

April 21, 2021

## Union Solar – Additional Information

In conversations with community members and stakeholders, the Project has received questions about several topical areas. This document was created to provide additional information about these wide-ranging topics. Further additional information regarding these topics can be found in our application with the Ohio Power Siting Board. The locations of this information within the application is referenced by topic below, where applicable. The Project's application documents are available online at:

<http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/CaseRecord.aspx?CaseNo=20-1405-EL-BGN>

### 1. Safety and Operations

#### Fire safety of the panels

PV panels are made of non-combustible materials – silicon, glass, metal frame. The solar facility is designed to minimize the damage of an electrical fault by installing fuses and relays. Once the system is de-energized, any associated fire will usually burn itself out as there is very little combustible material available. In addition, site personnel will be trained in fire emergency response and fighting incipient fires.

Prior to construction and during operations, the project will coordinate with local emergency responders to discuss the hazards associated with the site, review the site map and location of equipment, identify high & medium voltage energized equipment and their isolation points, local and remote control capabilities, the site emergency action plan, and site personnel fire safety training.

Training programs will be established to ensure that emergency responders are prepared and educated in the event of a Project-specific emergency. Site personnel will conduct annual emergency drills to reinforce training and promote coordination with local emergency services. On-site construction personnel will follow industry safety guidelines to avoid injury. The national Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations cover safety issues associated with electricity, construction equipment operation, and other hazards that may be present during Project construction.

Additional information on equipment safety can be found in the Acciona Union Solar Letter to OPSB permit application in Section 4906-4-08 (A) (page 55 of the OPSB Application)

### 2. Wildlife

Habitat Assessment Studies and Aquatic Resource Reports have been prepared to identify possible presence of various wildlife within the project area. These reports are available on the OPSB website at <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/CaseRecord.aspx?CaseNo=20-1405-EL-BGN>

- i. Appendix N – Aquatic Resource Report and
- ii. Appendix O – Habitat Assessment.

The project is reviewing these reports with Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. As part of the on-going discussions with ODNR and USFWS, the project will discuss and implement mitigation efforts agreed upon with these agencies.

Immediately following the completion of construction activities, permanent stabilization seeding will be implemented. Areas disturbed during construction will be reseeded with a lowgrowth, native seed mix under the solar arrays, and a pollinator-friendly seed mix will be used.

Additional Information is available at Ecological Resources of Acciona Union Solar Permit Application Letter to OPSB in Section 4906-4-08. B. – page 71.

### 3. Appearance and Aesthetics

We are reviewing request of black fence matting as well as other alternatives offered by other stakeholders and agencies.

A Visual Impact Assessment, including simulation of project views, is included under Appendix S of the OPSB Application.

Q: We are interested in knowing if neighbors have a preferred option for screening considerations (options that may provide more habitat or more ecological benefits, etc.).

### 4. Tree Clearing

The project area was designed to minimize impacts to wooded areas and potential natural resources. Forested spaces within the Project Area have been identified and disclosed as part of the Appendix O - Habitat Assessment included with the OPSB application.

Construction practices will adhere to well-defined state and federal requirements to protect natural resources. Project is prioritizing a layout that maintains existing tree stands as natural screenings where possible.

### 5. Public Road Concerns

Before construction begins, we enter a Road Use Agreement with the county. That agreement establishes what roads can and cannot be used. It also includes a study of road conditions before the project, along with an agreement on how ACCIONA will leave any roads in the same or better condition than they were in before the project started. Best management practices will be taken to mitigate traffic congestion. Once complete the site will have a small team of fulltime employees, so it is not anticipated that will cause any traffic issues.

### 6. Drainage Tile and Drinking Water Concerns

Project will further coordinate with Union County Soil and Water Conservation District to identify any existing issues along with obtaining information available on where drainage tile is located in order to prepare a best practice to mitigate drainage issues.

Pilings are expected to be between 7 to 10 feet in depth.

In regards to drinking water wells, the Project reviewed information provided by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources regarding groundwater wells within the Project area and a 1-mile buffer surrounding it. The dataset did not identify any sources. (page 64 of OPSB Application)

Project will review state dataset with county in case there is any additional data available.

Q: Can neighbors share information about the depths and locations of private well in case these were not included in the state dataset to review if there are any potential siting issues with project infrastructure?

## 7. Construction Concerns

OPSB Staff is reviewing the Application and we are expecting questions from Staff during this process.

Road entrances to layout are preliminary and will be revised with further detailed engineering and discussions with Union County Engineer.

Q: On a call, the Community Member Group indicated their proposed setbacks were based on guidelines in SB 52. Can the neighbors share the language in the proposed legislation that pertains to setbacks for solar facilities? Our understanding is that the proposed setbacks in the legislation apply to wind turbine siting.

## 8. Decommissioning

The Project will continue to prepare a Decommissioning Plan for implementation as part of the Ohio Power Siting Board process. The purpose of this Decommissioning Plan is to ensure that, upon decommissioning the Project, the expiration of the operational life of the Project property will be restored pursuant to the agreement with landowners. The Decommissioning plan is expected to include financial assurances as part of the agreement and the details will be developed further through the Ohio Power Siting Board Process.

The Decommissioning Plan, the approximate cost estimate, and the financial assurances will remain in place until completion of decommissioning and restoration.

## 9. Water, soil and air testing

The Project will be constructed and operated in compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations for air quality, water quality, and solid and hazardous waste management.

No hazardous air pollutants are associated with operation of the Project. Therefore, air monitoring station locations and current or anticipated major pollution point sources are not considered as part of the current project plan.

We will procuring panels that meet OPSB guidelines on safety and do not leech toxins into the soil.

Our preference is to recycle as much of the panels as is possible and right now most of the materials used in the construction of a solar farm are recyclable. We will follow all state and federal guidance in decommissioning and will dismantle individual panels offsite.