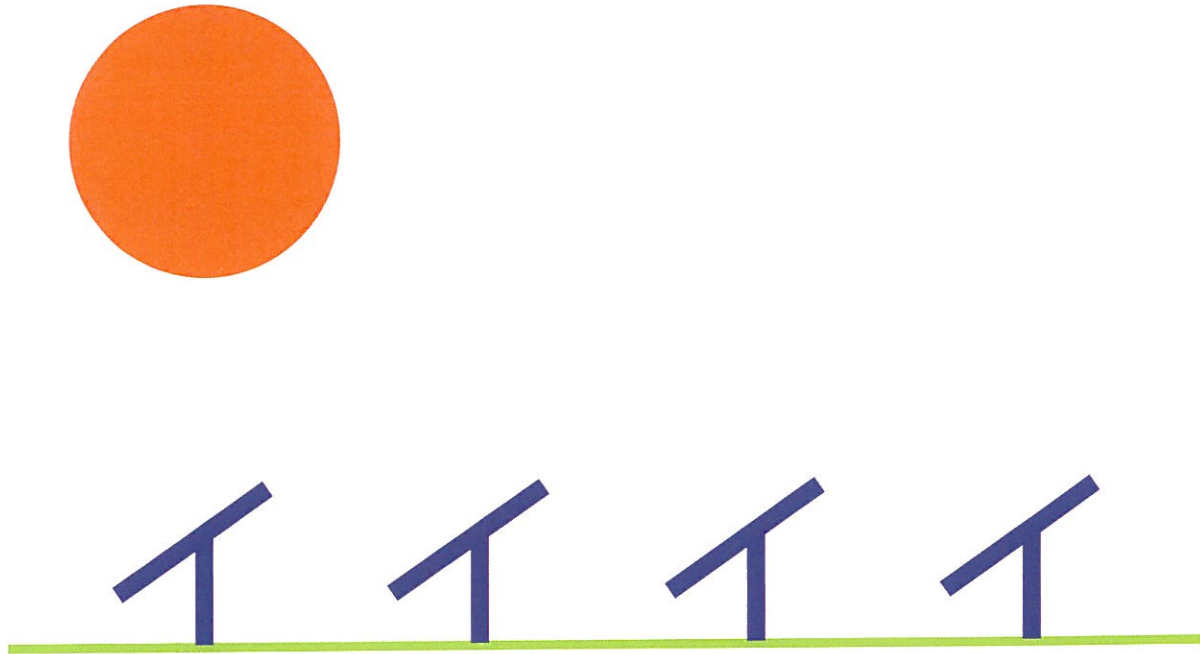


Special Use Permit Application

Fork River Community Solar

Applicant

Solar Provider Group IL LLC



Attention

Christian County Zoning



1st March 2023

CERTIFIED MAIL

Christian County
214 W. Market St.
Taylorville, IL 62568

RE: Community solar power generating plant Special Use Permit application.

Solar Provider Group IL LLC, an affiliate company of Solar Provider Group LLC, is pleased to submit this application for a Special Use Permit for a proposed Solar Farm Energy System known as **Fork River Community Solar**. The proposed facility is a ground-mounted, grid-supply photovoltaic solar power generating plant, with a total capacity of 5 MW AC. It will be located on the parcels identified by the numbers 17-12-11-400-002-04 and 15-12-14-200-002-00 in Christian County, Illinois.

Solar power generating plants are a sustainable, low-impact, and cost-effective way to generate the energy that powers everyday life. As a community solar project, Fork River Solar will also enable residents of Christian County and beyond to save on their energy bill by subscribing to local, renewable energy. SPG is excited to contribute to the renewable energy portfolio of the State of Illinois, and to provide the residents of Christian County with affordable, green energy.

Solar Provider Group trusts sufficient information has been provided to evaluate this application. If additional information or documentation is required, please do not hesitate to contact our project development team by phone at 1-888-989-4677, or by email at dev@solarprovidergroup.com.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Seyfarth, CEO

Enclosure

Solar Provider Group delivers confidence in solar. Whether commercial- or utility-scale, SPG's development, financing, engineering, construction, and operations expertise achieves projects that fuel the global energy solution.

Profile

For 12+ years, Solar Provider Group has earned an outstanding reputation delivering solar installations in Canada, the United States, Europe, and southeast Asia. SPG has completed 100+ commercial-scale projects in Ontario alone, and 100+ MW globally.

With a staff comprised of 50+ professional engineers, project managers, planners, financial analysts and business-retention experts, Solar Provider Group efficiently executes every aspect of solar developments with the highest level of quality and control. Without this, SPG would not have had the privilege of working with 500+ clients worldwide.

12+

Years of Experience

100+

Projects Installed

500+

Clients Worldwide

Partners

Solar Provider Group has worked with a wide range of clients, including municipalities like Burlington, Ontario; corporations like Siemens, Panasonic, Waste Management, and BTB REIT; and private landholders. SPG takes pride in fostering lasting relationships with its partners. Clear and open communication, timely delivery, and product satisfaction are hallmarks of how SPG conducts business.



Project Description
—
Planning Analysis
—
Required Documentation
—
Supplemental Exhibits

Fork River Community Solar



Solar Provider Group

Contents

Profile	3
Partners.....	3
Contents	5
Summary & Description	1
Project Description	1
Property Value.....	3
What is Community Solar	3
Illinois renewable Energy Goals	3
The Illinois Community Solar Program	4
Tax Benefits	4
Financials	5
Site Selection Process & Suitability for Proposed Use	5
Community Solar Farm Features	6
Solar Array	6
Electrical Equipment	7
Auxiliary Features	8
Facility Access.....	8
Construction & Commissioning	9
Operations & Maintenance	9
Decommissioning	9
Fire Safety	10
Ground Cover and Buffer Areas.....	10
Power and Communication Lines.....	11
Signage	13
Outdoor Lighting	13
Hours of operation.....	13
Battery Storage	13
Environmental Impact.....	13
Noise Level, Odors & Air Pollution	14
Historic Preservation	14

Project Analysis & Findings of Fact	15
A. Effect of Special Use on Community.....	15
B. Effect on Nearby Property Conditions and Value.....	16
C. Effect of Special Use on Future Development	17
D. Provisions for Utilities, Access Roads, & Drainage.....	17
E. Provisions to Minimize Traffic Impact from Ingress & Egress to Site	18
Schedule A: Site Plans	
Schedule B: Decommissioning Plan	
Schedule C: Landowner Agreement / Consent	
Schedule D: Agricultural Impact Mitigation Assessment	
Schedule E: Weed Control Plan	
Schedule F: State Historic Preservation Office Report	
Schedule G: Financials	
Schedule H: Road Use Plan	

Summary & Description

Project Description

Solar Provider Group IL LLC and its Parent Company Solar Provider Group LLC is proposing to construct a 5 MW AC community solar power generating plant on the parcels numbered 17-12-11-400-002-04 and 15-12-14-200-002-00 in Christian County, Illinois. (See Figure 1) The name of the project is Fork River Community Solar. The proposed area of the project is approximately 27 acres.

Ownership Overview			
Entity	Name	Address	Phone Number
Landowner	Kelly & Katherine Getz	9498 Cascade Rd, Rochester, IL 62563-6050	1-217-417-7586
System Operator	Solar Provider Group IL LLC	1050 King St W, Toronto, ON, L1V0C7	1 416 892 7705

As used in this application, “Solar Provider Group IL LLC” is intended to also include any successor entity(s) or subsequent project owners to which the warranties and obligations under this application may be lawfully assigned.

The State of Illinois has set ambitious goals for renewable development through the [Adjustable Block Program and its companion programs](#), seeking to procure 25% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2025. Solar power generating plants such as Fork River Community Solar are essential to realizing the energy goals of the State of Illinois and enhancing the public well-being by contributing to a sustainable, green future.

As a community solar facility, Fork River Community Solar will also allow residents and businesses to save on their energy bill. Residents who are customers of the Ameren utility will have the opportunity to subscribe to a share of the total energy generated by the solar facility, at a discounted price below the standard utility rate. In general, subscriptions will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.

A solar ground lease agreement was made and entered into on December 5th, 2022. The agreement is between Kelly and Katherine Getz and Solar Provider Group Land Holdings III LLC, a subsidiary of Solar Provider Group, LLC. A limited copy of the lease, which includes a description of the lands in question, the signature page, and a description of the proposed project area, has been attached as schedule C to this application. This Lease agreement is the mechanism for Solar Provider Group IL LLCs land control.



Figure 1: Project Parcels Aerial Image (North: 17-12-11-400-002-04, South: 15-12-14-200-002-00)

PIN	Owner	Address
15-12-14-200-001-01	Roger A & Vernon A Wise	404 Commonwealth Ave, PO Box 658, Kincaid, IL 62540
17-12-11-100-003-01		
15-12-14-200-003-02	Ronald G Barlow	1029 E Franklin St, Taylorville, IL 62568-2327
15-12-14-200-003-01	Jedidiah Wyzard	PO Box 472 Kincaid, IL 62540
17-12-13-100-007-00	Robert L & Sharon Michel	738 E 1700 North Rd, Taylorville, IL 62568-7841
17-12-13-100-001-00		
17-12-12-300-004-00	Jordan Graham	800 E 1625 North Rd, Taylorville, IL 62568-0000
17-12-12-300-001-00	Bejamin Miller	941 Greenview Dr, Springfield, IL 62704-0000
17-12-11-400-002-03	Patrick J Butler	200 S Koke Mill Rd, Springfield, IL 62711

Table 1: Bordering Landowners

Property Value

For each megawatt (MW) of capacity of a solar farm the land and equipment receive a single valuation. As of 2018 in Illinois Each Megawatt production capacity has a market value of \$218,000 applied to it. Then, a trending factor, which is a way to calculate inflation, or appreciation, is added to the 2018 value and that it based partially on the CPI, which for 2020, was 4%. This takes the market value per MW to \$226,720. The proposed size of the community solar project is 5MW AC. Therefore, taking the value per MW and multiplying it by the size of the project gives an overall value of \$1,133,600.

What is Community Solar

Community Solar projects are specifically designed to provide renewable solar energy to people who currently don't have solar access. As many as 80% of Americans are limited in their access to on-site solar energy, due to issues relating to property shading, roof slope, financing, or their utility provider. Community Solar projects are meant to fill this gap and allow these customers to ostensibly own a small piece of a Community Solar project as if they owned a section of the panels, and the energy that they generated.

The US Community Solar market has grown significantly in the past few years as more and more states have adopted laws supporting the business model or creating programs incentivizing Community Solar development. Solar Provider Group alone has developed 10+ MW of community solar projects in the US in just the last few years, primarily in New York State, Maine, and Illinois.

The driving idea behind Community Solar is to provide customers/subscribers an energy option that is cheaper than the current utility rate.

Illinois renewable Energy Goals

On September 15, 2021, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed into law the sweeping Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (SB2408), establishing the next steps for Illinois energy policy after years of negotiation. This legislation builds on the expansive 2016 Future Energy Jobs Act, which amplified energy efficiency programs, customer education, and renewable energy infrastructure and access. In a statement, Governor Pritzker heralded this legislation as “the most significant step Illinois has taken in a generation toward a reliable, renewable, affordable and clean energy future.”

Of particular note, this legislation establishes a statewide clean energy goal of 100% by 2050, with “clean energy” defined as “energy generation that is 90% or greater free of carbon dioxide emissions.” This goal is accompanied by an intermediate goal of 50% renewable energy by 2040, drawing on a narrower definition that includes “energy and its associated renewable energy credit or renewable energy credits from wind energy, solar thermal energy, geothermal

energy, photovoltaic cells and panels, biodiesel, anaerobic digestion, and hydropower that does not involve new construction or significant expansion of hydropower dams.

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act puts Illinois at the forefront of the fight against climate change all while creating tens of thousands of jobs, expanding diversity in the renewable energy industry, and providing more than \$1 billion in electricity bill savings for consumers.

The 40% renewable energy goal will spur the construction of over 4,000 MW of new wind, 4,000 MW of new utility-scale solar, and 5,800 MW of new rooftop and community solar.

The Illinois Community Solar Program

The Illinois Power Agency's activities related to the development of new renewable resources to support the Illinois renewable Portfolio Standard are guided by the Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan. The **Initial Plan** was approved in 2018 and a **Revised Plan** was approved in June 2021.

The Plan describes the implementation of: The **Adjustable Block Program** (for photovoltaic distributed generation and community solar), also known as **Illinois Shines**.

You may participate in Illinois Shines in one of two ways:

1. You may host a new solar photovoltaic system on your rooftop or on your property, directly offsetting your energy usage; or
2. You may participate as a subscriber to a community solar project—a large, centralized solar project for which you “subscribe” to a share of its output.

The Program provides payments in exchange for 20 years of Renewable Energy Credits (“RECs”) from a utility contracted to buy the RECs from your Approved Vendor. These payments to your Approved Vendor will help offset the cost of your new PV system or your community solar subscription. Participating in Illinois Shines means you play an important role in helping the State meet its renewable energy goals.

Tax Benefits

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is a tax benefit that can be applied to the proposed solar project. The IRA was implemented in 2022 in the USA to help the push towards a net-zero economy by 2050. The Law is proposed to raise \$738 billion and authorize \$391 billion in spending on energy and climate change. The act will accelerate private investment in clean energy and, lower energy costs for families and small businesses. The act will create high paying jobs and new economic opportunities for workers. The law aims to support areas of the country effected by the move away from fossil fuel produced energy.

The act supports a move away from fossil fuel technologies which have caused major environmental impacts which have both environmental and social implications. By supporting a move towards cleaner energy sources ensures the negative impacts associated with fossil fueled energy production are avoided.

The tax benefits for Christian County have been estimated for the Solar Development. An estimation had to be made for both parcels separately as they are within separate Townships. The system size for each parcel of land is 2.5 MW AC. This gives a valuation of \$566,800 per parcel. The taxable amount is 33.33% of this value which is \$188,914.44 for each parcel. The Northern parcel of land is within the Township of Taylorville which has a property tax amount of approximately 5.855103%. This means an estimated \$11,053 is to be paid in property tax for the Northern parcel. Approximately \$1,419 of this is due to the County. The Southern parcel is within the Township of South Fork, which has a property tax rate of approximately 7.22507%. This means an estimated \$13,649 is to be paid in property tax. Approximately \$1,419 of this is due to the County. Therefore, the overall estimated tax benefit of the project is \$24,702 with \$2,838 due to Christian County.

Financials

The proposed community solar project will be financed through securing a loan with a financial institution. This is typically how Solar Developments would be financed. Financial institutions are in general comfortable towards loans linked to renewable energy developments. This is the case due to the predictable nature of the returns on investment. It is possible to predict the energy production and therefore the returns with a high degree of certainty. As the project financing is to be secured through a loan from a financial institution, it is not necessary for the developer of a solar farm to have the required amount of funds in an account prior to receiving permission to build the project.

Nevertheless, information on the financial standing of Solar Provider Group LLC has been provided. See schedule G for the statement of good standing, and the company's Profit & Loss statement for 2019 through 2022. The gross and net benefit of the project can also be viewed in schedule G.

Site Selection Process & Suitability for Proposed Use

Fork River Community Solar is located to the East of the Village of Kincaid. The Ameren substation to which the project will interconnect is located approximately 0.86 miles Southeast from the new Access Road to the gates of the substation.

SPG employs a robust site-selection process, which prioritizes the following key variables:

1. Access to the electricity grid
 - a. Access to 3-phase power lines
 - b. Proximity to substation
2. Type of land
 - a. Size and Topography of parcel
 - b. Zoning, jurisdiction, and planning considerations
 - c. Site specifics, i.e., wetlands, historical/cultural sensitivities
 - d. Presence of endangered or threatened species.
 - e. Current land use and impact on surrounding uses.

These two key variables in site-selection—interconnection and land type—are both positive based on SPG’s initial research and contact with Ameren. The land at Fork River Community Solar has passed SPG’s initial due diligence and is considered an excellent fit for a solar power generating plant.

Community Solar Farm Features

Solar Array

Solar power generating plants employ photovoltaic solar panels or “modules” to harvest energy from the sun and convert it into usable energy. SPG typically uses one of two types of panels: monocrystalline silicon panels or polycrystalline silicon panels. Both types of panels are composed of inert materials found at every building site, including silicon (glass), aluminum (frame) and copper (wiring). Monocrystalline panels and polycrystalline panels are functionally nearly identical, with the main difference being the makeup of the crystal structure within the panel.

The solar panels are mounted on a racking structure. In this case, the proposed racking structure is a single axis tracking system, which will track the sun from east to west as it moves across the sky. The panels and racking are laid out in rows running from north to south, with adequate spacing between rows to prevent shading. Rows are connected electrically into discrete units called strings.

The racking structure will be fixed to the ground using one of three methods: pile driven posts, concrete ballasts, or helical piles with concrete supports. The method chosen will depend on the results of a geotechnical survey, which will be conducted prior to finalization of system design. In any case, the preference is for the least intrusive racking system given the characteristics of the land.

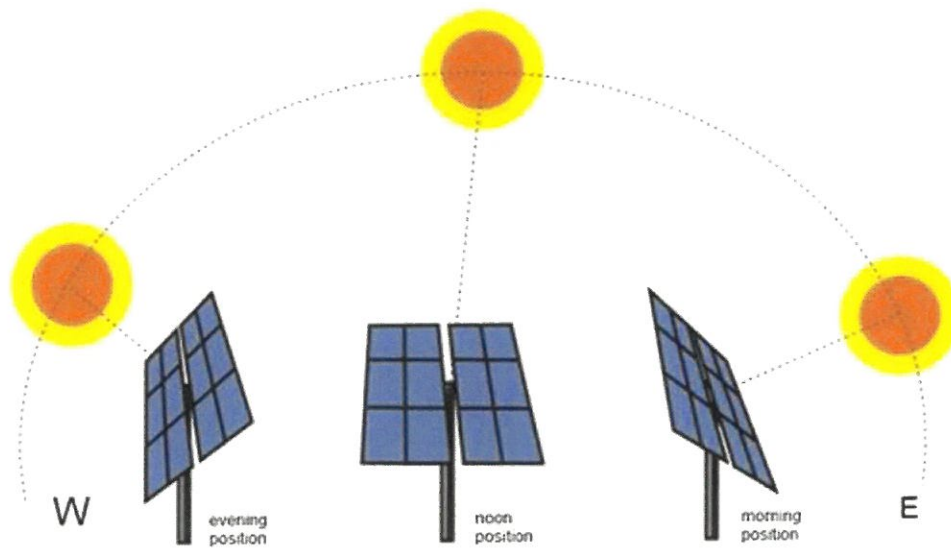


Figure 2 Typical Single axis Tracker

Electrical Equipment

Besides the panels and racking, several other pieces of equipment are used to generate and deliver the electricity.

Inverters convert the solar energy from direct current to alternating current. Fork River Community Solar will use string inverters, which are distributed along the rows in the arrays in the solar power generating plant. Groups of rows are wired together into discrete electrical units, called strings, which share a single inverter.

Combiner boxes aggregate the energy from the inverters before it is delivered to the transformer. The transformer, which is mounted on a concrete pad, steps up the voltage of the electrical current to the grid-operating voltage.

Protection and monitoring equipment is used to monitor the solar power generating plant and ensure the safe operation of the facility. An emergency disconnect switch is also required, to allow for manual disconnection of the solar power generating plant.

Electrical meters are used to measure the amount of energy generated or used by the facility. There are typically two electrical meters at the solar power generating plant: One owned by the utility and the other owned by Solar Provider Group.

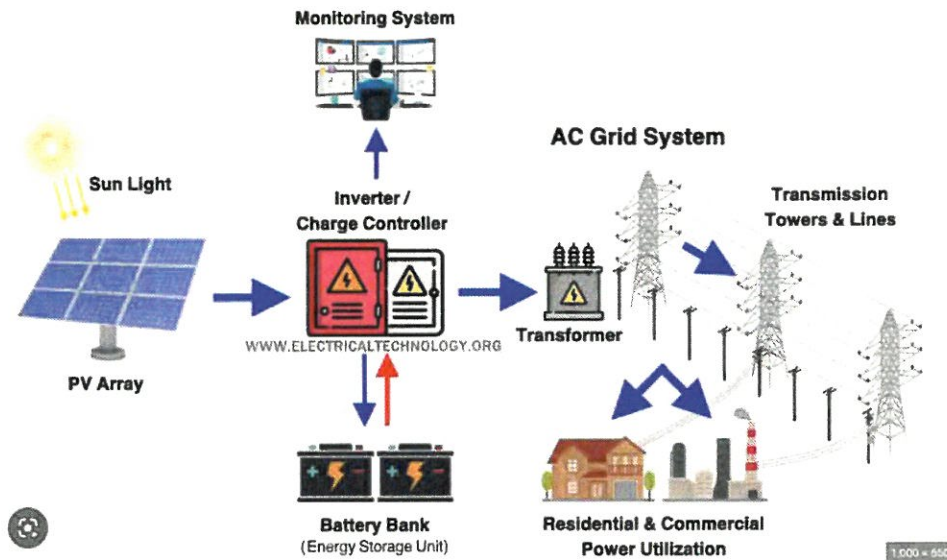


Figure 3 Solar System Connection Overview

Auxiliary Features

Several auxiliary features complete the solar power generating plant. These include:

- Concrete pads for transformer and electrical equipment.
- Poles to carry overhead wires (only where necessary).
- Access roads for emergency and maintenance personnel.
- Fencing around the perimeter of the facility which will be at least 6 feet in height; and
- Instructional signage at the facility gate and on electrical equipment.

Facility Access

The solar power generating plant will be accessible via a new access driveway off the E 1625 North Road. Any access permits that are required will be obtained from the appropriate authorities (Illinois Department of Transportation) prior to receiving a building permit.

The only impact on traffic will be during the construction stage. Between 15-25 trips per day are expected during the initial phase of 3-4 weeks. For the remainder of the construction period, which will be approximately 10 additional weeks, 5-10 trips per day are expected. After the system is completed, there will only be occasional trips for system and site maintenance (estimated 2-5 trips per year).

Construction & Commissioning

The construction of Fork River Community Solar is expected to take 10-15 weeks. During the first phase of construction a small-sized pile driver is used to install the racking piles. The pile driver is much smaller than what would be used at multi-story residential construction sites.

It is assumed pending pre-construction soil tests that the racking system will be Pile Driven. This is the loudest part of the construction process and lasts 2-3 weeks depending on weather. The pile driver will output intermittent sound levels of roughly 110-135 decibels. For comparison, the noise-level of a chainsaw is 120 decibels.

Following racking installation, the Solar modules are mounted and wired together in a series of Strings. Inverters and combiner boxes are hung and connected to the array's strings. Underground trenching of cables will occur at approximately this phase with all trenches directed towards the Solar Farms concrete pad ready to be fed into the mounted auxiliary equipment that will inject the electricity out into the Ameren grid.

The auxiliary features are constructed in parallel including the concrete pad that houses all the safety switched, breaker panel, meters, and other components. See Schedule A for more information and a look at the design features.

After the system is constructed, approximately 2-3 weeks of testing and commissioning are required before the facility delivers electricity to the grid.

Operations & Maintenance

After achieving commercial operation, Fork River Community Solar will be operated and maintained by Solar Provider Group IL LLC or its successor entity or subcontracting party, in accordance with industry best-practices.

Real-time active monitoring of the facility's electrical equipment will be supplemented by regularly scheduled site visits to perform preventative maintenance. Vegetation growth will be regulated through regular mowing and trimming within the systems area.

Decommissioning

Decommissioning of Fork River Community Solar will be guaranteed through a decommissioning plan, to be agreed upon between Solar Provider Group IL LLC and Christian County. There are also Decommissioning guarantees committed to in the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) and Landowner Lease Agreement to further strengthen our decommissioning commitment. SPG has provided a decommissioning plan, which is available for review in Schedule B. The AIMA can be viewed in Schedule D.

Fire Safety

In general, ground mounted solar facilities are very safe, and utilize well-tested and proven technologies. The probability of a fire is low because of the rigorous testing each piece of equipment receives as well as numerous utility inspections in order to energize the solar farm. This coupled with a regular maintenance schedule ensure probability remains low.

All electrical equipment used for Fork River Community Solar will be certified according to national standards. The solar power generating plant will comply with all required building codes and safety requirements.

Adequacy of fire safety measures and emergency access provisions will be confirmed with the responding fire department. Typically, emergency access to the site is provided through a Lock Box located at the main entrance to the site. If desired, a site walkthrough can also be conducted with emergency personnel prior to energization, including a demonstration of emergency cutoff procedures.

Ground Cover and Buffer Areas

Regarding topsoil's it is Solar Provider Group IL LLCs aim to minimize topsoil disturbance. The solar panel racking will be determined after the results of a Geotechnical test. This test involves drilling into the soil to analyze its makeup and the presence of bedrock and its depth. Upon the results of the test, the Geotechnical expert will recommend the type of racking foundation. It is Solar Provider Group IL LLCs assumption that Driven Piles or Helical screw piles will be the racking foundation type. These are large "screw" piles that are inserted into the ground without the need for excavation or concrete installation. They are inserted into the soil until the recommended torque is reached by the driving equipment.

The only topsoil disturbance will be for the underground trenching of system wires and cables, the short access road, the fence posts and racking and a small concrete pad that houses the solar farms electrical equipment (switches, meters, transformer). Though it should be noted here that in General, solar farms are not a major contributor to soil erosion. In fact, they act as a long-term soil stabilizer due to the minimal soil disturbance over the life of the project.

Solar Provider Group IL LLC also commits to incorporate a Pollinator habitat. Either on the periphery or within the inner rows of Solar Panels. Solar Provider Group IL LLC will consult with Christian County over suitable native plants that will thrive locally. Producing suitable habitats for local pollinator populations enriches biodiversity, slows soil erosion, and strengthens neighboring crop resiliency. The specifics of this plan have been determined in adherence to the guidance set forth by the "pollinator-friendly" scorecard published by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and will be established upon recognition of compliance with (525 ILCS 55/) Pollinator-Friendly Solar Site Act. Solar Provider Group IL LLC has also made a commitment with the Illinois Power Agency to incorporate Agrivoltaics into the

Solar Farm. This is a form of agriculture whereby Livestock can graze or crops will be incorporated in between the rows of panels. Crops will be dependent upon soil conditions but horticultural fruit production can be used as a viable example.

Power and Communication Lines

Ameren is the connecting utility that this project will be interconnected to. The process of securing an interconnection agreement with Ameren is under way and will be secured as soon as possible. The primary criterion Solar Provider Group IL LLC screens land against is interconnection hosting capacity. The utility line (also known as a “feeder” or “circuit”) that the system is interconnected to must have room on it to accept the electricity generated by the solar farm, be of a proper voltage, and be three-phase. In addition, and equally important, the substation must have capacity. If either the line or substation are without capacity, the infrastructural upgrades required to interconnect the system are typically cost prohibitive. Thus, systems of the proposed size must be located very close to substations and lines with capacity, greatly limiting the number of appropriate parcels.

Ameren publishes data on where projects might be able to interconnect. Solar Provider Group IL LLC uses this data to target parcels of land that would be appropriate for development. The parcels are then checked for environmental and planning suitability as previously discussed. Once parcels with potential are identified, landowners are solicited to see if they would like to lease land for a solar farm. Very often no landowners respond. In the case of the parcel owned by Kelly and Katherine Getz, Solar Provider Group IL LLC is very fortunate as it checks all the company’s due diligence requirements. All wiring will be installed underground where practicable. A more detailed Site plan can be viewed in Schedule A.

Solar Provider Group has applied for permission to interconnect onto the Ameren electrical Grid. At the time of this planning application Fork River Solar is being studied for impacts to the Ameren Grid in what’s known as a System Impact Study. Pending the results which are expected in May 2023 (and are expected to be favorable), Ameren will furnish Solar Provider Group IL LLC with a cost estimate to interconnect the project to the existing grid and an Interconnection Agreement to sign. Solar Provider Group IL LLC can furnish Christian County with the Interconnection Agreement upon its execution upon request.

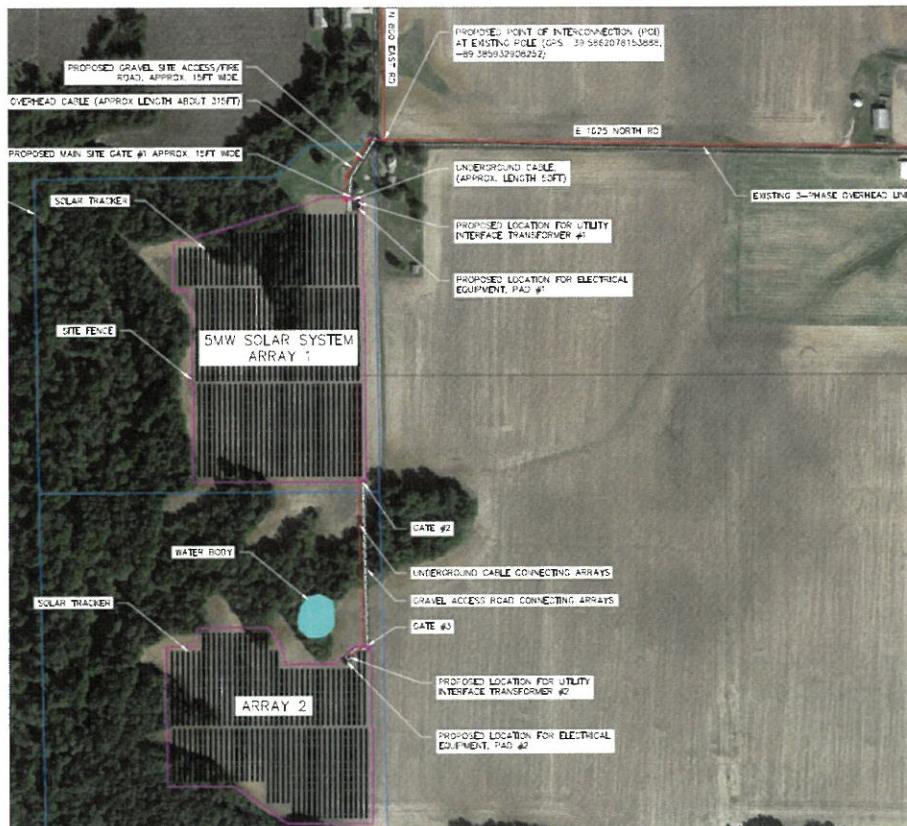


Figure 4: Utility Connection Overview

The Solar Farm will be interconnected to the existing Ameren Grid. This will be achieved by the construction and addition of new Electrical interconnection equipment described as follows:

1. The electricity generated by the solar panels will be changed from DC electricity to AC electricity by the Solar Farm AC/DC inverters. AC electricity is the standard form of electricity injected into the grid and eventually homes and businesses.
2. The electricity will pass through AC combiners. These pieces of equipment simply combine the numerous strings of panels into one central location(s).
3. Once the electricity flows through the combiners it moves to the centralized concrete pad that houses the safety circuit breakers, Meters to measure the volume of electricity and the projects safety disconnect switches.
4. It then flows to the Transformer where the voltage is stepped up to prepare for its entry onto the Grid, The voltage from the solar farms electricity must be stepped up to match the grids 12.5kv voltage.
5. From here the electricity flows through numerous Pole Mounted, utility issued pieces of equipment. The Poles are marked 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 with pole #1 being the existing Utility pole that acts as the Point of Interconnection or POI that signifies the point where our Solar Farm ends and existing grid begins. The poles are described as follows:

Pole 5: A gang operated Load break switch with surge arrestor.

Pole 4: A Pole Mounted recloser is installed

Pole 3: Pole Mounted utility meter

Pole 2: Intelliruptor with SCADA equipment (SCADA is a utility term for monitoring equipment.

Pole 1: Existing Utility Pole whereby the new conductors are joined or interconnected to the existing conductors (Cables/Wires) and so the Solar Farm becomes physically connected into the Ameren Grid,

Signage

The only signage proposed will be located at the entrance gate. It will contain several pieces of information:

- Emergency responder contacts
- System operator contacts
- Safety warnings and information about the site

Outdoor Lighting

As the system is operational only during sunlight hours, there will not be regular lighting during evening hours.

Hours of operation

During the construction period, staff will be present between 8 AM and 6 PM. Once commercially operational, the system will technically be operating while the sun is up. However, due to the nature of the system, this will not result in an increase in traffic, nor generate any activity beyond what is currently ongoing on this parcel.

Battery Storage

Presently, outdoor battery storage is not planned with this proposal. In the future, if commercially viable, Solar Provider Group IL LLC will submit a separate application for on-site battery storage.

Environmental Impact

Responsible environmental stewardship is a key tenet of Solar Provider Group IL LLCs development process, and a point of pride at the company. Compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements will be achieved by engaging in close coordination with relevant permitting and regulatory bodies throughout the development process. The parcels on which Fork River Community Solar is proposed to be located are North of IL-104. The parcel fronts E 1625 North Road which will be used to gain access to the site. All parcels to the North and East that are directly adjacent to the parcel are zoned agricultural use. The parcels to the

South are zoned residential use. The parcels to the West are zoned conservation stewardship. There will be little to no impact caused to neighboring land uses from the proposed development.

Noise Level, Odors & Air Pollution

During the day, while the solar power generating plant is generating electricity, the inverters and transformers at the facility produce a very quiet hum. Solar inverters produce a maximum of <69 decibels according to the manufacturer spec sheet. The transformer will produce ~65 decibels periodically. For comparison a whisper is typically measured at 30 Decibels. Due to the setback from neighboring properties, the facility will not create any increase to noise levels at adjacent properties.

The solar farm will not produce any odors. Further, no air pollution will result from the proposed land use. There are no byproducts from solar energy generation. No waste will be generated by the operation of the facility.

Historic Preservation

As part of the application process for a special use permit it is necessary to engage with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to assess the prehistoric and historic archaeology of the proposed project area. The SHPO decision is that a Phase I historical reconnaissance survey to locate, identify, and record all archaeological resources within the project area will be required. Therefore, post permitting it will be necessary to carry out a Phase I archaeological reconnaissance survey prior to any construction activities on site. The results of the SHPO engagement can be viewed in schedule F.

Project Analysis & Findings of Fact

A. Effect of Special Use on Community

The establishment, maintenance, and operation of Fork River Community Solar (the special use) will not be detrimental to nor endanger the public health, safety, morals, comfort, and general welfare of Christian County and its residents. Because a community solar farm is a renewable-energy-generation facility, the potential for negative impacts on the community are low while the potential to positively affect the environment and sustainability of Christian County are high.

The establishment of the special use during a 10 to 15 week construction period will be the busiest phase of the 35-year life of the community solar farm, with potential nuisances arising from construction activity, noise, and traffic to and from the site. Trucks and tractors present during construction would be similar to vehicles used to tend the fields that surround the project site. Thus, with limited exposure and proximity to the construction activity, the risk of endangerment of public health and safety or negative impacts on public comfort and welfare are low. Solar Provider Group IL LLC will be contracting licensed professionals and collaborating with Ameren on any upgrades to the electrical infrastructure to the site and interconnection to the grid. The establishment of the special use will not be detrimental to environmental assets in Christian County.

Once established, the community solar farm will require infrequent maintenance and generate minimal traffic to and from the site. Post construction and under normal circumstances, maintenance personnel will visit the site 2 to 6 times per year. Maintaining the site will primarily consist of weed and grass control and repairs in the event of mechanical issues or damage to the facility. A weed Control Plan can be viewed in schedule E. Maintaining the facility will require mowing and landscaping equipment and, where warranted by mechanical issues or damage, small utility vehicles. The infrequent presence of personnel required to maintain the special use and the maintenance itself will not have a detrimental effect on public health, safety, morals, comfort, or welfare.

Operation of the special use will be the simplest of the 3 phases. The community solar farm harvests sunlight to generate electricity, which is channeled back into the grid using equipment pre-authorized by Ameren Illinois. Solar generation is a very safe and clean process. The panels themselves do not emit noise nor byproduct. The inverters and motorized tilting of the panels do produce sound. However, this project uses inverters placed at the end of every row of panels—known as string inverters—which are smaller, producing a quieter sound compared to traditional, central inverters. Tilting will occur periodically but will not cause a nuisance. To further reduce the risk to public health, safety, and welfare, the entire perimeter of the site will be fenced, enclosing all equipment and access roads. The site will be accessible by emergency responders, with Knox Boxes and contact information for the owner and/or

manager of the facility placed at the facility's entrance. Day-to-day control of the community solar farm is managed virtually. Operation of the site will not threaten the environment, groundwater, residents, passersby, nor potential for the land to be returned to agricultural use or sold. Instead, operation of the community solar farm will offer residents of the county access to clean, renewable electricity. The project service life is anticipated to be 35 years.

The system will have minimal impact on aesthetic conditions within Christian County. The maximum height of the solar panels is expected to be between 8 and 10 feet at maximum tilt. For reference this is well below the allowed height for a dwelling within an Agricultural AG-1 district. The utility poles are the tallest element associated with the system. These utility poles are typical utility poles which will incorporate seamlessly into the existing Ameren utility poles already present in the locality. Therefore, no significant impact is anticipated on the aesthetic conditions of Christian County because of the proposed development.

B. Effect on Nearby Property Conditions and Value

The system will not be injurious to the enjoyment of the other properties in the immediate vicinity for the purposes already permitted by the townships. The establishment of a community solar power generating plant will not hinder neighboring properties' ability to sow or reap agricultural products or neighboring property owners' opportunity to lead an agrarian lifestyle because community solar power generating plants integrate well with agricultural land uses. There are multiple reasons for this:

- Agriculture may continue up to the fence line of the project site.
- The required setbacks ensure the solar arrays do not interfere with crop growth or harvesting.
- There are no byproducts from generation that could affect soil, water, or air; and
- Immediately upon decommissioning, the land can be returned to any use permitted already is existence.

Establishment of the system will not prohibit the continued production of agricultural products nor the continued enjoyment of the residences that are located within 300 feet of the project site.

Two concerns typically raised by critics of solar are glare and electromagnetic fields. The U.S. Department of Energy's [National Renewable Energy Laboratory \(NREL\) offers its conclusions](#). Regarding glare, NREL states: "Solar PV modules are specifically designed to reduce reflection, as any reflected light cannot be converted into electricity. Regarding electromagnetic fields, NREL states: "Solar facilities generate electromagnetic fields like household appliances within proximity, which dissipate with increasing distance and pose no health risk to neighboring residents."

Nothing linking community solar facilities to declining property values has been published. Renewable energy by wind—which casts shadows, causes light flicker, and has an imposing profile—has been used as a proxy. [The University of Texas offers its input on the matter.](#) "Results from our survey of residential home assessors show that the majority of respondents believe that proximity to a solar installation has either no impact or a positive impact on home values". As solar power generating plants do not have the same impacts as wind farms, the impacts on property values caused by solar power generating plants are anticipated to be less as much". Any screening will further protect property values.

C. Effect of Special Use on Future Development

The community solar farm's special use will not in any way impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of the surrounding property. As discussed previously, the community solar farm will be seamlessly integrated with the existing adjacent land use, allowing it to be continued up to the project fence line. Thus, new, or alternative farming practices and crops will not affect nor be affected by the community solar farm. Development of other non-farming practices will occur unimpeded for several reasons:

- Zoning setbacks protect adjacent parcels. These ensure that the community solar farm will not encroach upon uses or future uses on adjacent parcels.
- The special use does not require easements—on the project parcel or to cross adjacent parcels—which would limit future development opportunities.
- No rezoning or variances are being sought.
- It is a temporary special use with an anticipated service life of 35 years.
- In no way does it physically, environmentally, or culturally impede development on adjacent properties.

The facilities do not require any water or sewer services, new or improved public roads, or any other public accommodation. The community solar farm will, however, require use of the Ameren electrical lines near the site, interconnecting to feed energy into the grid. Any upgrades triggered by this interconnection would be identified by Ameren, paid for by the owner of the community solar farm, and completed prior to the commercial operation date.

D. Provisions for Utilities, Access Roads, & Drainage

The special use will not require water or sewer services. There will not be regular, on-site staff. The site will be accessed from E 1625 North Road. The site itself will require the construction of an access driveway, which is described in the site plan. All required access permits will be obtained prior to construction to ensure compliance with local regulations.

Aside from the concrete transformer and AC-equipment pads, the gravel access driveway, and system poles, no impervious surfaces will be introduced to the site. The effect construction, maintenance, and operation activities will have on soil erosion and stormwater runoff is

expected to be less than other non-agricultural uses permitted at the properties which typically have more impervious surfaces than community solar power generating plants.

E. Provisions to Minimize Traffic Impact from Ingress & Egress to Site

The System will make a negligible contribution to traffic congestion on E 1625 North Road. The access driveway is off the E 1625 North Road and is ~320ft in length. The access driveway for the special use is approximately 0.74 miles from the nearest intersection. That, along with the fact that personnel are only anticipated to visit the site 2-6 times annually after the construction period, gives basis to the fact ingress to and egress from the System will not cause irregular traffic patterns, congestion, or concerns. Thus, ingress and egress measures beyond a simple access driveway are not planned at the time of submission. A Road Use Plan can be viewed in schedule H of this application.

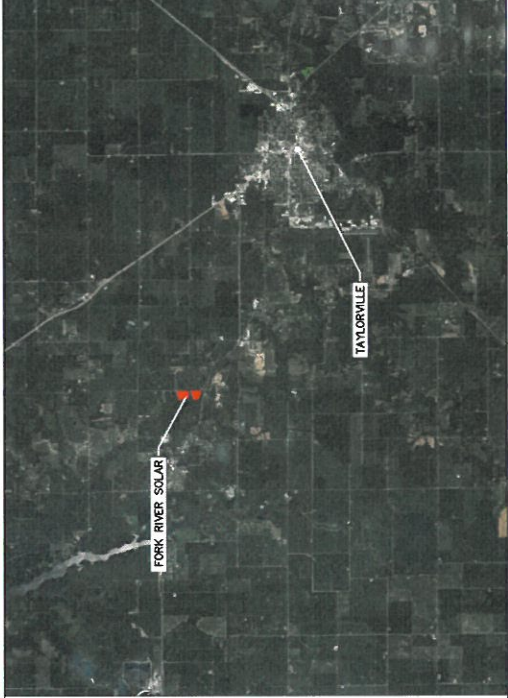
Schedule A: Site Plans





SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP
Delivering Confidence in Solar.

5.0MW SOLAR GROUND MOUNT PROJECT
PROJECT NAME: FORK RIVER SOLAR
PROJECT ADDRESS: N 800 EAST RD,
TAYLORVILLE, IL 62568, USA



SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP
Delivering Confidence in Solar.

THIS DRAWING IS THE PROPERTY OF SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM, WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM ALL APPLICABLE AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES. ALL OTHERS ARE PROHIBITED FROM REPRODUCING ANY PART OF THIS DRAWING.

DRAWING LIST	
SHEET NO.	DESCRIPTION
C001	COVER PAGE
A001	SITE PLAN - SETBACKS
A002	SITE PLAN - PROJECT DETAILS
A003	SITE PLAN - TOPOGRAPHY

PROJECT DEVELOPER	PROJECT MANAGER	FIT CONTRACT
SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP 1050 KING ST W, SUITE 03A104, TORONTO, ON M6K 0C7 PROJECT DEVELOPER: dev@solarprovidergroup.com	SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP 1050 KING ST W, SUITE 03A104, TORONTO, ON M6K 0C7 PROJECT MANAGER: evans@solarprovidergroup.com	---
CIVIL ENGINEER	GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER	PROJECT DESCRIPTION MODULE: CS6W-550MB-AG INVERTER: SMA SHP 150-US-20 SYSTEM AC SIZE: 5.0MW SYSTEM DC SIZE: 7.088MW PROJECT AREA: 27.314 ACRES
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER	PROJECT ENGINEER	
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT	SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP 1050 KING ST W, SUITE 03A104, TORONTO, ON M6K 0C7 ENGINEER: mkozlowski@solarprovidergroup.com	
	CONTRACTOR	

DEVELOPER:
SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP
1050 KING ST W, SUITE 03A104, TORONTO, ON M6K 0C7
DEV@SOLARPROVIDERGROUP.COM
+1 888-989-4977

CONTRACTOR

NO.	REVISION / ISSUE	DATE
0	PLANNING	2023/02/27

PROJECT NAME:
FORK RIVER SOLAR

SUPPLIER NAME:
SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP LLC

PROJECT ID NO.:
LDC PROJECT ID NO.:

LOCATION:
GPS COORDS:
N 800 EAST RD,
TAYLORVILLE, IL 62568, USA
38.58197272,
-89.38714103

DRAWING TITLE:
COVER PAGE

AUTOCAD FILE NAME:
FORK RIVER SOLAR-PJM-REV0

PLOT FILE NAME:
fork_river_solar-pjm-REV0-0000.dwg

DRAWING SET: C00001 | SHEET: 0001
DATE: 2023-02-27
SCALE: 1:1
DATE: 2023-02-27
DATE: 2023-02-27
DATE: 2023-02-27



SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP
Delivering Confidence in Solar.

THIS DRAWING IS THE SOLE PROPERTY OF SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP. IT IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PROJECT AND SITE SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED HEREIN. ANY REUSE OF THIS DRAWING FOR ANY OTHER PROJECT WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS IN THIS DRAWING. ALL DIMENSIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS ON THIS DRAWING SHALL BE BASED ON THE MOST RECENT SURVEY DATA PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT. SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS IN THE FIELD. THIS DRAWING IS PROVIDED AS IS AND IS NOT TO BE USED AS A CONTRACT DOCUMENT.

LEGEND:

- PROPERTY LINE: ————
- OVERHEAD POWER LINE: ————
- SITE FENCE: - - - - -
- DRIVEWAY: ————
- SYSTEM DIMENSIONS:
 * PANELS PER ROW: 18
 * ROWS PER ARRAY: 10
 * DC OUTPUT OF PV ARRAY = 7.08MW

SOLAR TRACKER

DEVELOPER:

SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP
1800 KING ST. W., SUITE 104/104A, TORONTO, ON M8K 0C7
* 1-888-888-4677

CONTRACTOR:

NO.	REVISION / ISSUE	DATE
0	PLANNING	2023/09/21

PROJECT NAME:

FORK RIVER SOLAR

SUPPLIER NAME:

SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP LLC

PROJECT ID NO.:

LDC PROJECT ID NO.:

LOCATION:

N 800 EAST RD,
TAYLORVILLE, IL 62568, USA

DRAWING TITLE:

SITE PLAN - SETBACKS

AUTOCAD FILE NAME:

FORK RIVER SOLAR-PLUG-REV7.0

PLOT FILE NAME:

PLUG-REV7-NO-NO3

DRAWN BY:

AS SHOWN

CHECKED BY:

AS SHOWN

DATE:

16.07





THIS DRAWING IS THE PROPERTY OF SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP LLC. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED AND NO PART OF THIS DRAWING IS TO BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS AND ALL INFORMATION TO BE SHOWN. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND FOR THE ACCURACY OF ALL INFORMATION SHOWN ON THIS DRAWING. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO CENTERLINE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

LEGEND:

PROPERTY LINE: OVERHEAD POWER LINE:

SITE FENCE: DRIVEWAY:

SYSTEM SETTINGS:
 - SOLAR TRACKER = 5.5MW
 - DC OUTPUT OF PV ARRAY = 7,000kW

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

SOLAR TRACKER

DEVELOPER:

SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP
 63101A TORONTO, ON M9K 0Z7
 DEV@SOLARPROVIDERGROUP.COM
 +1 888-989-4677

CONTRACTOR:

NO.	REVISION / ISSUE	DATE
0	PLANNING	2023/02/27

PROJECT NAME:

FORK RIVER SOLAR

SUPPLIER NAME:

SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP LLC

PROJECT ID NO.:

LDC PROJECT ID NO.:

LOCATION:

GPS COORDS:
 39.581972372,
 N 800 EAST RD,
 TAYLORVILLE, IL 62565, USA

DRAWING TITLE:

SITE PLAN -- PROJECT DETAILS

AUTOCAD FILE NAME:

FORK RIVER SOLAR-PUNG-REV.0

PLAT DATE:

2023-02-27

DRAWN BY:

CREATED BY US SHAWA

CHECKED BY:

18.13





THIS DRAWING IS THE PROPERTY OF SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP. IT IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PROJECT AND SITE SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED HEREIN. SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR INADEQUACIES IN THE DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT. THE CLIENT SHALL OBTAIN ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES. SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DELAYS OR COST INCREASES DUE TO CHANGES IN THE PROJECT OR TO UNFORESEEN CONDITIONS. THE CLIENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES.

LEGEND:

- PROPERTY LINE: ————
- OVERHEAD POWER LINE: ————
- SITE FENCE: ————
- DRIVEWAY: ————
- SOLAR TRACKERS: ————
- SYSTEM RATING = 5.0MW
- DC OUTPUT OF PV ARRAY = 7.000MW
- SOLAR TRACKER: ————

DEVELOPER:

SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP
 1000 KING ST W, SUITE 0410A, TORONTO, ON M8K 0C7
 TEL: 416-888-8888

CONTRACTOR:

FORK RIVER SOLAR

NO.	REVISION / ISSUE	DATE
0	PLANNING	2023/02/21

PROJECT NAME:

FORK RIVER SOLAR

SUPPLIER NAME:

SOLAR PROVIDER GROUP LLC

PROJECT ID NO.:

UBC PROJECT ID NO.:

LOCATION:

N 800 EAST RD,
 TAYLORVILLE, IL 62568, USA

DRAWING TITLE:

SITE PLAN - TOPOGRAPHY

AUTOCAD FILE NAME:

FORK RIVER SOLAR-PLNG-REV.0

SHEET:

A003

DATE:

2023/02/21

CHECKED BY:

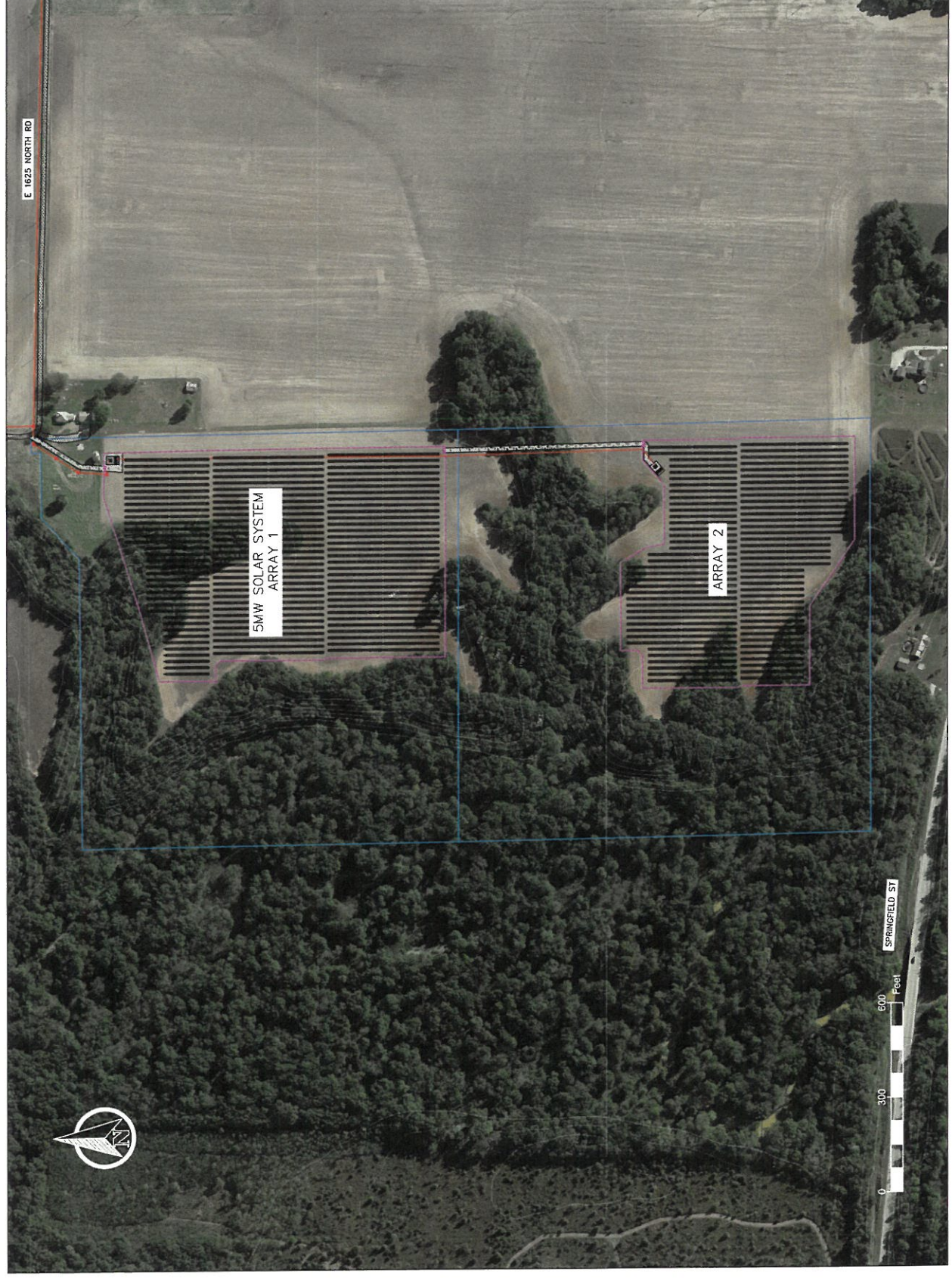
AS SHOWN

SCALE:

AS SHOWN

DATE:

16:05



Schedule B: Decommissioning Plan

A. Introduction

Solar Provider Group IL LLC under its Parent entity Solar Provider Group LLC is proposing to construct the Fork River Community Solar Project (“Project”) in Christian County, Illinois. The proposed Project is to be located just East the Village of Kincaid. Christian County is the planning authority overseeing the project.

This Decommissioning Plan provides a description of the decommissioning and restoration of the Project as per the guidelines in the “Christian County Illinois, An Ordinance for Solar Energy facilities”. The Project will consist of the installation of perimeter fencing; solar arrays and associated racking, foundations, and steel piles; transformers; inverters; access roads; and electrical collection system. This Plan includes an overview of the primary decommissioning activities, dismantling and removal of facilities, and restoration of land.

B. Expected Lifetime of the Project and Triggering Events

Decommissioning of the project may be triggered by events, such as the Project reaching the end of its operational life, termination of operations or abandonment of the project. The expected lifetime of a utility-scale solar PV facility is approximately 25-40 years with an opportunity for a project lifetime of 50 years or more with equipment replacement and repowering. Within twelve (12) months of receipt of notice of abandonment or notice of termination of operations the owner of the solar facility will decommission the project.

Depending on market conditions and project viability, the solar arrays may be retrofitted with updated components (e.g., panels, frame, tracking system, etc.) to extend the life of the project. If the modules are not retrofitted, at the end of the Project’s useful life, the panels and associated components will be decommissioned and removed from the Project site. Components of the solar facility have resale value and may be sold in the wholesale market. The resale value of components, during the first 16 years, is higher than would be the costs of decommissioning. Components with no resale value will be salvaged and sold as scrap for recycling or disposed of at an approved offsite licensed solid waste disposal facility. Decommissioning activities will include removal of the arrays and associated components.

C. Decommissioning Process

The anticipated sequence of decommissioning and removal is described below (overlap of activities is expected):

1. The system owner will obtain the photo-documentation of pre-construction conditions.
2. Notification to stakeholders including The Landlord, Christian County, the Utility, and other relevant stakeholders.
3. Reinforce access roads, if needed, and prepare site for component removal.
4. Install temporary fencing and temporary sediment and erosion controls, and best management practices (BMPs) to protect sensitive resources.
5. De-energize solar arrays and disconnect from the power utility grid.
6. Remove panels and dismantle racking for recovery / disposal.
7. Remove structural foundation to a depth of four (4) feet.
8. Remove inverters and transformers.
9. Remove electrical cables and conduits below the grounds surface to a depth of four (4) feet.
10. Remove access roads (if requested by landowner) and grade site to pre-construction grade.
11. De-compact subsoils (if required), restore and revegetate all earth disturbed during construction and decommissioning. The land will be restored to support the resumption of farming or Agricultural services.
12. Remove all hazardous materials from the property and dispose of the hazardous materials in accordance with federal and state law.
13. Close out any remaining permits.

Schedule E: Weed Control Plan

1. Introduction

The term “weed” refers to invasive, non-native plant species and weeds listed on federal and state noxious weed lists. In recent years, there has been an expansion of invasive, non- native (or "alien") plant species across the United States, Invasive species are becoming one of the most pressing issues for land managers. The introduction of non-native invasive plants has increased dramatically in the past decade because of the increased ease and speed of world travel and the expansion of global commerce. Local spread of noxious weeds can be natural by wind, water, and animals; but human activities such as, recreation, vehicle travel, and the movement of contaminated equipment, products, and livestock often greatly increase the distance and rate of dispersal.

2. Project Site Location

The proposed Fork River project site lies East of Kincaid in Christian County, Illinois. The project site is bounded by agricultural land to the East and the IL-104 State Highway to the South. To the West of the property is a conservation stewardship area. Therefore, it is even more important to prevent the spread of noxious weeds in the local environment.



Fork River Parcels

3. Assessment of Site Conditions

The approximate 27-acre site consists of mainly land in agricultural, row-crop use. The terrain is relatively flat. Rozetta Silt Loam, Middletown Silt Loam, Elco Silt Loam, and Alvin Fine Sandy Loam are the predominant soils present.

4. Illinois State Listed Noxious Weeds

According to the Ill. Admin. Code tit. 8 § 220.60, Current through Register Vol. 46, No. 48, November 28, 2022. The following plants within the sovereign territory of the State of Illinois are designated and declared noxious weeds:

- a) Marihuana (*Cannabis sativa* L.).
- b) Giant Ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida* L.) within the corporate limits of cities, villages, and incorporated towns.
- c) Common Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L.) within the corporate limits of cities, villages, and incorporated towns.
- d) Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*).
- e) Perennial Sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*).
- f) Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*).
- g) Perennial members of the sorghum genus, including johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*), sorghum alnum, and other johnsongrass X sorghum crosses with rhizomes; and
- h) Kudzu (*Pueraria labata*).

5. Weed Control Plan

The purpose of this noxious weed control plan is to prescribe methods to prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds during construction and rehabilitation activities. Solar Provider Group IL LLC and its contractors will be responsible for carrying out the methods described in this plan. Priority shall be given first, to the prevention of new infestations of noxious weeds and then to the control and, where feasible, eradication of noxious weeds in infested areas. This plan will apply to the entire area of the property as set out in the final lease agreement, both inside and outside the fenced area.

A comprehensive Weed control plan should at a minimum follow the guidelines below.

1. Train all maintenance personnel in addition to landscaping personnel to recognize any of the weeds designated as noxious by the State of Illinois. Early identification will minimize costs through early eradication thereby easily controlling potential spread of noxious vegetation.

2. Inspect project site once to twice a month during the growing season (March – September) for noxious weeds
3. Spot mow or spot spray with herbicide to control any noxious weeds identified by maintenance or landscaping personnel.
4. Begin a complete mowing July 1st to prevent the release of mature seeds.
5. Depending on growth conditions, a second mowing later in the season may be required.
6. Periodically, additional weeds are added to the Illinois Noxious Weed Law. Statutes should be reviewed yearly to ensure continued compliance with the law.

5.2 Prevention

Before ground-disturbing activities begin, the designated project biologist/project manager will prepare a Weed Management Plan that will inventory and prioritize weed infestations for treatment (if any). If weed infestations spread beyond 50 feet of the transmission line, weeds will be treated as a part of the Project. This includes access roads into the project site.

1. The project manager will locate relatively weed-free areas for temporary equipment storage, machine and vehicle parking, and other areas needed for the storage of people, machinery, and supplies.
2. All contractor vehicles and equipment will be cleaned prior to arrival at the work site using compressed air or high-pressure water spraying equipment. Vehicle cabs will be swept out and refuse will be disposed of in waste receptacles. The contractor will ensure that vehicles and equipment are free of soil and debris capable of transporting noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes before the vehicles and equipment are allowed use of access roads.
3. Seeds and plant parts will be collected, bagged, and deposited in dumpsters destined for local landfills, when practical the contractors will avoid or minimize all types of travel through weed infested areas or restrict major activities to periods of time when the spread of seed or plant parts are least likely. The contractor will begin project operations in weed free areas whenever feasible before operating in weed-infested areas.
4. The contractor will limit the size of any vegetation and/or ground disturbance to the absolute minimum necessary to perform the activity safely and as designed. The contractor will also avoid creating unnecessary soil conditions that promote weed germination and establishment.
5. The contractor in conjunction with the project manager will evaluate weed management options, including area closures, to regulate the flow of traffic on sites where native vegetation needs to be established.
6. In areas where infestations are identified or noted in the field, the contractor will stockpile cleared vegetation and salvaged topsoil adjacent to the area from which they are stripped to eliminate the transport of soil-borne noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes. During reclamation, the contractor will return topsoil and

vegetative material from infestation sites to the areas from which they were stripped.

7. The contractor will implement the reclamation of disturbed lands immediately following construction as outlined in the Re-vegetation section, continuing seeding efforts with certified weed-free seed to ensure adequate vegetative cover to prevent the invasion of noxious weeds.

5.2 Weed Control Protocol

Should noxious weeds become an issue during the construction or post construction period the following protocol will be adhered to:

1. Herbicides will be selected to minimize impacts on non-target species. Christian County will be consulted to determine suitable herbicides based on the weeds present at the site prior to treatment.
2. Laydown sites for excavated spoil, equipment and construction materials will be weed-free or treated for weeds prior to use, so weeds are not spread.
3. Minimize new infestations:
4. Minimize the area of disturbance by implementing Vegetation Clearing
5. Imported materials sourced from sites which do not show evidence of noxious weeds or Phytophthora infection.
6. Vehicle and machinery movements and temporary storage of equipment/materials will be confined to disturbed areas and defined tracks where possible.
7. Vehicles and machinery will be cleaned (tires brushed or washed down) prior to accessing and leaving areas where noxious weeds have been identified.
8. Post works, promptly rehabilitate all disturbed areas.
9. Maintain Records
10. A map(s) will be prepared identifying the locations of existing noxious weed infestations.
11. Methods used for weeding control and the timing of weed control activities will be documented.

6. Revegetation

Vegetated areas disturbed by project construction will be revegetated with a grass seed mix to stabilize soils and minimize the introduction or spread of invasive plants. Seed will be applied by broadcast seeding, or hydro-seeding procedures. Solar Provider Group IL LLC intends to work with a local native plant nursery and Landscape expert and Christian County to develop the final native seeding mix, including ratios of various native species in the seed mix, ensuring that only native species are used.

Cover-cropping with short native grass species creates biomass both above and below ground and over time improves the integrity of the soil by;

- Controlling water run-off and erosion
- Cultivating microbial matter
- Slowing the movement of soil particles
- Increasing organic matter
- Improving water infiltration
- Preventing soil compaction

Due to the unique circumstances of solar farms, short native prairie grasses ranging from 2 to 2.5 feet in height are desired. Mowing will not affect the integrity of the native prairie grasses and is encouraged. Seed mixes from native plant nurseries will be dependent on specific site soil and sun conditions. Most seed companies are willing to put together a seed mix that is suited for individual sites. Working with a reputable native seed company is important for the success of the prairie.

The following vegetation recommendations assume the use of single-axis, sun tracking systems, allowing for maximum daily sunlight exposure.

Recommended Shortgrass Prairie Grasses and Sedges*

Botanical name	Common Name	Height
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Blue Stem	2-3 ft.
Bouteloua curtipendula	Side-oats Grama	2-2.5 ft.
Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed	2-3' ft.
Muhlenbergia racemosa	Upland Timothy	2' ft.
Carex brevoir	Plains Oval Sedge	1' ft.

Viability and height of grasses will vary due to soil and light conditions specific to each site area. A site and soil analysis are always recommended to determine the best species for the location. This is a non-exhaustive list and is open to question and modification and recommendations.

7. Vegetation establishment

Ideally, the site should be planted and somewhat established before construction begins, allowing the contractors to drive over new seedlings. Areas that become thinned or not established will be replanted. Native prairie grasses are resilient and given the opportunity, will take over the site and flourish.

Sow seeds as early as possible. Established plants will help prevent soil movement. Soil temperature is very important when planting native grasses. Soil temperatures of 60-65 degrees are usually reached around June. A September/October fall planting can be done weather permitting. Early seeding creates earlier ground cover and greater biomass, increasing weed suppression.

Using the no till method, plant grasses and nurse crop seeds with a fluffy seed drill. This method ensures the best seed to soil contact and increases germination ensuring the quick establishment of the site. Drilling rather than broadcasting seeds provides for greater uniformity of the plants. Uniformity enhances weed control. Conventional planting practices such as plowing and disking allow for unwanted seeds in the germination zone, resulting in a flush of undesirable plants. Planting of a nurse crop with the native prairie grasses to control weeds and retain soil moisture. Oats is a recommended nurse crop for this function.

8. Maintenance Plan

After grasses have emerged, it is very important to monitor weekly for any broadleaf outbreaks. If an outbreak occurs, broadleaf herbicide must be applied, ideally at the third and fourth leaf stage to ensure a good kill on the broadleaf weeds. During the first year, the growth of grasses occurs predominantly underground. About 80 percent of broadleaves can be controlled by mowing at a height of 10-12 inches, helping control broadleaves and other invasive species. The planting of multiple species naturally helps to control weeds and diseases. Although never maintenance free, once a prairie has been established for 3-5 years, it becomes easier to manage.

First 3-5 Years:

1. Inspect project site once to twice a month during the growing season (March – September) for broad leaf weeds.
2. Spot mow or spot spray with herbicide to control any broad leaf weeds as identified by maintenance or landscape inspection personnel.
3. Begin a complete mowing July 1st to prevent the release of mature seeds.
4. Depending on growth conditions, a second mowing later in the season may be required.
5. Drummer soil tends to maintain the water table close to the surface in areas with 0-2% slope. The project area may experience drainage issues during the period of vegetation establishment. Replant, if necessary.

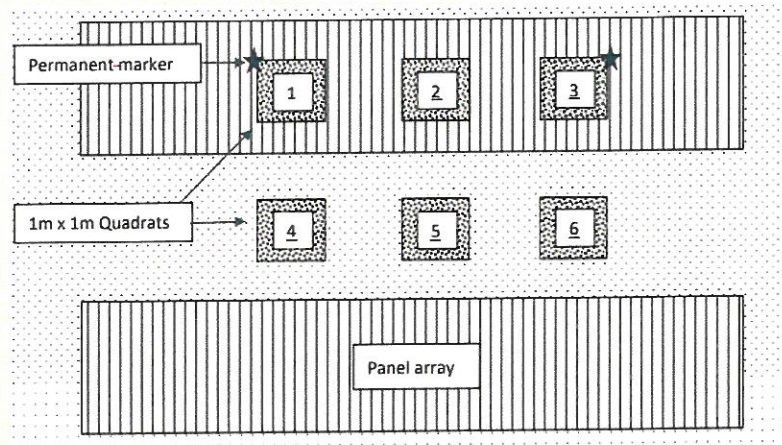
9. Conclusion

Taking land out of agricultural production is a topic of great public concern. The hosting of solar energy production facilities on agricultural land is not a permanent land use conversion. By reestablishing native prairies as a “cover crop” for solar farms, biodiversity will be increased, organic matter intensified, and soil erosion prevented. Resting agricultural land with cover crops remedies itself to a healthier state as the natural processes are reestablished. Over the life of the solar facility, the land will become healthier and rejuvenated for future generations of production agriculture.

10 (Optional) Groundcover Monitoring Plan

Objectives	<p>The primary objective of monitoring is to determine the effects of the panel shading on groundcover.</p> <p>Secondarily, the monitoring will trigger personnel, where required, to maintain stable ground cover, suitable to resist erosion and weed infestation.</p>
Personnel	<p>The surveys require an individual competent in the identification of noxious weeds. They would optimally be undertaken by the same person as the initial assessment, to reduce variations due to subjective assessments (for example in estimating percentage ground cover) but this is not essential.</p>
Timing and Duration	<p>Monitoring would be undertaken annually during early winter. This timing is considered most suitable as pasture growth is generally lower, but remnant reproductive material may still be present which would enable identification of species. Assessing the groundcover during this time provides for a better indication of the health of the groundcover as growth rates are down and climatic stresses are generally higher. Shading from the solar arrays would also likely have their greatest impact during this time as there is reduced insolation in general.</p> <p>For at least the first three years, data will be collected annually. After three years, the need for monitoring and reporting would be reviewed.</p>
Survey Protocol	<p>Permanent 5m x 1m monitoring plots would be established throughout the array area. At each monitoring location there would be two plots with one each placed in the following areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In permanent shade, directly beneath panels • Between panels that will receive the most sun <p>Each plot would consist of a series of three 1m x 1m quadrats each spaced one meter apart. The top left-hand corner and the top right-hand corner of the plot under the arrays would be permanently marked with a steel stake or similar. These would serve as reference points for placing the quadrats. From these points, tape measures could be used to place each quadrat. It is not recommended that the plot in the inter-row spaces be permanently marked as it is likely to be subject to occasional vehicular traffic. The distance from the plot under the array to that in the inter-row space will be dependent on the final</p>

constructed layout and will be recorded during the monitoring. The arrangement at each monitoring location is illustrated below.



It is suggested that monitoring plots be established at minimum of six locations across the array area (12, 5m x 1m plots) capturing variations in aspect and topography. For each quadrat at a monitoring location the following will be recorded.

- Total alive and dead/leaf litter vegetative cover using percentage cover estimates in 5% intervals
- Total cover of bare ground using percentage cover estimates in 5% intervals
- Dominant five species in each quadrat (or less if less species is present) and their percentage contribution to the living plant cover in each quadrat.
- Total biomass using the rising plate method. Measurements will be taken at the center of each quadrat.
- A digital photographic image

Data recorded from each of the three quadrats would be averaged to provide a single value for each plot. Only one physical quadrat should be required which can be moved to the correct location in each plot using the reference points and a tape measure. The actual distance from the reference points back to the inter-row plot will also be recorded on the datasheets to allow for accurate replication.

In addition to the plot data recorded above, incidental records of any noxious weeds will also be recorded across the broader site.

Analysis and interpretation of data	The data can be simply analyzed by plotting the variables recorded over time to identify trends in declining or increasing cover and biomass. The relative abundance of certain species could also be plotted over time to gain an understanding of species that are being successful or declining. The data would be used to inform the requirement for management actions such as weed control, alterations to grazing regimes or seeding/planting.
Benchmarks and indicators	<p>Indicators to be monitored will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage grass cover – 70% is the minimum required • Weed ingress – bare ground is susceptible to weed infestation • Active soil erosion - bare ground is susceptible to soil erosion, further reducing the ability to re-establish ground cover
Reporting requirements	<p>Results will be written up in a report. The report will contain as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The noxious weed map(s) will be updated to reflect the current distribution of noxious weeds on the site • The results of monitoring • Details of management activities carried out such as weed control and rehabilitation • A discussion of the current groundcover condition relative to the results of monitoring from previous years monitoring • Recommendations for adaptive management

Schedule H: Road Use Plan

Introduction

Solar Provider Group IL LLC has prepared a road use plan in order to assess the likely routes that will be used for the proposed Fork River Community Solar Project. See figure 1 showing the most likely routes used for construction and operation of the community solar farm.

The following are the roads anticipated to be used the most from activities related to Fork River Community Solar;

1. North 800 East Road
2. East 1700 North Road
3. N 600 East Road
4. Central Avenue, Kincaid
5. IL-104, Springfield Street
6. E 1625 North Road
7. County Road 900 E

Some of the roads in the list above may not be used for project related activities. A more detailed plan on which roads will be used will be decided prior to the construction date. The Types of vehicles to be expected during the construction period are as follows ranging from Largest to smallest.

Vehicle Type	Cargo
Commercial Tractor & Trailer	Panels and Racking
Excavator	N/A
Telehandler	N/A
Standard Commercial Truck (e.g Ford F150)	Site Workers
Bobcat (or similar)	N/A

The heaviest Vehicles will be present periodically for the initial 4-5 weeks of construction and will vacate the construction site as the project draws closer to completion. The operational period of the project (20-40) years will only experience standard road sized vehicles. This period of the project's lifecycle does not require any heavy-duty type vehicles. Standard maintenance activities are carried out by a regular commercial truck sized automobile.

Maintenance and Repair Plan

If any road has been damaged or requires repairs Solar Provider Group IL LLC will refer to the Roadway and Maintenance Agreement contract between the appropriate Roadway government. In General, Solar Provider Group IL LLC will complete the following tasks in an effort to firstly avoid damages, but should they occur then remedial action will occur as soon as is practical.

1. The roads for travel will be identified prior to the start of construction and agreed upon with the appropriate Road authority. The travel plan must be communicated to all logistics company's to ensure drivers obey the agreed upon travel route.
2. The Road condition will be documented prior to any vehicle use. Documentation to be provided to road authority.
3. A bond shall be posted as per the Roadway and Maintenance Agreement.
4. Solar Provider Group IL LLC shall ensure that all vehicles are appropriately sized for the roads and if possible request that loads are of a smaller nature to preserve the condition of all roads.
5. In the event that damages occur to any Road, Solar Provider Group IL LLC will engage with the road authority engineer to confirm the appropriate course of action:
6. Either contracting the road authority directly to complete repairs or;
7. Procuring a sub contractor to complete repairs. Sub contractors to be agreed upon with Road authority beforehand.
8. Solar Provider Group IL LLC will promptly provide notice of repair completion to the road authority and encourage an inspection of the repairs by the road authority. Solar provider Group IL LLC will seek a confirmation letter from the road authority for its final approval that any repairs are deemed satisfactory.

The Image on the following page identifies all possible routes including state level highways, City roads, and county roads that will be used to enter the project site. Depending on the direction of Travel by the logistics company's Tractor, trailers, Machinery or otherwise the travel route will be agreed upon and clearly communicated to coordinators within these logistics company's offices. The aim will be to travel on roads that are deemed "capable" of accommodating heavy loads for as long as feasible before journeying onto the "local" level roads to reach the project site.