

PPRP Fact Sheet – Brick Kiln Road Solar Project, Wicomico County

PSC Case Number 9454

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Project Overview:

Brick Kiln Road Solar, LLC (a subsidiary of Urban Grid Solar, LLC) has filed for a CPCN to construct and operate a 5.40 MW solar array in Wicomico County (Figure 1). The Project will occupy 36 acres of a 74-acre parcel located southeast of the intersection of Brick Kiln Road and Owens Branch Road, approximately 2 miles northwest of downtown Salisbury. Project components include:

- 23,240 photovoltaic (PV) modules and single-axis horizontal tracking racking system,
- 2 power stations with DC to AC power inverter and medium voltage transformers,
- Project switchgear,
- Other interconnection equipment; and
- A new site entrance to be constructed from Owens Branch Road.

Note: The information summarized in this fact sheet is based on information provided in the Brick Kiln Road Solar Project CPCN Application and does not reflect State agency reviews.

Site Description

The Property primarily consists of agricultural fields surrounded by wooded areas and has been farmed for conventional crops for several decades. The majority of the Project area is zoned I-2 (Industrial) with a small portion zoned R-15 (Residential). Utility scale solar is a permitted land use in zone I-2 and is permitted by special exception in zone R-15. Surrounding land uses are a mixture of commercial, industrial, agricultural, and rural residential. The Wicomico County Landfill is immediately to the northwest of the Property.

Impact Assessment Highlights

Biological

- The Project's limit of disturbance lies outside of all Critical Areas and does not contain wetlands or streams within the interior Project area. The only potential disturbance of a wetland could occur with the construction of the entrance from Owens Branch Road, which will cross over a drainage ditch associated with Owens Branch Road.
- The Applicant will comply with Wicomico County's Forest Conservation Ordinance. A small amount of tree clearing may be required to construct the access road; however, the actual solar panels will be installed only on the site portion that is already cleared. Any tree loss will be mitigated using some combination of a forest conservation easement, "fee in lieu," or purchasing offsets from a mitigation bank.
- There are no records of rare, threatened or endangered species at the Property.
- The Applicant proposes to include planting of wildflowers to provide pollinator habitat as part of the Project.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Project is consistent with Wicomico County's 2017 Comprehensive Plan, which includes support for the creation of clean energy jobs.
- The Project is expected to create approximately 40 to 60 temporary design, management, and construction jobs.
- The capital cost to construct the Project is estimated to be \$11 million.

Figure 1: Project Location



Source: Brick Kiln Road Solar Project CPCN Application. *Not to Scale*

Transportation

- A new service entrance is planned from Owens Branch Road.
- During construction, equipment will be delivered by tractor trailer. Excavation and other heavy equipment that may be used may include front loaders, dump trucks, concrete trucks, excavators, trenching equipment, backhoes, post installation equipment, and other similar vehicles and equipment. Daily construction traffic will include pickup trucks and other personnel vehicles.
- After construction, traffic will mostly be limited to maintenance crews for mowing and vegetation maintenance. Quarterly to yearly maintenance on the solar array and periodic site visits for operations issues may also occur.

Visual impacts

- A buffer of indigenous shrubs, trees, and grass plantings is planned along Brick Kiln Road and Owens Branch Road.
- The Applicant is working with a licensed landscape architect to prepare a landscape buffer plan.

Cultural & Aesthetic

- The Applicant has communicated with the Maryland Historical Trust and received response indicating that the Project will require Determination of Eligibility forms to be completed and submitted, but that no Phase I Archeological assessment is required. The Applicant is in the process of complying with this requirement.

Public Service impacts

- Water and sewer utilities will not be needed for the Project.
- The Project will be reviewed by the Wicomico County Department of Public Works, Zoning Officer, Fire Marshal, and Sediment and Erosion Control for compliance with relevant local regulations.

CPCN Status

- CPCN Application filed on 6/14/17.
- For more current information, see: <http://www.psc.state.md.us/>