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October 5, 2021

Ms. Tanowa Troupe, Secretary  
Ohio Power Siting Board  
Docketing Division  
180 East Broad Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3797

**Re: Case No. 20-1605-EL-BGN**

In the Matter of the Application of Birch Solar 1, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Construct a Solar-Powered Electric Generation Facility in Allen and Auglaize Counties, Ohio.

**Fourth Supplement to Application – Architectural State Historic Preservation Office Concurrence Letter**

Dear Ms. Troupe:

On February 12, 2021, as supplemented on March 25, March 31, and April 5, 2021, Birch Solar 1, LLC (“Applicant”), filed an application with the Ohio Power Siting Board (“Board”) for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need to construct a solar-powered electric generation facility in Allen and Auglaize Counties, Ohio (“Application”).

The purpose of this Fourth Supplement to the Application is to submit the concurrence letter from the State Historic Preservation Office (“SHPO”) regarding the Architectural Survey Report. The letter is attached hereto.

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christine M.T. Pirik

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### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The Ohio Power Siting Board's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the parties referenced in the service list of the docket card who have electronically subscribed to these cases. In addition, the undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing document is also being served upon the persons below this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

/s/ Christine M.T. Pirik

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Administrative Law Judge:

[michael.williams@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:michael.williams@puco.ohio.gov)



In reply, please refer to:  
2020-ALL-49242

May 13, 2021

Courtney Dohoney  
Stantec  
3001 Washington Blvd, Suite 500  
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Birch Lima Solar Panel Farm – Revised History Architecture Reconnaissance Survey  
Shawnee Township, Allen County and Logan Township, Auglaize County, Ohio

Dear Ms. Dohoney:

This letter is in response to correspondence received on March 17, 2021, and additional information received on April 14, 2021. The comments of the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are made pursuant to Section 149.53 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Power Siting Board rules for siting this project (OAC 4906-4). The comments of the Ohio SHPO are also submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 U.S.C. 306108 [36 CFR 800]).

The following comments pertain to the *History/Architecture Reconnaissance Survey for the Proposed Birch Solar Project in Portions of Shawnee Township, Allen County and Logan Township, Auglaize County, Ohio* (Kramb Consulting, 2021), revised based on comments provided by the SHPO office on April 13, 2021. In the report, four hundred eighty-six (486) properties were surveyed. Of these properties, eight (8) were recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), seven (7) are already listed or determined eligible of listing, and one (1) potential historic district containing thirty-five (35) architectural resources was identified. Four (4) properties were not visible from the public right-of-way, and were not evaluated. Out of the listed and eligible for listing properties, three (3) individual properties and the historic district were recommended as having an adverse effect from the proposed project (Resource Numbers AL 135, 164, 198, 157-161 and 165-193). The SHPO agrees with these recommendations. Although resource AL 103 was not visible from the public right-of-way, the SHPO recommends an Adverse Effect for this property as well because of its proximity to the solar facility.

If no alternative locations can be found for the location of the panels and substation, the applicant and the SHPO need to agree on appropriate mitigation for the construction of the solar facility. The process used to reach this decision and the mitigation will be memorialized in a Memorandum of Agreement. We recommend that you identify and contact interested consulting parties (i.e., Auglaize County Historical Society, Allen County Historical Society, Heritage Ohio,

Preservation Ohio, etc.) so that they may provide comments on options to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effect.

Please note that this determination of effects is for above ground resources only. The archaeological component of the project is being coordinated separately. Our office looks forward to additional coordination for the project with Birch Solar 1, LLC, and Stantec.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [kkoehlinger@ohiohistory.org](mailto:kkoehlinger@ohiohistory.org) or (614) 298-2000. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Diana Welling, Department Head & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for  
Resource Protection and Review

*"Please be advised that this is a Section 106 decision. This review decision may not extend to other SHPO programs."*

RPR Serial No: 1088225

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

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**in**

**Case No(s). 20-1605-EL-BGN**

Summary: Application - Fourth Supplement to Application – Architectural State Historic Preservation

Office Concurrence Letter electronically filed by Christine M.T. Pirik on behalf of Birch Solar 1, LLC