



DECOMMISSIONING REQUIREMENTS

Horizon Solar is a 160-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) project proposed in Warren County, North Carolina. The following information will detail the requirements set in place by the state of North Carolina and regulated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in relation to decommissioning and site remediation of a utility-scale solar project at the end of the operational life cycle.

WHAT IS DECOMMISSIONING?

Decommissioning is the process of removing project materials and restoring the land to its original state. A decommissioning plan is required before construction can begin for all utility-scale renewable energy projects, including solar, defining who is responsible for decommissioning and how removal of project materials and site remediation will be performed.

DECOMMISSIONING REQUIREMENTS ENFORCED BY NCDEQ:

The Division of Waste Management with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ)¹ administers and enforces the requirements of decommissioning utility-scale solar projects, which was formally adopted into law on June 26, 2023 and is outlined in NC GSC 130A, Article 9, Part 2J.² Prior to construction a project shall submit a registration to the NCDEQ with the following details, and must be updated every 5 years.

- Name, address, contact information for owner of the project and landowner
- Summary of project equipment and determination if there is any hazardous waste anticipated upon decommissioning, in compliance with rules adopted by the DEQ.
- Decommissioning plan describing recycling or disposition of materials, site restoration, and a schedule for completion of activities.
- Estimated cost of decommissioning project equipment and restoring the site back to its original condition.
- Proof of financial security, in an amount acceptable to DEQ, in the form of a surety bond, letter of credit, parent guarantee, or other acceptable forms.

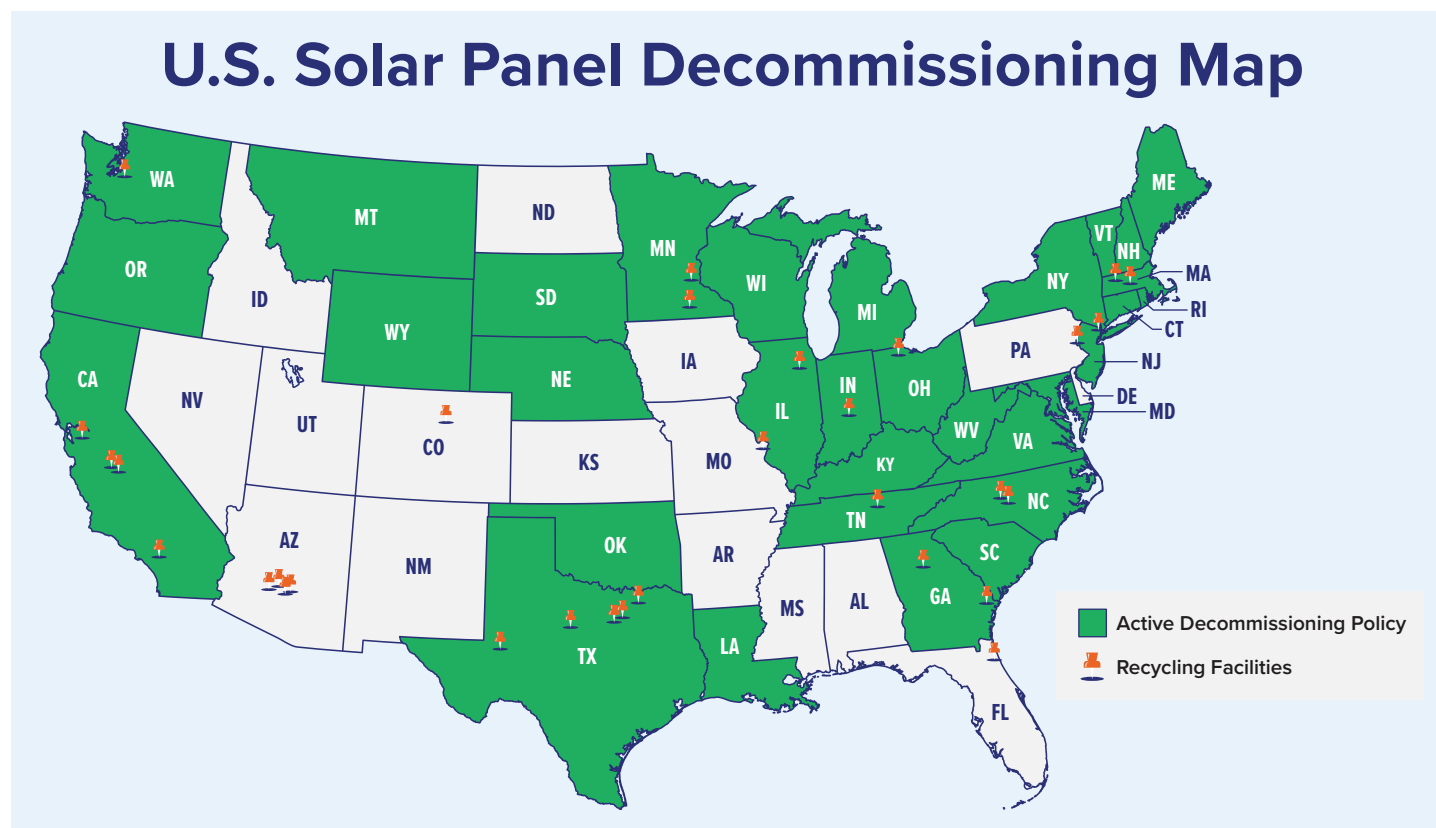


HOW WILL HORIZON SOLAR INCORPORATE A DECOMMISSIONING PLAN TO ENSURE THE PROJECT IS PROPERLY TAKEN CARE OF AT THE END OF ITS USEFUL LIFE?

Horizon Solar has commissioned a draft decommissioning plan, in accordance with state law and industry best practices, and is contractually obligated in the land lease agreements to ensure proper and timely decommissioning of the project facilities. The steps to decommission and restore the project site would include the following steps.

- Disconnect the project from the power grid in coordination with the transmission owning utility.
- Install temporary erosion perimeter controls and best management practices (BMPs) to protect surrounding resources.
- All above ground components (panels, posts, tracking systems, inverters, fencing etc.) and subsurface cable no longer necessary are safely removed. Components like copper, aluminum, and steel will be recovered and recycled, and panels may be sold for reuse if still operationally useful.
- Restore the site to pre-construction conditions including topsoil replacement, vegetation/seeding, and grading if necessary.

Horizon Solar is committed to maintaining accountability and ensuring protection of land and surrounding resources in Warren County. We look forward to working together with project landowners, County Government and the NCDEQ to follow best practices and ensure a smooth and sustainable project lifecycle.



Sources:

¹ <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/utility-scale-solar-management-program>

2 https://www.ncleg.net/enactedlegislation/statutes/html/byarticle/chapter_130a/article_9.html

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