



150 E. GAY STREET, 24<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-3192  
TELEPHONE: (614) 744-2570  
FACSIMILE: (844) 670-6009  
<http://www.dickinsonwright.com>

CHRISTINE M.T. PIRIK  
CPirik@dickinsonwright.com  
(614) 591-5461

January 10, 2022

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

**Re: Case No. 17-773-EL-BGN**

In the Matter of the Application of Hardin Solar Energy LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Construct a Solar-Powered Electric Generation Facility in Hardin County, Ohio.

**Response to Ohio Power Siting Board Staff Inquiry on Vegetation Management**

Dear Ms. Troupe:

Hardin Solar Energy LLC ("Applicant") holds a certificate to construct, operate, and maintain a solar-powered electric generation facility in Hardin County, Ohio ("Project"), in accordance with the orders issued by the Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB") in the above-referenced case.

At this time, the Applicant is filing the attached response provided to the staff of the OPSB ("Staff") regarding their August 25, 2021 inquiry into vegetation management at the Project site. This response was provided to Staff on September 8, 2021.

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christine M.T. Pirik  
Christine M.T. Pirik (0029759)  
William V. Vorys (0093479)  
Dickinson Wright PLLC  
150 East Gay Street, Suite 2400  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 591-5461  
[cpirik@dickinsonwright.com](mailto:cpirik@dickinsonwright.com)  
[wvorys@dickinsonwright.com](mailto:wvorys@dickinsonwright.com)

***Attorneys for Hardin Solar Energy LLC***

cc: James O'Dell  
Grant Zeto

4844-9003-6220 [39579-24]

September 8, 2021

Mr. James O'Dell, Senior Siting Analyst  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Power Siting Department  
180 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: 17-0773-EL-BGN Noxious Weed Control Data Requests

Dear Mr. O'Dell:

This letter is in response to your email inquiry made on August 25, 2021 to Cody Logan at Invenergy regarding the presence of noxious weeds at the Hardin Solar Energy facility, commonly referred to as Hardin I.

In response to your inquiries, we provide the following information:

1. *Explain the circumstances which led to the amount of noxious weeds present within the project area.*

Prior to the completion of construction in February 2021, long-term ground cover, consisting of low-growing warm and cool season grasses, was planted. In some areas of the project, site work was finalized and seeding occurred earlier in the winter of 2020. The seed coverage in these areas seeded earlier did not fully take, and as a result, these areas were re-seeded in the spring of 2021. Delay in the establishment of long-term ground cover allowed weeds to grow.

Additionally, due to employee and equipment availability, the Hardin I vegetation management contractor did not begin mowing efforts until July 2021 further hindering efforts to control the growth of undesirable weeds.

2. *Describe the steps that will be taken to control noxious weeds through implementation of the vegetation management plan in compliance with condition 22.*

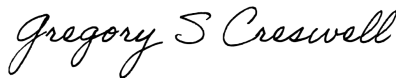
Monitoring of the vegetation throughout the site will include identifying the presence of invasive or unwanted species and the extent of their occurrence. Should any invasive species be identified within the site, the invasive species shall be removed using methods most likely to be effective in controlling that species. Where necessary, the affected area will be reseeded. Overall, vegetation management will include a combination of scheduled mowing, herbicide applications, and seeding as needed with appropriate mixes.

3. *Provide a timeline of when the noxious weed issue would likely be resolved.*

The Hardin I vegetation management contractor commenced work mowing the site on July 19, 2021. To date, 17 of 40 blocks have been mown as have all project areas outside of the project fence. Mowing is expected to be complete by the end of October, 2021. Herbicide treatment across the site is scheduled to commence September 13, 2021. Spraying will occur in each block following the completion of mowing in that block. The herbicide treatment will be complete by the end of the year.

If you have additional questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at (804)787-6229 or via email at [gregory.s.creswell@dominionenergy.com](mailto:gregory.s.creswell@dominionenergy.com).

Sincerely,



Gregory S. Creswell  
Commercial Project Manager, Renewable Energy

CC: Lane Brindley  
Peggy Ehora  
Megan Schneir  
Cody Logan  
Alyson De Soto

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

**Case No(s). 17-0773-EL-BGN**

Summary: Response - Response to Ohio Power Siting Board Staff Inquiry on  
Vegetation Management electronically filed by Christine M.T. Pirik on behalf of  
Hardin Solar Energy LLC