#### BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

In the Matter of the Application of	)	
Palomino Solar, LLC for a Certificate of	)	Case No. 21-0041-EL-BGN
Environmental Compatibility and Public	)	
Need	)	

## AFFIDAVIT OF DAVID LITTLE, VICE PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PALOMINO SOLAR, LLC

STATE OF CALIFORNIA	)
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO	) SS:

- I, David Little, Vice President and Managing Director of Palomino Solar, LLC, being duly sworn and cautioned, state that I am over 18 years of age and competent to testify to the matters stated in this affidavit and further state the following based upon my personal knowledge:
  - 1. I am the Vice President and Managing Director for the Palomino Solar Energy Project to be located in Union and Dodson Townships in Highland County, Ohio.
  - I have reviewed the first supplement to the Application of Palomino Solar, LLC for a
    Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Construct an Electric
    Generating Facility in Case No. 21-0041-EL-BGN.
  - To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the information and materials contained in the above-referenced first supplement to the Application are true and correct.

4. To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the above-referenced first supplement to the Application is complete.

David Little Managing Director Palomino Solar, LLC

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence this 13th day of January, 2022.

Notary Public

Printed Name: \_Rita Cannava

Commission Expires: 09/03/2025

La Camare

#### SUPPLEMENT TO THE APPLICATION

#### TO THE

### **OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

#### FOR A

#### CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED

#### FOR THE

### **Palomino Solar Energy Project**

**Highland County, Ohio** 

Case No. 21-0041-EL-BGN

**Date: January 14, 2022** 

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Exhibit N. Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Report

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Exhibit R. Distances to Residences and Property Boundaries

### Acronyms and Abbreviations

Certificate Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need

EPA Environmental Protection Agency
Innergex Renewable Energy, Inc.

kV Kilovolt

MW Megawatt

MWh Megawatt-hour

NPDES National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NRHP National Register of Historic Places

O&M Operations and Maintenance

OAC Ohio Administrative Code

ODNR Ohio Department of Natural Resources

ODOT Ohio Department of Transportation

ODW Ohio Division of Wildlife

OEPA Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

OPSB Ohio Power Siting Board

PJM PJM Interconnection, LLC

POI Point of Interconnection

Project Palomino Solar Energy Project

PV Photovoltaic

ROW Right(s)-of-Way

SHPO State Historic Preservation Office

USACE United States Army Corps of Engineers

USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

VRA Visual Resource Assessment

#### 4906-4-01. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

#### (A) Requirements for Filing Certificate Applications

Palomino Solar, LLC (Palomino Solar or Applicant), an affiliate of Innergex Renewable Energy, Inc. (Innergex), is applying to construct the Palomino Solar Energy Project, which is proposed as a 200 megawatt alternating current (MW<sub>ac</sub>, hereinafter referred to as "MW") utility-scale photovoltaic (PV) solar-powered electric generation facility (Facility) and associated facilities (electrical collection lines, inverters, a substation, an operations and maintenance (O&M) building, access roads, fence lines, weather stations, and laydown yards) (Project). The materials contained herein and attached hereto (Application Supplement) modify and supplement certain sections of the Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) submitted on September 24, 2021, in case number 21-0041-EL-BGN (September Application).

The September Application and this Application Supplement filing are written in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 4906-4 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) for the filing of certificate applications for electricity generating facilities. The Application Supplement has been prepared by Palomino Solar, with support from Cardno, Inc. (Cardno).

#### (B) Waivers

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

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#### 4906-4-02. PROJECT SUMMARY AND APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### (A) Project Summary

The size and extent of the Project has been reduced. The revised Project Area is 2,668 acres in Dodson and Union Townships, Highland County, Ohio. This represents a Project Area reduction of over 200 acres. The revised Application Figures have been provided with this Application Supplement. The revised Project Area appears in Figure 02-1 and the revised Project Layout appears in Figure 03-2.1 to 03-2.5.

The Facility's point of interconnection (POI) to the existing transmission grid has not changed. The POI will continue to be to the Hillsboro-Middleboro 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The POI will be the subject of a separate filing to the OPSB.

#### (1) General Purpose of the Facility

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (2) Description of the Facility

Figure 02-1 depicts an overview of the revised Project Area. An updated map of the revised Project Layout, including the layout of solar arrays, access roads, fence lines, an O&M building, and substation location, can be found in Figure 03-2.1 to 0.3-2.5 (Section 4906-4-03(B)).

#### (3) Description of the Suitability of the Site for the Proposed Facility

The revised Project Layout reflects adjustments to Project infrastructure to reduce proximity to residences and modify the visual impact of the Project. These changes reflect input from landowners, residents, and local officials. More information regarding the site selection and suitability of the site may be found in Section 4906-4-04(A) of the September Application.

#### (4) Project Schedule

The acquisition of land and land rights in the Project Area began in 2019. During that year and thereafter, landowner outreach as well as meetings with local stakeholders were held to receive feedback from stakeholders near and within the Project Area. A public informational meeting was held on March 9, 2021, to provide the public with information regarding the Project. A second public informational meeting was held on June 28, 2021. Project design will be finalized after issuance of a Certificate and before construction of the Project. Construction of the Project is expected to begin in Spring 2023, shortly after design plans are finalized, and to be completed in Summer 2024. Once construction is complete, the Facility will be placed in service. More

4906-4-02 Page 2

information regarding the Project schedule may be found in Section 4906-4-03(C)(1) of the September Application.

#### (B) Applicant Information

#### (1) Plans for Future Generation Capacity at the Site

No changes from the information provided in the September Application. Palomino Solar does not have plans for an increase to future generation capacity at this site beyond the currently proposed 200 MW Facility. The maximum capacity of the Facility at the POI (Hillsboro-Middleboro 138 kV transmission line) is anticipated to be 200 MW.

#### (2) Description of Applicant and Operator

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

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#### 4906-4-03. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCHEDULE

#### (A) Project Area Description

The Project Area and Project Layout changed from the September Application. However, the changes did not modify impacts to populations centers, administrative boundaries, transportation routes, gas pipelines, electric transmission corridors, named rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, major institutions, parks, or recreation areas.

The revisions to the Project Area modified the number of properties that are leased or have an option to purchase. A revised Table 03-1 appears below.

Status Number of Properties Area (Acres)

Lease/Easement 43 1,776.4

Option to Purchase 17 892.0

Table 03-1. Owned and Leased Properties in Project Area

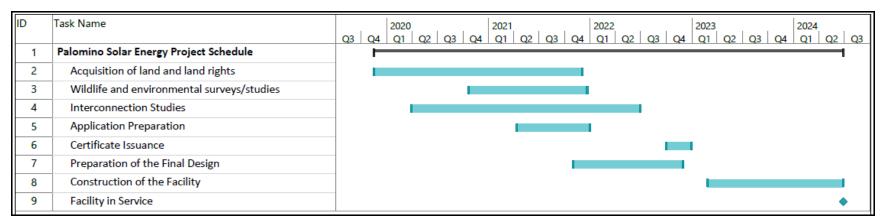
#### (B) Detailed Description of Proposed Facility

The Project Layout has changed from the September Application but the overall Facility components have remained largely the same. The proposed locations of panels and tracking systems has changed but the characteristics of the types of panels and tracking system used has not changed. Access roads and collector lines have moved, but the characteristics of the features remains unchanged. The total length of access roads decreased from 18.1 miles to 17.7 miles and the total length of collector lines decreased from 64 miles to 60 miles. The substation, switching substation and operations and maintenance facilities have not changed from the September Application. The locations of individual inverters has changed and the total number of inverters decreased from 76 to 72. The characteristics of individual inverters have not changed. The total number of pyranometers has increased from five to ten, but the characteristics of individual pyranometers has not changed.

#### (C) Detailed Project Schedule

An updated Gantt-style chart illustrating major activities and milestones is provided in Inset 3-8. Due to a delay in the Transmission Owner's projected interconnection facilities backfeed date, the overall Project schedule has been delayed approximately six months from the schedule provided in the September Application. The construction sequence also has a similar six-month delay.

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**Inset 3-8. Project Construction Schedule Gantt Chart** 

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#### 4906-4-04. PROJECT AREA SELECTION AND SITE DESIGN

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### 4906-4-05. ELECTRIC GRID INTERCONNECTION

#### (A) Connection to the Regional Electric Grid

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (B) Interconnection Information

#### (1) Generation Interconnection Request Information

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (2) System Studies

#### (a) AF2-440

At the time of submitting the September Application, the AF2-440 Facilities Study Report was expected to be received by March 21, 2022. However, PJM and the Transmission Owner have agreed to issue a combined Facilities Study Report for both AF2-440 and AG1-107 by June 30, 2022.

#### (b) AG1-107

At the time of submitting the September Application, the AG1-107 Facilities Study Report was expected to be received by February 28, 2023. However, PJM and the Transmission Owner have agreed to issue a combined Facilities Study Report for AF2-440 and AG1-107 by June 30, 2022.

#### 4906-4-06. ECONOMIC IMPACT AND PUBLIC INTERACTION

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

## 4906-4-07. COMPLIANCE WITH AIR, WATER, SOLID WASTE, AND AVIATION REGULATIONS

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### 4906-4-08. HEALTH AND SAFETY, LAND USE, AND ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

#### (A) Health and Safety

#### (1) Equipment Safety and Reliability

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (2) Probable Impacts due to Failures of Pollution Control Equipment

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (3) Noise

The revised Project Layout modified the location of certain electrical inverters used for the Project. The proposed substation and switchyard location did not change. A revised study of the noise levels from the inverters and substation was completed and is included as revised Exhibit H. Noise levels at non-participating properties and residences remained the same or decreased.

#### (4) Through (13)

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (B) Ecological Impact

#### (1) Ecological Resources in the Project Area

The revised Project Layout resulted in modified impacts to ecological resources. New on-site ecological surveys were completed for two small additional areas added to the Project Area and revised impacts are included in the revised Ecological Assessment (revised Exhibit P).

#### (a) Open Spaces and Facility Map

Revised Figure 08-3.1 to 08-3.5 shows the proposed Project and the ecological features within 0.5 miles of the Project Area, including the following features:

#### (i) Proposed Facility and Project Area Boundary

Revised Figure 08-3.1 to 08-3.5 depicts the Project Area boundary and the proposed Project Layout.

## (ii) Undeveloped or Abandoned Land such as Wood Lots or Vacant Tracts of Land Subject to Past or Present Surface Mining Activities

Undeveloped land in the Project Area is made up of deciduous and mixed forest as well as woody wetlands. Of the approximately 2,668 acres that make up the Project Area, approximately 41

acres are woodlots (revised Table 08-3). Undeveloped land data was derived from the U.S. Geological Survey National Land Cover Database (NLCD 2021).

Table 08-3. Existing Land Use within Project Area

Land Cover Type	Acres	Percentage	
Cultivated Crops	2,374	87.8%	
Deciduous Forest	127	4.7%	
Developed, Low Intensity	27	0.1%	
Developed, Medium Intensity	1	<0.1%	
Developed, Open Space	71	2.7%	
Hay/Pasture	58	2.2%	
Mixed Forest	41	1.5%	
Open Water	<0.1	<0.1%	
Woody Wetlands	1.2	<0.1%	
Total Acreage	2,673 <sup>1</sup>	100%	
Source: NLCD 2021			

<sup>1.</sup> Note that Land Cover Type acreage is slightly different than total project area due to GIS projections.

#### (iii) Wildlife Areas, Nature Preserves, and Other Conservation Areas

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (iv) Surface Bodies of Water

Fifty-seven wetlands, 54 streams, and five ponds were identified within the Project Area. Waterbodies are depicted in revised Figure 08-3. Revised information regarding surface bodies of water may be found in the revised Ecological Assessment (revised Exhibit P).

#### (v) Highly Erodible Soils and Steep Slopes

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

## (b) Field Survey of Vegetative Communities and Surface Waters within 100 Feet of Construction Area

#### (i) Vegetative Communities

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (ii) Wetland and Stream Delineations

Cardno conducted surface water delineations within the Project Area. A revised Wetland Delineation Report is provided as Appendix D to the revised Ecological Assessment (revised Exhibit P).

Fifty-seven wetlands, 54 streams, and five ponds were identified within the Project Area. The total acreage of wetland within the revised Project Area is approximately 22.8 acres. USACE will make the final determination of the jurisdictional status of wetlands and waters in the Project Area. Based on the revised Project Layout, 0.2 acres of wetlands and 0.3 acres of waters will be temporarily impacted during construction. The permanent impacts total less than 0.01 acres for wetlands and 0.03 acres for waters. Delineated wetlands and streams are mapped in the revised Wetland Delineation Report, which is attached to the revised Ecological Assessment (revised Exhibit P) and contains more information.

# (c) Literature Review of Plant and Animal Life within 0.25 Miles of Project Area No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

(d) Results of Field Surveys for Plant and Animal Life Identified in Literature Review

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (e) Summary of Additional Ecological Impact Studies

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (2) Construction Impacts

## (a) Estimation of Impacts of Construction on Undeveloped Areas, Plants, and Animals

Overall impacts associated with the revised Project Layout decreased from the Project Layout analyzed in the September Application. Revised detailed impacts are included in revised Table 08-4.

Table 08-4. Existing Land Use Impacted by Proposed Solar Energy Project

Land Cover Type	Acres	Percentage	
Agricultural	1,404.9	99.9%	
Deciduous Forest	2.0	<1%	
Wetlands/Water	<0.1	<1%	
Total Acreage	1,406.9 <sup>1</sup>	100%	
Source: NLDC 2021  1. Note that Land Cover Type acreage is slightly different than total project area due to GIS projections.			

Palomino Solar anticipates minimal impact to delineated wetlands in the Project Area. The revised Ecological Assessment contains tables detailing the anticipated wetland impacts. Based on the revised Project Layout, 0.2 acres of wetlands and 0.3 acres of waters will be temporarily impacted

during construction. The permanent impacts total less than 0.01 acres for wetlands and 0.03 acres for waters. Linear feet of impacts will be less than 100 feet for all waters.

Road crossings of wetlands or waterbodies will include a culvert to maintain hydrologic connections and minimize impacts by crossing features perpendicular to the flow or at a narrow point. Collection lines will be installed belowground and result in limited temporary impacts at wetland and water crossings. Surfaces will be returned to preconstruction conditions after installation. Horizontal directional drilling methods may be used when crossing sensitive features as required by local, state, or federal guidelines.

Any impacts to wetlands and waters will be permitted under applicable state and federal wetlands regulations, and construction will follow permit conditions. BMPs will be used to meet water quality and NDPES standards.

The revised Ecological Assessment (revised Exhibit P) goes into further detail regarding the impacts to wildlife and their habitats; however, there are no anticipated impacts.

#### (b) Description of Short-term and Long-term Mitigation Procedures

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (3) Operation Impacts

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (C) Land Use and Community Development

#### (1) Land Use

#### (a) Land Use Map

Updated Project Layout details appear in revised Figures 03-2.1 to 03-2.5.

#### (b) Structures

## (i) Distance between Structures and the Nearest PV Panel (for structures within 1,500 feet)

Distances between the revised PV panels and existing structures within 1,500 feet are shown in revised Exhibit R: Table R1. Distances between the revised PV panels and property boundaries within 1,500 feet are shown in revised Exhibit R: Table R2. The locations of PV panels, associated infrastructure (e.g., access roads, underground cabling), residences, and property boundaries appear in Figure 04-1.2 to 04-1.5.

There are 280 structures within 1,500 feet of a PV panel. Revised Exhibit R: Table R1 presents the distance of each structure to the nearest PV panel and the participation status of the underlying parcel. The closest non-participating residence is over 100 feet from the revised PV panels. The setbacks between PV panels and non-participating property boundaries are at least 50 feet.

## (ii) Structures, Property Boundaries, and Roads within 250 feet of the Associated Facilities

The distances between revised Project-associated facilities and residences, property boundaries, and existing roads within 250 feet are shown in revised Exhibit R: Table R3 and R4. The locations of associated facilities for the revised Project, residences, property boundaries, and existing roads appear in revised Figure 04-1.2 to 04-1.5.

All setbacks that have been established for the Project-associated facilities have not changed from the September Application. No access road or collection line underground cabling is located within 100 feet of a non-participating residence.

#### (iii) Land/Lease Status of the Property for Each Structure

The lease status of each structure is presented in revised Exhibit R: Table R1.

#### (c) Land Use Impacts

The primary land use impacted by the Project is agricultural use. Revised Figure 08-4 presents the land uses within the revised Project Area. Below, revised Table 08-5 lists the revised temporary and permanent land impacts by Project component. More information about agricultural impacts can be found in Section 4906-4-08(E) of the September Application and this Application Supplement.

		-	
Facility Components	Temporary Impact (Acres)	Permanent Impact (Acres)	Total Impact (Acres)
Solar Arrays <sup>1</sup>	0	1,335.6	1,335.6
Access Roads <sup>2</sup>	16.7	33.2	49.9
Inverter Pads <sup>3</sup>	0	4.4	4.4
Buried Collection Lines <sup>4</sup>	59.1	0	59.1
Collection Substation	0	2.7	2.7
O&M Building	0	0.4	0.4
Laydown Yards	30.1	0	30.1
Total <sup>5</sup>	105.9	1 376 3	1 482 2

Table 08-5. Land Use Impacts

Revised Table 08-5 presents the total, temporary, and permanent impacts on land uses illustrated in revised Figure 08-4 for each land use type and by Project component. Revised Project-related impacts to land use were calculated based on the impact assumptions provided in revised Table 08-5.

Project construction and operation will impact agricultural land within the Project Area, but no impacts due to the Project are anticipated outside the Project Area. Out of a total revised Project Area of 2,668 acres, the Project will impact approximately 1,410 acres (51 percent of the total revised Project Area). Palomino Solar is aware of other solar energy projects proposed in the vicinity of the Project. These projects are not, however, being developed by Innergex or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries.

Any temporary impacts that occur during construction will take place on participating parcels. As described in Section 4906-4-08(E)(2)(b) of the Application and this Application Supplement, Palomino Solar's construction activity will take place on private agricultural land. The Project Layout and siting minimize impacts to agricultural land.

#### (d) Structures that will be Removed or Relocated

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

<sup>1</sup> The area of permanent disturbance refers to the entire area under and between the panels. This area will be taken out of production for the lifetime of the Project (30-40 years).

<sup>2</sup> Access roads will be 30 feet wide during construction (temporary impact) and 20 feet wide during operation (permanent impact).

<sup>3</sup> Inverter pads will be 10 feet by 20 feet.

<sup>4</sup> Buried collection lines will use a 15-foot-wide temporary work area per buried circuit, which will be regraded and revegetated after construction.

<sup>5</sup> The row totals are less than sum of all items in each column due to the overlap of impacts between features. The totals reflect the net temporary, permanent, and combined disturbance area for the Project.

#### (2) Parcel Status Map

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (3) Setback Waiver

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (4) Land Use Plans

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (D) Cultural and Archaeological Resources

The revised Project Area is smaller than the September Application Project Area and therefore the previously submitted Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Survey (Exhibit O) still covers the full Project extent.

Archaeological field surveys for the entire revised Project Area were completed in November 2021. A complete Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Report is included in revised Exhibit N.

#### (1) Landmarks of Cultural Significance Map

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (2) Impact to Landmarks and Mitigation Plans

Impacts to known cultural, archaeological, and architectural resources are summarized in revised Exhibit N and Exhibit O. The reports have been submitted to Ohio SHPO for review and concurrence with findings. All identified resources have been avoided.

Palomino Solar is consulting with the Ohio SHPO to receive guidance on mitigation measures and visual screening. The revised Visual Resource Assessment and Mitigation Plan (revised Exhibit K) provides more information regarding landmarks and mitigation plans.

#### (3) Impact to Recreational Areas and Mitigation Plans

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (4) Visual Impact

A revised Visual Resource Assessment and Mitigation Plan (revised Exhibit K) was completed. The viewshed decreased marginally, but the overall panel visibility did not change.

#### (a) Project Visibility and Viewshed Analysis

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (b) Description of Scenic Quality of Existing Landscape

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (c) Landscape Alterations and Impacts on Scenic Quality of the Landscape

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (d) Visual Impacts to Landmarks of Cultural Significance

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (e) Photographic Simulations

A total of five locations were selected for revised photographic simulations. These locations were chosen to show the changes between the September Application Project Layout and the revised Project Layout. These locations include one from a local church and four from public roadways. No new simulations were provided for the substation location because the Project Layout did not change in that area. The locations represent a range of the panel arrangements that characterize the Project in the local landscape.

#### (f) Impact Minimization Measures

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (E) Agricultural Resources

#### (1) Agricultural Land and Agricultural District Land Map

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (2) Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

#### (a) Acreage Impacted

Revised Figure 04-1 depicts the current land use and Project Layout in the Project Area. A total of up to 1,410 acres of agricultural lands may be permanently impacted by the Project (revised Table 08-4). The current designed Project Layout was developed for purposes of evaluating potential land, environmental, and human settlement impacts in the Project Area. Further design and refinements to the Project Layout may be made after a Certificate is issued by the OPSB and

prior to construction with the intent to decrease the overall Project Layout area to the extent practicable.

#### (b) Impacts on Agricultural Facilities and Practices

#### (i) Field Operations

Once construction is complete, the revised Project will occupy approximately 1,410 acres of land that is currently used for agricultural operations. Any agricultural activities on this land will be halted for the lifetime of the Project. Once the Project has been decommissioned, the underlying Project Area will be restored and will be usable as agricultural land once again.

#### (ii) Through (v)

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

#### (c) Proposed Mitigation Procedures

No changes from the information provided in the September Application.

### LITERATURE CITED

National Landcover Database. 2021. Available online at <a href="https://www.mrlc.gov/national-land-cover-database-nlcd-2016">https://www.mrlc.gov/national-land-cover-database-nlcd-2016</a>. Accessed 06/20/21.

Literature Cited Page 16

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Case No(s). 21-0041-EL-BGN

Summary: Application First Supplement to the Application – Affidavit, Supplement electronically filed by Ina Avalon on behalf of PALOMINO SOLAR LLC, C/O INNERGEX RENEWABLE DEVELOPMENT USA LLC