

# Exhibit D – Decommissioning Plan

**Honey Creek Solar Project** 

**Applicant:** 

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# **OneEnergy Renewables Honey Creek Solar Project Solar Generating Facility Decommissioning Plan**

## 1. Introduction

The Decommissioning Plan provides an overview of activities that will occur during the decommissioning phase of the Honey Creek Solar Project, the "Project," including activities related to the restoration of land and management of materials and waste, per Section 65.122 of the Walworth County Renewable Energy Ordinance.

The Project has an estimated useful lifetime of 40 years. This Decommissioning Plan assumes at the point it is no longer economical or prudent to continue operating, the Project will be dismantled, and the site restored to a state similar to its pre-construction condition.

Within 180 days of the project being placed in service, project owner shall provide financial assurance in the form of a letter of credit, performance bond, or other means acceptable to municipality in the amount of the Decommissioning Costs, unless the owner is a public utility regulated by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW).

Decommissioning activities include but are not limited to, disconnecting the Solar Facility from the electrical grid and removal of all components, including:
- Photovoltaic (PV) modules, panel racking, and supports

- Inverter units, transformers, and other electrical equipment
- Wiring cables, communications, and perimeter fence

The Decommissioning Plan is based on current best management practices and procedures. This Plan may be subject to revision based on new standards and best management practices at the time of decommissioning. Permits will be obtained as required and notification will be given to stakeholders prior to decommissioning.

#### **Project Information**

Address: To be assigned County: Walworth, Wisconsin

Town: Troy

Project Size: 6 MWac





# 2. Decommissioning Process

At the time of decommissioning, the installed components will be removed, reused, disposed, and recycled where possible. The site will be restored to a state similar to its pre-construction condition. All removal of equipment will be done in accordance with any applicable regulations and manufacturer recommendations. All applicable permits will be acquired before decommissioning activities begin.

#### **Equipment Dismantling and Removal**

Generally, the decommissioning of a Solar Project proceeds in the reverse order of the installation.

- 1. The Project will be disconnected from the utility power grid.
- 2. PV modules will be disconnected, collected, and disposed at an approved solar module recycler or reused/resold on the market. Although the PV modules will not be cutting edge technology at the time of decommissioning, they are expected to produce approximately 80% of the original electricity output at year 40 and offer value for many years.
- 3. All aboveground and underground electrical interconnection and distribution cables will be removed and disposed off-site at an approved facility.
- 4. Galvanized steel PV module support and racking system support posts will be removed and disposed off-site at an approved facility.
- 5. Electrical and electronic devices, including transformers and inverters will be removed and disposed off-site at an approved facility.
- 6. Concrete pads will be removed and disposed off-site at an approved facility.
- 7. Fencing will be removed and disposed off-site at an approved facility.

#### **Environmental Effects**

Decommissioning activities, particularly the removal of project components, could result in environmental effects similar to construction such as ground disturbance (erosion/sedimentation). Mitigation measures employed during the construction phase of the Project will be implemented. These will remain in place to mitigate erosion and silt/sediment runoff and prevent any impact to the natural features located adjacent to the site.

Road traffic will temporarily increase due to the movement of decommissioning crews and equipment. Work will be undertaken during daylight hours to conform to any applicable restrictions.





## **Site Restoration**

Upon completion of the decommissioning phase, the site will be restored to a state similar to its preconstruction condition. Rehabilitated lands may be seeded with native seed mixes to help stabilize soil conditions, enhance soil structure, and increase soil fertility.

# **Managing Materials and Waste**

During the decommissioning phase, a variety of excess materials and wastes (listed in the table below) will be generated. Most of the materials used in a Solar Project are reusable or recyclable and some equipment may have manufacturer take-back and recycling requirements. Any remaining materials will be removed and disposed of off site at an appropriate facility. Policies and procedures will be established to maximize recycling and reuse and project owners will work with manufacturers, local subcontractors, and waste firms to segregate material to be disposed of, recycled, or reused.

Solar module manufacturers are looking for ways to recycle and/or reuse solar modules when they have reached the end of their lifespan. OneEnergy works with The Retrofit Companies, Inc. (TRC) in Minnesota to recycle panels that are damaged during shipping or installation and intends to partner with TRC or another similar panel recycler to recycle any panels that require disposal in the future. Modules will be disposed in the best way possible using best management practices at the time of decommissioning.

| Material / Waste | Means of Managing Excess Materials and Waste  |
|------------------|---|
| PV Panels        | If there is no possibility for reuse, the panels will either be returned to the manufacturer for appropriate disposal or will be transported to a recycling |
|                  | facility where the glass, metal, and semiconductor materials will be separated  |
|                  | and recycled.   |
| Mounting racks   | These steel and other metal materials will be disposed off-site at an approved  |
| and supports     | facility  |
| Transformer      | The small amount of oil from the transformer will be removed on-site to reduce the potential for spills and will be transported to an approved facility for |
|                  | disposal. The transformers will be sent back to the manufacturer, recycled,   |
|                  | reused, or safely disposed off-site in accordance with current standards of the   |
|                  | day.  |
| Inverters        | The metal components of the inverters will be disposed of or recycled, where  |
|                  | possible. Remaining components will be disposed of in accordance with the   |
|                  | standards of the day.   |





| Concrete Pad      | Concrete pads will be broken down and transported by a certified and licensed       |
|-------------------|---|
|                   | contractor to a recycling or approved disposal facility.                            |
| Cables and Wiring | All electrical wiring will be disconnected and disposed of at an approved facility, |
|                   | associated electronic equipment (isolation switches, fuses, metering) will either   |
|                   | be returned to the manufacturer for recycling or disposed off-site in accordance    |
|                   | with current standards and best practices.  |
| Fencing           | Fencing will be removed and recycled at a metal recycling facility.                 |
| Debris            | Any remaining debris on the site will be separated into recyclables/residual        |
|                   | wastes and will be transported from the site and managed as appropriate.            |

## **Decommissioning Notification**

Decommissioning activities will require the notification of stakeholders given the nature of the works at the site. Twelve months prior to the start of decommissioning activities the list of stakeholders will be updated and notified. Federal, county, and local authorities will be notified as needed to discuss the potential approvals required to engage in decommissioning activities.

#### **Approvals**

Well-planned and well-managed renewable energy facilities are not expected to pose environmental risks at the time of decommissioning. Decommissioning of the Project will follow all standards of the day. Any required permits will be obtained prior to the start of any decommissioning activities.

This Decommissioning Report will be updated as necessary in the future to ensure that changes in technology and site restoration methods are taken into consideration.

