

September 20, 2021

Dylan F. Borchers
Sommer L. Sheely
Attorneys for South Branch Solar, LLC
Bricker & Eckler LLP
100 South Third Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Application for Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need

Case: 205 MW South Branch Solar

Case Number: 21-0669-EL-BGN

Dear Mr. Borchers and Ms. Sheely:

This letter is to inform you that the above referenced application, filed with the Ohio Power Siting Board (Board) on July 22, 2021 along with South Branch Solar, LLC's data request responses, has been found to comply with Chapters 4906-01, et seq., of the Ohio Administrative Code (Ohio Adm.Code). This means the Board's staff (Staff) has received sufficient information to begin its review of this application. During the course of its investigation, the Staff may request additional information to ensure Staff can continue to conduct its review of the application, including but not limited to:

- An updated decommissioning plan and cost estimate, and performance bond financial assurance mechanism that excludes salvage value.
- Concurrence from Ohio EPA that the historical solid waste landfill facility known as the Arcadia Village Dump is outside the project area, and assured compliance with Ohio Adm.Code 3745-513, the regulatory framework for activities on or near historical solid waste landfill facilities.
- Identification of proposed locations within the project area of any electric transmission line(s) and associated facilities of a design capacity of one hundred kilovolts or more that would be constructed by South Branch Solar, LLC.
- An Engineering Constructability Report, which shall include but is not limited to the following:
 - Name of the engineering firm, or technical expert writing the report;
 - An explanation of what oil/gas wells are and the potential adverse environmental impacts (such as: brine release affecting vegetation, odors, vapors, oil leakage) that could result from damage to an oil/gas well and why these require special construction consideration;
 - A hydrogeological impact assessment;
 - A statement on your coordination and consultation effort with Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR);



Power Siting Board

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Jenifer French, Chair

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Director, Ohio Department of Health
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- An Inventory and map of the oil/gas wells within the project area, including their status (i.e. plugged, not plugged);
- A determination of whether that oil/gas well poses a risk to public health, safety, or the environment;
- An explanation of construction techniques to be employed when working around the oil/gas well (e.g., avoidance, plugging, setbacks);
 - Include a revised Figure 03-3 (Project Layout)
 - Include a revised Figure 04-2 (Constraint Map)
- An explanation of what the Applicant would do if other oil/gas wells are encountered or found during construction;
- If the Applicant discovers the need to plug wells (prior to construction, during operation, or at the end of solar facility's life), include an analysis of the probable costs of construction or decommissioning; and
- A Cost estimate to plug and abandon an oil/gas well.

Pursuant to Board rules, the certified application and supplements must now be filed with the Board in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Adm.Code Rules 4906-3-06 and 4906-3-07. In summary form, these rules require:

1. Serving copies of the certified application upon appropriate government officials and public agencies. In this regard, please inform these officials in writing that if they wish to intervene in the proceedings, they must file a notice of intervention with the Board within thirty days of being served a copy of the application.
2. Filing Proof of Service with the Board.

Upon completion of these requirements, you will be notified of the effective date of filing and the date and details of the public hearing.

Please be informed that under Section 4906.04 of the Ohio Revised Code (R.C.), the applicant



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shall not commence to construct any portion of the facility prior to obtaining a certificate from the Board.

Also be informed that to assist your company in meeting the provisions of Ohio Power Siting Board rules, the Board will serve as a clearinghouse for the distribution to and service of the application and supplements upon the following state agencies:

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Department of Agriculture
Ohio Development Services Agency
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio Historical Society

Upon filing, pursuant to R.C. 4906.06(F) and Ohio Adm.Code Rule 4906-3-12, the amount of \$102,500 is an application fee.

You will receive an invoice from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Finance Department.

Payment of the application fee is due within 30 days.

Please file proof of payment in the docket.

Depending on the complexity of the staff investigation, the application fee may not cover all costs associated with this case. Additional invoicing may be necessary.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact me at (866) 270-6772 or Jim O'Dell via james.o'dell@puco.ohio.gov or at (614) 644-5736.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Theresa White
Executive Director
Ohio Power Siting Board

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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Summary: Correspondence electronically filed by Mr. Jason Cross on behalf of Staff of OPSB