

Vermilion County, Illinois
Wind and Solar Sub-Committee Meeting and Hearing

201 N. Vermilion St., Danville, Illinois

September 18, 2023

5:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Approved: approved 3/14/2024

Committee Members Present: Chairperson Steve Fourez, Adrian Greenwell, Russ Rudd, Harold Puzey and Chris Crawford

Staff Present: Andrew Keyt, Special Assistant to State's Attorney

I. Opening of Meeting

The meeting opened at approximately 5:00 pm.

II. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

A roll call was taken which reflected the presence of the above noted members of the committee. A motion was made to approve the agenda by member Puzey and seconded by member Greenwell. The motion passed 5 yeas to 0 nays.

III. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were tabled and will be approved.

IV. Public Hearing and Consideration, Discussion and Recommendation on Application of SPG Grape Creek Solar, LLC to build and operate a 2 MW solar farm on approximately 13 acres at 804 W. Main St., Westville, Illinois on parcel number 28-07-100-019 and 28-07-100-024

SPG Grape Creek Solar representative Simon Courtney of 1050 King St., Toronto, Canada was present the application on behalf of the applicant. Mr. Courtney was sworn in and provided the following exhibits:

- Exhibit A – Application
- Exhibit B – Publication Notice
- Exhibit C – Geotechnical Report
- Exhibit D – Power Point Presentation of Simon Courtney

Mr. Courtney gave an overview of the project and described why the location is favorable for development. The project will provide approximately \$14,500 in tax revenue and provide long term maintenance contract and development work, and provide a pollinator friendly habitat. The approximately 2 MW facility will utilize single axis trackers and be enclosed behind a 6-8 foot fence. The pilings for the facility will be driven or be screwed into place. The topography is a good fit for solar. There is already an Ameren interconnect agreement in place, an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement has been signed. Each panel is approximately 5 ft. by 8 ft. The parcel as a whole is 55 acres but they are only 13 acres. There will not be any battery storage at the facility and it is expected to last 20 years. There were questions of the applicant by Jan Le'Enfant regarding safety if the break. Mr. Courtney indicated they do not leach any chemicals. The panels are good for 20-25 years and warranted for 25 years. After the lifespan recycling of the panels may be feasible though it is a fairly new industry. There is a natural barrier though evergreens will be planted for landscaping. The site is largely unmanned with approximately 2-5 visits annually. Melinda Fourez asked if there is a discount for locals which Mr. Courtney described.

Motion to close the evidence and deliberate by member Greenwell and seconded by member Crawford. The Committee voted to close the evidence and deliberate by a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays.

The Committee then reviewed draft findings of fact and deliberated.

Member Puzey moved to approve the draft findings of fact and member Crawford seconded. Roll call vote resulted in 5 yeas and 0 nays.

Member Puzey then moved to recommend approval of the project and member Crawford seconded the motion. Roll call vote resulted in 5 yeas and 0 nays.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by member Greenwell and seconded by member Puzey. A voice vote resulted in a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays. Whereupon the meeting and hearing adjourned at approximately 6:55 pm.