



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

PAMELA B. CASHWELL
SECRETARY

October 11, 2021

Kimberley Campbell
North Carolina Department of Commerce
Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4325

Re: SCH File # 22-E-4600-0049 Application of June Solar, LLC for Certificate to construct a 275 MW Solar Facility in Richmond County. Docket #EMP-116 Sub 0. View document at <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/Dockets/portal.aspx>, Type EMP-116 Sub 0 in the Docket Number search line.

Dear Ms. Campbell:

The above referenced environmental 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. The Department of Cultural Resources has requested additional information prior to their concurrence with the above referenced document.

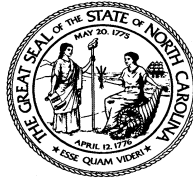
Therefore, pursuant to 1 NCAC 25 .0506(c), this office requests that a supplemental document providing the additional information requested by the Department of Cultural Resources be submitted to the Clearinghouse for further review and comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Crystal Best".

Crystal Best
State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments



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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary, Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

October 8, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Crystal Best crystal.best@doa.nc.gov
North Carolina State Clearinghouse
Department of Administration

FROM: Ramona M. Bartos, Deputy *RSB for Ramona M. Bartos*
State Historic Preservation Officer

SUBJECT: Construct 75 MW Mount Moriah Solar Farm, Mount Moriah Church Road, Hamlet, (22-E-4600-0049) Richmond County, CH 16-2011

Thank you for your submission received September 22, 2021, concerning the above-referenced project. We have reviewed the information provided and offer the following comments.

In our previous letter regarding this project, dated November 22, 2016, we recommended that a comprehensive archaeological survey be conducted by an experienced archaeologist. We noted that the entire tract may not require intensive investigations, but through consultation with our office areas of high archaeological potential would warrant intensive archaeological investigations.

Of the newly added portions of the project area, some were previously surveyed for archaeological resources and found to contain numerous archaeological sites. While most of these sites were determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), one site was determined potentially eligible and recommended for avoidance, 31RH223, and another was identified as a cemetery, 31RH247. Additionally, some portions of the newly added parcel include unsurveyed areas that have a high probability for archaeological sites.

We continue to recommend an archaeological survey of high probability areas within previously unsurveyed portions of the project and avoidance of 31RH223. If avoidance is not possible, additional testing and possible mitigation of 31RH223 may be necessary.

We also recommend that the cemetery, RH247, be mapped by a licensed surveyor, recorded on deeds or plats, and filed with the county and preserved by avoidance. Please note that cemeteries are protected under NC General Statutes Chapter 14-148 and 14-149, and are afforded consideration under Chapter 65. If unmarked human skeletal remains are encountered during construction, the provisions of North Carolina

General Statute Chapter 70, Article 3 apply. Construction activities should immediately cease and the county medical examiner should be contacted.

Prior to the initiation of any ground disturbing activities within the project area, we recommend that a comprehensive archaeological survey be conducted by an experienced archaeologist in high probability areas that have not already been surveyed. The purpose of this survey will be to identify and evaluate the significance of any other archaeological sites that may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed project and make recommendations regarding their eligibility status in terms of the National Register of Historic Places. Potential effects on unknown resources must be assessed prior to the initiation of construction activities.

This work should be conducted by an experienced archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior professional qualifications standards. A list of archaeological consultants who have conducted or expressed an interest in contract work in North Carolina is available at <https://archaeology.ncdcr.gov/programs/environmental-review/archaeological-consultant-list>.

Please note that we request that you consult with the Office of State Archaeology Review Archaeologist to discuss appropriate field methodologies prior to the archaeological field investigation. One paper copy and one digital copy (PDF) of all resulting archaeological reports, as well as a digital copy (PDF) of the North Carolina site form for each site recorded, should be forwarded to the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) through this office for review and comment as soon as they are available and in advance of any construction or ground disturbance activities. OSA's Archaeological Standards and Guidelines for Background Research, Field Methodologies, Technical Reports, and Curation can be found online at: <https://archaeology.ncdcr.gov/osa-guidelines>.

We have determined that the project as proposed will not have an effect on any historic structures.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 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, please 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 Bartos, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: A. Shonta Dunston, North Carolina Utilities Commission

adunston@ncuc.net