



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RICHMOND DISTRICT
2430 Pine Forest Drive
COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834
www.VDOT.Virginia.gov

Stephen C. Brich, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

September 18, 2019

Mr. Mark Bassett
Dinwiddie County Planning Director
13910 Courthouse Rd.
PO Drawer 70
Dinwiddie, VA 23841

**SUBJECT: P-19-4 Reams Solar – Old Vaughan Road
SR 605 Old Vaughan Road**

Dear Mr. Bassett:

The Virginia Department of Transportation, Southern Region Land Development Office has reviewed the zoning and conditional use permit application dated 8-20-19 received at the Petersburg Residency on 9-10-19 and offers the following information for the County's consideration.

1. Completed utility scale solar energy facilities generate very few vehicle trips. Utility scale solar energy facilities do generate a substantial increase in traffic during construction; especially in rural areas located along secondary roadways. A large portion of this traffic is trucks delivering materials during construction and construction workers travelling to the site. VDOT's secondary roadways were not designed for large volumes of heavy truck traffic and increased maintenance costs have occurred maintaining the roadways used to deliver materials to the proposed facility.

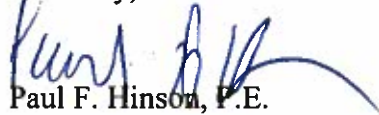
VDOT has worked with other localities to require as a condition of the zoning or conditional use permit the requirement for a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). The CTMP would typically include a plan that shows proposed construction access routes to the site from VDOT's primary highway network. The plan would also include a pre-construction assessment of the condition of the secondary roadways to be used as a haul route to the facility with a commitment from the applicant to repair any damage caused during construction and to restore the roadways to pre-construction conditions. The plan would also identify on-site areas suitable for parking for the anticipated construction workers and demonstrations that sufficient areas exist on-site to allow trucks to be unloaded and to turn around without having to back onto State maintained roadways.

VDOT does not have the regulatory authority to require inclusion of a CTMP. We are recommending that the County consider this condition and discuss with the applicant the possibility of offering a CTMP as a proffered zoning condition or as a condition of the Conditional Use Permit. This helps prevent expending limited VDOT maintenance funds repairing damage to the secondary roadway system caused by the increased traffic during construction.

2. VDOT has reviewed the supplied preliminary drawing of the proposed facility and proposed access to the facility. Based upon the proposed use, it is anticipated that a low volume commercial entrance will be required to serve the proposed utility scale solar project. A low volume commercial entrance must demonstrate that stopping sight distance for a 55 MPH speed limit is available at the proposed entrance location. Additional information concerning low volume commercial entrances can be found on Figure 4-1 in Appendix F of the *VDOT Road Design Manual*.
3. SR 605, Old Vaughan Road is classified as a secondary local roadway. VDOT Access Management spacing standards are not applicable on local roads or for low volume commercial entrances.
4. VDOT reserves the right to provide additional comments during site plan review or the permit issuance process as additional information is made available.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 804-863-4012 or by email, Paul.Hinson@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Sincerely,



Paul F. Hinson, P.E.
Southern Region Land Use Engineer

Cc: Dianna Bryant, VDOT
Todd Cage, VDOT