

August 24, 2021

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

**Re: Case No. 21-36-EL-BGN- In the Matter of the Application Marion County Solar Project, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Construct a Solar-Powered Electric Generation Facility in Marion County, Ohio.**

**Proof of Publication and Service of Procedural Schedule and Accepted, Complete Application**

Dear Ms. Troupe:

In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code Rule 4906-3-09(A)(1), Marion County Solar Project, LLC (“Applicant”) published and served notice of the application and the procedural schedule for this matter. Attached please find a copy of the proof of the publication attesting that notice of the accepted, complete application was published in the *Marion Star*, a newspaper of general circulation in Marion County, Ohio on August 10, 2021. In addition, in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code Rule 4906-3-09(A)(1), written notice was also served on July 30, 2021.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Christine M.T. Pirik*

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### AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Newspaper:

MCO-Mar-Marion Star

LEGAL NOTICE  
ATTACHED

STATE OF WISCONSIN

RE: Order #: GCI0702377

Account #: 000003272  
Total Amount of Claim:\$495.00

I, Jesten, Sales Assistant

for the above mentioned newspaper, hereby certify that the attached advertisement appeared in said newspaper on the following dates:  
8/10/2021

[Signature]

Last Run Date : 8/10/2021

Subscribed and sworn to me this 10th day of August, 2021

[Signature: Kathleen Allen]  
NOTARY PUBLIC

1-7-25  
Commission Expires

KATHLEEN ALLEN  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin

# Costs, labor hinder derecho recovery

Iowa farmers still dealing with aftermath of storm

**Donnelle Eller**  
Des Moines Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

DES MOINES, Iowa – Corn plants blanketed Morey Hill’s fields last fall. But they weren’t part of the record harvest he had been expecting.

They were sprouting from millions of seeds left in the wake of the hurricane-force winds of the derecho that blew through the central third of Iowa a year ago.

The carpet of green fuzz would have been an impressive cover crop, Hill said, if it didn’t represent the loss of his crop, flattened in the deadly Aug. 10, 2020, storm that swept across the state, ripping through homes, farms and businesses.

“The corn was looking so good and it just got flattened,” said Hill, 70, who witnessed the storm roaring through his farmstead, listening with his wife, Rhonda, to the twist and crack of shattering trees above the wind’s scream. Their 400 acres of cropland were among 6 million damaged in Iowa.

Though the derecho ended Hill’s hopes for a record crop, it did set another record: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration termed it “the costliest thunderstorm in U.S. history,” causing \$11.5 billion in damage along its 770-mile course from South Dakota and Nebraska to Ohio.

Iowa families and businesses, the hardest hit, have filed 225,000 claims for \$3 billion in damage from the storm, the Iowa Insurance Division reports. Another 18,000 claims are outstanding, the agency says.

That total doesn’t include the \$562 million that Iowa farmers claimed through federal insurance for damage to corn, soybeans and other crops from the derecho, drought and other extreme weather last year, U.S. Department of Agriculture data shows.

The American Farm Bureau Federation estimates Iowa lost about \$802 million in crops and pasture due to severe weather, with farmers absorbing about \$240 million of the losses. U.S.



Crews from Mid-States Millwright & Builders work on rebuilding damage at Key Cooperative near Marshalltown, Iowa. The location was one of many the organization lost to the Aug. 10, 2020, derecho that swept through the Midwest.

BRIAN POWERS/THE DES MOINES REGISTER

House and Senate committees recently included farmers hit by the derecho in bills providing assistance to Americans who experienced natural disasters in 2020 and this year.

“Thank God for insurance or we wouldn’t be farming this year,” said Tim Bardole, who farms with his dad and son near Hill in Greene County, where winds in some areas hit 100 mph. Bardole lost about half of his 1,200 acres of corn; Hill’s loss amounted to about two-thirds of his 200 corn acres.

Even after months of picking twisted metal debris from fields, cutting up fallen trees and rebuilding and repairing homes, grain bins, barns and buildings, the work continues for many Iowa farmers and elevators, said Mike Naig, Iowa’s agriculture secretary.

High costs for steel and other materials and labor shortages have slowed the recovery, Naig said. Wrecked bins at grain elevators and farms are the most obvious sign of the remaining work.

A crew was finishing some of the last work needed on Key Cooperative’s new 400,000-bushel grain storage facility in Le Grand, Iowa, when the derecho hit.

About 45 minutes later, all but one bin was destroyed, along with towers,

conveyors and other grain-moving infrastructure, said Matt Brown, who manages the elevator, located east of Marshalltown.

The storm’s timing couldn’t have been worse for Iowa farmers and elevators. They were emptying grain from bins to make way for the new crop, leaving the structures even more vulnerable to the derecho’s straight-line winds, which hit nearly 130 mph near Cedar Rapids. Without the grain to anchor them, huge bins crumpled like soda cans.

Iowa farmers and elevators lost about 100 million bushels of storage, costing about \$300 million to replace or repair, the Iowa Department of Agriculture says.

Almost all of Key’s 13 locations had some damage, including the co-op’s headquarters near Roland. “It’s a day I’ll never forget,” said Jason Dubberke, Key Cooperative’s grain manager.

No Key employees, contractors or customers were injured, though three people died in the storm in Iowa.

Key already had added outside and inside storage space, expecting a bumper crop, Brown said. But even with farmers hauling in only a quarter or so of

their harvest, every employee with a commercial driver’s license was pressed into service driving semi trucks.

“It was a dance, figuring out how many bushels of grain I had sitting on wheels” waiting to be dumped or moved out, Brown said.

Mid-States Millwright & Builders Inc. got a call from a farm customer to rebuild a grain bin even before the massive storm had cleared Iowa on Aug. 10, said Chris Schaudt, the company’s vice president of sales.

Based in Nevada, Iowa, the company has since rebuilt and repaired 27 million bushels of grain storage in Iowa for farmers and cooperatives like Key.

Bardole, who farms near Rippey in central Iowa, said last year’s harvest was a struggle.

Much of his family’s bin-busting corn harvest lay on the ground. The hail that came with the derecho stripped nearly half his 1,100 acres of soybeans, pushing yields down to 5 to 12 bushels an acre. Greene County’s 10-year average is 51 bushels.

Bardole also racked up \$20,000 in equipment damage from storm debris as he and his family tried to harvest fall-en corn.

The derecho, and the drought that began last year and continues this summer, meant Iowa farmers harvested 11% less corn last year, at 2.3 billion bushels – and 2% fewer soybeans, at 494 million bushels. Still, Iowa led the nation in corn production, a title it’s held for 27 consecutive years. Iowa also remains the second-largest soybean grower.

Bardole’s battle will continue next year. With roughly half the state experiencing a moderate or severe drought, much of the corn that fell last year remains on the ground and has not yet germinated.

Bardole still sees a couple of bright spots from last year’s storm: His son sheltered at a family’s hog confinement, a decision that kept him from getting hit when power poles were downed on the highway he would have traveled.

And an oak tree his grandfather planted from an acorn survived, even though most of his groves were destroyed.

“It’s been there a long time,” Bardole said.

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**Notice of Proposed Major Utility Facility**

Marion County Solar Project, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Savion, LLC, is proposing to build the Marion County Solar Project, a solar-powered generation facility located in Marion Township, Marion County. The facility will have a maximum total project generating capacity of up to 100 megawatts. The purpose of the facility is to generate electricity and is intended to fill the need for a more diverse national energy portfolio that will include a higher percentage of energy generated through the use of renewable resources.

Marion County Solar Project, LLC filed its application with the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) for a certificate to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facility in OPSB Case No. 21-36-EL-BGN. A copy of the application is available on the OPSB website at <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/CaseRecord.aspx?CaseNo=21-36&x=0&y=0> and Marion County Solar’s website at [www.marioncountysolarproject.com](http://www.marioncountysolarproject.com).

On July 27, 2021, the OPSB established the procedural schedule in this case. The public will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed facility. The public hearing in Marion County Solar’s OPSB case shall consist of two parts:

- (1) A local public hearing, pursuant to R.C. 4906.08(C), where the OPSB shall accept oral testimony from any person, commencing on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Evers Arena, 220 E. Fairground St., Marion Ohio 43302.
- (2) An adjudicatory hearing to commence on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-D, at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

Consistent with CDC Guidelines and the May 17, 2021 Ohio Department of Health Order, unless otherwise specified by the facility, individuals who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear a face covering and socially distance. Please contact the legal department at 614-466-6843 to ask any questions or request accommodations related to health protocols.

Public comments can be provided in writing on the OPSB’s website at <https://opsb.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/opsb/help-center/contact-us>, by electronic mail to [contactOPSB@puc.ohio.gov](mailto:contactOPSB@puc.ohio.gov), or by mail to the OPSB 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215. Written comments should reference Case No. 21-36-EL-BGN.

The following officials have received electronic copies of the accepted complete application filed with the OPSB: Marion County Commissioners; Marion County Engineer; Marion County Auditor’s office; Marion City/County Regional Planning Commission; Marion Township Trustees; Marion Township Fiscal Officer; Marion Township Fire Department; and, Marion CanDo (Economic Development). In addition, the following library was sent an electronic copy of the application, as well as notices to post regarding the application: Marion Public Library, 445 East Church Street, Marion, OH 43302. A copy of the application is also available for inspection at the OPSB offices, 180 E. Broad St., 11th floor, Columbus, OH 43215, 1-866-270-6772, and is available on the OPSB website at <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/CaseRecord.aspx?CaseNo=21-36&x=0&y=0> and Marion County Solar’s website at [www.marioncountysolarproject.com](http://www.marioncountysolarproject.com).

In reviewing an application to construct, operate, and maintain a generation facility, such as the facility proposed by Marion County Solar, the OPSB considers the following criteria set forth in Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 4906.10(A): (1) The nature of the probable environmental impact; (2) That the facility represents the minimum adverse environmental impact, considering the state of available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives, and other pertinent considerations; (3) That the facility is consistent with regional plans for expansion of the electric power grid of the electric systems serving this state and interconnected utility systems and that the facility will serve the interests of electric system economy and reliability; (4) That the facility will comply with R.C. 3704, 3734, and 6111 and all rules and standards adopted under those chapters and under R.C. 1501.33, 1501.34, and 4561.32; (5) That the facility will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity; (6) In addition to the provisions contained in R.C. 4906.10(A)(1) to (6) and rules adopted under those divisions, what its impact will be on the viability as agricultural land of any land in an existing agricultural district established under R.C. 929 that is located within the site and alternative site of the proposed major utility facility; and (7) That the facility incorporates maximum feasible water conservation practices as determined by the OPSB, considering available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives.

R.C. 4906.07(C) provides that the chairperson of the OPSB shall cause each application filed with the OPSB to be investigated and shall, not less than 15 days prior to the date any application is set for hearing submit a written report to the OPSB and to the applicant. A copy of such report shall be made available to any person upon request. Such report shall set forth the nature of the investigation, and shall contain recommended findings with regard to R.C. 4906.10(A) and shall become part of the record and served upon all parties to the proceeding.

In accordance with R.C. 4906.08(C), the OPSB shall accept written or oral testimony from any person at the public hearing, but the right to call and examine witnesses shall be reserved for parties. However, the OPSB may adopt rules to exclude repetitive, immaterial, or irrelevant testimony. Petitions to intervene in the adjudicatory hearing will be accepted by the OPSB up to 30 days following publication of the notice required by R.C. 4906.06(C) and Ohio Adm.Code 4906-3-09, or by August 31, 2021, whichever is later. However, the OPSB strongly encourages interested persons who wish to intervene in the adjudicatory hearing to file their petitions as soon as possible.

Petitions should be addressed to Docketing Division, the Ohio Power Siting Board, 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3793 and cite Case No. 21-36-EL-BGN.

The following map shows the proposed layout of the Marion County Solar facility. An online version of the map and a link to additional detailed maps can be found here: [www.marioncountysolarproject.com](http://www.marioncountysolarproject.com).

OH-GC10702377-01

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**8/24/2021 9:44:01 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 21-0036-EL-BGN**

Summary: Proof of Pub and Service of Procedural Schedule and Accepted, Complete Application electronically filed by Christine M.T. Pirik on behalf of Marion County Solar Project, LLC