

PPRP's Fact Sheet – Kieffer Funk Solar Project, Washington County

PSC Case Number 9495

Manager: Fred Kelley

Last updated 18 March 2019

Project Overview:

Kieffer Funk, LLC has filed for a CPCN to construct and operate an 11.8 MW solar array in Washington County (Figure 1). The Project will occupy approximately 80 acres of an approximately 167 acre parcel located at 11609 Kieffer-Funk Road in Smithsburg. Project components include:

- Approximately 40,000 photovoltaic (PV) modules and single axis tracking racking system,
- An overhead line tap at the intersection of Kieffer Funk Road and White Hall Road,
- 5 inverter pads; and
- An all-weather perimeter road around the exterior of the Site to support construction and maintenance activities.

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

Site Description

The Project is located on a single 167-acre parcel on Kieffer Funk Road. The Applicant intends to lease a portion of the property for the Project. The property is zoned RT (Residential Transition) and AG (Agricultural). Solar generation facilities are not permitted within the RT zone, but are permitted by special exception within the AG zone. The Project will only be located in the portion of the property that is zoned AG. The site primarily consists of agricultural fields with no improvements. There is a small section of forest in the southwestern corner of the Project site, this forested area will remain unaffected by the Project and will be avoided during construction. Surrounding land uses include agricultural, rural development, and forested lands.

Impact Assessment Highlights

Biological

- The Project is not located within the Critical Area and there are no wetlands, streams, or floodplains onsite.
- Forested areas are present at the Site, primarily along Kieffer Funk Road. The Applicant states that these forested areas will be avoided during construction and that only a few stand-alone isolated trees will be removed for the Project.
- The Wildlife Heritage Service has determined that there are no records of rare, threatened, or endangered species at the Site.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Project is expected to create approximately 60 to 80 temporary design, management, and construction jobs.
- The capital cost to construct the Project is estimated to be \$22 million.

Transportation

- The Project will be accessed via a service entrance to be constructed from Kieffer-Funk 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.

Figure 1: Project Location



Source: Kieffer Funk Solar Project CPCN Application.

- 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

- The Project will be enclosed with a 7-ft high chain link fence.
- The Applicant states that the forested areas along Kieffer Funk Road will be left in place to provide visual screening. In addition, the Applicant intends to prepare a buffer/landscaping plan, which will be provided as part of a supplemental filing.

Cultural & Aesthetic

- The Applicant has communicated with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and received a response indicating that no Phase I archaeological surveys will be required for the Project Site.
- The MHT also requested that the Applicant delineate the area of potential effect (APE) for the Project, in order to facilitate identification of historic properties or structures surrounding the Project. Based on preliminary evaluation of the Project, MHT identified at least three farm structures in the vicinity and requested that the Applicant complete Determination of Eligibility forms for these structures.

Public Service Impacts

- Water and sewer utilities will not be needed for the Project.

CPCN Status

- CPCN Application filed on 11/13/18.
- The Procedural Schedule was issued on 12/21/18.
- The first Public Comment Hearing is scheduled for 3/13/19.
- For more current information, see: <http://www.psc.state.md.us/>