



VIRGINIA SOLAR LAND USE NEWS OF NOTE

June 23, 2023

Solar | Brunswick County

On June 21, the Board of Supervisors approved a Conditional Use Permit for Monarch Solar, a 350 MW, 4,326 acre facility developed by Urban Grid. While Monarch Solar is located in Brunswick county, it will be interconnected to an existing Dominion transmission line in Greensville County. [Read more here](#) and [here](#).

Solar | Culpeper County

On June 17, the Planning Commission voted 4-3 that the general location, character, and extent of the application of North Ridge Culpeper Solar was not in substantial accord with the Comprehensive Plan. However, at the same meeting, the Planning Commission voted to recommend that the Board of Supervisors grant a Special Use Permit to North Ridge Culpeper Solar. This means that if the Board of Supervisors is to grant a Special Use Permit, it will have to also essentially overturn or bypass the Planning Commission's finding that the facility is not substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan under VA Code 15.2-2232. North Ridge Culpeper Solar is a 26 MW, 252 acre facility developed by North Ridge Resources. Notably, the county recently enacted a 2,400 acreage cap for all utility scale solar facilities within the county. One Supervisor noted that the county could see 3-4 more projects of North Ridge Culpeper Solar's scope with minimal impact, and then the county can "shut the door on solar." [Read more here](#).

Solar | Isle of Wight County

On June 15, the Board of Supervisors voted to approve a Special Use Permit for Prairie Solar, a 20 MW, 152 acre facility developed by Energix. Prairie Solar will be the 7th solar facility in the county. Recently, the county voted to approve ordinance changes that would limit the cumulative acreage of existing and proposed solar facilities to 2% of the county's prime farmland, as discussed in our [May 26 Newsletter](#). [Read more here](#).

Ordinance | Patrick County

On June 12, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to approve an amended solar ordinance. The former Solar Facilities Ordinance, approved in September, used language that pertained to a county with a zoning ordinance, which Patrick County does not have. The new ordinance requires that large-scale solar facilities must submit a \$2,000 fee with the application and outlines the application process. [Read more here](#).

Solar | City of Staunton

On June 22, after a 3-hour public hearing where over 30 residents spoke, the City Council voted to approve a Special Use Permit and siting agreement for Staunton Solar, a 15.75 MW, 95 acre facility developed by first-time solar developer Oikos Solar. On April 20 of this year, the Planning Commission previously recommended approval with 20 conditions. The City Council later tabled its consideration of the Special Use Permit, as discussed in our [June 9 Newsletter](#). [Read more here](#).

Any questions, or news for us to cover? Contact us. Jared Burden, jburden@greenehurlocker.com