



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MACHELLE SANDERS
SECRETARY

May 3, 2019

Ms. Lynn Jarvis
North Carolina Department of Commerce
Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325

Re: SCH File # 19-E-4600-0165; Application of Fern Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 100 MW Solar Facility in Edgecombe Co. Docket #EMP-104, Sub 0.

Dear Ms. Jarvis:

The above referenced environmental impact information has been reviewed through the State Clearinghouse under the provisions of the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act.

Attached to this letter are **additional comments** made in the review of this document. Because of the nature of the comments, it has been determined that no further State Clearinghouse review action on your part is needed for compliance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act. The attached comments should be taken into consideration in project development.

Sincerely,

Crystal Best
State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Region L



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

April 30, 2019

Ben Lindermeier
BayWa r.e.
17901 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1050
Irvine, CA 92614

Re: Archaeological Survey, Proposed Fern Solar Farm, Edgecombe County, CH 19-0261

Dear Mr. Lindermeier:

Thank you for your letter transmitting the archaeological report and site forms for the project noted above. We have reviewed this report and offer the following comments.

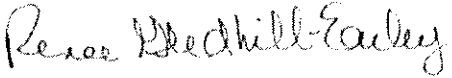
We find the survey work and report complete and consistent with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology (OSA) Archaeological Investigation Standards and Guidelines (https://files.nc.gov/dncr-arch/OSA_Guidelines_Dec2017.pdf). Twenty-five archaeological sites (31ED448–31ED469, 31ED471–31ED473) and one historic cemetery (31ED470) were identified and recorded as a result of the survey. Based on their lack of significant historical associations and research potential, the project archaeologist does not recommend that any of the identified resources be considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. However, nine of the archaeological sites (31ED449, 31ED453, 31ED454, 31ED457, 31ED461, 31ED464, 31ED466, 31ED471, and 31ED473) may extend beyond the project area. While the portions of these sites located within the project area do not possess sufficient integrity to yield important information about the past, such deposits may exist outside the project area. Therefore, these sites remain unassessed with regard to their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. We concur with the project archaeologist that the remainder of the identified resources are not eligible for listing in the National Register. While the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any historic properties eligible for the National Register, cemetery 31ED470 is afforded consideration under North Carolina General Statute 65.

In your letter you note that the Lawrence Family Cemetery (31ED470), inclusive of a 25-foot buffer beyond the extant cemetery fence, will be avoided by solar development activities. Access to the cemetery from the west will be unaffected by the project. We recommend that the 25-foot buffer avoidance area be demarcated with high-visibility fencing during construction.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,



for Ramona M. Bartos

cc: Susan Bamann, Commonwealth Heritage Group