



HOUSE BILL 319: Study Solar Facility Decommissioning Rqmts.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Environment. If favorable, re-refer to Energy and Public Utilities	Date:	April 6, 2017
Introduced by:	Rep. Dixon	Prepared by:	Jennifer McGinnis
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: House Bill 319 requires the Environmental Review Commission (ERC) to study matters related to decommissioning of utility-scale solar projects.

CURRENT LAW: There are currently no State-level requirements for decommissioning of solar projects, although there are a number of local governments with solar development ordinances that include decommissioning requirements.

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill requires the ERC to study matters related to the decommissioning of utility-scale solar projects, including, at a minimum, analysis of all of the following matters:

- The need for performance bonding to ensure proper decommissioning and closure of existing or future-built solar facilities.
- Whether or not any materials used in utility-scale solar projects, including solar panels and the constituent materials thereof, could be classified as hazardous material.
- Whether or not solar panels, including all of the constituent materials thereof, can be safely disposed of in landfills.
- The economic feasibility and availability of recycling solar panels.
- Whether or not the land upon which an utility-scale solar project is constructed could be economically placed back into use for agriculture crop production after cessation of the activities of an utility-scale solar project.
- The data-based expected economically productive life cycle of various types of solar panels currently in use.

For purposes of this study, the term "utility-scale solar project" means a ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV), concentrating photovoltaic (CPV), or concentrating solar power (CSP or solar thermal) project directly connected to the electrical transmission grid for sale to wholesale customers. The term includes the solar arrays, accessory buildings, transmission facilities, and any other infrastructure necessary for the operation of the project.

The ERC would be required to report its findings and recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the 2018 Regular Session of the 2017 General Assembly

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would be effective when it becomes law.

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