life Management
  1.2.4 Non-panel System Components
(1.3) Operations and Maintenance

1.1 Project Installation/ Construction

The system installation, or construction, process does not require toxic chemicals or processes. The site is mechanically cleared of large vegetation, fences are constructed, and the land is surveyed to layout exact installation locations. Trenches for underground wiring are dug and support posts are driven into the ground. The solar panels are bolted to steel and aluminum support structures and wired together. Inverter pads are installed, and an inverter and transformer are installed on each pad. Once everything is connected, the system is tested, and only then turned on.

Figure 1: Utility-scale solar facility (5 MWAC) located in Catawba County. *Source: Strata Solar*

1.2 · System Components

1.2.1 Solar Panels: Construction and Durability

Solar PV panels typically consist of glass, polymer, aluminum, copper, and semiconductor materials that can be recovered and recycled at the end of their useful life.[2] Today there are two PV technologies used in PV panels at utility-scale solar facilities, silicon, and thin film. As of 2016, all thin film used in North Carolina solar facilities are cadmium telluride (CdTe) panels from the US manufacturer First Solar, but there are other thin film PV panels available on the market, such as Solar Frontier's CIGS panels. Crystalline silicon technology consists of silicon wafers which are made into cells and assembled into panels, thin film technologies consist of thin layers of semiconductor material deposited onto glass, polymer or metal substrates. While there are differences in the components and manufacturing processes of these two types of solar technologies, many aspects of their PV panel construction are very similar. Specifics about each type of PV chemistry as it relates to toxicity are covered in subsections a, b, and c in section 1.2.2; on crystalline silicon, cadmium telluride, and CIS/CIGS respectively. The rest of this section applies equally to both silicon and thin film panels.

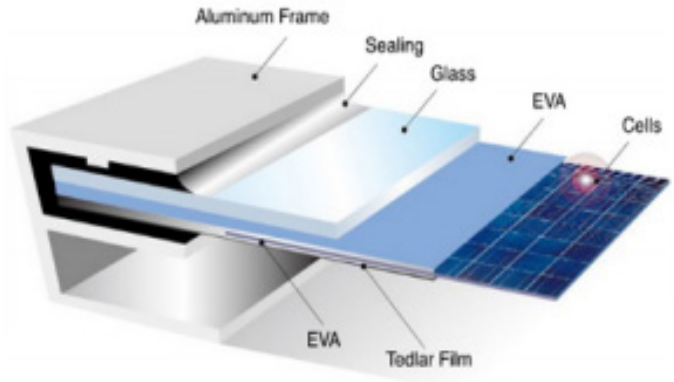

Figure 2: Components of crystalline silicon panels. The vast majority of silicon panels consist of a glass sheet on the topside with an aluminum frame providing structural support. Image Source: www.riteksolar.com.tw

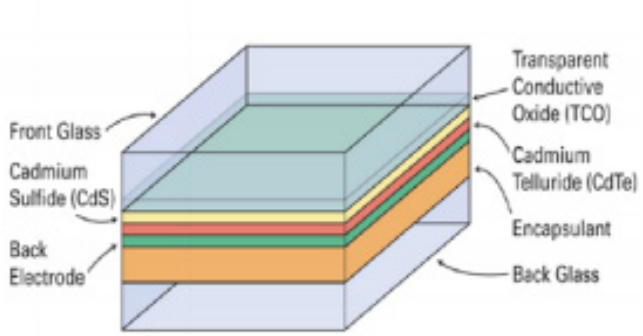

Figure 3: Layers of a common frameless thin-film panel (CdTe). Many thin film panels are frameless, including the most common thin-film panels, First Solar's CdTe. Frameless panels have protective glass on both the front and back of the panel. Layer thicknesses not to scale. Image Source: www.homepower.com

To provide decades of corrosion-free operation, PV cells in PV panels are encapsulated from air and moisture between two layers of plastic. The encapsulation layers are protected on the top with a layer of tempered glass and on the backside with a polymer sheet. Frameless modules include a protective layer of glass on the rear of the panel, which may also be tempered. The plastic ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) commonly provides the cell encapsulation. For decades, this same material has been used between layers of tempered glass to give car windshields and hurricane windows their great strength. In the same way that a car windshield cracks but stays intact, the EVA layers in PV panels keep broken panels intact (see Figure 4). Thus, a damaged module does not generally create small pieces of debris; instead, it largely remains together as one piece.

Figure 4: The mangled PV panels in this picture illustrate the nature of broken solar panels; the glass cracks but the panel is still in one piece. Image Source: http://img.alibaba.com/photo/115259576/broken_solar_panel.jpg

PV panels constructed with the same basic components as modern panels have been installed across the globe for well over thirty years.[3] The long-term durability and performance demonstrated over these decades, as well as the results of accelerated lifetime testing, helped lead to an industrystandard 25-year power production warranty for PV panels. These power warranties warrant a PV panel to produce at least 80% of their original nameplate production after 25 years of use. A recent SolarCity and DNV GL study reported that today's quality PV panels should be expected to reliably and efficiently produce power for thirty-five years.[4]

Local building codes require all structures, including ground mounted solar arrays, to be engineered to withstand anticipated wind speeds, as defined by the local wind speed requirements. Many racking products are available in versions engineered for wind speeds of up to 150 miles per hour, which is significantly higher than the wind speed requirement anywhere in North Carolina. The strength of PV mounting structures were demonstrated during Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and again during Hurricane Matthew in 2016. During Hurricane Sandy, the many large-scale solar facilities in New Jersey and New York at that time suffered only minor damage.[5] In the fall of 2016, the US and Caribbean experienced destructive winds and torrential rains from Hurricane Matthew, yet one leading solar tracker manufacturer reported that their numerous systems in the impacted area received zero damage from wind or flooding.[6]

In the event of a catastrophic event capable of damaging solar equipment, such as a tornado, the system will almost certainly have property insurance

that will cover the cost to cleanup and repair the project. It is in the best interest of the system owner to protect their investment against such risks. It is also in their interest to get the project repaired and producing full power as soon as possible. Therefore, the investment in adequate insurance is a wise business practice for the system owner. For the same reasons, adequate insurance coverage is also generally a requirement of the bank or firm providing financing for the project.

1.2.2 Photovoltaic (PV) Technologies

a. Crystalline Silicon

This subsection explores the toxicity of silicon-based PV panels and concludes that they do not pose a material risk of toxicity to public health and safety. Modern crystalline silicon PV panels, which account for over 90% of solar PV panels installed today, are, more or less, a commodity product. The overwhelming majority of panels installed in North Carolina are crystalline silicon panels that are informally classified as Tier I panels. Tier I panels are from well-respected manufacturers that have a good chance of being able to honor warranty claims. Tier I panels are understood to be of high quality, with predictable performance, durability, and content. Well over 80% (by weight) of the content of a PV panel is the tempered glass front and the aluminum frame, both of which are common building materials. Most of the remaining portion are common plastics, including polyethylene terephthalate in the backsheet, EVA encapsulation of the PV cells, polyphenyl ether in the junction box, and polyethylene insulation on the wire leads. The active, working components of the system are the silicon photovoltaic cells, the small electrical leads connecting them together, and to the wires coming out of the back of the panel. The electricity generating and conducting components makeup less than 5% of the weight of most panels. The PV cell itself is nearly 100% silicon, and silicon is the second most common element in the Earth's crust. The silicon for PV cells is obtained by high-temperature processing of quartz sand (SiO2) that removes its oxygen molecules. The refined silicon is converted to a PV cell by adding extremely small amounts of boron and phosphorus, both of which are common and of very low toxicity.

The other minor components of the PV cell are also generally benign; however, some contain lead, which is a human toxicant that is particularly harmful to young children. The minor components include an extremely thin antireflective coating (silicon nitride or titanium dioxide), a thin layer of aluminum on the rear, and thin strips of silver alloy that are screen-printed on the front and rear of cell.[7] In order for the front and rear electrodes to make effective electrical contact with the proper layer of the PV cell, other materials (called glass frit) are mixed with the silver alloy and then heated to etch the metals into the cell. This glass frit historically contains a small amount of lead (Pb) in the form of lead oxide. The 60 or 72 PV cells in a PV panel are connected by soldering thin solder-covered copper tabs from the back of one cell to the front of the next cell. Traditionally a tin-based solder containing some lead (Pb) is used, but some manufacturers have switched to lead-free solder. The glass frit and/or the solder may contain trace amounts of other metals, potentially including some with human toxicity such as cadmium. However, testing to simulate the potential for leaching from broken panels, which is discussed in more detail below, did not find a potential toxicity threat from these trace elements. Therefore, the tiny amount of lead in the grass frit and the solder is the only part of silicon PV panels with a potential to create a negative health impact. However, as described below, the very limited amount of lead involved and its strong physical and chemical attachment to other components of the PV panel means that even in worst-case scenarios the health hazard it poses is insignificant.

As with many electronic industries, the solder in silicon PV panels has historically been a leadbased solder, often 36% lead, due to the superior properties of such solder. However, recent advances in lead-free solders have spurred a trend among PV panel manufacturers to reduce or remove the lead in their panels. According to the 2015 Solar Scorecard from the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, a group that tracks environmental responsibility of photovoltaic panel manufacturers, fourteen companies (increased from twelve companies in 2014) manufacture PV panels certified to meet the European Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) standard. This means that the amount of cadmium and lead in the panels they manufacture fall below the RoHS thresholds, which are set by the European Union and serve as the world's de facto standard for hazardous substances in manufactured goods.[8] The Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) standard requires that the maximum concentration found in any homogenous material in a produce is less than 0.01% cadmium and less than 0.10% lead, therefore, any solder can be no more than 0.10% lead.[9]

While some manufacturers are producing PV panels that meet the RoHS standard, there is no requirement that they do so because the RoHS Directive explicitly states that the directive does not apply to photovoltaic panels.[10] The justification for this is provided in item 17 of the current RoHS Directive: "The development of renewable forms of energy is one of the Union's key objectives, and the contribution made by renewable energy sources to environmental and climate objectives is crucial. Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (4) recalls that there should be coherence between those objectives and other Union environmental legislation. Consequently, this Directive should not prevent the development of renewable energy technologies that have no negative impact on health and the environment and that are sustainable and economically viable."

The use of lead is common in our modern economy. However, only about 0.5% of the annual lead consumption in the U.S. is for electronic solder for all uses; PV solder makes up only a tiny portion of this 0.5%. Close to 90% of lead consumption in the US is in batteries, which do not encapsulate the pounds of lead contained in each typical automotive battery. This puts the lead in batteries at great risk of leaching into the environment. Estimates for the lead in a single PV panel with lead-based solder range from 1.6 to 24 grams of lead, with 13g (less than half of an ounce) per panel seen most often in the literature.[11] At 13 g/panel[12], each panel contains one-half of the lead in a typical 12-gauge shotgun shell. This amount equates to roughly 1/750th of the lead in a single car battery. In a panel, it is all durably encapsulated from air or water for the full life of the panel.[14]

As indicated by their 20 to 30-year power warranty, PV modules are designed for a long service life, generally over 25 years. For a panel to comply with its 25-year power warranty, its internal components, including lead, must be sealed from any moisture. Otherwise, they would corrode and the panel's output would fall below power warranty levels. Thus, the lead in operating PV modules is not at risk of release to the environment during their service lifetime. In extreme experiments, researchers have shown that lead can leach from crushed or pulverized panels.[15, 16] However, more real-world tests designed to represent typical trash compaction that are used to classify waste as hazardous or non-hazardous show no danger from leaching.[17,18] For more information about PV panel end-of-life, see the Panel Disposal section.

As illustrated throughout this section, silicon-based PV panels do not pose a material threat to public health and safety. The only aspect of the panels with potential toxicity concerns is the very small amount of lead in some panels. However, any lead in a panel is well sealed from environmental exposure for the operating lifetime of the solar panel and thus not at risk of release into the environment.

b. Cadmium Telluride (CdTe) PV Panels

This subsection examines the components of a cadmium telluride (CdTe) PV panel. Research demonstrates that they pose negligible toxicity risk to public health and safety while significantly reducing the public's exposure to cadmium by reducing coal emissions. As of mid-2016, a few hundred MWs of cadmium telluride (CdTe) panels, all manufactured by the U.S. company First Solar, have been installed in North Carolina.

Questions about the potential health and environmental impacts from the use of this PV technology are related to the concern that these panels contain cadmium, a toxic heavy metal. However, scientific studies have shown that cadmium telluride differs from cadmium due to its high chemical and thermal stability.[19] Research has shown that the tiny amount of cadmium in these panels does not pose a health or safety risk.[20] Further, there are very compelling reasons to welcome its adoption due to reductions in unhealthy pollution associated with burning coal. Every GWh of electricity generated by burning coal produces about 4 grams of cadmium air emissions.[21] Even though North Carolina produces a significant fraction of our electricity from coal, electricity from solar offsets much more natural gas than coal due to natural gas plants being able to adjust their rate of production more easily and quickly. If solar electricity offsets 90% natural gas and 10% coal, each 5-megawatt (5 MWAC, which is generally 7 MWDC) CdTe solar facility in North Carolina keeps about 157 grams, or about a third of a pound, of cadmium *out* of our environment.[22, 23]

Cadmium is toxic, but all the approximately 7 grams of cadmium in one CdTe panel is in the form of a chemical compound cadmium telluride,[24] which has 1/100th the toxicity of free cadmium.[25] Cadmium telluride is a very stable compound that is non-volatile and non-soluble in water. Even in the case of a fire, research shows that less than 0.1% of the cadmium is released when a CdTe panel is exposed to fire. The fire melts the glass and encapsulates over 99.9% of the cadmium in the molten glass.[27]

It is important to understand the source of the cadmium used to manufacture CdTe PV panels. The cadmium is a byproduct of zinc and lead refining. The element is collected from emissions and waste streams during the production of these metals and combined with tellurium to create the CdTe used in PV panels. If the cadmium were not collected for use in the PV panels or other products, it would otherwise either be stockpiled for future use, cemented and buried, or disposed of.[28] Nearly all the cadmium in old or broken panels can be recycled which can eventually serve as the primary source of cadmium for new PV panels.[29]

Similar to silicon-based PV panels, CdTe panels are constructed of a tempered glass front, one instead of two clear plastic encapsulation layers, and a rear heat strengthened glass backing (together >98% by weight). The final product is built to withstand exposure to the elements without significant damage for over 25 years. While not representative of damage that may occur in the field or even at a landfill, laboratory evidence has illustrated that when panels are ground into a fine powder, very acidic water is able to leach portions of the cadmium and tellurium,[30] similar to the process used to recycle CdTe panels. Like many silicon-based panels, CdTe panels are reported (as far back ask 1998[31] to pass the EPA's Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test, which tests the potential for crushed panels in a landfill to leach hazardous substances into groundwater.[32] Passing this test means that they are classified as non-hazardous waste and can be deposited in landfills.[33,34] For more information about PV panel end-of-life, see the Panel Disposal section.

There is also concern of environmental impact resulting from potential catastrophic events involving CdTe PV panels. An analysis of worst-case scenarios for environmental impact from CdTe PV

panels, including earthquakes, fires, and floods, was conducted by the University of Tokyo in 2013. After reviewing the extensive international body of research on CdTe PV technology, their report concluded, "Even in the worst-case scenarios, it is unlikely that the Cd concentrations in air and sea water will exceed the environmental regulation values."[35] In a worst-case scenario of damaged panels abandoned on the ground, insignificant amounts of cadmium will leach from the panels. This is because this scenario is much less conducive (larger module pieces, less acidity) to leaching than the conditions of the EPA's TCLP test used to simulate landfill conditions, which CdTe panels pass.[36]

First Solar, a U.S. company, and the only significant supplier of CdTe panels, has a robust panel take-back and recycling program that has been operating commercially since 2005.[37] The company states that it is "committed to providing a commercially attractive recycling solution for photovoltaic (PV) power plant and module owners to help them meet their module (end of life) EOL obligation simply, costeffectively and responsibly." First Solar global recycling services to their customers to collect and recycle panels once they reach the end of productive life whether due to age or damage. These recycling service agreements are structured to be financially attractive to both First Solar and the solar panel owner. For First Solar, the contract provides the company with an affordable source of raw materials needed for new panels and presumably a diminished risk of undesired release of Cd. The contract also benefits the solar panel owner by allowing them to avoid tipping fees at a waste disposal site. The legal contract helps provide peace of mind by ensuring compliance by both parties when considering the continuing trend of rising disposal costs and increasing regulatory requirements.

c. CIS/CIGS and other PV technologies

Copper indium gallium selenide PV technology, often referred to as CIGS, is the second most common type of thin-film PV panel but a distant second behind CdTe. CIGS cells are composed of a thin layer of copper, indium, gallium, and selenium on a glass or plastic backing. None of these elements are very toxic, although selenium is a regulated metal under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).[38] The cells often also have an extremely thin layer of cadmium sulfide that contains a tiny amount of cadmium, which is toxic. The promise of high efficiency CIGS panels drove heavy investment in this technology in the past. However, researchers have struggled to transfer high efficiency success in the lab to low-cost full-scale panels in the field.[39] Recently, a CIGS manufacturer based in Japan, Solar Frontier, has achieved some market success with a rigid, glass-faced CIGS module that competes with silicon panels. Solar Frontier produces the majority of CIS panels on the market today.[40] Notably, these panels are RoHS compliant,[41] thus meeting the rigorous toxicity standard adopted by the European Union even thought this directive exempts PV panels. The authors are unaware of any completed or proposed utility-scale system in North Carolina using CIS/CIGS panels.

1.2.3 Panel End-of-Life Management

Concerns about the volume, disposal, toxicity, and recycling of PV panels are addressed in this subsection. To put the volume of PV waste into perspective, consider that by 2050, when PV systems installed in 2020 will reach the end of their lives, it is estimated that the global annual PV panel waste tonnage will be 10% of the 2014 global e-waste tonnage.[42] In the U.S., end-of-life disposal of solar products is governed by the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as well as state policies in some situations. RCRA separates waste into hazardous (not accepted at ordinary landfill) and solid waste (generally accepted

at ordinary landfill) based on a series of rules. According to RCRA, the way to determine if a PV panel is classified as hazardous waste is the Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test. This EPA test is designed to simulate landfill disposal and determine the risk of hazardous substances leaching out of the landfill.[43,44,45] Multiple sources report that most modern PV panels (both crystalline silicon and cadmium telluride) pass the TCLP test.[46,47] Some studies found that some older (1990s) crystalline silicon panels, and perhaps some newer crystalline silicon panels (specifics are not given about vintage of panels tested), do not pass the lead (Pb) leachate limits in the TCLP test.[48,49]

The test begins with the crushing of a panel into centimeter-sized pieces. The pieces are then mixed in an acid bath. After tumbling for eighteen hours, the fluid is tested for forty hazardous substances that all must be below specific threshold levels to pass the test. Research comparing TCLP conditions to conditions of damaged panels in the field found that simulated landfill conditions provide overly conservative estimates of leaching for field-damaged panels.[50] Additionally, research in Japan has found no detectable Cd leaching from cracked CdTe panels when exposed to simulated acid rain.[51]

Although modern panels can generally be landfilled, they can also be recycled. Even though recent waste volume has not been adequate to support significant PV-specific recycling infrastructure, the existing recycling industry in North Carolina reports that it recycles much of the current small volume of broken PV panels. In an informal survey conducted by the NC Clean Energy Technology Center survey in early 2016, seven of the eight large active North Carolina utility-scale solar developers surveyed reported that they send damaged panels back to the manufacturer and/or to a local recycler. Only one developer reported sending damaged panels to the landfill.

The developers reported at that time that they are usually paid a small amount per panel by local recycling firms. In early 2017, a PV developer reported that a local recycler was charging a small fee per panel to recycle damaged PV panels. The local recycling firm known to authors to accept PV panels described their current PV panel recycling practice as of early 2016 as removing the aluminum frame for local recycling and removing the wire leads for local copper recycling. The remainder of the panel is sent to a facility for processing the non-metallic portions of crushed vehicles, referred to as “fluff” in the recycling industry.[52] This processing within existing general recycling plants allows for significant material recovery of major components, including glass which is 80% of the module weight, but at lower yields than PV-specific recycling plants. Notably almost half of the material value in a PV panel is in the few grams of silver contained in almost every PV panel produced today. In the long-term, dedicated PV panel recycling plants can increase treatment capacities and maximize revenues resulting in better output quality and the ability to recover a greater fraction of the useful materials.[53] PV-specific panel recycling technologies have been researched and implemented to some extent for the past decade, and have been shown to be able to recover over 95% of PV material (semiconductor) and over 90% of the glass in a PV panel.[54]

A look at global PV recycling trends hints at the future possibilities of the practice in our country. Europe installed MW-scale volumes of PV years before the U.S. In 2007, a public-private partnership between the European Union and the solar industry set up a voluntary collection and recycling system called PV CYCLE. This arrangement was later made mandatory under the EU’s WEEE directive, a program for waste electrical and electronic equipment.[55] Its member companies (PV panel producers) fully finance the association. This makes it possible for end-users to return the member companies’ defective panels for recycling at any of the over 300 collection points around

Europe without added costs. Additionally, PV CYCLE will pick up batches of 40 or more used panels at no cost to the user. This arrangement has been very successful, collecting and recycling over 13,000 tons by the end of 2015.[56]

In 2012, the WEEE Directive added the end-of-life collection and recycling of PV panels to its scope.[57] This directive is based on the principle of extended-producer-responsibility. It has a global impact because producers that want to sell into the EU market are legally responsible for end-of-life management. Starting in 2018, this directive targets that 85% of PV products "put in the market" in Europe are recovered and 80% is prepared for reuse and recycling.

The success of the PV panel collection and recycling practices in Europe provides promise for the future of recycling in the U.S. In mid-2016, the US Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) announced that they are starting a national solar panel recycling program with the guidance and support of many leading PV panel producers.[58] The program will aggregate the services offered by recycling vendors and PV manufacturers, which will make it easier for consumers to select a cost-effective and environmentally responsible end-of-life management solution for their PV products. According to SEIA, they are planning the program in an effort to make the entire industry landfill-free. In addition to the national recycling network program, the program will provide a portal for system owners and consumers with information on how to responsibly recycle their PV systems.

While a cautious approach toward the potential for negative environmental and/or health impacts from retired PV panels is fully warranted, this section has shown that the positive health impacts of reduced emissions from fossil fuel combustion from PV systems more than outweighs any potential risk. Testing shows that silicon and CdTe panels are both safe to dispose of in landfills, and are also safe in worst case conditions of abandonment or damage in a disaster. Additionally, analysis by local engineers has found that the current salvage value of the equipment in a utility scale PV facility generally exceeds general contractor estimates for the cost to remove the entire PV system.[59,60,61]

1.2.4 Non-Panel System Components

(racking, wiring, inverter, transformer)

While previous toxicity subsections discussed PV panels, this subsection describes the non-panel components of utility-scale PV systems and investigates any potential public health and safety concerns. The most significant non-panel component of a ground-mounted PV system is the mounting structure of the rows of panels, commonly referred to as "racking". The vertical post portion of the racking is galvanized steel and the remaining above-ground racking components are either galvanized steel or aluminum, which are both extremely common and benign building materials. The inverters that make the solar generated electricity ready to send to the grid have weather-proof steel enclosures that protect the working components from the elements. The only fluids that they might contain are associated with their cooling systems, which are not unlike the cooling system in a computer. Many inverters today are RoHS compliant.

The electrical transformers (to boost the inverter output voltage to the voltage of the utility connection point) do contain a liquid cooling oil. However, the fluid used for that function is either a nontoxic mineral oil or a biodegradable non-toxic vegetable oil, such as BIOTEMP from ABB. These vegetable transformer oils have the additional advantage of being much less flammable than traditional mineral oils. Significant health hazards are associated with old transformers containing cooling oil with toxic PCBs. Transfers with PCB-containing oil were common before PCBs were outlawed in the U.S. in 1979. PCBs still exist in older transformers in the field across the country.

Other than a few utility research sites, there are no batteries on- or off-site associated with utility-scale solar energy facilities in North Carolina, avoiding any potential health or safety concerns related to battery technologies. However, as battery technologies continue to improve and prices continue to decline we are likely to start seeing some batteries at solar facilities. Lithium ion batteries currently dominate the world utility-scale battery market, which are not very toxic. No non-panel system components were found to pose any health or environmental dangers.

1.4 Operations and Maintenance – Panel Washing and Vegetation Control

Throughout the eastern U.S., the climate provides frequent and heavy enough rain to keep panels adequately clean. This dependable weather pattern eliminates the need to wash the panels on a regular basis. Some system owners may choose to wash panels as often as once a year to increase production, but most in N.C. do not regularly wash any PV panels. Dirt build up over time may justify panel washing a few times over the panels' lifetime; however, nothing more than soap and water are required for this activity.

The maintenance of ground-mounted PV facilities requires that vegetation be kept low, both for aesthetics and to avoid shading of the PV panels. Several approaches are used to maintain vegetation at NC solar facilities, including planting of limited-height species, mowing, weed-eating, herbicides, and grazing livestock (sheep). The following descriptions of vegetation maintenance practices are based on interviews with several solar developers as well as with three maintenance firms that together are contracted to maintain well over 100 of the solar facilities in N.C. The majority of solar facilities in North Carolina maintain vegetation primarily by mowing. Each row of panels has a single row of supports, allowing sickle mowers to mow under the panels. The sites usually require mowing about once a month during the growing season. Some sites employ sheep to graze the site, which greatly reduces the human effort required to maintain the vegetation and produces high quality lamb meat.[62]

In addition to mowing and weed eating, solar facilities often use some herbicides. Solar facilities generally do not spray herbicides over the entire acreage; rather they apply them only in strategic locations such as at the base of the perimeter fence, around exterior vegetative buffer, on interior dirt roads, and near the panel support posts. Also unlike many row crop operations, solar facilities generally use only general use herbicides, which are available over the counter, as opposed to restricted use herbicides commonly used in commercial agriculture that require a special restricted use license. The herbicides used at solar facilities are primarily 2-4-D and glyphosate (Round-up®), which are two of the most common herbicides used in lawns, parks, and agriculture across the country. One maintenance firm that was interviewed sprays the grass with a class of herbicide known as a growth regulator in order to slow the growth of grass so that mowing is only required twice a year. Growth regulators are commonly used on highway roadsides and golf courses for the same purpose. A commercial pesticide applicator license is required for anyone other than the landowner to apply herbicides, which helps ensure that all applicators are adequately educated about proper herbicide use and application. The license must be renewed annually and requires passing of a certification exam appropriate to the area in which the applicator wishes to work. Based on the limited data available, it appears that solar facilities in N.C. generally use significantly less herbicides per acre than most commercial agriculture or lawn maintenance services.

2. Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

PV systems do not emit any material during their operation; however, they do generate electromagnetic fields (EMF), sometimes referred to as radiation. EMF produced by electricity is non-ionizing radiation, meaning the radiation has enough energy to move atoms in a molecule around (experienced as heat), but not enough energy to remove electrons from an atom or molecule (ionize) or to damage DNA. As shown below, modern humans are all exposed to EMF throughout our daily lives without negative health impact. Someone outside of the fenced perimeter of a solar facility is not exposed to significant EMF from the solar facility. Therefore, there is no negative health impact from the EMF produced in a solar farm. The following paragraphs provide some additional background and detail to support this conclusion.

Since the 1970s, some have expressed concern over potential health consequences of EMF from electricity, but no studies have ever shown this EMF to cause health problems.[63] These concerns are based on some epidemiological studies that found a slight increase in childhood leukemia associated with average exposure to residential power-frequency magnetic fields above 0.3 to 0.4 μT (microteslas) (equal to 3.0 to 4.0 mG (milligauss)). μT and mG are both units used to measure magnetic field strength. For comparison, the average exposure for people in the U.S. is one mG or 0.1 μT, with about 1% of the population with an average exposure in excess of 0.4 μT (or 4 mG).[64] These epidemiological studies, which found an association but not a causal relationship, led the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to classify ELF magnetic fields as "possibly carcinogenic to humans". Coffee also has this classification. This classification means there is limited evidence but not enough evidence to designate as either a "probable carcinogen" or "human carcinogen". Overall, there is very little concern that ELF EMF damages public health. The only concern that does exist is for long-term exposure above 0.4 μT (4 mG) that may have some connection to increased cases of childhood leukemia. In 1997, the National Academies of Science were directed by Congress to examine this concern and concluded:

"Based on a comprehensive evaluation of published studies relating to the effects of power-frequency electric and magnetic fields on cells, tissues, and organisms (including humans), the conclusion of the committee is that the current body of evidence does not show that exposure to these fields presents a human-health hazard. Specifically, no conclusive and consistent evidence shows that exposures to residential electric and magnetic fields produce cancer, adverse neurobehavioral effects, or reproductive and developmental effects."[65]

There are two aspects to electromagnetic fields, an electric field and a magnetic field. The electric field is generated by voltage and the magnetic field is generated by electric current, i.e., moving electrons. A task group of scientific experts convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2005 concluded that there were no substantive health issues related to electric fields (0 to 100,000 Hz) at levels generally encountered by members of the public.[66] The relatively low voltages in a solar facility and the fact that electric fields are easily shielded (i.e., blocked) by common materials, such as plastic, metal, or soil means that there is no concern of negative health impacts from the electric fields generated by a solar facility. Thus, the remainder of this section addresses magnetic fields. Magnetic fields are not shielded by most common materials and thus can easily pass through them. Both types of fields are strongest close to the source of electric generation and weaken quickly with distance from the source.

The direct current (DC) electricity produced by PV panels produce stationary (0 Hz) electric and magnetic fields. Because of minimal concern about potential risks of stationary fields, little scientific research has examined stationary fields' impact on human health.[67] In even the largest PV facilities, the DC voltages and currents are not very high. One can illustrate the weakness of the EMF generated by a PV panel by placing a compass on an operating solar panel and observing that the needle still points north.

While the electricity throughout the majority of a solar site is DC electricity, the inverters convert this DC electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity matching the 60 Hz frequency of the grid. Therefore, the inverters and the wires delivering this power to the grid are producing non-stationary EMF, known as extremely low frequency (ELF) EMF, normally oscillating with a frequency of 60 Hz. This frequency is at the low-energy end of the electromagnetic spectrum. Therefore, it has less energy than other commonly encountered types of non-ionizing radiation like radio waves, infrared radiation, and visible light.

The wide use of electricity results in background levels of ELF EMFs in nearly all locations where people spend time – homes, workplaces, schools, cars, the supermarket, etc. A person's average exposure depends upon the sources they encounter, how close they are to them, and the amount of time they spend there.[68] As stated above, the average exposure to magnetic fields in the U.S. is estimated to be around one mG or 0.1 μT, but can vary considerably depending on a person's exposure to EMF from electrical devices and wiring.[69] At times we are often exposed to much higher ELF magnetic fields, for example when standing three feet from a refrigerator the ELF magnetic field is 6 mG and when standing three feet from a microwave oven the field is about 50 mG.[70] The strength of these fields diminish quickly with distance from the source, but when surrounded by electricity in our homes and other buildings moving away from one source moves you closer to another. However, unless you are inside of the fence at a utility-scale solar facility or electrical substation it is impossible to get very close to the EMF sources. Because of this, EMF levels at the fence of electrical substations containing high voltages and currents are considered "generally negligible".[71,72]

The strength of ELF-EMF present at the perimeter of a solar facility or near a PV system in a commercial or residential building is significantly lower than the typical American's average EMF exposure.[73,74] Researchers in Massachusetts measured magnetic fields at PV projects and found the magnetic fields dropped to very low levels of 0.5 mG or less, and in many cases to less than background levels (0.2 mG), at distances of no more than nine feet from the residential inverters and 150 feet from the utility-scale inverters.[75] Even when measured within a few feet of the utility-scale inverter, the ELF magnetic fields were well below the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection's recommended magnetic field level exposure limit for the general public of 2,000 mG.[76] It is typical that utility scale designs locate large inverters central to the PV panels that feed them because this minimizes the length of wire required and shields neighbors from the sound of the inverter's cooling fans. Thus, it is rare for a large PV inverter to be within 150 feet of the project's security fence.

Anyone relying on a medical device such as pacemaker or other implanted device to maintain proper heart rhythm may have concern about the potential for a solar project to interfere with the operation of his or her device. However, there is no reason for concern because the EMF outside of the solar facility's fence is less than 1/1000 of the level at which manufacturers test for ELF EMF interference, which is 1,000 mG.[77] Manufacturers of potentially affected implanted devices often provide advice on electromagnetic interference that includes avoiding letting the implanted device get too close to certain sources of fields such as some

household appliances, some walkie-talkies, and similar transmitting devices. Some manufacturers' literature does not mention high-voltage power lines, some say that exposure in public areas should not give interference, and some advise not spending extended periods of time close to power lines.[78]

3. Electric Shock and Arc Flash Hazards

There is a real danger of electric shock to anyone entering any of the electrical cabinets such as combiner boxes, disconnect switches, inverters, or transformers; or otherwise coming in contact with voltages over 50 Volts.[79] Another electrical hazard is an arc flash, which is an explosion of energy that can occur in a short circuit situation. This explosive release of energy causes a flash of heat and a shockwave, both of which can cause serious injury or death. Properly trained and equipped technicians and electricians know how to safely install, test, and repair PV systems, but there is always some risk of injury when hazardous voltages and/or currents are present. Untrained individuals should not attempt to inspect, test, or repair any aspect of a PV system due to the potential for injury or death due to electric shock and arc flash, The National Electric Code (NEC) requires appropriate levels of warning signs on all electrical components based on the level of danger determined by the voltages and current potentials. The national electric code also requires the site to be secured from unauthorized visitors with either a six-foot chain link fence with three strands of barbed wire or an eight-foot fence, both with adequate hazard warning signs.

4. Fire Safety

The possibility of fires resulting from or intensified by PV systems may trigger concern among the general public as well as among firefighters. However, concern over solar fire hazards should be limited because only a small portion of materials in the panels are flammable, and those components cannot self-support a significant fire. Flammable components of PV panels include the thin layers of polymer encapsulates surrounding the PV cells, polymer backsheets (framed panels only), plastic junction boxes on rear of panel, and insulation on wiring. The rest of the panel is composed of non-flammable components, notably including one or two layers of protective glass that make up over three quarters of the panel's weight.

Heat from a small flame is not adequate to ignite a PV panel, but heat from a more intense fire or energy from an electrical fault can ignite a PV panel.[80] One real-world example of this occurred during July 2015 in an arid area of California. Three acres of grass under a thin film PV facility burned without igniting the panels mounted on fixed-tilt racks just above the grass.[81] While it is possible for electrical faults in PV systems on homes or commercial buildings to start a fire, this is extremely rare.[82] Improving understanding of the PV-specific risks, safer system designs, and updated fire-related codes and standards will continue to reduce the risk of fire caused by PV systems.

PV systems on buildings can affect firefighters in two primary ways, 1) impact their methods of fighting the fire, and 2) pose safety hazard to the firefighters. One of the most important techniques that firefighters use to suppress fire is ventilation of a building's roof. This technique allows superheated toxic gases to quickly exit the building. By doing so, the firefighters gain easier and safer access to the building, Ventilation of the roof also makes the challenge of putting out the fire easier. However, the placement of rooftop PV panels may interfere with ventilating the roof by limiting access to desired venting locations.

New solar-specific building code requirements are working to minimize these concerns. Also, the

latest National Electric Code has added requirements that make it easier for first responders to safely and effectively turn off a PV system. Concern for firefighting a building with PV can be reduced with proper fire fighter training, system design, and installation. Numerous organizations have studied fire fighter safety related to PV. Many organizations have published valuable guides and training programs. Some notable examples are listed below.

- The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and International Renewable Energy Council (IREC) partnered to create an online training course that is far beyond the PowerPoint click-andview model. The self-paced online course, "Solar PV Safety for Fire Fighters," features rich video content and simulated environments so fire fighters can practice the knowledge they've learned. www.iaff.org/pvsafetytraining
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- Guidelines for Fire Safety Elements of Solar Photovoltaic Systems, Orange County Fire Chiefs Association
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- PV Safety and Code Development: Matthew Paiss, Cooperative Research Network

Summary

The purpose of this paper is to address and alleviate concerns of public health and safety for utility-scale solar PV projects. Concerns of public health and safety were divided and discussed in the four following sections: (1) Toxicity, (2) Electromagnetic Fields, (3) Electric Shock and Arc Flash, and (4) Fire. In each of these sections, the negative health and safety impacts of utility-scale PV development were shown to be negligible, while the public health and safety benefits of installing these facilities are significant and far outweigh any negative impacts.

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Solar Panels. Photo by Mariana Proenca on Unsplash

"Clean Energy in Michigan" Series, Number 12

Facts about solar panels: PFAS contamination

By Dr. Annick Anctil, Michigan State University

Q: Do solar panels contribute to PFAS contamination?

Multiple states have raised concerns about PFAS contamination from solar farms, largely citing academic research on how PFAS could *potentially* be used in photovoltaic (PV) solar panels.[1] The fact is that PFAS is *not* customarily used in solar panels because safer, effective alternatives have already been developed and commercialized. Moreover, no studies have shown the presence or leaching of PFAS from PV panels—either while they are in active use or at the end of their life (e.g., in a landfill).

Anatomy of a solar panel

These three parts of a solar panel cause confusion about the presence of PFAS.

Self-Cleaning Coat

A self-cleaning coating on the top of a solar panel helps reduce dust, pollen, and snow adhesion, extending both the power output and the lifetime of the panel.[2] Multiple self-cleaning coating options are available on the market, many of which make use of non-hazardous silicon-based chemistry.[3] Confusion comes from the fact that some other commercialized self-cleaning coating options do make use of PFAS-based chemicals, although even those do not degrade under normal use.

Adhesives

PV panels are sealed from the elements to maximize power output and lifetime. While PFAS chemicals are found in certain adhesives, such as carpentry glues, they are not typically used in sealant adhesives for solar panels.[4] Instead, solar adhesives are based on silicone polymers, which are well known for their lack of negative health impacts and remarkable stability.[5]

Substrate

PV modules are housed in a weather-resistant substrate that offers additional protection from the elements. Thin-film PV units use glass as the substrate, while crystalline silicon PV units use a polymer substrate, which has led to the rumors of

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The Clean Energy in Michigan series provides case studies and fact sheets answering common questions about clean energy projects in Michigan.

Find this document and more about the project online at graham.umich.edu/climate-energy/energy-futures.

potential PFAS use in solar panels. The most common polymer used in silicon PV units is Tedlar, a weather resistant polymer that is *not* a PFAS compound itself and makes no use of PFAS during its manufacturing process.[6] Far more common materials, like those used in construction projects and weather resistant fabrics, present a higher risk of PFAS exposure than PV. In fact, a recent study found that these more common materials release PFAS under conditions where solar panels do not, indicating that PFAS exposure risk may be higher sitting on outdoor furniture, for example, than living next to a solar farm.[7]

What is PFAS anyway?

Per/Poly Fluoro-Alkyl Substances, PFAS for short, are a class of chemical compounds. PFAS are used in several industries for their unique properties, notably their ability to create coatings that are highly water repellent.

PFAS are extremely persistent within the environment, not breaking down over time. Certain PFAS compounds have been linked to human health issues–notably low infant birth weights, increased risk of certain cancers, and thyroid issues. As a result of their persistence and toxicity, those PFAS compounds that pose a significant risk have been banned from use and production, and subsequently replaced with safer alternatives.

It's important to note that not all PFAS compounds are dangerous. Some PFAS compounds, such as Teflon, are much more stable and present no risk to human health under normal conditions of use.[8]

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Health and Safety Impacts of Solar Photovoltaics:

A California-Focused Forward to the Health and Safety Impacts of Solar Photovoltaics white paper published by the N.C. Clean Energy Technology Center at North Carolina State University in May 2017

By: Thomas H. Cleveland, P.E., lead author of the North Carolina white paper
RE: Soscol Ferry Road Solar, a proposed 1.98 MW_{AC} PV facility in Napa, CA
Date: July 31, 2019

For the last several years North Carolina (NC) has trailed only California in the capacity of annual solar photovoltaic (PV) installed. For most of that time North Carolina's PV development was nearly entirely distribution-connected ground-mounted solar facilities, most commonly 5 MW_{AC} projects. More recently, North Carolina is developing a mixture of transmission-connected PV facilities between 20 and 75 MW_{AC} and distribution-connected facilities of 1 to 5 MW_{AC}, but still has relatively few commercial or residential PV projects. As the state quickly transitioned from zero utility-scale solar facilities to over 400 utility-scale solar facilities concerns about the health and safety impacts of photovoltaics were raised at countless public hearings across the state and in many meetings of state officials and regulators, including several NC general assembly committee meetings. These concerns led to several years of engagement on this topic by the NC Clean Energy Technology Center at North Carolina State University that resulted in a detailed, peer-reviewed university white paper on the latest scientific understanding regarding PV health and safety impacts, with a focus on North Carolina.

Naturally, there is also interest in the potential health and safety impacts of PV in California, where there is significantly more installed solar capacity than in North Carolina, in a mixture of residential, commercial, and small- and large-scale ground-mounted utility-scale solar projects. While there are massive similarities between the PV installations and their potential health and safety impacts in each state, there are some differences in policy, climate, industry practices, electricity regulation, and more that are worth highlighting. This forward is an attempt by the lead researcher and author of the North Carolina white paper to provide a supplement to the original paper that clearly demonstrates the applicability of the paper to PV in California and to offer California-specific supplements or modifications where the original paper had a North Carolina focus.

Most importantly, all the white paper's conclusions about the negligible negative health and safety impacts of photovoltaics apply fully in California, as well as anywhere in the United States. Similarly, there is nothing unique about the 1.98 MW_{AC} Soscol Ferry Road Solar project that would cause any health or safety impacts different than those discussed in the N.C. white paper.

Throughout the white paper there are instances of North Carolina-specific information, or issues where the situation in California is different than it is in North Carolina. The following is a list of the significant instances of either situation, in the order they appear in the white paper, along with the relevant California-specific information.

- Type of PV Technology Used: Crystalline silicon, Cadmium Telluride (CdTe), and CIGS are all being installed in California as they are in N.C. Since the publication of the N.C. report the author has confirmed the recent installation of utility-scale projects using CIGS modules, but these are still not common. Like in NC, the majority of the current PV installation capacity in California is crystalline silicon, also like NC these are generally Tier I modules. The Soscol Ferry Rd. project will use Tier I crystalline silicon modules.
- Design Wind Speed: The ASCE 7-2016 design wind speed in the vast majority of California, including in Napa County where the Soscol Ferry Road Solar project is located, is 90-95 MPH, which is much lower than the design wind speeds of hurricane-prone eastern N.C. where most PV development in the state is located. A few mountainous regions of California have design wind speeds over 100 MPG, however these extreme

terrains are unlikely to install ground-mounted PV systems.

- Offset Electricity Fuel Mix: The white paper includes a rough estimation that the fuel mix of the generators offset by PV energy production in N.C. is 90% natural gas and 10% coal. From this mix an estimate of the reduction in cadmium emissions due to PV was calculated. The 10% coal estimate is certainly too high for California. An offset fuel mix for California could be reasonably estimated as 100% natural gas, resulting in about 75% of the cadmium emissions savings calculated for NC.

- PV Module Recycling: The white paper included local reports from PV developers in North Carolina of recycling damaged PV modules. It is quite possible that the same is occurring in California, but the author does not have data on the current common waste management practices for damaged PV modules in California. The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) published two extensive reports on the Photovoltaic Module Recycling in the United States (April 2018) and Insights in Photovoltaic Recycling Processes in Europe (December 2017), which are great sources for current information on PV module recycling. The EPRI report on recycling in the U.S. states that there are commercial recyclers in the U.S. accepting and recycling PV modules, using processes not unlike those described in the white paper.

- PV Module Washing: Unlike North Carolina, many regions of California regularly experience long periods of time with little to no rain, which can result in enough accumulation of dirt on the PV modules that it justifies occasionally washing the modules to renew their performance. In North Carolina there is generally a heavy rain often enough to keep the panels clean enough to not require manual panel washing. This difference does not have an impact on the health or safety impact of the photovoltaic modules other than perhaps some increased risk of electric shock when washing the modules. Proper installation, maintenance, and washing techniques should reduce this risk to near zero.

- Vegetation Maintenance: The climate in many regions of California, including Napa County where the Soscol Ferry Road Solar project is located, cause the growth of vegetation requiring maintenance to be less vigorous than the vegetation in moist North Carolina. Thus, PV sites in California use similar vegetation maintenance techniques to North Carolina however they need to spend less time and make fewer trips to adequately maintain vegetation on site.

- California Hazardous Waste Policy:
  - As explained in the white paper, in the United States a waste material is considered hazardous waste if the results of a Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test find concentrations of any of 40 hazardous chemicals above the allowed EPA concentration limit for that chemical. However, in California, materials must additionally meet the more stringent Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL), which is like the Reduction of Hazardous Substances (ROHS) directive, adopted in February 2003 by the European Union (EU).[i]
  - In 2015, California passed SB-489 directing the CA DTSC (Department of Toxic Substances Control) to write rules to reclassify PV modules as universal waste, even if they fail TCLP. These rules exclude physically damaged, fractured, or fragmented PV modules that are no longer recognizable as PV modules.[ii] A primary goal of the legislation is to allow producers of waste PV modules to avoid difficult and costly waste determination procedures. In April 2019 the CA DTSC proposed rules to implement SB-489. After the public comment period that ended in June 2019 DTSC may adjust and adopt the rules.[iii]

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[i] *Program on Technology Innovation: Feasibility Study on Photovoltaic Module Recycling in the United States, Technical Update, April 2018*; Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI); April 2018.

[ii] ibid

[iii] (webpage) Beveridge & Diamond law firm; News alert: California Department of Toxic Substances Control Proposes Regulation Classifying Discarded Solar Panels as Universal Waste ; https://www.bdlaw.com/publications/california-department-of-toxic-substances-control-proposes-regulation-classifying-discarded-solar-panels-as-universal-waste/ (last accessed 7/22/2019)

NC CLEAN ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Health and Safety Impacts of Solar Photovoltaics

MAY 2017

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Health and Safety Impacts of Solar Photovoltaics

The increasing presence of utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) systems (sometimes referred to as solar farms) is a rather new development in North Carolina's landscape. Due to the new and unknown nature of this technology, it is natural for communities near such developments to be concerned about health and safety impacts. Unfortunately, the quick emergence of utility-scale solar has cultivated fertile grounds for myths and half-truths about the health impacts of this technology, which can lead to unnecessary fear and conflict.

Photovoltaic (PV) technologies and solar inverters are not known to pose any significant health dangers to their neighbors. The most important dangers posed are increased highway traffic during the relative short construction period and dangers posed to trespassers of contact with high voltage equipment. This latter risk is mitigated by signage and the security measures that industry uses to deter trespassing. As will be discussed in more detail below, risks of site contamination are much less than for most other industrial uses because PV technologies employ few toxic chemicals and those used are used in very small quantities. Due to the reduction in the pollution from fossil-fuel-fired electric generators, the overall impact of solar development on human health is overwhelmingly positive. This pollution reduction results from a partial replacement of fossil-fuel fired generation by emission-free PV-generated electricity, which reduces harmful sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$). Analysis from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, both affiliates of the U.S. Department of Energy, estimates the health-related air quality benefits to the southeast region from solar PV generators to be worth 8.0 ¢ per kilowatt-hour of solar generation.[1] This is in addition to the value of the electricity and suggests that the air quality benefits of solar are worth more than the electricity itself.

Even though we have only recently seen large-scale installation of PV technologies, the technology and its potential impacts have been studied since the 1950s. A combination of this solar-specific research and general scientific research has led to the scientific community having a good understanding of the science behind potential health and safety impacts of solar energy. This paper utilizes the latest scientific literature and knowledge of solar practices in N.C. to address the health and safety risks associated with solar PV technology. These risks are extremely small, far less than those associated with common activities such as driving a car, and vastly outweighed by health benefits of the generation of clean electricity.

This paper addresses the potential health and safety impacts of solar PV development in North Carolina, organized into the following four categories:

(1) Hazardous Materials
(2) Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)
(3) Electric Shock and Arc Flash
(4) Fire Safety

1. Hazardous Materials

One of the more common concerns towards solar is that the panels (referred to as "modules" in the solar industry) consist of toxic materials that endanger public health. However, as shown in this section, solar energy systems may contain small amounts of toxic materials, but these materials do not endanger public health. To understand potential toxic hazards coming from a solar project, one must understand system installation, materials used, the panel end-of-life protocols, and system operation. This section will examine these aspects of a solar farm and the potential for toxicity impacts in the following subsections:

1.1 Project Installation/Construction

The system installation, or construction, process does not require toxic chemicals or processes. The site is mechanically cleared of large vegetation, fences are constructed, and the land is surveyed to layout exact installation locations. Trenches for underground wiring are dug and support posts are driven into the ground. The solar panels are bolted to steel and aluminum support structures and wired together. Inverter pads are installed, and an inverter and transformer are installed on each pad. Once everything is connected, the system is tested, and only then turned on.

Figure 1: Utility-scale solar facility (5 MW_{AC}) located in Catawba County. Source: Strata Solar

1.2 System Components

1.2.1 Solar Panels: Construction and Durability

Solar PV panels typically consist of glass, polymer, aluminum, copper, and semiconductor materials that can be recovered and recycled at the end of their useful life.[2] Today there are two PV technologies used in PV panels at utility-scale solar facilities, silicon, and thin film. As of 2016, all thin film used in North Carolina solar facilities are cadmium telluride (CdTe) panels from the US manufacturer First Solar, but there are other thin film PV panels available on the market, such as Solar Frontier's CIGS panels. Crystalline silicon technology consists of silicon wafers which are made into cells and assembled into panels, thin film technologies consist of thin layers of semiconductor material deposited onto glass, polymer or metal substrates. While there are differences in the components and manufacturing processes of these two types of solar technologies, many aspects of their PV panel construction are very similar. Specifics about each type of PV chemistry as it relates to toxicity are covered in subsections a, b, and c in section 1.2.2; on crystalline silicon, cadmium telluride, and CIS/CIGS respectively. The rest of this section applies equally to both silicon and thin film panels.

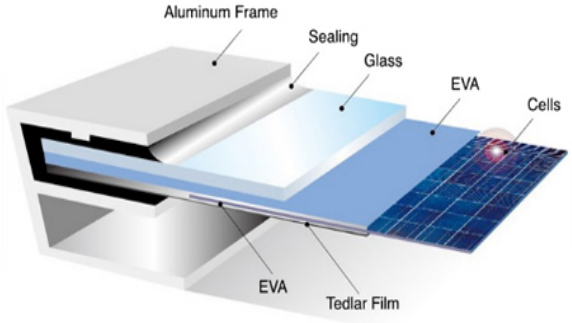

Figure 2: Components of crystalline silicon panels. The vast majority of silicon panels consist of a glass sheet on the topside with an aluminum frame providing structural support. Image Source: www.riteksolar.com.tw

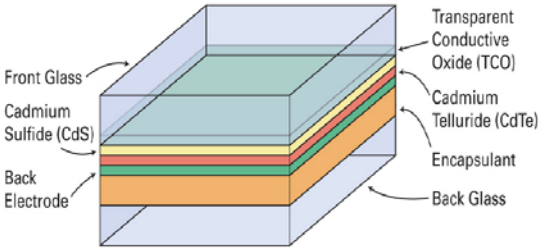

Figure 3: Layers of a common frameless thin-film panel (CdTe). Many thin film panels are frameless, including the most common thin-film panels, First Solar's CdTe. Frameless panels have protective glass on both the front and back of the panel. Layer thicknesses not to scale. Image Source: www.homepower.com

To provide decades of corrosion-free operation, PV cells in PV panels are encapsulated from air and moisture between two layers of plastic. The encapsulation layers are protected on the top with a layer of tempered glass and on the backside with a polymer sheet. Frameless modules include a protective layer of glass on the rear of the panel, which may also be tempered. The plastic ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) commonly provides the cell encapsulation. For decades, this same material has been used between layers of tempered glass to give car windshields and hurricane windows their great strength. In the same way that a car windshield cracks but stays intact, the EVA layers in PV panels keep broken panels intact (see Figure 4). Thus, a damaged module does not generally create small pieces of debris; instead, it largely remains together as one piece.

Figure 4: The mangled PV panels in this picture illustrate the nature of broken solar panels; the glass cracks but the panel is still in one piece. Image Source: http://img.alibaba.com/photo/115259576/broken_solar_panel.jpg

PV panels constructed with the same basic components as modern panels have been installed across the globe for well over thirty years.[3] The long-term durability and performance demonstrated over these decades, as well as the results of accelerated lifetime testing, helped lead to an industry-standard 25-year power production warranty for PV panels. These power warranties warrant a PV panel to produce at least 80% of their original nameplate production after 25 years of use. A recent SolarCity and DNV GL study reported that today's quality PV panels should be expected to reliably and efficiently produce power for thirty-five years.[4]

Local building codes require all structures, including ground mounted solar arrays, to be engineered to withstand anticipated wind speeds, as defined by the local wind speed requirements. Many racking products are available in versions engineered for wind speeds of up to 150 miles per hour, which is significantly higher than the wind speed requirement anywhere in North Carolina. The strength of PV mounting structures were demonstrated during Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and again during Hurricane Matthew in 2016. During Hurricane Sandy, the many large-scale solar facilities in New Jersey and New York at that time suffered only minor damage.[5] In the fall of 2016, the US and Caribbean experienced destructive winds and torrential rains from Hurricane Matthew, yet one leading solar tracker manufacturer reported that their numerous systems in the impacted area received zero damage from wind or flooding.[6]

In the event of a catastrophic event capable of damaging solar equipment, such as a tornado, the system will almost certainly have property insurance that will cover the cost to cleanup and repair the project. It is in the best interest of the system owner to protect their investment against such risks. It is also in their interest to get the project repaired and producing full power as soon as possible. Therefore, the investment in adequate insurance is a wise business practice for the system owner. For the same

reasons, adequate insurance coverage is also generally a requirement of the bank or firm providing financing for the project.

1.2.2 Photovoltaic (PV) Technologies

a. Crystalline Silicon

This subsection explores the toxicity of silicon-based PV panels and concludes that they do not pose a material risk of toxicity to public health and safety. Modern crystalline silicon PV panels, which account for over 90% of solar PV panels installed today, are, more or less, a commodity product. The overwhelming majority of panels installed in North Carolina are crystalline silicon panels that are informally classified as Tier I panels. Tier I panels are from well-respected manufacturers that have a good chance of being able to honor warranty claims. Tier I panels are understood to be of high quality, with predictable performance, durability, and content. Well over 80% (by weight) of the content of a PV panel is the tempered glass front and the aluminum frame, both of which are common building materials. Most of the remaining portion are common plastics, including polyethylene terephthalate in the backsheet, EVA encapsulation of the PV cells, polyphenyl ether in the junction box, and polyethylene insulation on the wire leads. The active, working components of the system are the silicon photovoltaic cells, the small electrical leads connecting them together, and to the wires coming out of the back of the panel. The electricity generating and conducting components makeup less than 5% of the weight of most panels. The PV cell itself is nearly 100% silicon, and silicon is the second most common element in the Earth's crust. The silicon for PV cells is obtained by high-temperature processing of quartz sand (SiO_2) that removes its oxygen molecules. The refined silicon is converted to a PV cell by adding extremely small amounts of boron and phosphorus, both of which are common and of very low toxicity.

The other minor components of the PV cell are also generally benign; however, some contain lead, which is a human toxicant that is particularly harmful to young children. The minor components include an extremely thin antireflective coating (silicon nitride or titanium dioxide), a thin layer of aluminum on the rear, and thin strips of silver alloy that are screen-printed on the front and rear of cell.[7] In order for the front and rear electrodes to make effective electrical contact with the proper layer of the PV cell, other materials (called glass frit) are mixed with the silver alloy and then heated to etch the metals into the cell. This glass frit historically contains a small amount of lead (Pb) in the form of lead oxide. The 60 or 72 PV cells in a PV panel are connected by soldering thin solder-covered copper tabs from the back of one cell to the front of the next cell. Traditionally a tin-based solder containing some lead (Pb) is used, but some manufacturers have switched to lead-free solder. The glass frit and/or the solder may contain trace amounts of other metals, potentially including some with human toxicity such as cadmium. However, testing to simulate the potential for leaching from broken panels, which is discussed in more detail below, did not find a potential toxicity threat from these trace elements. Therefore, the tiny amount of lead in the grass frit and the solder is the only part of silicon PV panels with a potential to create a negative health impact. However, as described below, the very limited amount of lead involved and its strong physical and chemical attachment to other components of the PV panel means that even in worst-case scenarios the health hazard it poses is insignificant.

As with many electronic industries, the solder in silicon PV panels has historically been a lead-based solder, often 36% lead, due to the superior properties of such solder. However, recent advances in lead-free solders have spurred a trend among PV panel manufacturers to reduce or remove the lead in their panels. According to the 2015 Solar Scorecard from the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, a group that tracks environmental responsibility of photovoltaic panel manufacturers, fourteen companies (increased from twelve companies in 2014) manufacture PV panels certified to meet the European Restriction of

Hazardous Substances (RoHS) standard. This means that the amount of cadmium and lead in the panels they manufacture fall below the RoHS thresholds, which are set by the European Union and serve as the world's de facto standard for hazardous substances in manufactured goods.[8] The Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) standard requires that the maximum concentration found in any homogenous material in a produce is less than 0.01% cadmium and less than 0.10% lead, therefore, any solder can be no more than 0.10% lead.[9]

While some manufacturers are producing PV panels that meet the RoHS standard, there is no requirement that they do so because the RoHS Directive explicitly states that the directive does not apply to photovoltaic panels.[10] The justification for this is provided in item 17 of the current RoHS Directive: "The development of renewable forms of energy is one of the Union's key objectives, and the contribution made by renewable energy sources to environmental and climate objectives is crucial. Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (4) recalls that there should be coherence between those objectives and other Union environmental legislation. Consequently, this Directive should not prevent the development of renewable energy technologies that have no negative impact on health and the environment and that are sustainable and economically viable."

The use of lead is common in our modern economy. However, only about 0.5% of the annual lead consumption in the U.S. is for electronic solder for all uses; PV solder makes up only a tiny portion of this 0.5%. Close to 90% of lead consumption in the US is in batteries, which do not encapsulate the pounds of lead contained in each typical automotive battery. This puts the lead in batteries at great risk of leaching into the environment. Estimates for the lead in a single PV panel with lead-based solder range from 1.6 to 24 grams of lead, with 13g (less than half of an ounce) per panel seen most often in the literature.[11] At 13 g/panel[12], each panel contains one-half of the lead in a typical 12-gauge shotgun shell. This amount equates to roughly 1/750th of the lead in a single car battery. In a panel, it is all durably encapsulated from air or water for the full life of the panel.[14]

As indicated by their 20 to 30-year power warranty, PV modules are designed for a long service life, generally over 25 years. For a panel to comply with its 25-year power warranty, its internal components, including lead, must be sealed from any moisture. Otherwise, they would corrode and the panel's output would fall below power warranty levels. Thus, the lead in operating PV modules is not at risk of release to the environment during their service lifetime. In extreme experiments, researchers have shown that lead can leach from crushed or pulverized panels.[15, 16] However, more real-world tests designed to represent typical trash compaction that are used to classify waste as hazardous or non-hazardous show no danger from leaching.[17, 18] For more information about PV panel end-of-life, see the Panel Disposal section.

As illustrated throughout this section, silicon-based PV panels do not pose a material threat to public health and safety. The only aspect of the panels with potential toxicity concerns is the very small amount of lead in some panels. However, any lead in a panel is well sealed from environmental exposure for the operating lifetime of the solar panel and thus not at risk of release into the environment.

b. Cadmium Telluride (CdTe) PV Panels

This subsection examines the components of a cadmium telluride (CdTe) PV panel. Research demonstrates that they pose negligible toxicity risk to public health and safety while significantly reducing the public's exposure to cadmium by reducing coal emissions. As of mid-2016, a few hundred MWs of

cadmium telluride (CdTe) panels, all manufactured by the U.S. company First Solar, have been installed in North Carolina.

Questions about the potential health and environmental impacts from the use of this PV technology are related to the concern that these panels contain cadmium, a toxic heavy metal. However, scientific studies have shown that cadmium telluride differs from cadmium due to its high chemical and thermal stability.[19] Research has shown that the tiny amount of cadmium in these panels does not pose a health or safety risk.[20] Further, there are very compelling reasons to welcome its adoption due to reductions in unhealthy pollution associated with burning coal. Every GWh of electricity generated by burning coal produces about 4 grams of cadmium air emissions.[21] Even though North Carolina produces a significant fraction of our electricity from coal, electricity from solar offsets much more natural gas than coal due to natural gas plants being able to adjust their rate of production more easily and quickly. If solar electricity offsets 90% natural gas and 10% coal, each 5-megawatt (5 MW_{AC}, which is generally 7 MW_{DC}) CdTe solar facility in North Carolina keeps about 157 grams, or about a third of a pound, of cadmium *out of* our environment.[22, 23]

Cadmium is toxic, but all the approximately 7 grams of cadmium in one CdTe panel is in the form of a chemical compound cadmium telluride,[24] which has $1/100^{th}$ the toxicity of free cadmium.[25] Cadmium telluride is a very stable compound that is non-volatile and non-soluble in water. Even in the case of a fire, research shows that less than 0.1% of the cadmium is released when a CdTe panel is exposed to fire. The fire melts the glass and encapsulates over 99.9% of the cadmium in the molten glass.[27]

It is important to understand the source of the cadmium used to manufacture CdTe PV panels. The cadmium is a byproduct of zinc and lead refining. The element is collected from emissions and waste streams during the production of these metals and combined with tellurium to create the CdTe used in PV panels. If the cadmium were not collected for use in the PV panels or other products, it would otherwise either be stockpiled for future use, cemented and buried, or disposed of.[28] Nearly all the cadmium in old or broken panels can be recycled which can eventually serve as the primary source of cadmium for new PV panels.[29]

Similar to silicon-based PV panels, CdTe panels are constructed of a tempered glass front, one instead of two clear plastic encapsulation layers, and a rear heat strengthened glass backing (together >98% by weight). The final product is built to withstand exposure to the elements without significant damage for over 25 years. While not representative of damage that may occur in the field or even at a landfill, laboratory evidence has illustrated that when panels are ground into a fine powder, very acidic water is able to leach portions of the cadmium and tellurium,[30] similar to the process used to recycle CdTe panels. Like many silicon-based panels, CdTe panels are reported (as far back ask 1998[31]) to pass the EPA's Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test, which tests the potential for crushed panels in a landfill to leach hazardous substances into groundwater.[32] Passing this test means that they are classified as non-hazardous waste and can be deposited in landfills.[33, 34] For more information about PV panel end-of-life, see the Panel Disposal section.

There is also concern of environmental impact resulting from potential catastrophic events involving CdTe PV panels. An analysis of worst-case scenarios for environmental impact from CdTe PV panels, including earthquakes, fires, and floods, was conducted by the University of Tokyo in 2013. After reviewing the extensive international body of research on CdTe PV technology, their report concluded, "Even in the worst-case scenarios, it is unlikely that the Cd concentrations in air and sea water will exceed the environmental regulation values."[35] In a worst-case scenario of damaged panels abandoned on the ground, insignificant amounts of cadmium will leach from the panels. This is because this scenario is

much less conducive (larger module pieces, less acidity) to leaching than the conditions of the EPA's TCLP test used to simulate landfill conditions, which CdTe panels pass.[36]

First Solar, a U.S. company, and the only significant supplier of CdTe panels, has a robust panel take-back and recycling program that has been operating commercially since 2005.[37] The company states that it is "committed to providing a commercially attractive recycling solution for photovoltaic (PV) power plant and module owners to help them meet their module (end of life) EOL obligation simply, cost-effectively and responsibly." First Solar global recycling services to their customers to collect and recycle panels once they reach the end of productive life whether due to age or damage. These recycling service agreements are structured to be financially attractive to both First Solar and the solar panel owner. For First Solar, the contract provides the company with an affordable source of raw materials needed for new panels and presumably a diminished risk of undesired release of Cd. The contract also benefits the solar panel owner by allowing them to avoid tipping fees at a waste disposal site. The legal contract helps provide peace of mind by ensuring compliance by both parties when considering the continuing trend of rising disposal costs and increasing regulatory requirements.

c. CIS/CIGS and other PV technologies

Copper indium gallium selenide PV technology, often referred to as CIGS, is the second most common type of thin-film PV panel but a distant second behind CdTe. CIGS cells are composed of a thin layer of copper, indium, gallium, and selenium on a glass or plastic backing. None of these elements are very toxic, although selenium is a regulated metal under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).[38] The cells often also have an extremely thin layer of cadmium sulfide that contains a tiny amount of cadmium, which is toxic. The promise of high efficiency CIGS panels drove heavy investment in this technology in the past. However, researchers have struggled to transfer high efficiency success in the lab to low-cost full-scale panels in the field.[39] Recently, a CIGS manufacturer based in Japan, Solar Frontier, has achieved some market success with a rigid, glass-faced CIGS module that competes with silicon panels. Solar Frontier produces the majority of CIS panels on the market today.[40] Notably, these panels are RoHS compliant,[41] thus meeting the rigorous toxicity standard adopted by the European Union even thought this directive exempts PV panels. The authors are unaware of any completed or proposed utility-scale system in North Carolina using CIS/CIGS panels.

1.2.3 Panel End-of-Life Management

Concerns about the volume, disposal, toxicity, and recycling of PV panels are addressed in this subsection. To put the volume of PV waste into perspective, consider that by 2050, when PV systems installed in 2020 will reach the end of their lives, it is estimated that the global annual PV panel waste tonnage will be 10% of the 2014 global e-waste tonnage.[42] In the U.S., end-of-life disposal of solar products is governed by the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as well as state policies in some situations. RCRA separates waste into hazardous (not accepted at ordinary landfill) and solid waste (generally accepted at ordinary landfill) based on a series of rules. According to RCRA, the way to determine if a PV panel is classified as hazardous waste is the Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test. This EPA test is designed to simulate landfill disposal and determine the risk of hazardous substances leaching out of the landfill.[43, 44, 45] Multiple sources report that most modern PV panels (both crystalline silicon and cadmium telluride) pass the TCLP test.[46, 47] Some studies found that some older (1990s) crystalline silicon panels, and perhaps some newer crystalline silicon panels (specifics are not given about vintage of panels tested), do not pass the lead (Pb) leachate limits in the TCLP test.[48, 49]

The test begins with the crushing of a panel into centimeter-sized pieces. The pieces are then mixed in an acid bath. After tumbling for eighteen hours, the fluid is tested for forty hazardous substances that all must be below specific threshold levels to pass the test. Research comparing TCLP conditions to conditions of damaged panels in the field found that simulated landfill conditions provide overly conservative estimates of leaching for field-damaged panels.[50] Additionally, research in Japan has found no detectable Cd leaching from cracked CdTe panels when exposed to simulated acid rain.[51]

Although modern panels can generally be landfilled, they can also be recycled. Even though recent waste volume has not been adequate to support significant PV-specific recycling infrastructure, the existing recycling industry in North Carolina reports that it recycles much of the current small volume of broken PV panels. In an informal survey conducted by the NC Clean Energy Technology Center survey in early 2016, seven of the eight large active North Carolina utility-scale solar developers surveyed reported that they send damaged panels back to the manufacturer and/or to a local recycler. Only one developer reported sending damaged panels to the landfill.

The developers reported at that time that they are usually paid a small amount per panel by local recycling firms. In early 2017, a PV developer reported that a local recycler was charging a small fee per panel to recycle damaged PV panels. The local recycling firm known to authors to accept PV panels described their current PV panel recycling practice as of early 2016 as removing the aluminum frame for local recycling and removing the wire leads for local copper recycling. The remainder of the panel is sent to a facility for processing the non-metallic portions of crushed vehicles, referred to as "fluff" in the recycling industry.[52] This processing within existing general recycling plants allows for significant material recovery of major components, including glass which is 80% of the module weight, but at lower yields than PV-specific recycling plants. Notably almost half of the material value in a PV panel is in the few grams of silver contained in almost every PV panel produced today. In the long-term, dedicated PV panel recycling plants can increase treatment capacities and maximize revenues resulting in better output quality and the ability to recover a greater fraction of the useful materials.[53] PV-specific panel recycling technologies have been researched and implemented to some extent for the past decade, and have been shown to be able to recover over 95% of PV material (semiconductor) and over 90% of the glass in a PV panel.[54]

A look at global PV recycling trends hints at the future possibilities of the practice in our country. Europe installed MW-scale volumes of PV years before the U.S. In 2007, a public-private partnership between the European Union and the solar industry set up a voluntary collection and recycling system called PV CYCLE. This arrangement was later made mandatory under the EU's WEEE directive, a program for waste electrical and electronic equipment.[55] Its member companies (PV panel producers) fully finance the association. This makes it possible for end-users to return the member companies' defective panels for recycling at any of the over 300 collection points around Europe without added costs. Additionally, PV CYCLE will pick up batches of 40 or more used panels at no cost to the user. This arrangement has been very successful, collecting and recycling over 13,000 tons by the end of 2015.[56]

In 2012, the WEEE Directive added the end-of-life collection and recycling of PV panels to its scope.[57] This directive is based on the principle of extended-producer-responsibility. It has a global impact because producers that want to sell into the EU market are legally responsible for end-of-life management. Starting in 2018, this directive targets that 85% of PV products "put in the market" in Europe are recovered and 80% is prepared for reuse and recycling.

The success of the PV panel collection and recycling practices in Europe provides promise for the future of recycling in the U.S. In mid-2016, the US Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) announced that they are starting a national solar panel recycling program with the guidance and support of many

leading PV panel producers.[58] The program will aggregate the services offered by recycling vendors and PV manufacturers, which will make it easier for consumers to select a cost-effective and environmentally responsible end-of-life management solution for their PV products. According to SEIA, they are planning the program in an effort to make the entire industry landfill-free. In addition to the national recycling network program, the program will provide a portal for system owners and consumers with information on how to responsibly recycle their PV systems.

While a cautious approach toward the potential for negative environmental and/or health impacts from retired PV panels is fully warranted, this section has shown that the positive health impacts of reduced emissions from fossil fuel combustion from PV systems more than outweighs any potential risk. Testing shows that silicon and CdTe panels are both safe to dispose of in landfills, and are also safe in worst case conditions of abandonment or damage in a disaster. Additionally, analysis by local engineers has found that the current salvage value of the equipment in a utility scale PV facility generally exceeds general contractor estimates for the cost to remove the entire PV system.[59, 60, 61]

1.2.4 Non-Panel System Components (racking, wiring, inverter, transformer)

While previous toxicity subsections discussed PV panels, this subsection describes the non-panel components of utility-scale PV systems and investigates any potential public health and safety concerns. The most significant non-panel component of a ground-mounted PV system is the mounting structure of the rows of panels, commonly referred to as "racking". The vertical post portion of the racking is galvanized steel and the remaining above-ground racking components are either galvanized steel or aluminum, which are both extremely common and benign building materials. The inverters that make the solar generated electricity ready to send to the grid have weather-proof steel enclosures that protect the working components from the elements. The only fluids that they might contain are associated with their cooling systems, which are not unlike the cooling system in a computer. Many inverters today are RoHS compliant.

The electrical transformers (to boost the inverter output voltage to the voltage of the utility connection point) do contain a liquid cooling oil. However, the fluid used for that function is either a non-toxic mineral oil or a biodegradable non-toxic vegetable oil, such as BIOTEMP from ABB. These vegetable transformer oils have the additional advantage of being much less flammable than traditional mineral oils. Significant health hazards are associated with old transformers containing cooling oil with toxic PCBs. Transfers with PCB-containing oil were common before PCBs were outlawed in the U.S. in 1979. PCBs still exist in older transformers in the field across the country.

Other than a few utility research sites, there are no batteries on- or off-site associated with utility-scale solar energy facilities in North Carolina, avoiding any potential health or safety concerns related to battery technologies. However, as battery technologies continue to improve and prices continue to decline we are likely to start seeing some batteries at solar facilities. Lithium ion batteries currently dominate the world utility-scale battery market, which are not very toxic. No non-panel system components were found to pose any health or environmental dangers.

1.4 Operations and Maintenance – Panel Washing and Vegetation Control

Throughout the eastern U.S., the climate provides frequent and heavy enough rain to keep panels adequately clean. This dependable weather pattern eliminates the need to wash the panels on a regular basis. Some system owners may choose to wash panels as often as once a year to increase production, but most in N.C. do not regularly wash any PV panels. Dirt build up over time may justify panel washing a few times over the panels' lifetime; however, nothing more than soap and water are required for this activity.

The maintenance of ground-mounted PV facilities requires that vegetation be kept low, both for aesthetics and to avoid shading of the PV panels. Several approaches are used to maintain vegetation at NC solar facilities, including planting of limited-height species, mowing, weed-eating, herbicides, and grazing livestock (sheep). The following descriptions of vegetation maintenance practices are based on interviews with several solar developers as well as with three maintenance firms that together are contracted to maintain well over 100 of the solar facilities in N.C. The majority of solar facilities in North Carolina maintain vegetation primarily by mowing. Each row of panels has a single row of supports, allowing sickle mowers to mow under the panels. The sites usually require mowing about once a month during the growing season. Some sites employ sheep to graze the site, which greatly reduces the human effort required to maintain the vegetation and produces high quality lamb meat.[62]

In addition to mowing and weed eating, solar facilities often use some herbicides. Solar facilities generally do not spray herbicides over the entire acreage; rather they apply them only in strategic locations such as at the base of the perimeter fence, around exterior vegetative buffer, on interior dirt roads, and near the panel support posts. Also unlike many row crop operations, solar facilities generally use only general use herbicides, which are available over the counter, as opposed to restricted use herbicides commonly used in commercial agriculture that require a special restricted use license. The herbicides used at solar facilities are primarily 2-4-D and glyphosate (Round-up®), which are two of the most common herbicides used in lawns, parks, and agriculture across the country. One maintenance firm that was interviewed sprays the grass with a class of herbicide known as a growth regulator in order to slow the growth of grass so that mowing is only required twice a year. Growth regulators are commonly used on highway roadsides and golf courses for the same purpose. A commercial pesticide applicator license is required for anyone other than the landowner to apply herbicides, which helps ensure that all applicators are adequately educated about proper herbicide use and application. The license must be renewed annually and requires passing of a certification exam appropriate to the area in which the applicator wishes to work. Based on the limited data available, it appears that solar facilities in N.C. generally use significantly less herbicides per acre than most commercial agriculture or lawn maintenance services.

2. Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

PV systems do not emit any material during their operation; however, they do generate electromagnetic fields (EMF), sometimes referred to as radiation. EMF produced by electricity is non-ionizing radiation, meaning the radiation has enough energy to move atoms in a molecule around (experienced as heat), but not enough energy to remove electrons from an atom or molecule (ionize) or to damage DNA. As shown below, modern humans are all exposed to EMF throughout our daily lives without negative health impact. Someone outside of the fenced perimeter of a solar facility is not exposed to significant EMF from the solar facility. Therefore, there is no negative health impact from the EMF

produced in a solar farm. The following paragraphs provide some additional background and detail to support this conclusion.

Since the 1970s, some have expressed concern over potential health consequences of EMF from electricity, but no studies have ever shown this EMF to cause health problems.[63] These concerns are based on some epidemiological studies that found a slight increase in childhood leukemia associated with average exposure to residential power-frequency magnetic fields above 0.3 to 0.4 μT (microteslas) (equal to 3.0 to 4.0 mG (milligauss)). μT and mG are both units used to measure magnetic field strength. For comparison, the average exposure for people in the U.S. is one mG or 0.1 μT, with about 1% of the population with an average exposure in excess of 0.4 μT (or 4 mG).[64] These epidemiological studies, which found an association but not a causal relationship, led the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to classify ELF magnetic fields as "possibly carcinogenic to humans". Coffee also has this classification. This classification means there is limited evidence but not enough evidence to designate as either a "probable carcinogen" or "human carcinogen". Overall, there is very little concern that ELF EMF damages public health. The only concern that does exist is for long-term exposure above 0.4 μT (4 mG) that may have some connection to increased cases of childhood leukemia. In 1997, the National Academies of Science were directed by Congress to examine this concern and concluded:

> "Based on a comprehensive evaluation of published studies relating to the effects of power-frequency electric and magnetic fields on cells, tissues, and organisms (including humans), the conclusion of the committee is that the current body of evidence does not show that exposure to these fields presents a human-health hazard. Specifically, no conclusive and consistent evidence shows that exposures to residential electric and magnetic fields produce cancer, adverse neurobehavioral effects, or reproductive and developmental effects."[65]

There are two aspects to electromagnetic fields, an electric field and a magnetic field. The electric field is generated by voltage and the magnetic field is generated by electric current, i.e., moving electrons. A task group of scientific experts convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2005 concluded that there were no substantive health issues related to *electric* fields (0 to 100,000 Hz) at levels generally encountered by members of the public.[66] The relatively low voltages in a solar facility and the fact that electric fields are easily shielded (i.e., blocked) by common materials, such as plastic, metal, or soil means that there is no concern of negative health impacts from the electric fields generated by a solar facility. Thus, the remainder of this section addresses magnetic fields. Magnetic fields are not shielded by most common materials and thus can easily pass through them. Both types of fields are strongest close to the source of electric generation and weaken quickly with distance from the source.

The direct current (DC) electricity produced by PV panels produce stationary (0 Hz) electric and magnetic fields. Because of minimal concern about potential risks of stationary fields, little scientific research has examined stationary fields' impact on human health.[67] In even the largest PV facilities, the DC voltages and currents are not very high. One can illustrate the weakness of the EMF generated by a PV panel by placing a compass on an operating solar panel and observing that the needle still points north.

While the electricity throughout the majority of a solar site is DC electricity, the inverters convert this DC electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity matching the 60 Hz frequency of the grid. Therefore, the inverters and the wires delivering this power to the grid are producing non-stationary EMF, known as extremely low frequency (ELF) EMF, normally oscillating with a frequency of 60 Hz. This frequency is at the low-energy end of the electromagnetic spectrum. Therefore, it has less energy than

other commonly encountered types of non-ionizing radiation like radio waves, infrared radiation, and visible light.

The wide use of electricity results in background levels of ELF EMFs in nearly all locations where people spend time – homes, workplaces, schools, cars, the supermarket, etc. A person's average exposure depends upon the sources they encounter, how close they are to them, and the amount of time they spend there.[68] As stated above, the average exposure to magnetic fields in the U.S. is estimated to be around one mG or 0.1 μT, but can vary considerably depending on a person's exposure to EMF from electrical devices and wiring.[69] At times we are often exposed to much higher ELF magnetic fields, for example when standing three feet from a refrigerator the ELF magnetic field is 6 mG and when standing three feet from a microwave oven the field is about 50 mG.[70] The strength of these fields diminish quickly with distance from the source, but when surrounded by electricity in our homes and other buildings moving away from one source moves you closer to another. However, unless you are inside of the fence at a utility-scale solar facility or electrical substation it is impossible to get very close to the EMF sources. Because of this, EMF levels at the fence of electrical substations containing high voltages and currents are considered "generally negligible".[71, 72]

The strength of ELF-EMF present at the perimeter of a solar facility or near a PV system in a commercial or residential building is significantly lower than the typical American's average EMF exposure.[73, 74] Researchers in Massachusetts measured magnetic fields at PV projects and found the magnetic fields dropped to very low levels of 0.5 mG or less, and in many cases to less than background levels (0.2 mG), at distances of no more than nine feet from the residential inverters and 150 feet from the utility-scale inverters.[75] Even when measured within a few feet of the utility-scale inverter, the ELF magnetic fields were well below the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection's recommended magnetic field level exposure limit for the general public of 2,000 mG.[76] It is typical that utility scale designs locate large inverters central to the PV panels that feed them because this minimizes the length of wire required and shields neighbors from the sound of the inverter's cooling fans. Thus, it is rare for a large PV inverter to be within 150 feet of the project's security fence.

Anyone relying on a medical device such as pacemaker or other implanted device to maintain proper heart rhythm may have concern about the potential for a solar project to interfere with the operation of his or her device. However, there is no reason for concern because the EMF outside of the solar facility's fence is less than 1/1000 of the level at which manufacturers test for ELF EMF interference, which is 1,000 mG.[77] Manufacturers of potentially affected implanted devices often provide advice on electromagnetic interference that includes avoiding letting the implanted device get too close to certain sources of fields such as some household appliances, some walkie-talkies, and similar transmitting devices. Some manufacturers' literature does not mention high-voltage power lines, some say that exposure in public areas should not give interference, and some advise not spending extended periods of time close to power lines.[78]

3. Electric Shock and Arc Flash Hazards

There is a real danger of electric shock to anyone entering any of the electrical cabinets such as combiner boxes, disconnect switches, inverters, or transformers; or otherwise coming in contact with voltages over 50 Volts.[79] Another electrical hazard is an arc flash, which is an explosion of energy that can occur in a short circuit situation. This explosive release of energy causes a flash of heat and a shockwave, both of which can cause serious injury or death. Properly trained and equipped technicians and electricians know how to safely install, test, and repair PV systems, but there is always some risk of

injury when hazardous voltages and/or currents are present. Untrained individuals should not attempt to inspect, test, or repair any aspect of a PV system due to the potential for injury or death due to electric shock and arc flash, The National Electric Code (NEC) requires appropriate levels of warning signs on all electrical components based on the level of danger determined by the voltages and current potentials. The national electric code also requires the site to be secured from unauthorized visitors with either a six-foot chain link fence with three strands of barbed wire or an eight-foot fence, both with adequate hazard warning signs.

4. Fire Safety

The possibility of fires resulting from or intensified by PV systems may trigger concern among the general public as well as among firefighters. However, concern over solar fire hazards should be limited because only a small portion of materials in the panels are flammable, and those components cannot self-support a significant fire. Flammable components of PV panels include the thin layers of polymer encapsulates surrounding the PV cells, polymer backsheets (framed panels only), plastic junction boxes on rear of panel, and insulation on wiring. The rest of the panel is composed of non-flammable components, notably including one or two layers of protective glass that make up over three quarters of the panel's weight.

Heat from a small flame is not adequate to ignite a PV panel, but heat from a more intense fire or energy from an electrical fault can ignite a PV panel.[80] One real-world example of this occurred during July 2015 in an arid area of California. Three acres of grass under a thin film PV facility burned without igniting the panels mounted on fixed-tilt racks just above the grass.[81] While it is possible for electrical faults in PV systems on homes or commercial buildings to start a fire, this is extremely rare.[82] Improving understanding of the PV-specific risks, safer system designs, and updated fire-related codes and standards will continue to reduce the risk of fire caused by PV systems.

PV systems on buildings can affect firefighters in two primary ways, 1) impact their methods of fighting the fire, and 2) pose safety hazard to the firefighters. One of the most important techniques that firefighters use to suppress fire is ventilation of a building's roof. This technique allows superheated toxic gases to quickly exit the building. By doing so, the firefighters gain easier and safer access to the building, Ventilation of the roof also makes the challenge of putting out the fire easier. However, the placement of rooftop PV panels may interfere with ventilating the roof by limiting access to desired venting locations.

New solar-specific building code requirements are working to minimize these concerns. Also, the latest National Electric Code has added requirements that make it easier for first responders to safely and effectively turn off a PV system. Concern for firefighting a building with PV can be reduced with proper fire fighter training, system design, and installation. Numerous organizations have studied fire fighter safety related to PV. Many organizations have published valuable guides and training programs. Some notable examples are listed below.

- The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and International Renewable Energy Council (IREC) partnered to create an online training course that is far beyond the PowerPoint click-and-view model. The self-paced online course, "Solar PV Safety for Fire Fighters," features rich video content and simulated environments so fire fighters can practice the knowledge they've learned. www.iaff.org/pvsafetytraining
- Photovoltaic Systems and the Fire Code: Office of NC Fire Marshal
- Fire Service Training, Underwriter's Laboratory

- Firefighter Safety and Response for Solar Power Systems, National Fire Protection Research Foundation
- Bridging the Gap: Fire Safety & Green Buildings, National Association of State Fire Marshalls
- Guidelines for Fire Safety Elements of Solar Photovoltaic Systems, Orange County Fire Chiefs Association
- Solar Photovoltaic Installation Guidelines, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, Office of the State Fire Marshall
- PV Safety & Firefighting, Matthew Paiss, Homepower Magazine
- PV Safety and Code Development: Matthew Paiss, Cooperative Research Network

Summary

The purpose of this paper is to address and alleviate concerns of public health and safety for utility-scale solar PV projects. Concerns of public health and safety were divided and discussed in the four following sections: (1) Toxicity, (2) Electromagnetic Fields, (3) Electric Shock and Arc Flash, and (4) Fire. In each of these sections, the negative health and safety impacts of utility-scale PV development were shown to be negligible, while the public health and safety benefits of installing these facilities are significant and far outweigh any negative impacts.

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EXHIBIT M: HYDROLOGIC RESPONSE TO SOLAR FARMS

Hydrologic Response of Solar Farms

Lauren M. Cook, S.M.ASCE[1]; and Richard H. McCuen, M.ASCE[2]

Abstract: Because of the benefits of solar energy, the number of solar farms is increasing; however, their hydrologic impacts have not been studied. The goal of this study was to determine the hydrologic effects of solar farms and examine whether or not storm-water management is needed to control runoff volumes and rates. A model of a solar farm was used to simulate runoff for two conditions: the pre- and postpaneled conditions. Using sensitivity analyses, modeling showed that the solar panels themselves did not have a significant effect on the runoff volumes, peaks, or times to peak. However, if the ground cover under the panels is gravel or bare ground, owing to design decisions or lack of maintenance, the peak discharge may increase significantly with storm-water management needed. In addition, the kinetic energy of the flow that drains from the panels was found to be greater than that of the rainfall, which could cause erosion at the base of the panels. Thus, it is recommended that the grass beneath the panels be well maintained or that a buffer strip be placed after the most downgradient row of panels. This study, along with design recommendations, can be used as a guide for the future design of solar farms. **DOI: 10.1061/(ASCE)HE.1943-5584.0000530.**

CE Database subject headings: Hydrology; Land use; Solar power; Floods; Surface water; Runoff; Stormwater management.

Author keywords: Hydrology; Land use change; Solar energy; Flooding; Surface water runoff; Storm-water management.

Introduction

Storm-water management practices are generally implemented to reverse the effects of land-cover changes that cause increases in volumes and rates of runoff. This is a concern posed for new types of land-cover change such as the solar farm. Solar energy is a renewable energy source that is expected to increase in importance in the near future. Because solar farms require considerable land, it is necessary to understand the design of solar farms and their potential effect on erosion rates and storm runoff, especially the impact on offsite properties and receiving streams. These farms can vary in size from 8 ha (20 acres) in residential areas to 250 ha (600 acres) in areas where land is abundant.

The solar panels are impervious to rain water; however, they are mounted on metal rods and placed over pervious land. In some cases, the area below the panel is paved or covered with gravel. Service roads are generally located between rows of panels. Although some panels are stationary, others are designed to move so that the angle of the panel varies with the angle of the sun. The angle can range, depending on the latitude, from 22° during the summer months to 74° during the winter months. In addition, the angle and direction can also change throughout the day. The issue posed is whether or not these rows of impervious panels will change the runoff characteristics of the site, specifically increase runoff volumes or peak discharge rates. If the increases are hydrologically significant, storm-water management facilities may be needed. Additionally, it is possible that the velocity of water draining from the edge of the panels is sufficient to cause erosion of the soil below the panels, especially where the maintenance roadways are bare ground.

The outcome of this study provides guidance for assessing the hydrologic effects of solar farms, which is important to those who plan, design, and install arrays of solar panels. Those who design solar farms may need to provide for storm-water management. This study investigated the hydrologic effects of solar farms, assessed whether or not storm-water management might be needed, and if the velocity of the runoff from the panels could be sufficient to cause erosion of the soil below the panels.

Model Development

Solar farms are generally designed to maximize the amount of energy produced per unit of land area, while still allowing space for maintenance. The hydrologic response of solar farms is not usually considered in design. Typically, the panels will be arrayed in long rows with separations between the rows to allow for maintenance vehicles. To model a typical layout, a unit width of one panel was assumed, with the length of the downgradient strip depending on the size of the farm. For example, a solar farm with 30 rows of 200 panels each could be modeled as a strip of 30 panels with space between the panels for maintenance vehicles. Rainwater that drains from the upper panel onto the ground will flow over the land under the 29 panels on the downgradient strip. Depending on the land cover, infiltration losses would be expected as the runoff flows to the bottom of the slope.

To determine the effects that the solar panels have on runoff characteristics, a model of a solar farm was developed. Runoff in the form of sheet flow without the addition of the solar panels served as the prepaneled condition. The paneled condition assumed a downgradient series of cells with one solar panel per ground cell. Each cell was separated into three sections: wet, dry, and spacer.

The dry section is that portion directly underneath the solar panel, unexposed directly to the rainfall. As the angle of the panel from the horizontal increases, more of the rain will fall directly onto

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J. Hydrol. Eng. 2013.18:536-541.

the ground; this section of the cell is referred to as the wet section. The spacer section is the area between the rows of panels used by maintenance vehicles. Fig. 1 is an image of two solar panels and the spacer section allotted for maintenance vehicles. Fig. 2 is a schematic of the wet, dry, and spacer sections with their respective dimensions. In Fig. 1, tracks from the vehicles are visible on what is modeled within as the spacer section. When the solar panel is horizontal, then the length longitudinal to the direction that runoff will occur is the length of the dry and wet sections combined. Runoff from a dry section drains onto the downgradient spacer section. Runoff from the spacer section flows to the wet section of the next downgradient cell. Water that drains from a solar panel falls directly onto the spacer section of that cell.

The length of the spacer section is constant. During a storm event, the loss rate was assumed constant for the 24-h storm because a wet antecedent condition was assumed. The lengths of the wet and dry sections changed depending on the angle of the solar panel. The total length of the wet and dry sections was set equal to the length of one horizontal solar panel, which was assumed to be 3.5 m. When a solar panel is horizontal, the dry section length would equal 3.5 m and the wet section length would be zero. In the paneled condition, the dry section does not receive direct rainfall because the rain first falls onto the solar panel then drains onto the spacer section. However, the dry section does infiltrate some of the runoff that comes from the upgradient wet section. The wet section was modeled similar to the spacer section with rain falling directly onto the section and assuming a constant loss rate.

For the presolar panel condition, the spacer and wet sections are modeled the same as in the paneled condition; however, the cell does not include a dry section. In the prepaneled condition, rain falls directly onto the entire cell. When modeling the prepaneled condition, all cells receive rainfall at the same rate and are subject to losses. All other conditions were assumed to remain the same such that the prepaneled and paneled conditions can be compared.

Rainfall was modeled after an natural resources conservation service (NRCS) Type II Storm (McCuen 2005) because it is an accurate representation of actual storms of varying characteristics that are imbedded in intensity-duration-frequency (IDF) curves. For each duration of interest, a dimensionless hyetograph was developed using a time increment of 12 s over the duration of the storm (see Fig. 3). The depth of rainfall that corresponds to each storm magnitude was then multiplied by the dimensionless hyetograph. For a 2-h storm duration, depths of 40.6, 76.2, and 101.6 mm were used for the 2-, 25-, and 100-year events. The 2- and 6-h duration hyetographs were developed using the center portion of the 24-h storm, with the rainfall depths established with the Baltimore IDF curve. The corresponding depths for a 6-h duration were 53.3, 106.7, and 132.1 mm, respectively. These magnitudes were chosen to give a range of storm conditions.

During each time increment, the depth of rain is multiplied by the cell area to determine the volume of rain added to each section of each cell. This volume becomes the storage in each cell. Depending on the soil group, a constant volume of losses was subtracted from the storage. The runoff velocity from a solar panel was calculated using Manning's equation, with the hydraulic radius for sheet flow assumed to equal the depth of the storage on the panel (Bedient and Huber 2002). Similar assumptions were made to compute the velocities in each section of the surface sections.

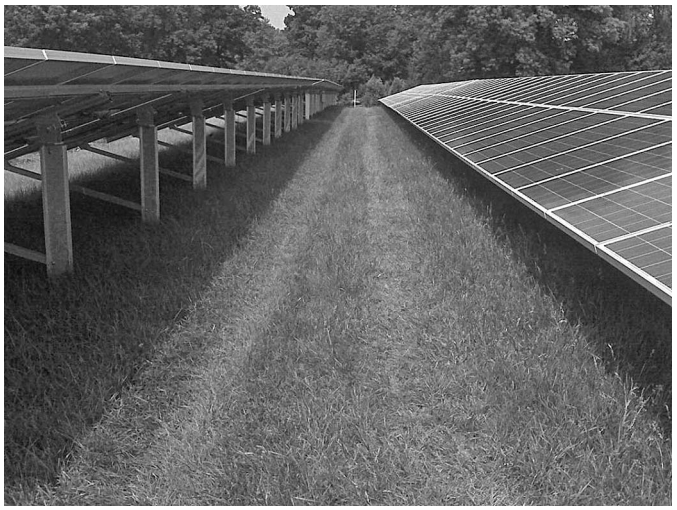

Fig. 1. Maintenance or "spacer" section between two rows of solar panels (photo by John E. Showler, reprinted with permission)

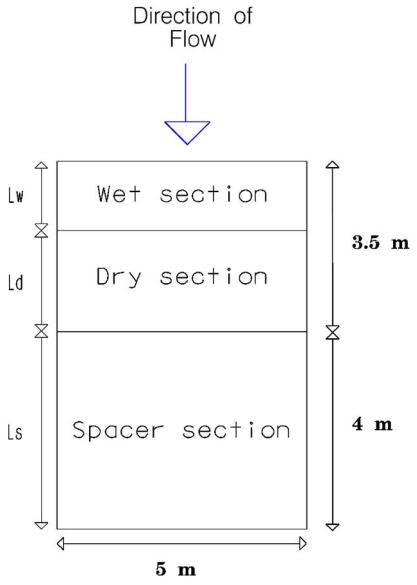

Fig. 2. Wet, dry, and spacer sections of a single cell with lengths *Lw*, *Ls*, and *Ld* with the solar panel covering the dry section

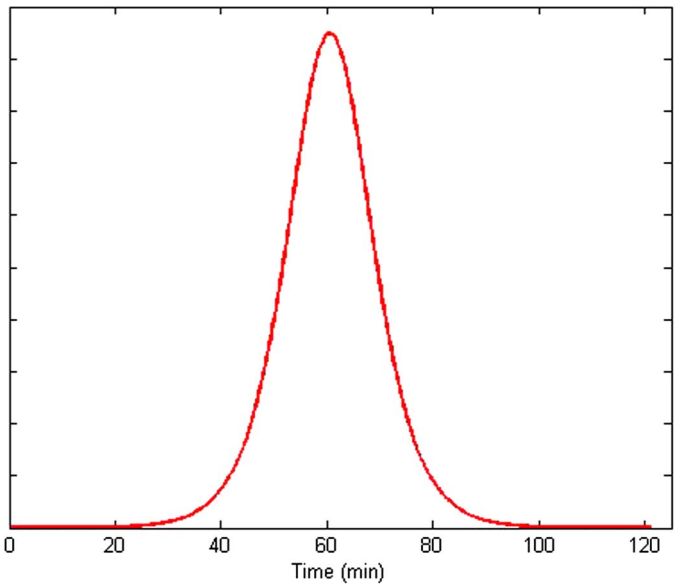

Fig. 3. Dimensionless hyetograph of 2-h Type II storm

J. Hydrol. Eng. 2013.18:536-541.

Runoff from one section to the next and then to the next downgradient cell was routed using the continuity of mass. The routing coefficient depended on the depth of flow in storage and the velocity of runoff. Flow was routed from the wet section to the dry section to the spacer section, with flow from the spacer section draining to the wet section of the next cell. Flow from the most downgradient cell was assumed to be the outflow. Discharge rates and volumes from the most downgradient cell were used for comparisons between the prepaneled and paneled conditions.

Alternative Model Scenarios

To assess the effects of the different variables, a section of 30 cells, each with a solar panel, was assumed for the base model. Each cell was separated individually into wet, dry, and spacer sections. The area had a total ground length of 225 m with a ground slope of 1% and width of 5 m, which was the width of an average solar panel. The roughness coefficient (Engman 1986) for the silicon solar panel was assumed to be that of glass, 0.01. Roughness coefficients of 0.15 for grass and 0.02 for bare ground were also assumed. Loss rates of 0.5715 cm/h (0.225 in./h) and 0.254 cm/h (0.1 in./h) for B and C soils, respectively, were assumed.

The prepaneled condition using the 2-h, 25-year rainfall was assumed for the base condition, with each cell assumed to have a good grass cover condition. All other analyses were made assuming a paneled condition. For most scenarios, the runoff volumes and peak discharge rates from the paneled model were not significantly greater than those for the prepaneled condition. Over a total length of 225 m with 30 solar panels, the runoff increased by 0.26 m^3, which was a difference of only 0.35%. The slight increase in runoff volume reflects the slightly higher velocities for the paneled condition. The peak discharge increased by 0.0013 m^3, a change of only 0.31%. The time to peak was delayed by one time increment, i.e., 12 s. Inclusion of the panels did not have a significant hydrologic impact.

Storm Magnitude

The effect of storm magnitude was investigated by changing the magnitude from a 25-year storm to a 2-year storm. For the 2-year storm, the rainfall and runoff volumes decreased by approximately 50%. However, the runoff from the paneled watershed condition increased compared to the prepaneled condition by approximately the same volume as for the 25-year analysis, 0.26 m^3. This increase represents only a 0.78% increase in volume. The peak discharge and the time to peak did not change significantly. These results reflect runoff from a good grass cover condition and indicated that the general conclusion of very minimal impacts was the same for different storm magnitudes.

Ground Slope

The effect of the downgradient ground slope of the solar farm was also examined. The angle of the solar panels would influence the velocity of flows from the panels. As the ground slope was increased, the velocity of flow over the ground surface would be closer to that on the panels. This could cause an overall increase in discharge rates. The ground slope was changed from 1 to 5%, with all other conditions remaining the same as the base conditions.

With the steeper incline, the volume of losses decreased from that for the 1% slope, which is to be expected because the faster velocity of the runoff would provide less opportunity for infiltration. However, between the prepaneled and paneled conditions, the increase in runoff volume was less than 1%. The peak discharge and the time to peak did not change. Therefore, the greater ground slope did not significantly influence the response of the solar farm.

Soil Type

The effect of soil type on the runoff was also examined. The soil group was changed from B soil to C soil by varying the loss rate. As expected, owing to the higher loss rate for the C soil, the depths of runoff increased by approximately 7.5% with the C soil when compared with the volume for B soils. However, the runoff volume for the C soil condition only increased by 0.17% from the prepaneled condition to the paneled condition. In comparison with the B soil, a difference of 0.35% in volume resulted between the two conditions. Therefore, the soil group influenced the actual volumes and rates, but not the relative effect of the paneled condition when compared to the prepaneled condition.

Panel Angle

Because runoff velocities increase with slope, the effect of the angle of the solar panel on the hydrologic response was examined. Analyses were made for angles of 30° and 70° to test an average range from winter to summer. The hydrologic response for these angles was compared to that of the base condition angle of 45°. The other site conditions remained the same. The analyses showed that the angle of the panel had only a slight effect on runoff volumes and discharge rates. The lower angle of 30° was associated with an increased runoff volume, whereas the runoff volume decreased for the steeper angle of 70° when compared with the base condition of 45°. However, the differences (~0.5%) were very slight. Nevertheless, these results indicate that, when the solar panel was closer to horizontal, i.e., at a lower angle, a larger difference in runoff volume occurred between the prepaneled and paneled conditions. These differences in the response result are from differences in loss rates.

The peak discharge was also lower at the lower angle. At an angle of 30°, the peak discharge was slightly lower than at the higher angle of 70°. For the 2-h storm duration, the time to peak of the 30° angle was 2 min delayed from the time to peak of when the panel was positioned at a 70° angle, which reflects the longer travel times across the solar panels.

Storm Duration

To assess the effect of storm duration, analyses were made for 6-h storms, testing magnitudes for 2-, 25-, and 100-year return periods, with the results compared with those for the 2-h rainfall events. The longer storm duration was tested to determine whether a longer duration storm would produce a different ratio of increase in runoff between the prepaneled and paneled conditions. When compared to runoff volumes from the 2-h storm, those for the 6-h storm were 34% greater in both the paneled and prepaneled cases. However, when comparing the prepaneled to the paneled condition, the increase in the runoff volume with the 6-h storm was less than 1% regardless of the return period. The peak discharge and the time-to-peak did not differ significantly between the two conditions. The trends in the hydrologic response of the solar farm did not vary with storm duration.

Ground Cover

The ground cover under the panels was assumed to be a native grass that received little maintenance. For some solar farms, the area beneath the panel is covered in gravel or partially paved because the panels prevent the grass from receiving sunlight. Depending on the

J. Hydrol. Eng. 2013.18:536-541.

volume of traffic, the spacer cell could be grass, patches of grass, or bare ground. Thus, it was necessary to determine whether or not these alternative ground-cover conditions would affect the runoff characteristics. This was accomplished by changing the Manning's n for the ground beneath the panels. The value of n under the panels, i.e., the dry section, was set to 0.015 for gravel, with the value for the spacer or maintenance section set to 0.02, i.e., bare ground. These can be compared to the base condition of a native grass ($n = 0.15$). A good cover should promote losses and delay the runoff.

For the smoother surfaces, the velocity of the runoff increased and the losses decreased, which resulted in increasing runoff volumes. This occurred both when the ground cover under the panels was changed to gravel and when the cover in the spacer section was changed to bare ground. Owing to the higher velocities of the flow, runoff rates from the cells increased significantly such that it was necessary to reduce the computational time increment. Fig. 4(a) shows the hydrograph from a 30-panel area with a time increment of 12 s. With a time increment of 12 s, the water in each cell is discharged at the end of every time increment, which results in no attenuation of the flow; thus, the undulations shown in Fig. 4(a) result. The time increment was reduced to 3 s for the 2-h storm, which resulted in watershed smoothing and a rational hydrograph shape [Fig. 4(b)]. The results showed that the storm runoff

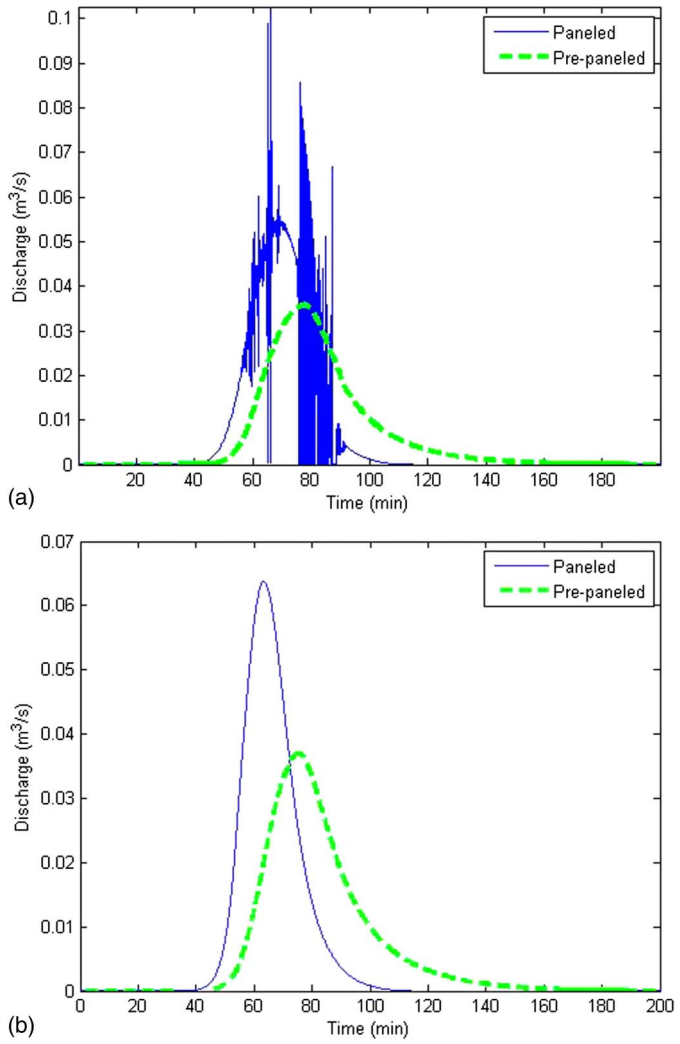

Fig. 4. Hydrograph with time increment of (a) 12 s; (b) 3 s with Manning's n for bare ground

increased by 7% from the grass-covered scenario to the scenario with gravel under the panel. The peak discharge increased by 73% for the gravel ground cover when compared with the grass cover without the panels. The time to peak was 10 min less with the gravel than with the grass, which reflects the effect of differences in surface roughness and the resulting velocities.

If maintenance vehicles used the spacer section regularly and the grass cover was not adequately maintained, the soil in the spacer section would be compacted and potentially the runoff volumes and rates would increase. Grass that is not maintained has the potential to become patchy and turn to bare ground. The grass under the panel may not get enough sunlight and die. Fig. 1 shows the result of the maintenance trucks frequently driving in the spacer section, which diminished the grass cover.

The effect of the lack of solar farm maintenance on runoff characteristics was modeled by changing the Manning's n to a value of 0.02 for bare ground. In this scenario, the roughness coefficient for the ground under the panels, i.e., the dry section, as well as in the spacer cell was changed from grass covered to bare ground ($n = 0.02$).The effects were nearly identical to that of the gravel. The runoff volume increased by 7% from the grass-covered to the bare-ground condition. The peak discharge increased by 72% when compared with the grass-covered condition. The runoff for the bare-ground condition also resulted in an earlier time to peak by approximately 10 min. Two other conditions were also modeled, showing similar results. In the first scenario, gravel was placed directly under the panel, and healthy grass was placed in the spacer section, which mimics a possible design decision. Under these conditions, the peak discharge increased by 42%, and the volume of runoff increased by 4%, which suggests that storm-water management would be necessary if gravel is placed anywhere.

Fig. 5 shows two solar panels from a solar farm in New Jersey. The bare ground between the panels can cause increased runoff rates and reductions in time of concentration, both of which could necessitate storm-water management. The final condition modeled involved the assumption of healthy grass beneath the panels and bare ground in the spacer section, which would simulate the condition of unmaintained grass resulting from vehicles that drive over the spacer section. Because the spacer section is 53% of the cell, the change in land cover to bare ground would reduce losses and decrease runoff travel times, which would cause runoff to amass as it

Fig. 5. Site showing the initiation of bare ground below the panels, which increases the potential for erosion (photo by John Showler, reprinted with permission)

J. Hydrol. Eng. 2013.18:536-541.

moves downgradient. With the spacer section as bare ground, the peak discharge increased by 100%, which reflected the increases in volume and decrease in timing. These results illustrate the need for maintenance of the grass below and between the panels.

Design Suggestions

With well-maintained grass underneath the panels, the solar panels themselves do not have much effect on total volumes of the runoff or peak discharge rates. Although the panels are impervious, the rainwater that drains from the panels appears as runoff over the downgradient cells. Some of the runoff infiltrates. If the grass cover of a solar farm is not maintained, it can deteriorate either because of a lack of sunlight or maintenance vehicle traffic. In this case, the runoff characteristics can change significantly with both runoff rates and volumes increasing by significant amounts. In addition, if gravel or pavement is placed underneath the panels, this can also contribute to a significant increase in the hydrologic response.

If bare ground is foreseen to be a problem or gravel is to be placed under the panels to prevent erosion, it is necessary to counteract the excess runoff using some form of storm-water management. A simple practice that can be implemented is a buffer strip (Dabney et al. 2006) at the downgradient end of the solar farm. The buffer strip length must be sufficient to return the runoff characteristics with the panels to those of runoff experienced before the gravel and panels were installed. Alternatively, a detention basin can be installed.

A buffer strip was modeled along with the panels. For approximately every 200 m of panels, or 29 cells, the buffer must be 5 cells long (or 35 m) to reduce the runoff volume to that which occurred before the panels were added. Even if a gravel base is not placed under the panels, the inclusion of a buffer strip may be a good practice when grass maintenance is not a top funding priority. Fig. 6 shows the peak discharge from the graveled surface versus the length of the buffer needed to keep the discharge to prepaneled peak rate.

Water draining from a solar panel can increase the potential for erosion of the spacer section. If the spacer section is bare ground, the high kinetic energy of water draining from the panel can cause soil detachment and transport (Garde and Raju 1977; Beuselinck et al. 2002). The amount and risk of erosion was modeled using the velocity of water coming off a solar panel compared with the velocity and intensity of the rainwater. The velocity of panel runoff was calculated using Manning's equation, and the velocity of falling rainwater was calculated using the following:

$$V_t = 120\, d_r^{0.35} \tag{1}$$

where d_r = diameter of a raindrop, assumed to be 1 mm. The relationship between kinetic energy and rainfall intensity is

$$K_e = 916 + 330 \log_{10} i \tag{2}$$

where i = rainfall intensity (in./h) and K_e = kinetic energy (ft-tons per ac-in. of rain) of rain falling onto the wet section and the panel, as well as the water flowing off of the end of the panel (Wischmeier and Smith 1978). The kinetic energy (Salles et al. 2002) of the rainfall was greater than that coming off the panel, but the area under the panel (i.e., the product of the length, width, and cosine of the panel angle) is greater than the area under the edge of the panel where the water drains from the panel onto the ground. Thus, dividing the kinetic energy by the respective areas gives a more accurate representation of the kinetic energy experienced by the soil. The energy of the water draining from the panel onto the ground can be nearly 10 times greater than the rain itself falling onto the ground area. If the solar panel runoff falls onto an unsealed soil, considerable detachment can result (Motha et al. 2004). Thus, because of the increased kinetic energy, it is possible that the soil is much more prone to erosion with the panels than without. Where panels are installed, methods of erosion control should be included in the design.

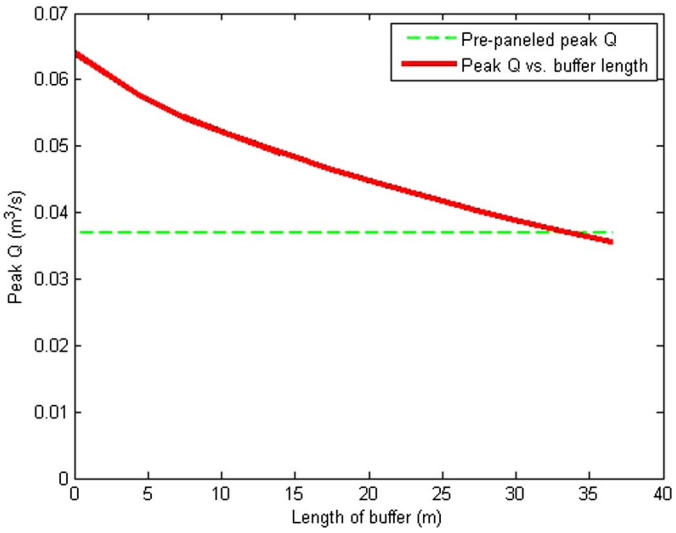

Fig. 6. Peak discharge over gravel compared with buffer length

Conclusions

Solar farms are the energy generators of the future; thus, it is important to determine the environmental and hydrologic effects of these farms, both existing and proposed. A model was created to simulate storm-water runoff over a land surface without panels and then with solar panels added. Various sensitivity analyses were conducted including changing the storm duration and volume, soil type, ground slope, panel angle, and ground cover to determine the effect that each of these factors would have on the volumes and peak discharge rates of the runoff.

The addition of solar panels over a grassy field does not have much of an effect on the volume of runoff, the peak discharge, nor the time to peak. With each analysis, the runoff volume increased slightly but not enough to require storm-water management facilities. However, when the land-cover type was changed under the panels, the hydrologic response changed significantly. When gravel or pavement was placed under the panels, with the spacer section left as patchy grass or bare ground, the volume of the runoff increased significantly and the peak discharge increased by approximately 100%. This was also the result when the entire cell was assumed to be bare ground.

The potential for erosion of the soil at the base of the solar panels was also studied. It was determined that the kinetic energy of the water draining from the solar panel could be as much as 10 times greater than that of rainfall. Thus, because the energy of the water draining from the panels is much higher, it is very possible that soil below the base of the solar panel could erode owing to the concentrated flow of water off the panel, especially if there is bare ground in the spacer section of the cell. If necessary, erosion control methods should be used.

Bare ground beneath the panels and in the spacer section is a realistic possibility (see Figs. 1 and 5). Thus, a good, well-maintained grass cover beneath the panels and in the spacer section is highly recommended. If gravel, pavement, or bare ground is

J. Hydrol. Eng. 2013.18:536-541.

deemed unavoidable below the panels or in the spacer section, it may necessary to add a buffer section to control the excess runoff volume and ensure adequate losses. If these simple measures are taken, solar farms will not have an adverse hydrologic impact from excess runoff or contribute eroded soil particles to receiving streams and waterways.

Acknowledgments

The authors appreciate the photographs (Figs. 1 and 5) of Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, 1001 Route 202, North Raritan, New Jersey, 08869, provided by John E. Showler, Environmental Scientist, New Jersey Department of Agriculture. The extensive comments of reviewers resulted in an improved paper.

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J. Hydrol. Eng. 2013.18:536-541.

EXHIBIT N: TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS PLAN

MEMORANDUM

To: 22c Development, LLC

From: Sean Hickey, P.E.
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Date: December 1st, 2023

Re: ***Bader Sun LLC – Transportation and Access Plan***
North of Cable Lane and West of Bader Road, Browning Township, Schuyler County, IL

Introduction

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (Kimley-Horn) serves as the engineering consultant for Bader Sun LLC (applicant), a subsidiary of 22c Development. It is our understanding that Bader Sun LLC is submitting for a Special Use Permit to construct a 5.0 MWac Commercial Solar Energy Facility on parcel 09-01-200-003, located north of Cable Lane and west of Bader Road.

This memorandum provides information on the proposed Construction and Operations Access as well as anticipated traffic and routes based on the project location and projects of similar size.

Pre-Development

The proposed project site is predominantly agricultural field with existing wetlands. The site is bound east by Bader Road, north by a private driveway, south by agricultural fields and a cemetery, and west by agricultural fields. The site has a proposed access from Bader Road.

See attached **Construction and Operations Access Plan** for project location.

Construction

At the time of this memorandum, it is anticipated that site access during construction will be located approximately 400 feet south of the intersection of Bader Rd and N County Highway 33. Prior to the beginning of construction, a temporary stabilized construction entrance consisting of 1-1/2” to 3” rock a minimum of 8 inches thick, 15’ wide, and 50’ long will be installed to provide a stable entrance for construction traffic at the proposed entrance location.

Based on similar commercial solar energy facilities of this size, it is estimated that approximately 25 deliveries via WB-67 Semi-Tractor Trailers will be required during the construction phase to deliver the piles, racking, modules, inverters, electrical, and switchyard equipment. It is anticipated that at the peak of construction approximately 20 construction workers will be needed. Construction of the Solar Farm is projected to be completed within 6 months. Equipment deliveries will typically occur between months 2 and 4 of the construction period and taper off dramatically by the end of the 4th month. The peak for construction workers on site will occur around month 4 and will taper off by the end of month 5.

Based on the project location, we anticipate delivery trucks will access the site from Interstate 72 (IDOT District 6), to Illinois Route 100 (IDOT District 6), to US Highway 67 (IDOT District 6), to US Highway 24 (IDOT District 6 and IDOT District 4), to N County Highway 33 (Fulton County Highway Commission), to Bader Road (Fulton County Highway Commission and Schuyler County Highway Department) and head south.

See attached **Construction and Operations Access Plan** for proposed access routes.

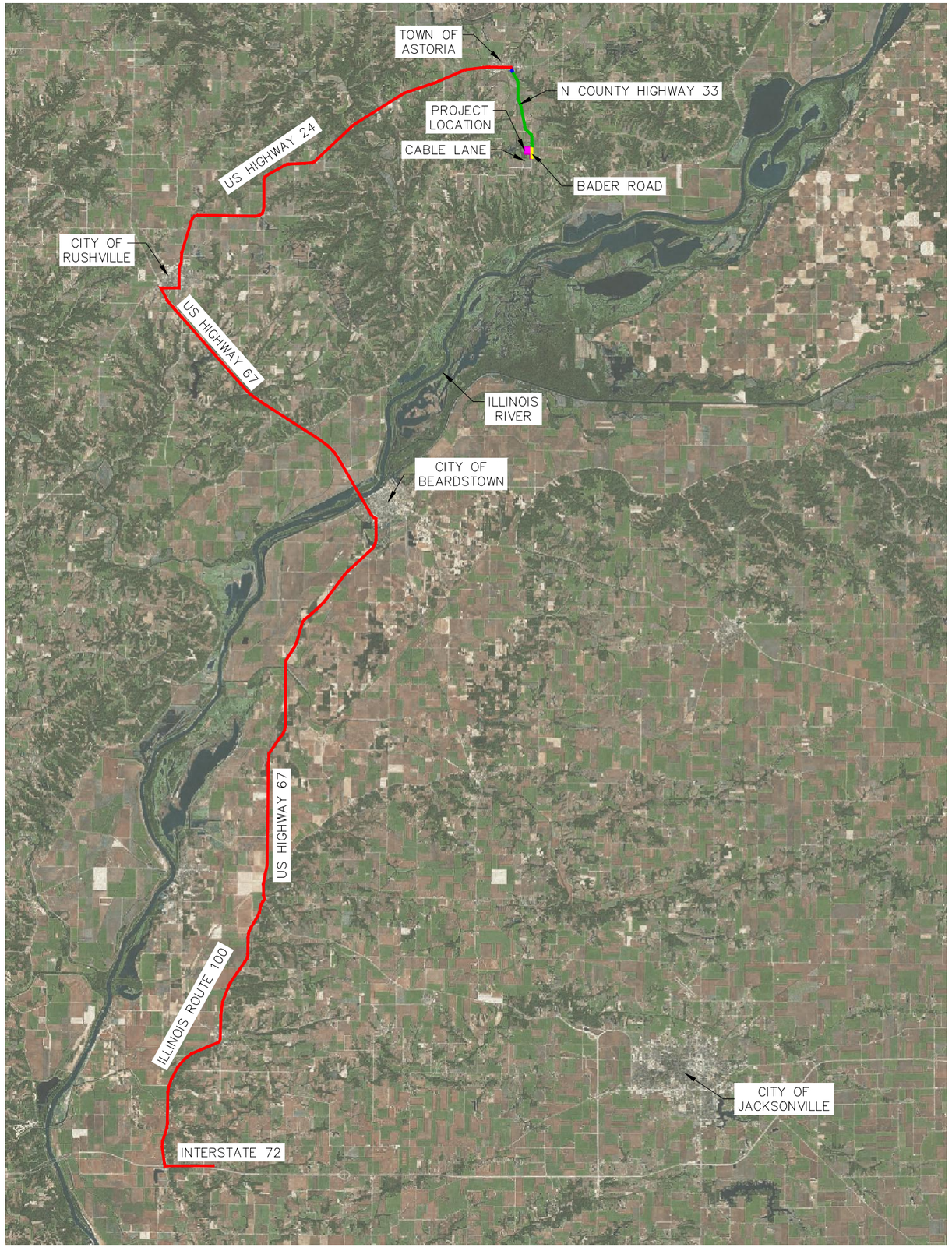
Post-Development

After construction is complete, the site will be accessed via the same entry location that was utilized during construction. Compacted earth or gravel access roads will be utilized to access the interior of the site for operations and maintenance. Once the site is fully operational, it is anticipated that no more than four vehicles will visit the site on a quarterly basis for routine maintenance.

See **Special Use Permit Application Exhibit D: Zoning Site Plan** for proposed access roads.

Attachments

- Road Jurisdiction Map
- Construction and Operations Access Plan



NORTH

GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET
0 5000 10000 20000

ROAD JURISDICTION LEGEND

- STATE (IDOT)
- MUNCIPALITY (ASTORIA TOWNSHIP)
- COUNTY (FULTON COUNTY)
- COUNTY (SCHUYLER COUNTY)
- PROPERTY LOCATION

ROAD JURISDICTION INFORMATION

ROAD NAME	JURISDICTION LEVEL	JURISDICTION (AHJ)	CONTACT	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER
INTERSTATE 72	STATE	IDOT	IDOT DISTRICT 6 BUREAU OF OPERATIONS		217-782-7745
ILLINOIS ROUTE 100	STATE	IDOT	IDOT DISTRICT 6 BUREAU OF OPERATIONS		217-782-7745
US HIGHWAY 67	STATE	IDOT	IDOT DISTRICT 6 BUREAU OF OPERATIONS		217-782-7745
US HIGHWAY 24	STATE	IDOT	IDOT DISTRICT 6 BUREAU OF OPERATIONS		217-782-7745
US HIGHWAY 24	STATE	IDOT	IDOT DISTRICT 4 BUREAU OF OPERATIONS		217-671-4475
N COUNTY HIGHWAY 33	MUNICIPALITY	ASTORIA TOWNSHIP	FULTON COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER CHARLIE BOLLINGER		309-453-1873
N COUNTY HIGHWAY 33	COUNTY	FULTON COUNTY	FULTON COUNTY ENGINEER KEITH MUNTER	FULTONCH@FULTONCO.ORG	309-647-0351
BADER ROAD	COUNTY	FULTON COUNTY	FULTON COUNTY ENGINEER KEITH MUNTER	FULTONCH@FULTONCO.ORG	309-647-0351
BADER ROAD	COUNTY	SCHUYLER COUNTY	SCHUYLER COUNTY ENGINEER DAVID L. SCHNEIDER	SCHUYLERCOUNTYHIGHWAY@SCHUYLERCOUNTY.ORG	217-322-6029

Call Before You Dig
JULIE
1-800-892-0123

No.	REVISIONS	DATE

Kimley»Horn

570 LAKE COOK RD SUITE 200
DEERFIELD, IL 60015
WWW.KIMLEY-HORN.COM

PRELIMINARY- NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

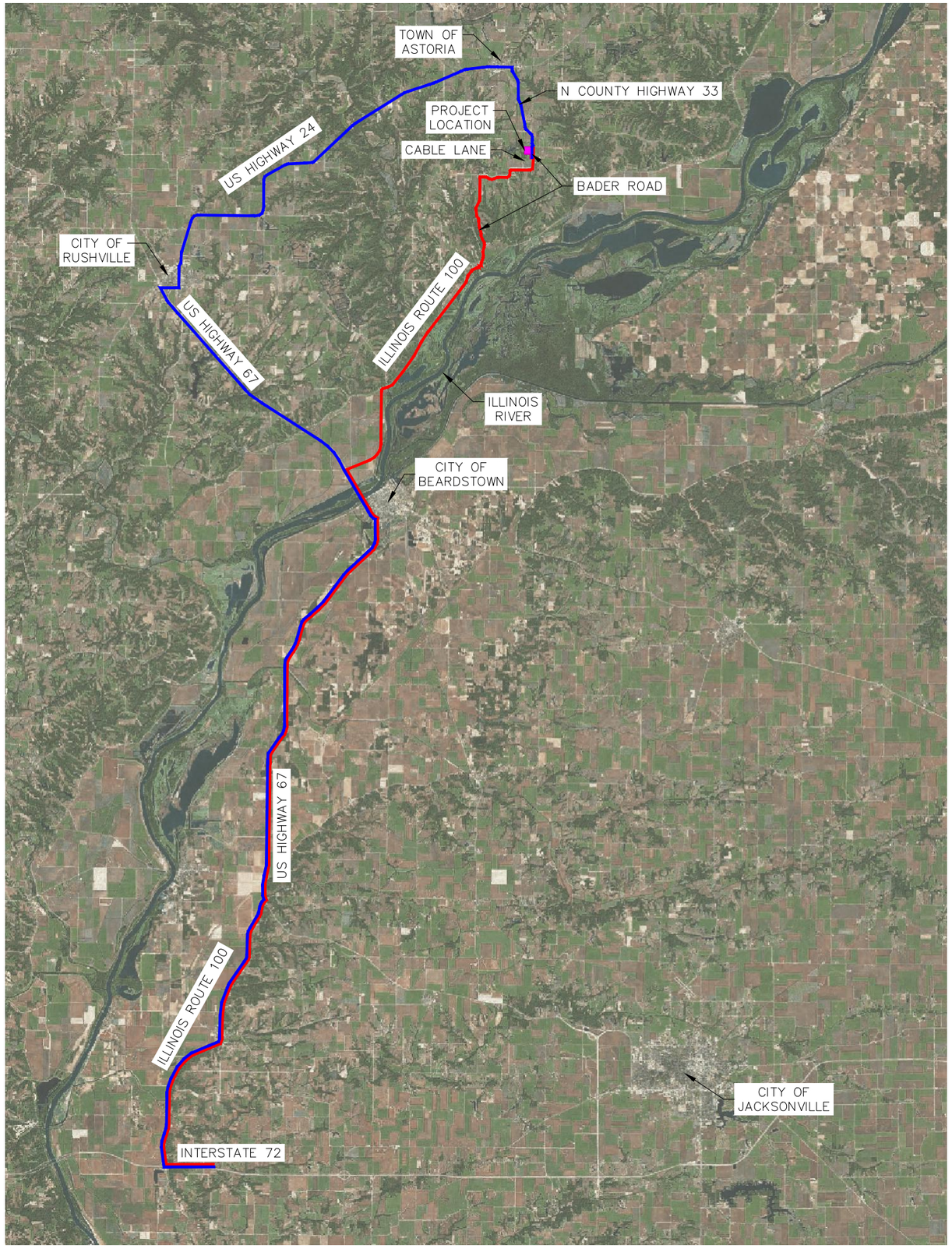
KHA PROJECT	266330014
DATE	12/01/2023
SCALE	AS SHOWN
DESIGNED BY	CK
DRAWN BY	DU
CHECKED BY	SMH

ROAD JURISDICTION MAP

BADER SUN LLC

SCHUYLER COUNTY, IL

SHEET NUMBER
1 OF 1



NORTH

GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET
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LEGEND

- DELIVERY TRUCK ROUTE (WB-67 SEMI)
- PASSENGER VEHICLE ROUTE (CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE)
- PROPERTY LOCATION

No.	REVISIONS	DATE

Kimley»Horn

570 LAKE COOK RD SUITE 200
DEERFIELD, IL 60015
WWW.KIMLEY-HORN.COM

PRELIMINARY- NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

KHA PROJECT	268330014
DATE	12/01/2023
SCALE	AS SHOWN
DESIGNED BY	CK
DRAWN BY	DU
CHECKED BY	SMH

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION ACCESS MAP

BADER SUN LLC

SCHUYLER COUNTY, IL

SHEET NUMBER
1 OF 1

Call Before You Dig
JULIE
1-800-892-0123

EXHIBIT O: ROADWAY COORDINATION CORRESPONDENCE

November 27, 2023

Charlie Bollinger
Astoria Township Highway Commisioner
3500 N. Bucher Road
Astoria, IL 61501

RE: ***Bader Sun LLC***
North of Cable Lane and West of Bader Road, Browning Township, Schuyler County, IL

Dear Mr. Bollinger,

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., plans to submit a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Special Use Permit Application to Schuyler County on behalf of Bader Sun LLC., a wholly owned entity of 22c Development, LLC (collectively the "Applicant" for the Special Use). The Project, Bader Sun LLC., is a proposed 5.0 MW_{ac} Commercial Solar Energy Facility in Browning Township, Schuyler County, sited on agricultural land west of Bader Road, north of Cable Road, east of forested area and agricultural land, and south of a private drive. The project will have one (1) access road off Bader Road.

The proposed delivery truck route (assumed WB-67 Semis) will utilize S Green St/N County Highway 33 in Astoria Township.

The Project aims to acquire a Special Use Permit from Schuyler County to construct the Commercial Solar Energy Facility after the harvest of 2024. Prior to building permit application submission, the Applicant will commence discussions with yourself and provide all surveys requested, roadway route for construction, and whatever else is needed in order to get to an executable form of a roadway agreement as a building permit is issued for construction.

For any questions or concerns, please contact either myself at (708) 267-7810 or sean.hickey@kimley-horn.com or 22c Development at x@22c-development.com. Thank you so much for your time and looking forward to meeting more and discussing the project.

Sincerely,

Sean Hickey, P.E.
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Phone: (708) 267-7810
Email: sean.hickey@kimley-horn.com

November 27, 2023

Keith Munter
Fulton County Engineer
430 East Oak St. Canton, IL 61520
Canton, IL 61520

RE: ***Bader Sun LLC***
North of Cable Lane and West of Bader Road, Browning Township, Schuyler County, IL

Dear Mr. Munter,

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., plans to submit a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Special Use Permit Application to Schuyler County on behalf of Bader Sun LLC., a wholly owned entity of 22c Development, LLC (collectively the "Applicant" for the Special Use). The Project, Bader Sun LLC., is a proposed 5.0 MW_{ac} Commercial Solar Energy Facility in Browning Township, Schuyler County, sited on agricultural land west of Bader Road, north of Cable Road, east of forested area and agricultural land, and south of a private drive. The project will have one (1) access road off Bader Road.

The proposed delivery truck route (assumed WB-67 Semis) will utilize Bader Road and N County Highway 33 in Fulton County.

The Project aims to acquire a Special Use Permit from Schuyler County to construct the Commercial Solar Energy Facility after the harvest of 2024. Prior to building permit application submission, the Applicant will commence discussions with yourself and provide all surveys requested, roadway route for construction, and whatever else is needed in order to get to an executable form of a roadway agreement as a building permit is issued for construction.

For any questions or concerns, please contact either myself at (708) 267-7810 or sean.hickey@kimley-horn.com or 22c Development at x@22c-development.com. Thank you so much for your time and looking forward to meeting more and discussing the project.

Sincerely,

Sean Hickey, P.E.
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Phone: (708) 267-7810
Email: sean.hickey@kimley-horn.com

November 27, 2023

Kensil Garnett
IDOT Region 3 Engineer
401 Main St
Peoria, IL 61602

RE: ***Bader Sun LLC***
North of Cable Lane and West of Bader Road, Browning Township, Schuyler County, IL

Dear Mr. Garnett,

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., plans to submit a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Special Use Permit Application to Schuyler County on behalf of Bader Sun LLC., a wholly owned entity of 22c Development, LLC (collectively the "Applicant" for the Special Use). The Project, Bader Sun LLC., is a proposed 5.0 MW_{ac} Commercial Solar Energy Facility in Browning Township, Schuyler County, sited on agricultural land west of Bader Road, north of Cable Road, east of forested area and agricultural land, and south of a private drive. The project will have one (1) access road off Bader Road.

The proposed delivery truck route (assumed WB-67 Semis) will utilize US Highway 24 in IDOT District 4.

The Project aims to acquire a Special Use Permit from Schuyler County to construct the Commercial Solar Energy Facility after the harvest of 2024. Prior to building permit application submission, the Applicant will commence discussions with yourself and provide all surveys requested, roadway route for construction, and whatever else is needed in order to get to an executable form of a roadway agreement as a building permit is issued for construction.

For any questions or concerns, please contact either myself at (708) 267-7810 or sean.hickey@kimley-horn.com or 22c Development at x@22c-development.com. Thank you so much for your time and looking forward to meeting more and discussing the project.

Sincerely,

Sean Hickey, P.E.
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Phone: (708) 267-7810
Email: sean.hickey@kimley-horn.com

November 27, 2023

Jeffrey Myers
IDOT Region 4 Engineer
126 East Ash
Springfield, IL 62704

RE: ***Bader Sun LLC***
North of Cable Lane and West of Bader Road, Browning Township, Schuyler County, IL

Dear Mr. Myers,

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., plans to submit a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Special Use Permit Application to Schuyler County on behalf of Bader Sun LLC., a wholly owned entity of 22c Development, LLC (collectively the "Applicant" for the Special Use). The Project, Bader Sun LLC., is a proposed 5.0 MW_{ac} Commercial Solar Energy Facility in Browning Township, Schuyler County, sited on agricultural land west of Bader Road, north of Cable Road, east of forested area and agricultural land, and south of a private drive. The project will have one (1) access road off Bader Road.

The proposed delivery truck route (assumed WB-67 Semis) will utilize Interstate 72, Illinois Route 100, US Highway 67, and US Highway 24 in IDOT District 6.

The Project aims to acquire a Special Use Permit from Schuyler County to construct the Commercial Solar Energy Facility after the harvest of 2024. Prior to building permit application submission, the Applicant will commence discussions with yourself and provide all surveys requested, roadway route for construction, and whatever else is needed in order to get to an executable form of a roadway agreement as a building permit is issued for construction.

For any questions or concerns, please contact either myself at (708) 267-7810 or sean.hickey@kimley-horn.com or 22c Development at x@22c-development.com. Thank you so much for your time and looking forward to meeting more and discussing the project.

Sincerely,

Sean Hickey, P.E.
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Phone: (708) 267-7810
Email: sean.hickey@kimley-horn.com

November 27, 2023

David L. Schneider
Schuyler County Engineer
121 Henninger Dr
Rushville, IL 62681

RE: ***Bader Sun LLC***
North of Cable Lane and West of Bader Road, Browning Township, Schuyler County, IL

Dear Mr. Schneider,

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., plans to submit a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Special Use Permit Application to Schuyler County on behalf of Bader Sun LLC., a wholly owned entity of 22c Development, LLC (collectively the "Applicant" for the Special Use). The Project, Bader Sun LLC., is a proposed 5.0 MW_{ac} Commercial Solar Energy Facility in Browning Township, Schuyler County, sited on agricultural land west of Bader Road, north of Cable Road, east of forested area and agricultural land, and south of a private drive. The project will have one (1) access road off Bader Road.

The proposed delivery truck route (assumed WB-67 Semis) will utilize Bader Road in Schuyler County.

The Project aims to acquire a Special Use Permit from Schuyler County to construct the Commercial Solar Energy Facility after the harvest of 2024. Prior to building permit application submission, the Applicant will commence discussions with yourself and provide all surveys requested, roadway route for construction, and whatever else is needed in order to get to an executable form of a roadway agreement as a building permit is issued for construction.

For any questions or concerns, please contact either myself at (708) 267-7810 or sean.hickey@kimley-horn.com or 22c Development at x@22c-development.com. Thank you so much for your time and looking forward to meeting more and discussing the project.

Sincerely,

Sean Hickey, P.E.
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Phone: (708) 267-7810
Email: sean.hickey@kimley-horn.com

EXHIBIT P: PROOF OF FUNDS

Date: December 22, 2023

To: Schuyler County Board

From: Alexander Farkes

Subject: Proof of Funds – Bader Sun LLC

Dear Schuyler County Board,

22c Development, LLC and its affiliate financing partners have 1. paid over $1.5m for the Ameren interconnection agreement and 2. have received a state approval from the Illinois Power Agency requiring this project to put into place a nonrefundable letter of credit with Ameren for approximately $500,000. Additionally, as you can see in the development package for the special use permit, an extensive amount of development work has also been done which exceeds over $150,000 spent to date on this particular property. Thank you for allowing 22c the opportunity to develop in the county and we look forward to the discussion.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Alex Farkes at 22c Development at (779) 774-5151 or alex@22c.net. Thank you once again and see you soon.

Very Sincerely,

Alex Farkes, Owner
Bader Sun LLC
22c Development, LLC
Phone: (779)-774-5151
Email: alex@22c.net

EXHIBIT Q: NOISE ANALYSIS

December 21, 2023

Alex Farkes
22c Development, LLC
4649 N Broadway
Chicago, IL 60640

Subject: ***Bader Sun LLC. – Sound Study***
Schuyler County, Illinois

Executive Summary

The purpose of this technical memorandum is to summarize the evaluated sound levels associated with the operational equipment located throughout the proposed Bader Sun LLC. Solar Site in Schuyler County, IL. The proposed solar photovoltaic project site is approximately 2 miles northeast of Bader and approximately 3 miles southeast of Astoria. The site is generally located south of the intersection between Sheldons Grove Road and N Bader Road and west of N Bader Road. The solar site will be located on agricultural land with rural residential properties surrounding the project area. The location of the proposed Bader Sun LLC. Solar Site is shown in **Figure 1**.

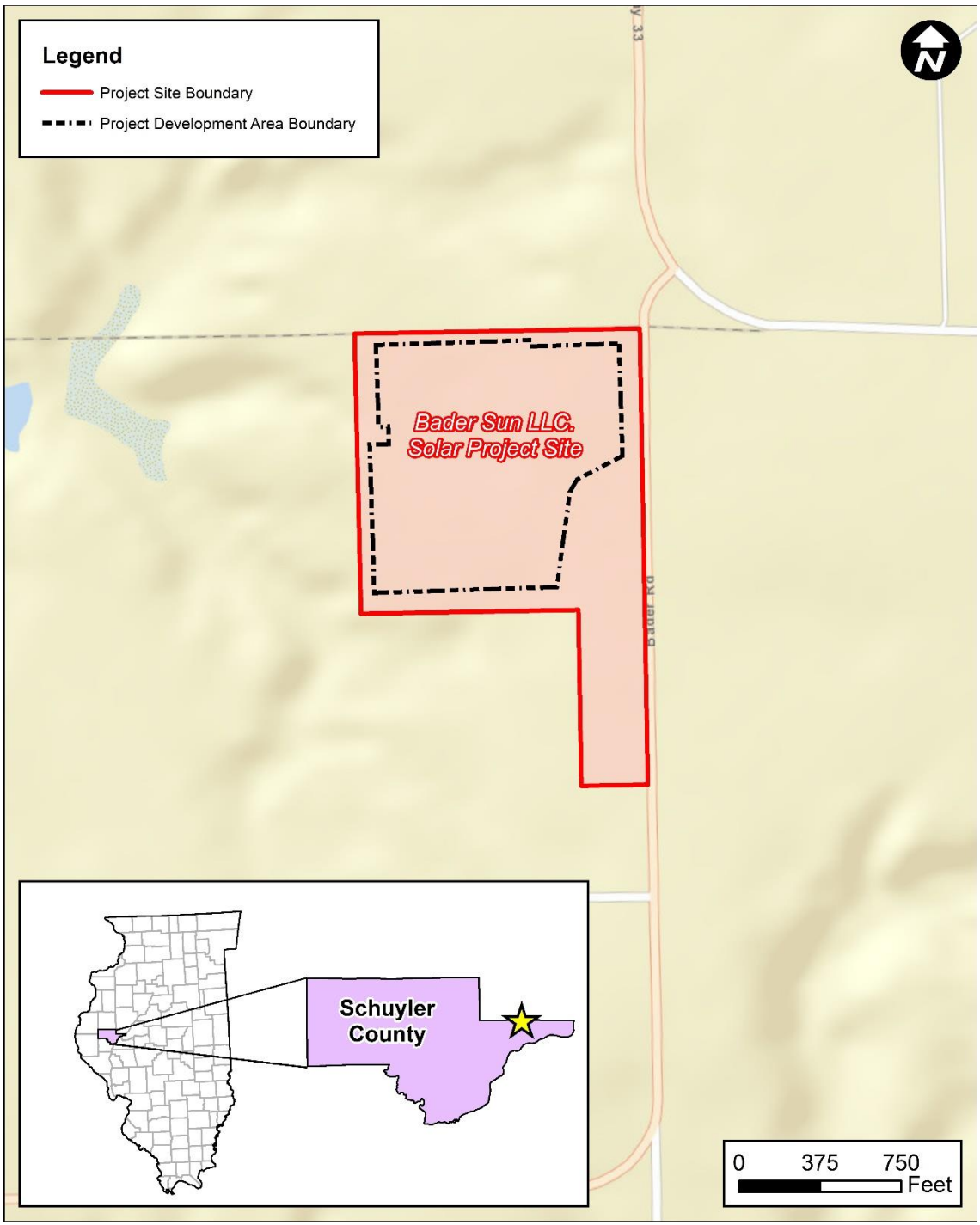
Analysis Findings

- *The solar photovoltaic project will be located on agricultural land with rural residential land uses surrounding the project area. The Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB) noise regulations are based on allowable octave band sound pressure levels that vary depending on the category of land the noise is generated from and the category of land the noise is received at. Modeled operational octave band sound pressure levels at surrounding Class A properties (i.e., residences) are not anticipated to exceed the limits established by IPCB; therefore, noise mitigation is not recommended at this time.*

Project Description

The proposed Bader Sun LLC. Solar Site will be developed on approximately 26 acres of an approximately 45-acre parcel of agricultural land in an unincorporated portion of Schuyler County, IL. The solar site will consist of solar arrays throughout the project area and two (2) inverters near the center of the site.

Figure 1: Site Location and Vicinity



Characteristics of Noise

Noise is generally defined as unwanted sound. It is emitted from many natural and man-made sources. Sound pressure levels are usually measured and expressed in decibels (dB). The decibel scale is logarithmic and expresses the ratio of the sound pressure unit being measured to a standard reference level. Most sounds occurring in the environment do not consist of a single frequency, but rather a broad band of differing frequencies. The intensities of each frequency add together to generate sound. Because the human ear does not respond to all frequencies equally, the method commonly used to quantify environmental noise consists of evaluating all of the frequencies of a sound according to a weighting system. It has been found that the A-weighted decibel [dB(A)] filter on a sound level meter, which includes circuits to differentially measure selected audible frequencies, best approximates the frequency response of the human ear.

The degree of disturbance from exposure to unwanted sound – noise – depends upon three factors:

1. The amount, nature, and duration of the intruding noise
2. The relationship between the intruding noise and the existing sound environment; and
3. The situation in which the disturbing noise is heard

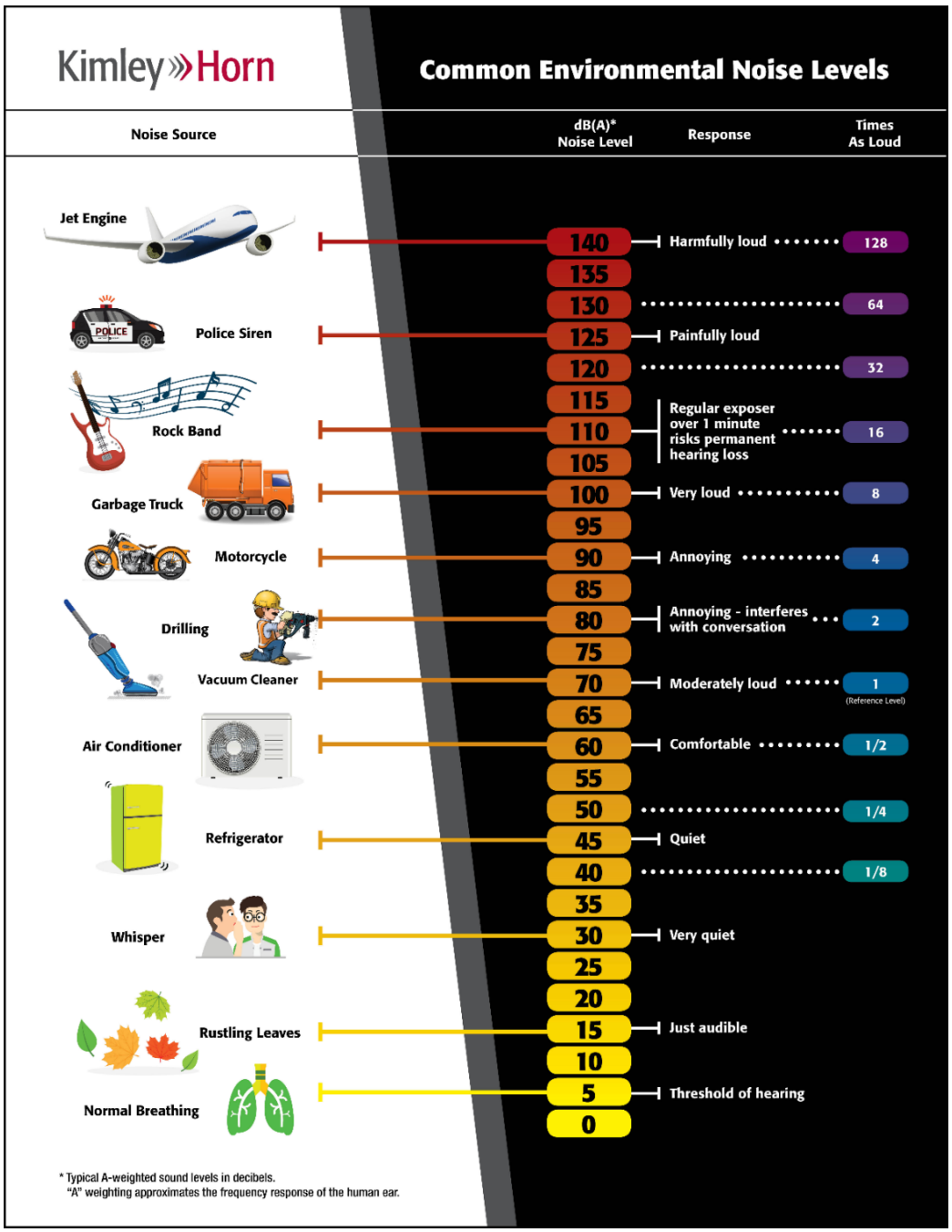
In considering the first of these factors, it is important to note that individuals have varying sensitivity to noise. Loud noises bother some people more than other people, and some individuals become increasingly upset if an unwanted noise persists. The time patterns and durations of noise(s) also affect perception as to whether or not it is offensive. For example, noises that occur during nighttime (sleeping) hours are typically considered to be more offensive than the same noises in the daytime.

With regard to the second factor, individuals tend to judge the annoyance of an unwanted noise in terms of its relationship to noise from other sources (background noise). A car horn blowing at night when background noise levels are low would generally be more objectionable than one blowing in the afternoon when background noise levels are typically higher. The response to noise stimulus is analogous to the response to turning on an interior light. During the daytime an illuminated bulb simply adds to the ambient light, but when eyes are conditioned to the dark of night, a suddenly illuminated bulb can be temporarily blinding.

The third factor – situational noise – is related to the interference of noise with activities of individuals. In a 60 dB(A) environment such as is commonly found in a large business office, normal conversation would be possible, while sleep might be difficult. Loud noises may easily interrupt activities that require a quiet setting for greater mental concentration or rest; however, the same loud noises may not interrupt activities requiring less mental focus or tranquility.

As shown in **Figure 2**, most individuals are exposed to fairly high noise levels from many sources on a regular basis. To perceive sounds of greatly varying pressure levels, human hearing has a non-linear sensitivity to sound pressure exposure. Doubling the sound pressure results in a three decibel change in the noise level; however, variations of three decibels [3 dB(A)] or less are commonly considered “barely perceptible” to normal human hearing. A five decibel [5 dB(A)] change is more readily noticeable. A ten-fold increase in the sound pressure level correlates to a 10 decibel [10 dB(A)] noise level increase; however, it is judged by most people as only sounding “twice as loud”.

Figure 2: Common Noise Levels



Over time, individuals tend to accept the noises that intrude into their lives on a regular basis. However, exposure to prolonged and/or extremely loud noise(s) can prevent use of exterior and interior spaces and has been theorized to pose health risks.

Local Regulations

The Bader Sun LLC. Solar Site is in Schuyler County, IL. Schuyler County does not have an ordinance regarding noise from solar energy facilities; therefore, the State of Illinois Codes were utilized.

It should be noted that the residential properties north of the project site are located in Fulton County. The Fulton County *Solar Siting Ordinance* and *Noise Pollution Act* do not specify any decibel or frequency limits for solar sites; therefore, the State of Illinois Codes were utilized.

The Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB) noise regulations are based on allowable octave band sound pressure levels during daytime and nighttime hours. According to Title 35 (Environmental Protection), Subtitle H (Noise), Chapter I (Pollution Control Board), Part 901 (Sound Emission Standards and Limitations for Property Line-Noise Sources), a facility operating in an agricultural field (Class C Land) cannot cause an exceedance of sound levels at any point within a residential land use (Class A Land) during daytime hours as shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Maximum Allowable Sound Emitted to Class A Land During Daytime Hours

Octave Band Center Frequency (Hertz)	Allowable Octave Band Sound Pressure Levels (dB) of Sound Emitted to any Receiving Class A Land from		
	Class C Land	Class B Land	Class A Land
31.5	**75**	72	72
63	**74**	71	71
125	**69**	65	65
250	**64**	57	57
500	**58**	51	51
1000	**52**	45	45
2000	**47**	39	39
4000	**43**	34	34
8000	**40**	32	32

The IPCB has also established the allowable octave band sound pressure levels for nighttime hours shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Maximum Allowable Sound Emitted to Class A Land During Nighttime Hours

Octave Band Center Frequency (Hertz)	Allowable Octave Band Sound Pressure Levels (dB) of Sound Emitted to any Receiving Class A Land from		
	Class C Land	Class B Land	Class A Land
31.5	**69**	63	63
63	**67**	61	61
125	**62**	55	55
250	**54**	47	47
500	**47**	40	40
1000	**41**	35	35
2000	**36**	30	30
4000	**32**	25	25
8000	**32**	25	25

The allowable octave band sound pressure levels result in overall A-weighted sound pressure levels at Class A land uses of approximately 60 dB(A) during daytime hours and 51 dB(A) during nighttime hours.

Noise Analysis

Sound levels from the proposed Bader Sun LLC. Solar Site were evaluated using SoundPLAN. This program computes predicted sound levels at noise-sensitive areas through a series of adjustments to reference sound levels. SoundPLAN can also account for topography, groundcover type, and intervening structures. Sound levels generated from inverters are anticipated to be the main source of sound from the proposed solar photovoltaic project site.

It should be noted that noise from surrounding roadways was not modeled in this analysis, although Sheldons Grove Road, N Bader Road and other rural roadways are anticipated to contribute to the ambient noise environment throughout the entire day.

Inverters

Photovoltaic (PV) inverter equipment generates steady, unvarying sound that can create issues when located near noise-sensitive areas. It was assumed that two (2) PV inverters would be located near the center of the solar site. Based on typical noise emission levels for inverter equipment, a reference sound level of 79 dB(A) at 1 meter for each PV inverter was used. The sound from the simultaneous operation of the PV inverter equipment was calculated at the closest noise-sensitive receptors surrounding the project area using SoundPLAN.

Sound generated by the inverters is not anticipated to significantly contribute to the existing environmental sound levels surrounding the site. Also, sound generated by the inverters is expected to be mitigated by providing sufficient offsets between the inverters and surrounding noise-sensitive land uses as well as by the physical presence of the solar arrays, which are anticipated to shield and disperse some of the sound generated by the inverters.

Results

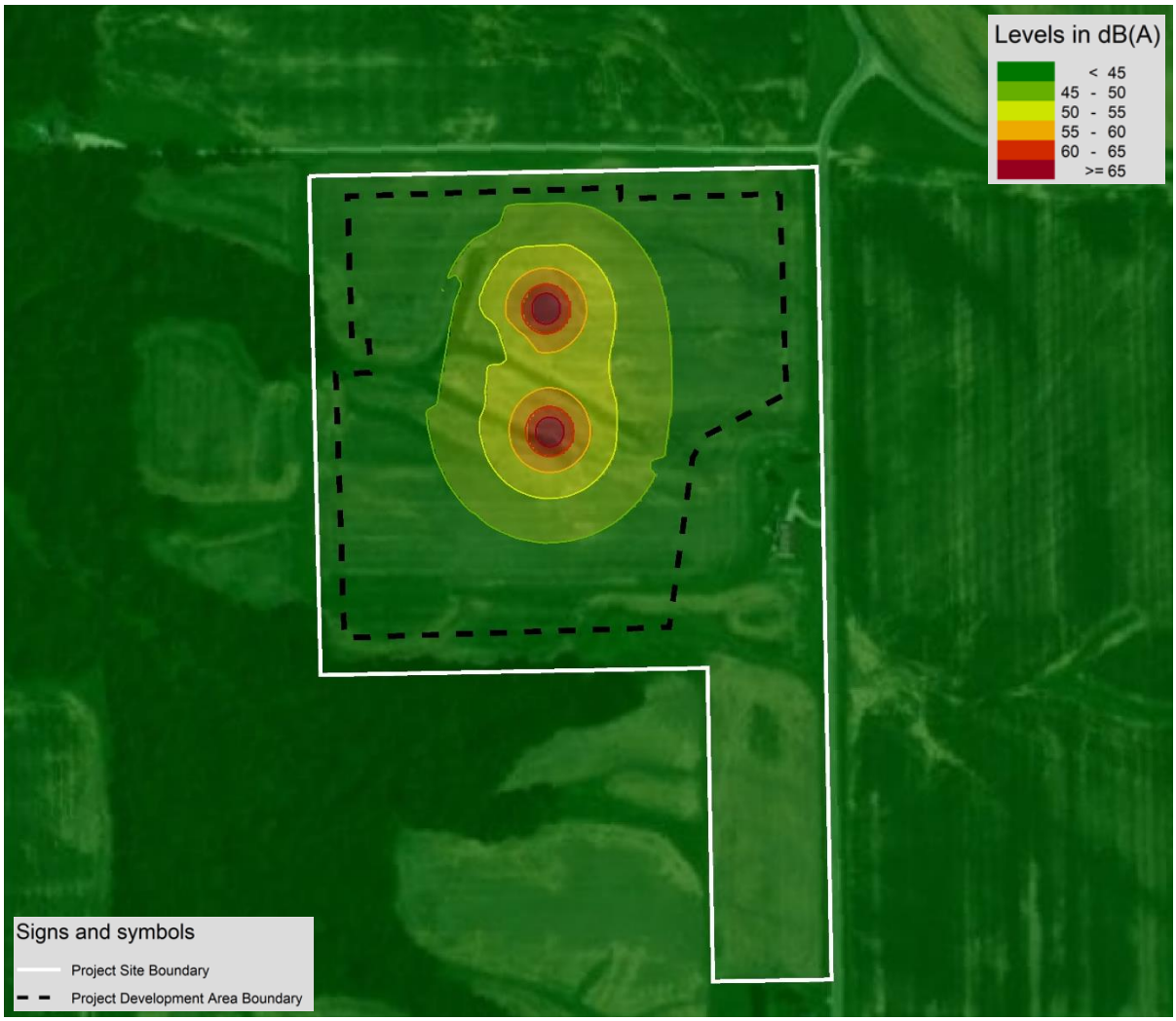
The SoundPLAN-predicted maximum operational sound levels at the surrounding noise-sensitive land uses are anticipated to remain below approximately 36 dB(A), which is below the maximum permissible equivalent sound level established in the IPCB regulations.

Since the SoundPLAN-predicted maximum noise levels at surrounding Class A property boundaries are not anticipated to exceed the limits established by IPCB, noise mitigation measures do not need to be included in the project design. See **Table 3** below. The anticipated operational sound contours are shown in **Figure 3**.

Table 3: Predicted Maximum Sound Emissions

Octave Band Center Frequency	31 Hz	63 Hz	125 Hz	250 Hz	500 Hz	1 kHz	2kHz	4 kHz	8kHz
Maximum Octave Band SPLs from Inverters	-1.2	16.8	29.7	24.3	25.0	34.6	34.7	32.7	10.9

Figure 3: Operational Sound Contours



Conclusions

The site is generally located south of the intersection between Sheldons Grove Road and N Bader Road and west of N Bader Road. The solar site will be located on agricultural land with rural residential properties surrounding the project area.

After modeling and analyzing the anticipated operational sound levels throughout the proposed solar site, it was determined that noise mitigation measures are not needed at this time since the anticipated operational sound levels will remain below the IPCB allowable octave band sound pressure levels at surrounding Class A land uses.

EXHIBIT R: ENGINEER'S CERTIFICATE

Kimley»Horn

October 27, 2023

Schuyler County, IL
102 S. Congress St.
Rushville, IL 62681

Re: Special Use Permit Application
Bader Sun, LLC
Structural Engineer's Certificate

To Whom it May Concern,

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., serves as the engineering consultant for 22c Development. 22c Development is seeking a Special Use Permit to build a commercial solar energy facility in Schuyler County, Illinois. The Project, Bader Sun, LLC., is sited southwest of the intersection of Bader Road and North County Highway 33. The Project is a proposed 5 MWAC commercial solar energy facility.

As required by the local ordinance, a structural engineer registered in the State of Illinois must certify that the soils and subsurface conditions at the site can support the apparatus, given local soil, subsurface and climate conditions. We are writing today to state that it is our professional opinion that the soil conditions at the site are satisfactory for development and construction of a typical ground-mount solar facility. The soils fall into the NRCS unified soil classifications of 279B, 17A, 630C3, 19D3, and 43A which are mostly comprised of silt loam clay.

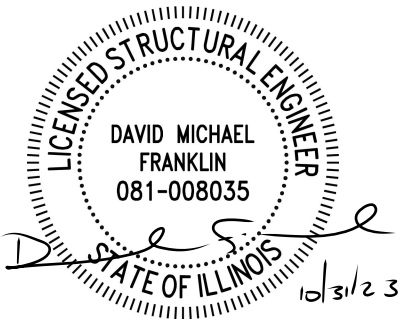
The foundations at a solar facility are most often driven steel piles and concrete slabs. The piles are used to support the solar racking and solar modules and the slabs are used to support larger equipment such as inverters, transformers and other electrical equipment as required. The foundations will be designed per a site-specific geotechnical report that contains foundation requirements. For weaker soils, the piles are often larger and driven deeper than for strong soils. The slabs will be designed to avoid settlement and often require subgrade preparation such as replacement of soils near the surface, placing structural fill/gravel, and compaction. The subgrade recommendations will also be provided in the final geotechnical report.

Kimley-Horn has provided engineering on over 1,500 solar projects across the country. Our experience from these projects suggests that the soils at the proposed solar site are satisfactory for construction of a solar facility. The final details of the foundations will be determined after the geotechnical investigation and after final engineering design.

If you have any questions based on the notes above, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.



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