

November 17, 2020

Ohio Power Siting Board Docketing Division 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Attn: Grant Zeto

RE: Case Nos. 17-1152-EL-BGN - Hillcrest Solar I, LLC

Notice of Compliance with Certificate Condition #4 - If any changes to the project layout are made after the submission of final engineering drawings, Hillcrest shall provide all such changes to Staff in hard copy and as geographically-referenced electronic data. All changes are subject to Staff review to ensure compliance with all conditions of the certificate, prior to construction in those areas.

Dear Mr. Zeto;

Hillcrest Solar I, LLC ("Hillcrest Solar") is certified to construct a solar-powered electric generation facility in Brown County, Ohio in accordance with the orders issued by the Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB") in the above-referenced cases.

On September 24, 2020, work was halted on horizontal direction drilling (HDD) operations near Sterling Run due to an inadvertent frac out release (slurry composed of subsoil sediments and water). After assessment of impacts to adjacent environmentally sensitive areas and upon the advice of qualified professionals (Environmental Design and Research, Cardno Environmental), Hillcrest Solar revised the HDD alignment for the four remaining bores to avoid these areas. As per Hillcrest Solar's commitment to consult affiliated agencies, a notice with the revised design was sent on November 10, 2020 to the agencies initially notified of the incident on September 25, 2020 (Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Ohio State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Power Siting Board) with request for any outstanding commentary or advice to resume the HDD operation. A timeline for activity resumption was included in the communication as well as the Frac Out Release Response Plan (docketed with the OPSB in compliance with Certificate Condition #1 on October 14, 2020) that outlined additional environmental monitoring, mitigations, and response protocol in the event of a frac out.

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Hillcrest Solar has received email responses from the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the Ohio Power Siting Board confirming receipt of the design and offering no further commentary. Given the five (5) business day period since delivery of the notice, it is assumed that the lack of response from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District means the agencies have no concerns with the plan to resume the HDD. Hillcrest Solar maintains open communication with the affiliated agencies and any further commentary will be taken into consideration at such time it is received.

As per the notice, Hillcrest Solar plans to commence site preparation work at the HDD site on November 18, 2020 and begin drilling operations on November 24, 2020 with adherence to the Frac Out Release Response Plan.

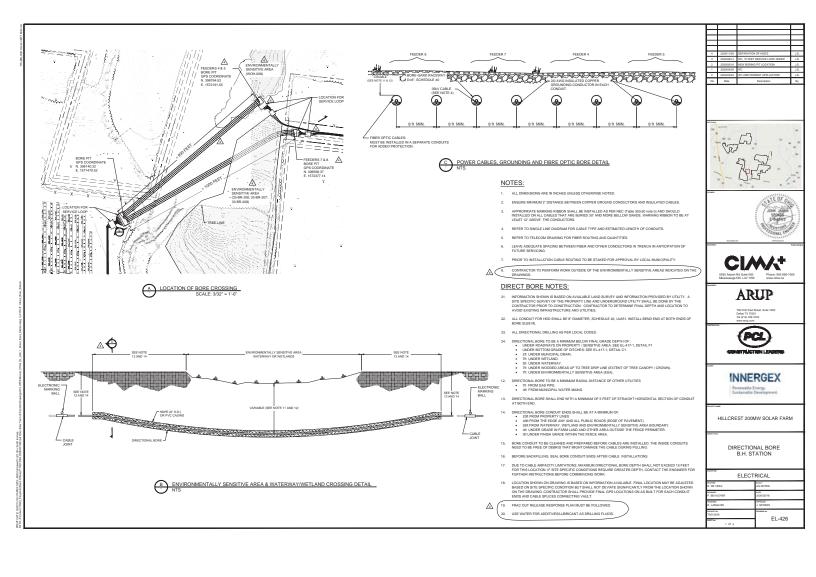
Please find attached a copy of the stamped revised HDD design delivered to the affiliated agencies regarding compliance with Certificate Condition #4 of the Opinion, Order and Certificate issued on February 15, 2018 in Case No. 17-1152-EL-BGN, Amendment 18-1267-EL-BGA, and Construction Notice 20-0614-EL-BNR.

We are available, at your convenience, to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Julia Mancinelli, Director – Environment

Attachments: Hillcrest Solar Stamped Revised HDD Design



This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

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in

Case No(s). 17-1152-EL-BGN, 18-1267-EL-BGA

Summary: Notice Notice of Compliance with Condition No 4 - Revised HDD Design near Sterling Run electronically filed by Ms. Madison Walsh on behalf of Hillcrest Solar I, LLC