End-of-life Management of Photovoltaic Systems

Stakeholder Workgroup

September 14, 2021
Budget Proviso

The department shall submit regulations to guide in:

• the management of end-of-life photovoltaic modules and energy storage system batteries on solar projects

• the decommissioning of solar projects in excess of thirteen acres- to include partial refurbishing and complete decommissioning
Budget Proviso

Consider:
• Disposal as HW or SW
• Reuse/recycling options
• Impact on landfill capacity
• Financial Assurance needs for decommissioning
• Infrastructure to collect, transport EOL material
• Stewardship for smaller-scale installations
End-of-Life Management

- EOL Options: Refurbish, recycle, dispose
- Concerns: Responsible parties
- Costs and Financial Assurance
- Items: panels, inverters, ballasts, batteries
Decommissioning in SC

• 18 counties w. ordinances to regulate PVMs
• 14 counties w. decommissioning requirements for large-scale projects
• 9 ordinances require financial assurance
• No statewide requirements for decommissioning large-scale projects
Decommissioning in SC (cont’d)

- **Counties with Solar Regulations:** Charleston, Beaufort, Greenville, Richland

- **Counties with Decommissioning Requirements:** Florence, Sumter, Edgefield, Oconee, Chester

- **Counties with FA + Decommissioning Requirements:** York, Cherokee, Abbeville, Greenwood, Newberry, Calhoun, Barnwell, Darlington, Jasper
Decommissioning in SC (cont’d)

• Typically required within six-months after a six-month period of no electricity being generated or sold

• Includes removal of solar panels, buildings, cabling, electrical components and any other associated facilities
Decommissioning Questions

• Are facilities being decommissioned and/or refurbished?
• What is the EOL timeline?
• Who has responsibility for EOL facilities?
• What entities perform decommissioning?
• Should SC enact statewide decommissioning requirements?
• Should SC publish guidance for LGs in establishing decommissioning requirements
Financial Assurance Questions

Should it be required? If so:

• Payable by whom?
• Payable to whom?
• Payable in full at start?
• How triggered?
• How should costs be determined?
Other discussion items (TBD)

- Who is missing from this group?
Quarterly Reports

1st report due Sept. 30
• Summary of directives
• Process overview

Subsequent reports due Dec. 31, March 31
Final report due June 30, 2022
Next Steps
Questions?
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