Solar Energy Projects: Support Studies

EDR

Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need

In Ohio, a developer must obtain a **Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need** from the **Ohio Power Siting Board** for the construction of a "major utility facility," including generation facilities with a design capacity of 50 megawatts or more. To obtain this certificate, the developer must submit an application that thoroughly evaluates the current site conditions and possible impacts related to the construction and operation of the proposed facility.

The **Visual Resource Assessment** identifies all visually sensitive resources within 5 miles of the project, documents the current visual character of the project site, and includes visual simulations of the facility post-construction (see example project simulation below). Visually sensitive sites, including all nearby residences, are analyzed for visual impact, and mitigation is developed based on these analyses. In addition, a **Glare Analysis** is completed to evaluate the potential for glare from the facility at neighboring residences and roadways and identify areas for mitigation, if needed.

Original site photo

Simulation of solar facility with mitigation

The **Ecological Surveys** include on-site delineations of wetlands, streams, and habitat for any endangered or at-risk species identified as potentially occurring within the study area. The results of these surveys are used to inform the project layout, construction constraints, and any additional studies deemed necessary to protect nearby ecological resources.

The **Noise Study** compares current noise conditions within the project area to outputs from sound modeling software that approximate the noise produced by the facility when operating. There is no anticipated permanent noise-related impact.

The **Hydrologic and Geotechnical Studies** evaluate the suitability of site geology for the facility and any groundwater resources requiring protection during construction and operation.

The **Socioeconomic Report** is an assessment of the potential socioeconomic impacts of the facility on the communities within 5 miles of the project area. Regional socioeconomic conditions and population trends are evaluated and compared to the potential economic impact of the facility. Development of this facility is anticipated to have a positive impact within the community.

The **Transportation Study** evaluates public roads in and around the project area. This evaluation is used to document the current road conditions, develop delivery routes, and provide suggestions to minimize adverse impact.

The **Historic Architectural Resources Study** identifies all architectural, historic, and recreational landmarks within 2 miles of the project to determine any potential impact from the facility on the preservation and continued meaningfulness of the landmark.

The **Archaeological Resource Survey** identifies areas of elevated archaeological sensitivity within the project area. A field survey is then conducted to identify any potentially significant archaeological sites for avoidance during facility construction.

Additional Project Plans:

- Complaint Resolution Plan
- Drain Tile Mitigation Plan
- Vegetation Management Plan
- Decommissioning Plan
- Lighting Strategy
- Unexpected Discovery Plan