



VIRGINIA SOLAR LAND USE NEWS OF NOTE
March 17, 2023

Pittsylvania County

- The Board of Supervisors is considering revising its Solar Ordinance to add new restrictions on utility scale solar. The draft restrictions include increasing the buffer distance between farms from 1 to 5 miles and limiting project density to no more than 2% of total acreage within a single zoning district. The proposal includes an exception for projects affiliated with the Berry Hill Megasite. Based on current siting of utility-scale solar projects in the county, these revisions, if enacted, leave little space for new projects in the county. A public hearing on these revisions is on March 21, 2023. [Read more here.](#)
- The 102 MW, 1,555-acre Hillandale Solar project was issued an SUP by the Board of Zoning Appeals on Tuesday, March 14. This project is grandfathered into the present Solar Ordinance. [Read more here.](#)

Mecklenburg County

RWE Renewables Americas is suing the Board of Supervisors after the Board upheld the Planning Commission's determination that the proposed Antlers Road solar project does not conform with the county's comprehensive plan, pursuant to "Substantially in Accord" review under VA Code 15.2-2232. The January 9, 2023 Board vote with respect to the 90 MW project was unanimous. The litigation highlights the increasing prominence of the 2232 determination as a required approval in a county's process. [Read more here.](#)

Halifax County

A proposed change to the county's Solar Ordinance could require that new large-scale projects be located at least 2,000 feet from any town limit. The revision was voted on by the Board of Supervisors on Monday, March 6th 2023. It will now be sent to a public hearing before the Planning Commission before the Board takes a final vote on the change. 17 large-scale solar project SUPs have been granted in the county. [Read more here.](#)

Rockingham County

The Board of Supervisors approved the SUP for the Knight Solar utility-scale solar project on March 8th, 2023. With that approval, based on the current Solar Ordinance's acreage cap on large solar projects, the county is now closed to solar projects of over 50 acres. [Read more here.](#)

Town of Mount Jackson

The Town Council deferred a hearing on the 2232 determination and SUP application for Mount Jackson Solar, a community solar project, at the request of the applicant. The Town Council will now take up the project on April 11, 2023. [Read more here.](#)