

CASE NO. 2020-00280
ASHWOOD SOLAR, LLC
RESPONSES TO BBC RESEARCH & CONSULTING REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. There appears to be some conflicting information in the SAR regarding the size of the property and the proposed facility. **Please help us to reconcile this information and identify the correct number of acres that would contain the proposed project.**
- a. On page 1 of Section I of the SAR, it is stated that “the project will be situated on up to 1,521 acres.”
 - b. The area of parcels listed in the Legal Site Description (Exhibit B of the SAR) add up to approximately 1,506.82 acres.
 - c. The Traffic Impact Study (Exhibit C of the SAR) states under the heading of “Introduction” (Page 1 of the exhibit) that “the project site is approximately 1,500 acres in size.”

Response: Based on the acreage identified in the leases, the project will be located on parcels totaling 1,506.802 acres.

Witness: Joshua McNeely

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2. On page 1 of Section I of the SAR, it is stated that “a fence meeting National Electric Safety Code (NESC) requirements” will be used to secure the perimeter of the facility. However, Exhibit E (Preliminary Site Layout) also shows six road access points to the proposed site, but there is no description of how access through these points will be controlled. **Please describe how access from the six access points identified in Exhibit E will be controlled during construction and operations.**

Response: Six-foot tall chain link fence with three strands of barbed wire or similar to meet National Electric Safety Code requirements will surround the project area. The proposed access gate will be will be locked with a standard keyed or combination lock. Emergency personnel will be provided a key or combination for access.

Witness: Joshua McNeely

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3. Exhibit E (Preliminary Site Layout) shows six road access points to the proposed site, but no further description is given regarding which access points will be primarily used during construction and operations. **Please describe which access points will be the primary points of entry and exit into and out of the site during construction and operations.**

Response: During construction, the main access points to the Project site are likely the two driveway entrance locations off US Hwy 641N. During operations, all six access points will be used as needed to enter the specific area of the project that needs maintenance. All gates at each access point will remain locked when not in use.

Witness: Joshua McNeely

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4. Section 1 of the SAR states “...at this time, it is not anticipated that the Project will need to receive external utility services during typical plant operation.” [underline emphases added by BBC]. There are several qualifiers in this sentence. **Please identify if there are any reasonably foreseeable circumstances that would require utility services to the site, what those service requirements could be, and which utility(ies) are expected to provide the services.**

Response: Local utility services may be required during operations to provide auxiliary and backup power to the project substation and operational storage shed. It is too early in development to determine the engineering approach to substation design. As currently planned, the substation would be located in the Kentucky Utilities’ service territory.

Witness: Joshua McNeely

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5. Section 2 of Site Assessment Report notes that “... *representatives from Project have met personally on various occasions with adjoining landowners to address their concerns...about the viewsheds from their particular properties.*” **Please identify which neighbors have been involved in these discussions (in reference to Exhibit E) and the nature of their concerns.**

Response: Two neighbors have voiced general concerns directly to the project about viewsheds and panel locations in relation to their particular properties – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ashwood has explained that we are limiting tree clearing on the properties lines to help mitigate viewshed concerns and additionally proposing vegetative screening to provide further buffers of viewshed concerns.

Witness: Joshua McNeely

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6. While none of the previous merchant power plant siting applications in Kentucky have involved commercial solar facilities, previous applicants have typically provided a visual simulation of the proposed project from sensitive receptors or key observation points. **Please provide a simulation of the future view of the proposed facility from the nearest residences or other key observation points.**

Response: The requested simulations are currently being prepared. Ashwood will file simulations upon receipt.

Witness: Joshua McNeely

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7. The SAR notes that “Typical construction equipment is expected to be used for site preparation and infrastructure installation and may include dump trucks, pole drivers, backhoes, dozers, and excavators.” (Exhibit C, Noise Assessment, page 4, pdf page 150). **Please provide an estimate of the amount of time each type of machine is expected to be in use during construction of the site.**

Response: Pile drivers are expected to be used on between 1.5 month and 4.5 months for pile installation. The length of time will depend on site conditions, weather conditions, and also on the number of pile drivers used at site. Grading and excavating equipment are expected to be used for approximately 3 months of the project. Forklifts, skid steers, and tractors are expected to be used for approximately 8 months of construction. Dust control water trucks expected to be used for the duration of construction on an as needed basis only.

Witness: Joshua McNeely

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8. The SAR provides an estimate of the sound of the inverters “The 67.0 dBA estimate for the inverters is measured at a distance of 10 meters (Exhibit C, Noise Assessment, page 6, pdf page 152).” While it also provides an estimate of the sound from the tracking motors it does not indicate the distance from which this sound is measured. “The sound typically produced by panel tracking motors ... is approximately 78 dB.” (Exhibit C, Noise Assessment, page 6, pdf page 152).
Please provide this information.

Response: The sound was recorded at a distance of 10 meters similar to the inverters.

Witness: Josh Adams

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9. Exhibit C, Traffic Impact Study, notes that construction will take eight to twelve months and will produce a temporary increase in traffic from construction workers and delivery of equipment and material (Exhibit C, Traffic Impact Study, page 5, pdf page 166.) The SAR does not provide any information regarding the number of anticipated workers (average or peak) or the number of expected truck deliveries during construction. **Please provide this information.**

Response: Ashwood Solar anticipates 10 delivery trucks on average per day for 6 months. It is anticipated that there will be 80-100 workers on average on site with 150 workers at peak on site.

Witness: Joshua McNeely