

Applicant: Tri-County Solar, LLC. Ralph Meima
Contact: 134 East 40th Street
Address: New York, NY 10016

IDNR Project Number: 2603048
Date: 08/12/2025
Alternate Number: 2406501

Project: Tri County Solar LLC
Address: 7N657 Dunham, Elgin

Description: Tri-County Solar LLC. is proposing to construct a 5 megawatt, utility

solar project on approximately 40 acres of land in Kane County, Illinois, on land previously used as a landfill. Project is currently in the design phase and the applicant is in the process of gaining local approvals and permits for the proposed project.

Natural Resource Review Results

Consultation for Endangered Species Protection and Natural Areas Preservation (Part 1075)

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

Brewster Creek Fen INAI Site
Desanto's Brewster Creek Site INAI Site
Pratts Wayne Woods INAI Site
South Elgin Sedge Meadow INAI Site
Tri-County Wetland INAI Site

Brewster Creek Fen Nature Preserve
Tri-County Wetland Land And Water Reserve
Black-Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)
Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)
Franklin's Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus franklinii*)
Green-Fruited Burreed (*Sparganium emersum*)
Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
Short-Eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)
Yellow-Headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

Wetland Review (Part 1090)

The Illinois Wetlands Inventory shows wetlands within 250 feet of the project location.

An IDNR staff member will evaluate this information and contact you to request additional information or to terminate consultation if adverse effects are unlikely.

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Kane

Township, Range, Section:

40N, 8E, 1



IL Department of Natural Resources

Contact

Adam Rawe
217-785-5500
Division of Ecosystems & Environment

Government Jurisdiction

Kane County Development & Community
Service Dept
Natalie A. Zine, Zoning Planner
719 S. Batavia Ave.
Geneva, Illinois 60134 -3000

Disclaimer

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database cannot provide a conclusive statement on the presence, absence, or condition of natural resources in Illinois. This review reflects the information existing in the Database at the time of this inquiry, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations is required.

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Illinois
Department of
**Natural
Resources**

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www.dnr.illinois.gov

August 29, 2025

Ralph Meima
134 East 40th Street
New York, NY 10016

**RE: Tri County Solar
Consultation Program
EcoCAT Review #2603048
Kane County**

Dear Applicant:

The Department has received your submission for this project for the purposes of consultation pursuant to the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The proposed action consists of a 5-megawatt, utility solar project on approximately 40 acres of land in Kane County, Illinois, on land previously used as a landfill.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI)

**Brewster Creek Fen INAI Site
DeSanto's Brewster Creek Site INAI Site
Pratts Wayne Woods INAI Site
South Elgin Sedge Meadow INAI Site
Tri-county Wetland INAI Site**

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Lands

**Brewster Creek Fen Natural Preserve
Tri-County Wetland Land and Water Reserve**

State-owned Land

James "Pate" Philip State Park

State Threatened or Endangered Species

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)
Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*)
Franklin's Ground Squirrel (*Poliocitellus franklinii*)
Green-fruited Bur-reed (*Sparganium emersum*)
Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)
Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

Due to the project scope and proximity to protected resources the Department recommends the following actions be taken to avoid adversely impacting protected natural areas in the vicinity of the project:

Brewster Creek Fen INAI Site, DeSanto's Brewster Creek INAI Site, Pratts Wayne Woods INAI Site, South Elgin Sedge Meadow INAI Site, Brewster Creek Fen Nature Preserve

The Department has determined adverse impacts to these sites are unlikely.

Tri-County Wetland INAI Site, Tri-County Wetland Land and Water Reserve, & James "Pate" Philp State Park

EcoCAT indicates this project is adjacent to James "Pate" Philp State Park and in the vicinity of Tri-County Wetland INAI Site and Tri-County Wetland Land and Water Reserve. The Department has the following recommendations to avoid impacts to these sites:

- No equipment should be stored within right-of-way.
- Parking and staging in areas adjacent to the State Park should also be avoided.
- Fencing and signage clearly delineating the boundaries of the State Park should be installed to ensure no disturbances occur within the State Park.
- Areas of exposed soil should be re-seeded with a local genotype seed, approved IDOT seed mix, or non-invasive cover crop.
- Strict adherence to soil erosion and sediment control BMPs to prevent impacts to the State Park.
- Good housekeeping practices should be implemented and maintained during and after construction to prevent trash and other debris from inadvertently blowing or washing into nearby natural areas.
- Any required night lighting should follow International Dark-Sky Association's (IDA) Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting to minimize the effect of light pollution on wildlife: [Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting | DarkSky International](#)
- All equipment should be power washed off-site to remove exotic/invasive seed or propagules.
- All equipment, including but not limited to boots, tools, equipment, tires, and treads, should be cleaned of all debris prior to entry of the project area in order to avoid spreading of exotic or invasive plant seeds into the State Park.
- Should any herbicide use be required for construction or operation, wind speed and direction should be carefully monitored, in order to avoid herbicide drift into the State Park.

- The applicant should also be aware that any IDNR or INPC conservation land is likely to be managed with prescribed burns to the site boundary. The applicant should consider these potential management activities when siting this facility near conservation lands.
- The Department strongly recommends that the project proponent establish pollinator-friendly habitat as groundcover wherever feasible. Solar Site Pollinator Establishment Guidelines can be found here:
<https://dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/pollinatorscorecard.html>
- The site should be de-compacted before planting.
- Long term management of the site should be planned for prior to development to ensure successful native pollinator habitat establishment and prevent the spread of invasive species throughout the lifetime of this project. An experienced ecological management consultant should be hired to assist with long-term management.
- Required fencing, excluding areas near or adjacent to public access areas, should have a 6-inch gap along the bottom to prevent the restriction of wildlife movement. Woven wire or a suitable habitat wildlife friendly fence should be used. Barbed wire should be avoided.

Black-crowned Night Heron, Common Gallinule, Franklin's Ground Squirrel, Green-fruited Bur-reed, Least Bittern, Osprey, Short-eared Owl, & Yellow-headed Blackbird

The Department has determined that adverse impacts to these species are unlikely.

Blanding's Turtles

EcoCAT has indicated records for the state-listed Blanding's Turtle in vicinity of the project area. The Department recommends:

- Work on the project occurs during the turtle's inactive season from approximately November 1st to March 1st. If work must occur during the active season:
- Educate personnel working on site about the Blanding's Turtle. Post photos of juvenile and adult Blanding's Turtles at a central location. State-listed species may not be handled without the appropriate permits pursuant to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act.
- Install exclusionary silt fence by the end of March and maintain it through October (if needed) to prevent turtles from entering the construction area. Conduct daily inspections during construction to ensure that exclusionary fencing is properly installed (dug into the ground) and to check if turtles are present.
- Cover trenches at the end of each workday. Before starting each workday, trenches and excavations should be routinely inspected to ensure no turtles (or other amphibians and reptiles) have become trapped within them.
- If Blanding's turtles are encountered, crews should stop work immediately, allow the turtle to move out of the way and contact IDNR at (217) 785-5500.

Given the above recommendations are adopted the Department has determined that impacts to these protected resources are unlikely. The Department has determined impacts to other protected resources in the vicinity of the project location are also unlikely.

In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations.

Consultation on the part of the Department is closed, unless the applicant desires additional information or advice related to this proposal. Consultation for Part 1075 is valid for two years unless new information becomes available which was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the action has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal and should not be regarded as a final statement on the project being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are unexpectedly encountered during the project's implementation, the applicant must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations.

This letter does not serve as permission to take any listed or endangered species. As a reminder, no take of an endangered species is permitted without an Incidental Take Authorization or the required permits. Anyone who takes a listed or endangered species without an Incidental Take Authorization or required permit may be subject to criminal and/or civil penalties pursuant to the *Illinois Endangered Species Act*, the *Fish and Aquatic Life Act*, the *Wildlife Code* and other applicable authority.

Please contact Isabella Newingham (Isabella.newingham@illinois.gov) with any questions about this review.

Sincerely,



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Division of Real Estate Services and Consultation
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