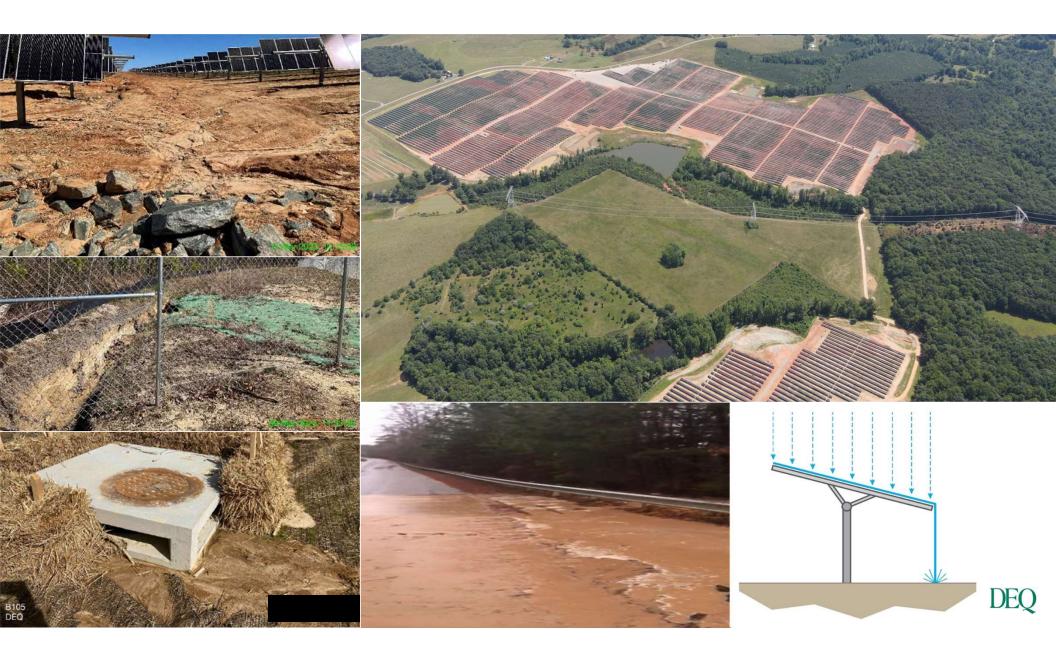




Regulatory Issues: Impacts of Utility Scale Solar (USS) Farms on Landscape Hydrology and Water Quality in Virginia

Michael S. Rolband, PE, PWD, PWS Emeritus Director Virginia Department of Environmental Quality April 6, 2023





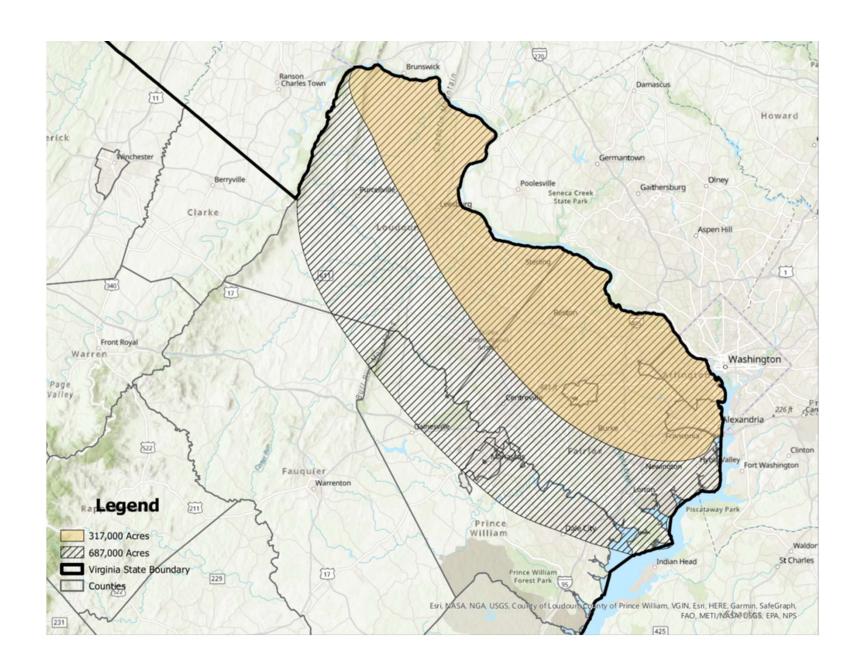
Scale Perspective – Land Use Change Expected in Virginia by 2045

| Power (GW) | 30 | 65 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Land Area (acres) | 317,000 | 687,000 |
| Panel Area (acres) | 57,000 | 123,000 |

Land Area (acres):

| Washington, D.C. | 39,000 |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Arlington County | 16,640 |
| Prince William County | 215,040 |
| Fairfax County | 250,240 |
| Loudoun County | 332,800 |







Key Solar-Specific Management Considerations in Virginia

- 1. Cut/Fill/Topsoil Burying with Compaction
- 2. Lack of Vegetative Cover

Permanent or temporary soil stabilization shall be applied to denuded areas within seven days after final grade is reached on any portion of the site. (9VAC25-840-40.1)

- 3. Curve Numbers
 - a. Compaction
 - b. Panel Imperviousness
- 4. Maintenance of Controls
- 5. Improper Installation of Controls
- 6. Disregard for Natural Drainage Divides



Compliance Snapshot

| Permitted USS | 124 | | |
|--|-----|------|-------------------------|
| DEQ is VSMP | 77 | | |
| Final Consent Orders | 12 | 16% | |
| Pending Consent Order | 11 | 14% | |
| March Inspections: | | | 53 _ 4+14 |
| Notices of Violation | 1 | 3% | $\frac{33}{77}$ = At le |
| Warning Letters | 8 | 20% | |
| Corrective Action Needed | 21 | 54% | |
| • No Issues | 9 | 23% | |
| • Total Sites | 39 | 100% | |

$$\frac{53}{77}$$
 = At least 69% have "Issues"

