University of Wisconsin System Administration
UW-Madison Kegonsa Research Campus
Solar and Agricultural Research Project
Town of Dunn, Dane County, WI

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

University of Wisconsin System Administration assessed the environmental impacts of the proposed development of a 2.25 Megawatt (MW) solar array co-located with agricultural research on the Kegonsa Research Campus (KRC), located in the Town of Dunn, Dane County, Wisconsin, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 1.11, and the University of Wisconsin System Administration's (UWSA) guidelines (Board of Regents' Resolution 2508, November 6, 1981). The overall KRC site includes the Physical Sciences Lab (PSL), a research and development laboratory that specializes in the design, engineering, and construction of equipment used all over the world, as well as several other university research buildings and uses. This research campus is part of approximately 280-acres of UW-owned properties along Schneider Drive that is leased for agriculture use. The solar array would be constructed on up to 15-acres of land currently leased for agricultural use adjacent to the PSL. The design team is in the process of determining the best use of land beneath the solar array that would combine opportunities for agricultural research to be co-located with the new solar array. Creating a solar photovoltaic site for agricultural research and education would promote studies in the co-location of agricultural activities and renewable energy (i.e., "agrivoltaics") by providing research and educational opportunities for UW-Madison faculty and students. Annual lease payments from this proposed project are planned to be reinvested in UW-Madison renewable energy and sustainability initiatives

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, State Historical Society, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency among others, did not identify any key issues for their specific agency in the immediate vicinity of the project site.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) addressed the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that would result from implementing the proposed action, and compared to alternatives including the 'no action' alternative. The EIA also included the necessary supporting information for a management decision to prepare either an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The key areas of potential concern that were addressed included physical and biological impacts to air quality, noise, ecology, as well as, socioeconomics, archaeological and historical, and visual resources in the region of interest. The potential risks and benefits from the proposed action and alternatives were weighed in making this decision.

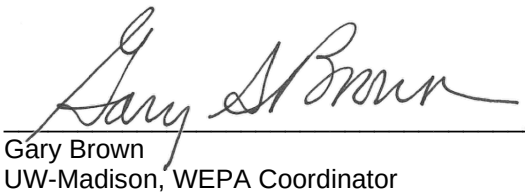
On the basis of the information and analysis in the *UW-Madison Kegonsa Research Campus Solar and Agricultural Research Project*, it is our determination that adoption of the proposed action would not constitute a major action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, considering the context and intensity of impacts. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

This determination is based on the following reasons:

1. A thorough evaluation of both the beneficial and adverse effects of the proposed action have been conducted and found to be without significant impact.
2. The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
3. The proposed action will not significantly affect any unique characteristics of the geographic area. Agriculture use may be marginally impacted depending on vegetation researched, but this land use is plentiful in the area, and impacts are not considered significant. Similarly, it will not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or cause loss or damage to objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor known archaeological sites.

4. The proposed action will not involve effects to the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; ie., scientific controversy regarding the identification or extent of potential environmental impacts. Viewshed impacts are limited and may be further mitigated during design efforts.
5. The proposed action will not impose highly uncertain risks or involve unique or unknown risks.
6. The proposed action will not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects and does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. Site use for future solar is limited due to policies by the solar owner (Wisconsin Power and Light) that caps the solar megawatts at this projects value for a single leasee's project site.
7. The proposed action is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant impacts.
8. The proposed action will not adversely affect threatened or endangered species or habitats that have been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act.
9. The proposed action does not threaten to violate federal, state, or local laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. Future permitting of the more detailed project design will need to further demonstrate compliance with local, state, and/or federal ordinances and laws.

A scoping letter detailing the project was sent to public and public agencies prior to development of the EIA on February 10, 2022; and the EIA was made available to interested public agencies and members of the public affected by the proposed action on March 10, 2022. Copies of the EA were made available for review at the E.D. Lock Public Library, Stoughton Public Library, and online at https://bit.ly/AyresKRC and by request from Mr. Ben Peotter, P.E., Ayres Associates, 5201 E. Terrace Drive, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53718. Comments received during the 15-day public availability of the EIA were incorporated into the Final EIA.



04/20/2022

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Date