



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

JB Pritzker, Governor

Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director

October 20, 2023

Mary-Margaret Hertz  
Apex Clean Energy  
120 Garrett Street  
Suite 700  
Charlottesville , VA 22902

**RE: Trolley Coach Solar**  
**Project Number(s): 2405945**  
**County: McHenry**

Dear Applicant:

This letter is in reference to the project you recently submitted for consultation. The natural resource review provided by EcoCAT identified protected resources that may be in the vicinity of the proposed action. The Department has evaluated this information and concluded that adverse effects are unlikely. Therefore, consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is terminated.

However, the Department recommends the following:

The project proponent should establish pollinator-friendly habitat as groundcover wherever feasible. Solar Site Pollinator Establishment Guidelines can be found here:  
<https://dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/pollinatorscorecard.html>

The site should be de-compacted before planting. Long term management of the site should be planned for prior to development to ensure successful native pollinator habitat establishment and prevent the spread of invasive species throughout the lifetime of this project. An experienced ecological management consultant should be hired to assist with long-term management. Required fencing, excluding areas near or adjacent to public access areas, should not exceed 6 feet in height and should have a 6-inch gap along the bottom to prevent the restriction of wildlife movement.

Trees should be cleared between November 1st and March 31st to avoid impacts to State-listed bats. All night lighting should follow IDA guidance.



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This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Bradley Hayes  
Division of Ecosystems and Environment  
217-785-5500