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TOWN OF AMSTERDAM
CLERK'S OFFICE

June 3, 2022

Dear Chairman Fariello and Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

AMP has reviewed the Amp Solar Use Variance letter from Delaware Engineering dated May 16, 2022 and provides the following responses:

Comment / Question	Response
The site acreage described in D.1.b is confusing and requires clarification	Total site acreage Truax parcel = 58.4 Total acreage to be physically disturbed on Truax parcel = 25 Total acreage controlled by project sponsor = 25 acres
A discussion of site vegetation management during construction and post construction relative to herbicides is required (D.2.q)	Vegetation will be trimmed or removed only as needed to allow for unimpeded construction within the project area. Wherever possible, vegetation will be retained or planted to provide visual screening from neighbouring properties as approved by the Planning Board during Special Use Permit review. Upon the completion of construction herbicides may be used to remove noxious weeds and allow for the establishment of low growing, native pollinator species depending on contractor recommendations. Once the pollinator species are fully established (~2 years) vegetation control will be completed by mechanical means only. This typically occurs twice per year.
Two tons a year of solid waste from an operational solar facility appears excessive (D.2.r).	We do not anticipate any meaningful waste during operations. The 2 ton is for construction and consists mainly of scrap metal, packaging and equipment which may become damaged during installation or shipping. These materials will be recycled wherever possible.
E.2.d. requires a response (depth to the water table)	According to the USGS well information depth to water approximately 82' below land surface in this area.
E.2.m. requires a response	The site is predominately used by common local species such as white-tailed deer, rabbits, raccoons, possums, various rodents and common bird, insect, reptile and amphibian species. No state or federal Threatened & Endangered species have been identified as having potential to utilize the site.
Viewshed of the site from the Barge Canal Historic District. Some documentation has been provided regarding viewshed; however, to support the ZBA's deliberations in making a Determination of Significance, the ZBA will reference the NYSDEC's 2019 DEP-00-2, Assessing and Mitigating Visual Impacts. The applicant is encouraged to review this guidance and provide information to aid the ZBAs evaluation of viewshed impacts and propose appropriate mitigation measures	This document has been reviewed and we await further direction from the ZBA on potential mitigation measures.

Impacts of tree removal resulting in increased sedimentation and erosion potential during and after construction. A discussion regarding intended clearing plan, erosion control during construction, final plan cover types and maintenance is required.

The May 4 letter from the Applicant references a slope analysis and layout relative to the 15% slope; a copy of this analysis is not in our records. Please ask the Applicant to provide this information to us for review.

Due to the identified cultural resources sensitivity of the project site, the Applicant is required to submit a CRIS record for initial review by SHPO so that potential impacts to cultural resources can be characterized and considered as part of the Determination of Significance for this project. Please direct the Applicant to file with the CRIS system

A description of the anticipated erosion control and stormwater management measures to be included in the SWPPP required for Special Use Permit Approval is included in Appendix A.

The slope analysis was conducted using the publicly available 10ft USGS data using ACAD Civil 3D. Files can be made available if needed.

An initial submission was made to the CRIS system on 09/17/2020 under the project # 20PR05729. It's our understanding that the review was placed on hold until SEQR action was initiated. Updates have been provided to CRIS including a removal of energy storage components, size increase to 25 acres of disturbance and the addition of a ZBA contact.

Sincerely,



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Appendix A – Stormwater and Erosion Control Discussion

The contents of this section are for discussion purposes only and are subject to review based on improved knowledge of site conditions through field studies, future detailed engineering studies and review and feedback by the Town of Amsterdam and/or the NYSDEC.

Construction activities associated with the Project are not anticipated to significantly increase the peak flow of drainage from and within the Project Location. To minimize the potential for impairment of the quality of any adjacent waters during construction, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP") will be developed submitted to the Town of Amsterdam and the NYSDEC prior to construction start and as a part of the approvals process.

While a detailed SWPPP plan cannot be completed at this early stage, the following measures are typically used and will be considered when developing the SWPPP and will be linked to the final, approved SWPPP as deemed appropriate:

- Identifying and protecting all trees and plants not shown for removal that are contained within the construction area
- Installing silt fences and other necessary erosion control measures prior to commencing construction activities
- Phasing construction, where possible, to limit areas with exposed soils, and limit duration of soil exposure
- Implementing proper dewatering techniques to ensure the water within the site is properly managed
- Using appropriate grading techniques to prevent increased run-off potential and maintain preconstruction drainage patterns
- Using sedimentation basins or sediment traps to treat relatively large drainage areas
- Re-vegetation of disturbed areas after construction has been completed (through planting of commercially available native pollinator species mix)
- Protecting stockpiled soil areas with silt fencing and locating the areas a safe distance from sensitive natural features

Site restoration and reclamation is planned for the Project Location where disturbances have occurred, including along access roads. The restoration and reclamation strategy may include re-contouring of the land to suitable drainage patterns (in accordance with the SWPPP), management and replacement of subsoil (if applicable), and topsoil and re-vegetation. Disturbed areas will be seeded with commercially available pollinator friendly seed mixes to help stabilize soil conditions, enhance soil structure, and/or increase soil fertility. Wherever possible, vegetation will be retained or planted to provide visual screening from neighbouring properties as approved by the Planning Board.