

November 29, 2023

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

Re: Case No. 23-713-EL-BGN - In the Matter of the Application of Mink Solar LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Construct a Solar-Powered Electric Generation Facility in Defiance and Paulding Counties, Ohio.

Response to First Data Request from Staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board

Dear Ms. Troupe:

Attached please find Mink Solar LLC's ("Applicant's") Response to the First Data Request from the staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB Staff"). The Applicant provided this response to OPSB Staff on November 29, 2023.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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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 29th day of November, 2023.

/s/ Christine M.T. Pirik

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**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of Mink Solar LLC for)
a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and)
Public Need to Construct a Solar-Powered Electric) Case No. 23-713-EL-BGN
Generation Facility in Defiance and Paulding Counties,)
Ohio.)

**MINK SOLAR LLC'S
RESPONSE TO THE FIRST DATA REQUEST
FROM THE STAFF OF THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

On October 19, 2023, Mink Solar LLC (“Applicant”), filed an application (“Application”) with the Ohio Power Siting Board (“OPSB”) proposing to construct a solar-powered electric generation facility in Defiance and Paulding Counties, Ohio (“Project” or “Facility”).

On November 22, 2023, the Staff of the OPSB (“OPSB Staff”) provided the Applicant with OPSB Staff’s First Data Request. Now comes the Applicant providing the following response to the First Data Request from the OPSB Staff.

Project Schedule

- 1. Staff is trying to understand the project schedule dates provided on pages 3, 15, 16, and inset 03-1. Please clarify the number (or range) of months for the duration of construction of the solar farm.**

Response: The Applicant anticipates that primary construction activities will occur over a period of 12-18 months. Weather, supply chain delays, or other factors could extend the duration of construction beyond the 12-18 months anticipated for construction. In addition, due to seasonal restrictions, site restoration and vegetative planting activities may extend beyond this time period.

- 2. Please confirm the month/year that construction is expected to commence.**

Response: Construction could begin as early as Q4 2024, but is more likely to begin in 2025. The month in which construction is expected to commence is not known at this time.

Aviation

3. Please provide what the height of the following structures at the solar farm would be.

a. overhead collection line support structures (if any),

Response: There are no overhead collection lines planned for the Facility.

b. collector substation dead-end support structures

Response: The collector substation dead-end support structures were modeled at a maximum height of 65 feet for the viewshed analysis, but are likely to be 30-35 feet in height.

Emergency Action Plan

4. Will the emergency action plan for the project referenced on page 51 of the Application be provided to OPSB Staff prior to the preconstruction conference?

Response: Yes, the Applicant will provide the emergency action plan for the Project to OPSB Staff prior to the preconstruction conference.

5. Will the emergency action plan for the project referenced on page 51 of the Application be developed in coordination with local EMS and first responders?

Response: Yes, the Applicant will coordinate with local emergency medical services (“EMS”) and other first responders in development of the emergency action plan for the Project.

6. Please provide the current draft emergency action plan or an example emergency action plan.

Response: Please see the attached example emergency action plan. Note that the provided plan is an example only and generally representative of what may be included in an emergency action plan.

Manufacturer Information

7. Does Mink Solar, LLC anticipate using more than one solar panel manufacturer for this project?

Response: The Applicant does not anticipate using more than one photovoltaic (“PV”) solar panel for the Project, but has not excluded that possibility. The Applicant notes that, while the Facility layout and the studies presented in the Application are based on the use of a single type of solar panel module, the Hi-MO 6 Explorer 550-watt PV panel, alternative PV panels from other manufacturers could be considered and used for the Project. However, given the length of time for the OPSB certification process and market realities for utility-scale solar facilities, it is not economically feasible at this time to identify and procure the exact equipment model to be used for the Project – such determination will be made closer to construction during final engineering based on compatibility, availability, and cost. If the Applicant chooses a manufacturer different than the one included in the Application, the final layout will remain within the Project Area that has been studied for environmental, engineering, sound, and visual impacts and the Applicant commits that the alternative PV solar module will not cause additional impacts beyond what is discussed in the Application.

8. Will Mink Solar, LLC only consider using solar panels that do not exhibit the characteristic of toxicity through analysis with the US EPA’s TCLP test?

Response: The Applicant will only use PV solar panels that pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s toxicity characteristic leaching procedure (“TCLP”) test.

Respectfully submitted,

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Solar Project Example

Emergency Action Plan

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1. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Plan Owners and Approvals		
Position	Name	Approval Date
Regional Safety Manager	TBD	
Project Safety Manager	TBD	
Revision Summary		
Revision	Summary	Date
01	Example plan	2023-11-28

2. EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

CONTACT	NUMBER	NOTES
Emergency Services		
General Emergency	9-1-1	
County EMS	TBD	
County Sheriff's Office	TBD	
Local Police Office	TBD	
Fire Department	TBD	
Hospitals and Other Medical		
Nearest Hospital	TBD	
Nearest Non-Urgent Medical Center		
Poison Control	(800) 222-1222	
Environmental		
National Response Center	(800) 424-8802	Federally reportable spills/releases
Ohio EPA Spill Hotline	(800) 282-9378	State reportable spills/releases
Environmental First Responder	TBD	
Utilities		
Electric Transmission	TBD	
Electric Distribution	TBD	
Gas Pipeline	TBD	
Municipal Outreach		
Township Trustees	TBD	Emergency incidents of general interest to community
County Commissioners	TBD	Emergency incidents of general interest to community
City/Village Officials	TBD	Emergency incidents of general interest to community
Project Contacts		
Site Supervisor	TBD	
Project Safety Manager	TBD	
Regional Safety Manager	TBD	
Construction Manager	TBD	
Environmental Manager	TBD	
Control Room Operator	TBD	

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this *Emergency Action Plan* (EAP) is to provide safety guidelines and procedures for potential emergency-related incidents during construction and operation of the Project. This Preliminary EAP covers emergency communications, training, and response procedures.

Prior to completion of a final EAP, the Project will consult with potentially affected emergency response personnel, including emergency medical services (EMS) and other local responders. A final EAP will incorporate feedback provided by emergency response personnel and include provisions for any training that is determined to be necessary for safe and efficient response to emergency situations.

4. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAINING

4.1. External Communications

In the event of any situation involving a medical, natural, or security emergency, Project staff and/or subcontractors will call 9-1-1 and inform local first responders. If local first responders, other local or state personnel, or members of the public need to contact the Project to report emergency situations, the emergency contact number for the Project (to be listed in the final EAP) should be called. Notify applicable utilities, if necessary.

4.2. Internal Communications

After contacting 9-1-1 and reporting the emergency, Project staff and/or subcontractors will also contact their direct supervisors and the Project Safety Manager and/or designee and notify them of the situation. The Project Safety Manager and/or designee will initiate a suitable response, in conformance with the final EAP.

4.3. Personnel Training

The Project Safety Manager and/or designee will ensure that the emergency prevention program is carried out throughout all phases of the Project. At all times during construction, at least one Project employee with first aid certification will be on site to respond to emergencies. Additionally, all construction and operations personnel working on the site will be required to attend a Project safety training. This training will emphasize the emergency response procedures during Project construction and operation. Responsible personnel will also be trained in the use of first aid equipment.

5. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

In the event of an incident requiring evacuation of an area or the entire job site, all personnel will follow the procedure set forth in this section.

5.1. Notification and Verification

If an incident requiring evacuation is confirmed to be present in the area, a text alert will be sent out by a Project Safety Manager and/or designee. The Project Safety Manager and/or designee will confirm via cell phone that all personnel are evacuating the area. If evacuation is in effect, an email alert will go out to all Project supervision personnel.

Employees with phones will instruct all personnel in their immediate area to shut down their tools/equipment and proceed to the designated muster point. Upon gathering at the muster point, the supervisor of each crew will conduct a roll call. Once the supervisors have conducted their roll calls, they will each report the status to their respective superintendents.

Once the order for evacuation has been issued, it is the responsibility of the Project Safety Manager and/or designee to ensure that everyone has evacuated the area/site. Prior to releasing crews to resume work, the Project Safety Manager and/or designee will evaluate the area/site to ensure that any potential hazards are resolved.

5.2. Evacuation Points and Routes

[insert map of evacuation routes and muster points]

6. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

6.1. Emergency Requiring External Services

In the event of an onsite emergency such as an injury, hazmat, or fire requiring the need of EMS or other outside emergency response services, all work activity shall be put on hold in the area and the following will be performed.

1. If the situation requires transport by local EMS, trained staff should provide first aid while waiting for responding units to arrive.
2. Notification of the situation will be made to the Safety Manager via cell phone.
3. Selected Project personnel will then be notified by the Project Safety Manager and/or designee. The Project Safety Manager and/or designee will contact EMS via phone call to inform them of the situation, which will include items such as:
 - a. Location
 - b. Type of emergency
 - c. Number of persons involved, if medically related
 - d. Type of fire, if known
 - e. What medical care is being administered
4. Designated Project supervisors will be positioned with activated emergency flashers at the pertaining gate to escort arriving EMS personnel.
5. In the event an injured employee requires medical air transportation, the air transport crew will be directed to the designated landing area, as determined in the final EAP.

The Project Safety Manager and/or designee will accompany the injured party to the medical facility to provide updates. Prior to allowing crews to return to work, the situation will be reviewed by the Project Safety Manager and/or designee to determine if returning to work is safe or if additional assessment is needed.

6.2. Non-Urgent Medical Emergency

If the victim does not require urgent medical attention, contact the Project Safety Manager and/or designee and inform them of the injury/illness. If the injury can be addressed with first aid only (e.g., minor cuts and bruises), administer first aid. If further attention is required, but emergency transport is not necessary, the Project Safety Manager and/or designee will arrange to take the injured person to the nearest hospital or urgent care center.

6.3. Physical Security Emergency and Threats

In the event of a physical security emergency, Project staff and/or subcontractors will follow the emergency communications protocol outlined in Section 4 and the procedural steps outlined below.

1. Remain calm.
2. If a telephone threat is received, keep the caller on the line as long as possible to obtain the most information you can.
3. If a written threat is received, preserve and limit contact with the document.
4. If a threat is received electronically, do not delete the message.
5. Notify the Project Safety Manager and/or designee as soon as possible.
6. Call 9-1-1 if the threat is imminent. Determine the course of action in conjunction with local authorities.
7. In the event of a bomb threat on site, do not use two-way radios. A two-way radio transmission can set off a bomb.
8. Do not attempt to locate any suspicious device.
9. Evacuate the site if necessary. Begin site evacuation to the designated assembly point. Pay particular attention to anyone who is listed onsite and does not report to the safe zone. Inform the authorities of anyone missing and their last known whereabouts.

6.4. Fire

In the event of a fire, Project Personnel will:

1. Extinguish the fire if the fire is small enough so as not to endanger personnel. Determine the appropriate fire extinguisher and attempt to extinguish the fire.
2. If the fire is successfully extinguished, report the outcome internally, as outlined in Section 4.2.
3. Monitor the site to ensure the fire does not reignite.
4. Call 9-1-1 and report the fire if it is large enough to endanger personnel or to spread. Sound the fire alarm and notify all on-site personnel of the problem.
5. Evacuate all unnecessary personnel from the immediate area of fire.

6.5. Earthquake

During an Earthquake

1. If inside, stay inside.
 - a. Lie to the side of a solid piece of furniture, such as a desk or table.
 - b. Stay clear of windows, mirrors, bookshelves, and file cabinets
2. If outside, go to a clear area away from buildings, trees, power lines and poles.

- a. Get low to the ground and balance yourself.
- b. If there is no open area, seek available shelter (such as a vehicle) to avoid falling objects.

After an Earthquake

1. Be prepared for aftershocks, which may continue for several minutes.
2. Call 9-1-1 if any personnel require immediate medical attention.
3. Evacuate to your muster point if you believe it is safe to do so.
4. Do not leave the location until accounted for by the Project Safety Manager and/or designee.
5. Notify the Project Safety Manager and/or designee of your status, location, and circumstances.
6. Administer first aid to any injured persons.
7. Inspect the building/area for fires, downed power lines, and other damage, including evaluating potential for future damage caused by aftershocks.

6.6. Severe Weather

Morning safety meetings will cover forecasted weather conditions for the day. In addition, weather forecasts will be reviewed throughout the day. Potentially significant changes in weather conditions during the day will be communicated by the Project Safety Manager and/or designee to personnel in the field.

In the event any employee becomes aware of a severe weather warning, the Project Safety Manager and/or designee must be notified. The Project Safety Manager and/or designee will determine if shelter in place or evacuation is necessary. If conditions in the field indicate the weather poses an immediate risk, personnel may take appropriate measures to protect themselves and then contact the Project Safety Manager and/or designee. Below are procedures to follow if facing specific weather conditions.

6.6.1. Electrical Storms

The measures to be followed in the event of an electrical storm or thunderstorm depend, in part, on whether personnel are in a building or out in the field.

Indoors

1. Remain indoors.
2. Stay away from open doors and windows, metal pipes, electrical appliances, and other conductive equipment/structures.

3. Avoid use of landline telephone, washing hands, or any contact with conducting surfaces and exposure to the outside (metal door and window frames, electrical, telephone and cable wiring, plumbing).
4. All clear will be issued when lightning is 30 miles or more from the site.

Outdoors

1. Advance Notification
 - a. Initial warning to technicians using available communications devices (two-way radios, cell phones) will be issued when lightning is detected.
 - b. Immediate work stand down will be called when lightning is detected.
 - c. Technicians will be ordered to immediately stop work and head to their vehicles until the storm passes.
 - d. The Project Safety Manager and/or designee will confirm that all employees are accounted for.
 - e. Technicians will be directed to go to the nearest building or stay in the field in a protective enclosure (such as a vehicle) until the lightning passes.
 - f. All clear will be issued when lightning is 30 miles or more from the work site.
2. No Advance Notification
 - a. Take shelter in a vehicle immediately.
 - b. Contact the Project Safety Manager and/or designee and report circumstances.
 - c. Apply the 30/30 rule if unable to receive instructions from the Project Safety Manager and/or designee.
 - i. If you see lightning, count out 30 seconds. If you hear thunder within 30 seconds, the storm is close enough to stop the job for 30 minutes.
 - ii. Seek shelter in a vehicle.

General Lightning Safety Guidance

1. Be alert before and after storms.
 - a. If you can see lightning and/or hear thunder, you are already potentially at risk and should seek shelter.
 - b. Many lightning casualties occur as the storm approaches and after the perceived threat has passed.
2. Avoid being in or near:
 - a. Communication towers, isolated trees, light poles, metal fences.
 - b. Open fields.
 - c. Open water.
3. If taking shelter in vehicle, avoid touching any metal objects with inside-to-outside connection.

4. If driving, pull off to side of road in safe manner, turn on emergency blinkers, turn off the engine, and wait out the storm.
5. If operating heavy equipment (e.g., bulldozers, loaders, etc.), shut down the equipment, close doors, and wait out the storm.
6. If operating a boom truck or crane, retract the boom and place in the boom rack.

6.6.2. Tornados

Tornado Notification and Safety

As noted, weather issues are discussed in the morning briefing and monitored throughout the day. The following protocols should be followed depending on the level of tornado alert.

1. Tornado Watch Issued
 - a. Designate a person to monitor a radio or other information source.
 - b. Notify all affected site personnel of the tornado watch and ensure they are in immediate contact if an emergency arises.
 - c. If conditions warrant, remove personnel from the field.
2. Tornado Warning Issued
 - a. If in a building:
 - i. Go at once to a windowless interior room, storm cellar, or basement.
 - ii. If not available, go to an inner hallway or a small inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
 - iii. Bring a radio or other equipment to monitor the status of the warning.
 - b. If in the field:
 - i. If possible, get inside a building.
 - ii. If shelter is not available, lie in a ditch or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building.
 - iii. Use arms to protect head and neck.
 - c. If in a vehicle:
 - i. Get out of the vehicle immediately and follow the above field procedures.
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO OUTDRIVE A TORNADO.

After a Tornado

1. Call 9-1-1 if any personnel require immediate medical attention.
2. Administer first aid to any injured persons if qualified to do so.
3. Notify the Project Safety Manager and/or designee of your status, location, and circumstances.
4. Turn on a radio or television to get the latest emergency information.

5. Be aware of your surroundings. Watch for downed power and telephone lines, falling debris, and chemical/petroleum spills.
6. Stay out of damaged buildings/structures. The Project Safety Manager and/or designee, and state and local authorities, if required, will inspect buildings to ensure they are safe.

6.6.3. High Winds

High winds may occur independent of a storm event. If weather forecasts predict high wind conditions, the following steps will be taken to protect field crews.

1. Initial warning to technicians in the field using available communications devices (two-way radios, cell phones) will be issued when winds are detected that could potentially pose a safety risk.
2. Immediate work stand down will be called when wind speeds exceed dangerous levels.
3. Technicians will be ordered to immediately stop work and head to their vehicles until the conditions abate.
4. The Project Safety Manager and/or designee will confirm that all employees are accounted for.
5. All clear will be issued when wind speeds fall to safe levels.
6. After a high-wind event, follow post-tornado procedures.

6.6.4. Floods or Significant Rain Events

The primary risk of flooding is related to transportation to/from the Project. If flooding is occurring while driving:

1. Do not drive through standing water. Areas of standing water may be deeper than they appear. If you come across standing water, take an alternate route.
2. If you are forced to drive through standing water, take the following precautions:
 - a. Do your best to estimate the depth of the water.
 - b. Drive slowly and steadily through the water.
 - c. Avoid driving through water in which downed electrical lines have fallen.
 - d. Watch for items traveling downstream.
 - e. If you become trapped in rising water, immediately abandon the vehicle for higher ground. Try to open the door or roll down the window to get out of the vehicle. If you are unable to get to safety, call 9-1-1.

6.6.5. Snow or Ice Storms

The following steps will be taken to protect employees from sudden snow and ice events.

1. The Project Safety Manager and/or designee tracks weather conditions. If a major snow/ice storm is predicted, the Project Safety Manager and/or designee will inform on-site personnel and implement procedures for early release.
2. Supplies will be maintained to shelter employees who become stranded at the site (e.g., food, drinking water, comfort items).
3. Following the storm, repair any damage and remove snow and ice from parking lots, roads, walkways, and work platforms.

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

Case No(s). 23-0713-EL-BGN

Summary: Response - Response to First Data Request from Staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board electronically filed by Christine M.T. Pirik on behalf of Mink Solar LLC.