

**Decommissioning Plan**

**Hawthorn Solar**

**Pine Valley Road and Ford's Road**

**Town of Hoosick, NY**

**Hawthorn Solar, LLC**

**2045 Lincoln Highway**

**Edison, NJ 08817**

## **Decommissioning Plan**

The Project consists of numerous materials that can be recycled, including steel, aluminum, glass, copper and plastics. At the end of the operational life of the Project, the system will be dismantled using conventional construction equipment. The Project material will be removed from the site and recycled or disposed of safely. The project will follow best practices to ensure that the land is properly restored and can return to agricultural use following the Project's decommissioning.

### 1.1 Temporary Erosion Control

Temporary erosion and sedimentation control best management practices will be used during the decommissioning phase of the project. Control features will be regularly inspected during the decommissioning phase and removed at the end of the process. The decommissioning phase will require a SWPPP approved by the NYDEC similar to what is required during the construction phase.

### 2.1 Material Removal Process

The decommissioning process will consist of the following general steps:

- 2.1.1 Facility shall be safely disconnected from the power grid and all equipment shall be switched to an off position.
- 2.1.2 PV modules shall be disconnected, packaged and returned to manufacturer or appropriate facility for recycling or disposal.
- 2.1.3 Above and underground cabling shall be removed and sent to appropriate recycling facility.
- 2.1.4 Above and underground equipment shall be removed and sent to appropriate recycling facility.
- 2.1.5 Combiner boxes will be disconnected and shipped intact to an approved electrical equipment recycler.
- 2.1.6 Inverters and transformers will be removed from their concrete pads and disposed of at an appropriate recycling facility.
- 2.1.7 Racking materials shall be dismantled, removed, and recycled off- site at an approved recycler.
- 2.1.8 Fencing will be dismantled, removed, and recycled off-site and an approved recycler.
- 2.1.9 Concrete foundation pads will be broken and removed.
- 2.1.10 All remaining electrical and support equipment will be dismantled and recycled or disposed of.

## 2.2 PV Module Removal

Solar photovoltaic modules used in the Project are manufactured within regulatory requirements for toxicity based on Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). The solar panels are not considered hazardous waste. The panels used in the project will contain silicon, glass, and aluminum which have value for recycling. Modules will be dismantled and packaged per manufacturer or approved recyclers specifications and shipped to an approved off-site approved recycler.

## 2.3 Electric Wire Removal

Electric wire made from copper or aluminum has value for recycling. DC wiring can be removed manually from the panels to the inverter. Underground wire in the array will be pulled and removed from the ground. Any overhead cabling for the interconnection will be removed from poles. All wire will be sent to an approved recycling facility.

## 2.4 Electrical Equipment Removal

Inverters, combiner boxes, transformers, switchgear and other electrical equipment will be dismantled, packaged, and removed from the site per manufacturers specifications for removal, decontamination, disposal or recycling. Any dielectric fluids present in transformer, or other electric equipment will be removed, packaged and sent to an approved waste facility.

## 2.5 Racking and Fencing Removal

All racking and fencing material will be broken down into manageable units, removed from facility and sent to an approved recycler. All racking posts driven into the ground will be pulled and removed.

## 2.6 Concrete Slab Removal

Concrete slabs used as equipment pads will be broken and removed to a depth of two feet below grade. Clean concrete will be crushed and disposed of off-site and recycled or reused either on or off-site.

## 2.7 Access Road Removal

All access road areas will be removed and replaced with topsoil to encourage vegetative growth per consultation with the landowner, provided that the landowner may wish to keep a portion of the access road intact for their own traffic purposes.

## 2.8 NYSDAM Construction Guidelines

The Project will be responsible for following applicable NYSDAM guidelines for removal and restoration of agricultural soils as part of decommissioning. Currently, these requirements include onsite monitoring and reporting of soil disturbance activities by a qualified third-party, soil decompaction, and other best practices generally intended to preserve and protect topsoil and other agricultural resources. It is expected that similar guidelines and other industry best practices will be applicable to permitting requirements needed for decommissioning in the future.

## 3.0 **Decommissioning Terms**

Project shall be decommissioned within 180 days of the end of the Project's operational life. Areas disturbed during the decommissioning phase will be with seeded with a drought tolerant grass seed mix appropriate for the area. At completion of the decommissioning phase as described in this document, the land will be returned to a meadow like condition, allowing it to return to its use prior to project construction.