

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 479

Short Title: Study Solar Facility Decommissioning Rqmts. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Dixon.

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Environment, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 28, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION TO STUDY
3 MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DECOMMISSIONING OF UTILITY-SCALE
4 SOLAR PROJECTS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** The Environmental Review Commission shall study matters related to
7 the decommissioning of utility-scale solar projects. The study shall include, at a minimum,
8 analysis of all of the following matters:

- 9 (1) The need for performance bonding to ensure proper decommissioning and
10 closure of existing or future-built solar facilities.
11 (2) Whether or not any materials used in utility-scale solar projects, including
12 solar panels and the constituent materials thereof, are classified as hazardous
13 material.
14 (3) Whether or not solar panels, including all of the constituent materials thereof,
15 can be safely disposed of in construction and demolition or municipal solid
16 waste landfills.
17 (4) The economic feasibility and availability of recycling solar panels.
18 (5) Whether or not the land upon which a utility-scale solar project is constructed
19 could be economically placed back into use for agriculture crop production
20 after cessation of the activities of a utility-scale solar project.
21 (6) The data-based expected economically productive life cycle of various types
22 of solar panels currently in use.
23 (7) A survey of other states' regulatory requirements relating to the
24 decommissioning of utility-scale solar projects.

25 For purposes of this section, the term "utility-scale solar project" means a
26 ground-mounted photovoltaic (PV), concentrating photovoltaic (CPV), or concentrating solar
27 power (CSP or solar thermal) project directly connected to the electrical transmission grid for
28 sale to wholesale customers. The term includes the solar arrays, accessory buildings, transmission
29 facilities, and any other infrastructure necessary for the operation of the project. The
30 Environmental Review Commission shall report its findings and recommendations, including
31 any legislative proposals, to the 2020 Regular Session of the 2019 General Assembly upon its
32 convening.

33 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

