

**MITIGATION ACTION PLAN  
FOR THE  
WEST TENNESSEE SOLAR FARM PROJECT  
HAYWOOD COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
DOE/EA-1706**

**Summary**

This Mitigation Action Plan (MAP) is issued in conjunction with the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) as to the West Tennessee Solar Farm Project. Based on the analyses in the Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1706), DOE determined that its proposed action – allowing the State of Tennessee to use some of its State Energy Program (SEP) funds appropriated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to construct and operate the West Tennessee Solar Farm Project (Solar Farm) – would not result in any significant environmental impacts. DOE further determined that there could be beneficial impacts from Tennessee's proposed project, as the Solar Farm would demonstrate the low-carbon production of electricity on a highly visible and significant scale, create jobs, educate the public on the benefits of solar energy, encourage future renewable-energy investments in Tennessee and the region, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase renewable-energy generation.

This MAP sets out obligations on the State of Tennessee to ensure the mitigation of any potential for adverse environmental impacts. No impacts were identified as potentially significant, even in the absence of mitigation. The purpose of this MAP is to provide a concise document explaining how mitigation measures will be implemented, who is responsible for their implementation, and at what time during the project they will be implemented.

The State of Tennessee, as the recipient of the grant from DOE, is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the mitigation measures specified herein. Tennessee shall develop and maintain documentation of the implementation of these mitigation measures; DOE will review this documentation as part of its auditing and monitoring of Tennessee's ARRA SEP grant.

General questions about the project should be directed to Mr. Ryan Gooch, Director of Energy Policy, Tennessee Office of Energy Policy, at (615)741-2994, or [Ryan.Gooch@tn.gov](mailto:Ryan.Gooch@tn.gov). Questions regarding the NEPA process should be directed to Cliff Whyte, NEPA Compliance Officer, DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory, at (304)285-2098, or [Cliff.Whyte@netl.doe.gov](mailto:Cliff.Whyte@netl.doe.gov).

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The EA evaluated the potential environmental consequences of the Solar Farm and the No Action Alternative, including the activities associated with the construction and operation of the Information and Welcome Center that would be funded by a combination of Federal and State Highway Administration funds rather than by Tennessee's ARRA

SEP grant. DOE considered fifteen environmental resource areas in the preparation of the EA.

Throughout the NEPA process, DOE and Tennessee received many comments. The majority of the comments were related to the West Tennessee Megasite. DOE determined that the megasite is not a connected action to the Solar Farm. Nonetheless, DOE considered all of these comments in preparing the final EA and FONSI. Although not required by 10 CFR Part 1021.331, DOE developed this MAP to further reduce the potential for adverse impacts from the Solar Farm project regardless of their potential significance or lack thereof.

### MITIGATION MEASURES

Environmental Resource	Mitigation Measure	Timing
Air Quality	Tennessee shall require contractors to use Best Management Practices (e.g., wetting, covers) to control dust during construction, as necessary.	During construction
Air Quality	Tennessee shall ensure that signs are posted at the Solar Farm during construction prohibiting prolonged idling of vehicle engines.	During construction
Geology and Soils/Storm Water	Tennessee shall ensure implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan approved by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for the project.	Prior to earth disturbance and during construction
Utilities	Tennessee shall ensure that it and the Chickasaw Electric Cooperative hold at least one meeting to which all landowners along the transmission route are invited. The meeting shall provide information about the activities involved in the installation of the interconnection between the Solar Farm and the substation. Tennessee shall ensure that it and the Cooperative consider, and to the extent reasonable, implement any good-faith suggestions on how to reduce potential impacts of the interconnection. Construction shall be limited to daytime hours when working near residences.	Prior to clearing of any right of ways, or construction or upgrade of transmission lines

Wetlands	Tennessee shall ensure that any construction activities within wetlands will be designed and implemented to minimize impacts, and that it will coordinate with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to obtain any permits required under section 404 of the Clean Water Act for any fill placed in waters of the United States (i.e., jurisdictional wetlands) and that it complies with any mitigation specified by the ACOE.	Prior to and during construction
Wetlands	Tennessee shall ensure that a wetland delineation is performed at the Solar Farm and along the transmission line route. Boundaries of all wetlands shall be clearly flagged or staked before construction.	Prior to and during construction