



July 7, 2026

Kane County, IL
719 S. Batavia Ave, Bldg A
Geneva, IL 60134

**RE: *Special Use Permit Application
Catfish Renewable Energy LLC
Structural Engineer's Certificate***

To Whom it May Concern,

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., serves as the engineering consultant for Catfish Renewable Energy LLC ("CRE"). CRE is seeking a Special Use Permit to build a commercial solar energy facility in Kane County, Illinois. The Tanner Road Solar Project ("Project"), is sited at 39W553 Tanner Rd, Sugar Grove, IL 60554. The Project is a proposed 3.5 MWAC commercial solar energy facility.

As required by the local ordinance, a structural engineer registered in the State of Illinois must certify that the soils and subsurface conditions at the site can support the proposed solar energy facility and its associated structures, considering local soil, subsurface, and climatic conditions. The project site is mapped by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as consisting primarily of 531B Markham silt loam (81.6%), 223B Varna silt loam (12.2%), 152A Drummer silty clay loam (4.1%), and 103A Houghton muck (2.2%). The proposed photovoltaic arrays and associated equipment have been sited almost entirely on the Markham silt loam soils, with only limited encroachment into the Varna and Drummer soil map units. No photovoltaic arrays or major equipment foundations are proposed within the Houghton muck soil map unit. The mapped soil units underlying the proposed development are suitable for the proposed facility when appropriately engineered foundation systems are utilized.

Ground-mounted photovoltaic facilities typically utilize driven steel pile foundations and reinforced concrete foundations. Driven steel piles support the photovoltaic racking systems, photovoltaic modules, and inverter equipment, while reinforced concrete foundations support transformers, switchgear, and other electrical equipment, as required. The foundations will be designed based on the recommendations of a site-specific geotechnical investigation. Where weaker soils are encountered, foundation dimensions and embedment depths may be increased as necessary to satisfy the project design requirements.

Based on the mapped soil conditions and the anticipated use of driven steel pile and reinforced concrete foundation systems, it is our professional opinion that the site is suitable for the proposed solar energy facility. Final foundation design will be based on the recommendations of the geotechnical investigation and prepared under the supervision of an Illinois Licensed Structural Engineer in accordance with the applicable building codes and generally accepted engineering practice.

Kimley-Horn has provided engineering services for more than 1,500 solar projects across the United States. Our experience with utility-scale photovoltaic facilities supports the conclusions presented in this certification. Final foundation details will be established during final engineering after completion of the geotechnical investigation. Final engineering design will conform to the performance standards as set forth by any local, state and federal regulatory standards, Illinois Public Act 099-0906 and the National Electric Code.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

David Franklin, IL SE
Structural Engineer
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