



Boone County Government

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ORDINANCE NO. 23-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOONE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 4 DESIGN CRITERIA FOR SPECIFIC USES OF THE BOONE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, SECTION 4.8 WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS SITING AND SECTION 4.22 SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS SITING 4.2)

WHEREAS, Boone County has adopted Appendix A (Zoning Ordinance) of the Boone County Code pursuant to the Illinois Compiled Statutes to establish and set forth regulations pertaining to the use and development of land, buildings, and structures in the County; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable to periodically amend the Zoning Ordinance in response to changes in technology, business and development practices, and community standards, and to improve administration and enforcement procedures; and,

WHEREAS, the application for the text amendment was published in accordance with the Illinois State Statutes in a newspaper of general circulation distributed within Boone County; and,

WHEREAS, after due notice the Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing on May 2, 2023 to consider the amendments to the text and has transmitted its recommendation on the matter to the County Board; and,

WHEREAS, the County Board has considered the Zoning Board of Appeals' recommendation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the County Board Chair and County Board Members of the County of Boone, State of Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. That the attached sections of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance be hereby amended.

Section 2. That all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed insofar as the conflicting portions thereof are concerned; and that

Section 3. That this ordinance shall be in full force and in effect from and after its passage as provided by law and pursuant to the Illinois Compiled Statutes. This written and foregoing ordinance is published by authority of the county authorities of Boone County in pamphlet form on this date.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Boone County, State of Illinois,

This 18, day of May, 2023.



Rodney Riley, Chairman
Boone County Board

ATTEST:



Julie A. Bliss
Boone County Clerk

Ayes: 11 Nays: _____ Absent: 1 Abstain: _____ Voice Vote: _____



COMMERCIAL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY SITING AND OPERATION ORDINANCE

4.22.1. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this Section to:

- A. Assure the protection of the health, safety, welfare for all Boone County residents and landowners.
- B. Assure that any development of a solar energy facility in Boone County is safe and effective.
- C. Facilitate economic opportunities for local residents.
- D. Comply with Illinois' statutory goal of increasing energy production from renewable energy sources.

4.22.2 DEFINITIONS

- A. "Applicant" means the entity who submits to the County an application for the siting and operation of any Commercial Solar Energy Facility or Substation. All references to Applicant in this Ordinance shall include Applicant's successors-in-interest and assigns, which includes a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Permittee (as defined herein),
- B. "Commercial Operation Date" means the calendar date on which the Commercial Solar Energy Facility produces power for commercial sale, not including test power.
- C. "Commercial Solar Energy Facility" or "Commercial Solar Energy System" means any device or assembly of devices that is ground installed and uses solar energy from the sun for generating electricity for the primary purpose of wholesale or retail sale and not primarily for consumption on the property.
- D. "Commercial Solar Energy Building Permit" means a permit necessary for the commencement of work performed toward the construction, erection or installation of an approved Commercial Solar Energy Facility, Substation, Supporting Facilities, or operations and maintenance building in connection with a Commercial Solar Energy Facility. A Commercial Solar Energy Building Permit may be issued by the county after a Commercial Solar Energy Facility has obtained a Special Use Permit from the County Board and the Boone County Zoning Administrator determines that all conditions, if any, have been satisfied that are imposed by the Special Use Permit. The Commercial Solar Energy Building Permit shall require the Applicant to deliver a written "Notice to Proceed" for the Commercial Solar Energy Facility to the county prior to commencement of construction of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility. The term "commencement of construction", as used in this Ordinance, includes any site development work (e.g., demolition, grubbing, grading,

excavation, road work, construction of Project-related structures and infrastructure improvements, etc.) regarding the Commercial Solar Energy Facility.

- E. "Commercial Solar Energy Facility Permittee" means an Applicant who applies for and receives a Special Use Permit under this Ordinance for the siting and operation of any Commercial Solar Energy Facility or Substation. All references to a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Permittee in this Ordinance shall include a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Permittee's successors-in-interest and assigns.
- F. "Financial Assurance" or "Financial Security" or "Decommission Security" means assurance from a credit worthy party, examples of which include a surety bond (e.g., performance and payment bond), trust instrument, cash escrow, or irrevocable letter of credit.
- G. "Notice to Proceed" means a written document, named as such, stating that the Applicant expresses an intent to commence construction activities on a Commercial Solar Energy Facility and identifying the date on which the construction activities are scheduled to commence.
- H. "Nonparticipating property" means real property that is not a participating property. "Nonparticipating residence" means a residence that is located on nonparticipating property and that is existing and occupied on the date that an application for a permit to develop the Commercial Solar Energy Facility is filed with the county.
- I. "Occupied community building" means any one or more of the following buildings that is existing and occupied on the date that the application for a permit to develop the Commercial Solar Energy Facility is filed with the county: a school, place of worship, day care facility, public library, or community center.
- J. "Operator" means the person or entity responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of a Commercial Solar Energy Facility, including any third-party subcontractors. The Operator must be a qualified solar power professional. All references to Operator in the Ordinance shall include Operator's successors-in- interest and assigns.
- K. "Owner" means the person or entity or entities with an equity interest in a Commercial Solar Energy Facility, including their respective successors-in-interest and assigns. The Owner does not mean (i) the property owner from whom land is leased for locating a Commercial Solar Energy Facility (unless the property owner has an equity interest in a Commercial Solar Energy Facility); or (ii) any person holding a security interest in a Commercial Solar Energy Facility solely to secure an extension of credit, or a person foreclosing on such security interest, provided that after foreclosure, such person seeks to sell a Commercial Solar Energy Facility at the earliest practicable date. This definition includes the definition of Facility Owner as defined in 55 ILCS 5/5-12020.

- L. "Participating property" means real property that is the subject of a written agreement between a facility owner and the owner of the real property that provides the facility owner an easement, option, lease, or license to use the real property for the purpose of constructing a Commercial Solar Energy Facility or supporting facilities. "Participating property" also includes real property that is owned by a facility owner for the purpose of constructing a Commercial Solar Energy Facility or supporting facilities.
- M. "Participating residence" means a residence that is located on participating property and that is existing and occupied on the date that an application for a permit to develop the Commercial Solar Energy Facility is filed with the county.
- N. "Professional Engineer" means a qualified individual who is licensed as a professional engineer in Illinois. Where a structural engineer is required to take some action under terms of this Ordinance, a Professional Engineer may serve as the structural engineer if he or she has the appropriate structural engineering certification and is licensed as a Structural Engineer by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations.
- O. "Protected lands" means real property that is subject to a permanent conservation right consistent with the Real Property Conservation Rights Act or registered or designated as a nature preserve, buffer, or land and water reserve under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act.
- P. "Public Conservation Lands" means land owned in fee title by County, state or federal agencies and managed specifically for conservation purposes, including but not limited to County, state and federal parks, state and federal wildlife management areas, state scientific and natural areas, and federal wildlife refuges and waterfowl protection areas. Public conservation lands do not include private lands upon which conservation easements have been sold to government agencies or non-profit conservation organizations. Public conservation lands also do not include private lands for which the owners have entered into contractual relationships with government or non-profit conservation organizations for conservation purposes.
- Q. "Special Use Permit" means a permit approved by the County Board, after a public hearing, allowing a particular use at a specified location subject to compliance with certain specified special conditions as may be required by the County Board.
- R. "Substation" means the apparatus that collects and connects the electrical collection system of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility and increases the voltage for connection with the utility's transmission lines.
- S. "Supporting Facilities" means the transmission lines, substations, access roads, storage containers, and equipment associated with the generation and storage of electricity by the Commercial Solar Energy Facility.

4.22.3 APPLICABILITY

- A. This Ordinance governs the siting and operation of Commercial Solar Energy Facilities and Substations that generate electricity to be sold to wholesale or retail markets.

4.22.4 PROHIBITION

- A. No Commercial Solar Energy Facility or Substation governed by this Ordinance shall be constructed, erected, installed, or located within the county, unless prior siting approval has been obtained for each individual Commercial Solar Energy Facility or for a group of Commercial Solar Energy Facilities under a joint siting application pursuant to this Ordinance.

4.22.5 SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION

- A. To obtain siting approval, the Applicant must first submit a Special Use Permit application to the County. The application is not considered accepted until the County has a reasonable opportunity to review the application to ensure all the requirements pursuant to this ordinance are included. The application fee is required at the time of submission but will not be deposited with the County until the application is complete and deemed accepted. The Applicant shall receive written notice of the date the application is accepted.
- B. The Special Use Permit application shall contain or be accompanied by the following information:
 1. A Commercial Solar Energy Facility Summary, including, to the extent available: (a) a general description of the project, including (i) its approximate overall name plate generating capacity, (ii) the potential equipment manufacturer(s), (iii) type(s) of solar panels, cells and modules, (iv) the number of solar panels, cells and modules, (v) the maximum height of the solar panels at full tilt, (vi) the number of Inverters and Transformers(vii) the number of Substations and/or grid interconnections, (viii) a project site plan, project phasing plan and project construction timeline plan, and (ix) the general location of the project; and (b) a description of the Applicant, Owner and Operator, including their respective business structures;
 2. The name(s), address(es), and phone number(s) of the Applicant(s), Owner and Operator, and all property owner(s), if known, and documentation demonstrating land ownership or legal control of the property;

3. A site plan for the Commercial Solar Energy Facility showing the planned location of solar panels, including legal descriptions for each site, Participating and Non-participating Residences, Occupied Community Buildings, parcel boundary lines (including identification of adjoining properties), setback lines, public access roads and turnout locations, Substation(s), operations and maintenance buildings, electrical cabling to the Substation(s), ancillary equipment, third party transmission lines, the location of any wetlands, flood plain, drainage structures including surface ditches and subsurface drainage lines, all drainage tile, underground mines, scenic and natural areas within one thousand five hundred (1,500) feet of the proposed Commercial Solar Energy Facility, and the layout of all structures within the geographical boundaries of any applicable setback;
4. A proposed Decommissioning Plan for the Commercial Solar Energy Facility including cost estimations;
5. All required studies, reports, certifications, and approvals demonstrating compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance;
6. An Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) executed between the Applicant and the Illinois Department of Agriculture;
7. Detailed maps including (a) a topographic map with the Commercial Solar Energy Facility site and the surrounding area; and (b) subsurface maps to include but not limited to (1)the aquifer and (2) sensitive aquifer recharge area (SARA);
8. A review by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency for a cultural and historical review of the area;
9. Any other information normally required by the County as part of its permitting requirements for siting buildings or other structures;
10. Waivers from the setback requirements executed by the occupied community building owners and/or the non-participating property owners bearing a file stamp from the Boone County Clerk and Recorder's Office confirming that the waiver was recorded against title to the affected real property.
11. Results and recommendations from the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources obtained through the Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool or a comparable successor tool.
12. Results of any United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consulting environmental review or a comparable successor tool that is consistent with any applicable United States Fish and Wildlife Service's solar wildlife guidelines.

13. Information demonstrating that the Commercial Solar Energy Facility will avoid protected lands.
14. Any other information requested by the County or the County consultants that is necessary to evaluate the siting application and operation of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility and to demonstrate that the Commercial Solar Energy Facility meets each of the regulations in this Ordinance, including the Special Use Permit standards set forth below.

C. The County reserves the right to request the Applicant participate in a pre-application meeting with representatives from the planning department, building department, county highway engineer, impacted townships, the Boone County Soil and Conservation District and all other applicable departments and agencies as determined by the planning department.

D. Material changes to the application are not permitted once the notice of the public hearing has been published, unless requested or permitted by the County; and

E. The Applicant shall submit twenty-five (25) copies of the Special Use Permit application to the County, and at least one (1) copy in electronic format.

4.22.6 DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

A Design Safety Certification

1. Commercial Solar Energy Facilities shall conform to applicable industry standards, including those of the American National Standards Institute ("ANSI"). Applicants shall submit certificates of design compliance that equipment manufacturers have obtained from Underwriters Laboratories ("UL"), or an equivalent third party. All solar panels, cells and modules; solar panel mounts and racking, including any helical piles, ground screws, ballasts, or other anchoring systems shall be new equipment commercially available; no used or experimental equipment shall be used.
2. Following the granting of siting approval under this Ordinance, a structural engineer shall certify, as part of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility Building Permit application process, that the design of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility is within accepted professional standards, given local soil, subsurface and climate conditions.

B. Electrical Components

1. All electrical components of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility shall conform to applicable local, state, and national codes, and relevant national and international standards (e.g. ANSI and International Electrical Commission).

C. Height

1. No component of a solar panel, cell or modules may exceed twenty (20) feet in height above the ground at full tilt.

D. Aesthetics, Lighting and Vegetation

1. Vegetative screening: In appropriate circumstances, a vegetative screen and landscape plan may be required for any part of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility that is visible to a Participating or Non-participating Residence. The landscaping screen shall be located between the required fencing and the property line of the participating parcel upon which the facility sits. The establishment and management of vegetation shall be pursuant to the "Boone County Conservation District (BCCD) Landscape Plan Guidance" and at the sole discretion of the BCCD. The Applicant shall pay the BCCD reasonable fees for the consultation and management pursuant to a fee schedule adopted by the BCCD.
2. Lighting: If lighting is provided at the Commercial Solar Energy Facility, lighting shall be shielded and downcast such that the light does not spill onto the adjacent parcel.
3. Intra-project Power and Communication Lines: All power lines used to collect power and all communication lines shall be buried underground at a depth in accordance with the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement until same reach the property line or a substation adjacent to the property line.

E. Fencing

1. A fence of at least six (6) feet and not more than twenty-five (25) feet in height shall enclose and secure the Commercial Solar Energy Facility.

F. Warnings

1. A reasonably visible warning sign concerning voltage must be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and Substations.
2. Visible, reflective, colored objects, such as flags, plastic sleeves, reflectors, or tape shall be placed on the anchor points of guy wires and along the guy wires up to a height of fifteen (15) feet from the ground.

G. Setback Requirements

1. The Commercial Solar Energy Facility shall be sited as follows, with setback distances measured from the nearest edge of any component of the facility:
 - a. Occupied Community Buildings and Dwellings on Nonparticipating Properties: one hundred fifty (150) feet to the nearest point on the outside wall of the structure.
 - b. Nonparticipating Residences: one hundred fifty (150) feet to the nearest point on the outside wall of the structure.
 - c. Boundary Lines of Participating Property: None.
 - d. Boundary Lines of Nonparticipating Property: fifty (50) feet to the nearest point on the property line of the nonparticipating property.
 - e. Public Road Rights-of-Way: fifty (50) feet the nearest edge of the public road right-of-way.
2. The setback requirements for Nonparticipating properties may be waived by the written consent of the owner(s) of each affected Nonparticipating property. The Applicant does not need to obtain a variance from the County upon waiver by the property owner of any of the above setback requirements. Any waiver of any of the above setback requirements shall run with the land and be recorded with the Boone County Clerk and Recorder's Office.

H. Compliance with Additional Regulations

1. Nothing in this Ordinance is intended to preempt other applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

I. Use of Public Roads

1. An Applicant proposing to use any state, county, municipality, township or village road(s), for the purpose of transporting Commercial Solar Energy Facility or Substation parts and/or equipment for construction, operation, or maintenance of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility or Substation(s), shall:
 - a. Identify all such public roads and bridges;
 - b. Obtain applicable weight and size permits from relevant government agencies prior to construction.
 - c. Conduct a Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) that details the expected construction routes and the ESAL count per

roadway segment. Core samples, or non-destructive testing methods, as approved by the County Engineer, shall be used to determine the base and surface thickness of each public roadway used; and

- d. Evaluate all bridges and culverts on the construction routes for structural adequacy.
2. To the extent an Applicant must obtain a weight or size permit from the County, municipality, township or village, the Applicant shall:
 - a. Conduct a pre-construction baseline survey to determine existing road conditions for assessing potential future damage; and
 - b. Any proposed public roads that will be used for construction purposes shall be identified and approved in writing by the respective Road District Commissioner and the County Engineer prior to the granting of the Special Use Permit. Traffic for construction purposes shall be limited to these roads. All overweight and/or oversized loads to be transported on public roads may require a permit from the respective highway authority. Any road damage caused by the transport of the facility's equipment, the installation, maintenance, or removal, must be completely repaired to the reasonable satisfaction of the Road District Commissioner and the County Engineer. The Road District Commissioner and County Engineer may choose to require either remediation of road repair upon completion of the Community Solar Energy Facility and are authorized to collect fees for overweight and oversized load permits. Further, financial assurance in an amount to be fixed by the Road District Commissioner or the County Engineer to ensure the Road District or the County that future repairs are completed to their reasonable satisfaction shall be provided. Applicant shall submit a draft form of said financial assurance with application for Special Use Permit.
 - c. Enter into a road use agreement with the County and each affected Road District that includes the following provisions, at a minimum:
 - d. Enter into a Road Use Agreement (RUA) with the County, each affected Road District and the Illinois Department of Transportation (if applicable) that includes the following provisions, at a minimum:

- i. A project layout map including adequate exhibits so that the full impact to the public roadways within the project footprint can be determined;
- ii. A transportation impact analysis (TIA);
- iii. Pre-construction plans including but not limited to utility installations on or near the rights of way;
- iv. A project traffic map including information to regulate construction traffic impacts;
- v. Project scope of repairs;
- vi. Post-construction repairs including a requirement for repairing the damages to the roadway base, surface and appurtenances, in addition to providing for roadway surface upgrades;
- vii. A Certificate of Liability Insurance for ten million (\$10,000,000.00) per occurrence;
- viii. Requirement for a Letter of Credit in the amount of one hundred twenty-five (125%) of the estimated roadway base damage repair and roadway surface repairs and upgrades.

The road use agreement shall require Applicant to be responsible for the reasonable cost of improving roads used to construct Commercial Solar Energy Facility and the reasonable cost of repairing roads used by the facility owner during construction of the Community Solar Energy Facility so that those roads are in a condition that is safe for the driving public after the completion of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility construction. Roadways improved in preparation for and during the construction of the Community Solar Energy Facility shall be repaired and restored to the improved condition at the reasonable cost of the developer if the roadways have degraded or were damaged as a result of construction-related activities.

- 2. All repairs and improvements to public roads and roadway appurtenances shall be subject to the prior approval of the County Engineer before being made and shall also be subject to inspection and acceptance by the County after such repairs and improvements are completed.
- 4. The County's road use agreement, and any further agreements contemplated therein, regarding the maintenance and repair of public roads and highways, must be approved by the County Engineer prior to the approval of any Commercial Solar Energy

Facility Building Permit applications related to the construction of the proposed Commercial Solar Energy Facility.

J.

1. Applicant shall provide the type or "brand" solar panel. With that list, there shall be a list of potential hazardous materials as defined by the U.S. EPA Hazardous waste that could result from the specified type.

K. Site Assessment

1. To ensure that the subsurface conditions of the site will provide proper support for the Commercial Solar Energy Facility and soil restoration, the Applicant, at its expense, shall provide soil and geotechnical boring reports to the County Engineer as part of its Commercial Solar Energy Facility Building Permit. The Applicant shall follow the guidelines for Conservation Practices Impact Mitigation submitted by the County Soil and Water Conservation District (or equivalent regulatory agency). Also, the Applicant shall submit grading plans for the proposed Substations for review and comment by the County Soil and Water Conservation District prior to the issuance of any Commercial Solar Energy Facility Building Permit for the construction of said substations.
2. A soil test for every 2.5 acres of the project site to establish baseline levels of contaminants shall be taken prior to construction. Soil draws shall be at identified locations and mapped for subsequent testing. Soil tests shall be conducted once a year and upon the request of the Zoning Administrator based on a reasonable belief that the solar panels incurred damage. The test shall be compared to those that may be identified in Section J and /or as listed within the most recent Environmental Protection Agency Hazardous Waste listing. Samples shall be taken and evaluated by a third-party certified soil test agency chosen by the County and paid for by the Applicant. The Applicant/Owner shall immediately remediate based on a recommendation of the evaluating agency and any costs for remediation shall be paid by the Applicant/Owner

L. Noise Levels

Noise levels from Commercial Solar Energy Facilities shall be in compliance with applicable Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB) regulations. The Applicant shall submit manufacturer's sound power level characteristics and other relevant data regarding noise characteristics necessary for a competent noise analysis. The Applicant, through the use of a qualified professional, shall appropriately demonstrate compliance with the applicable noise requirements in its Special Use Permit application.

M. Agricultural Impact Mitigation

Pursuant to 505 ILCS 147/15(a), the Applicant, at its expense, shall enter into an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement with the Illinois Department of Agriculture prior to any public hearing required before a siting decision on the Commercial Solar Energy Facility application. All impacted agricultural land, whether impacted during construction, operation, or decommissioning activities, must, at a minimum, be remediated by the Applicant pursuant to the terms of the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The Applicant shall submit the executed Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement to the County as part of the Special Use Permit application.

N. As-Built Map and Plans

Within sixty (60) calendar days of completion of construction of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility, the Applicant or Operator shall deliver "as-built" maps, site plan and engineering plans for the Commercial Solar Energy Facility that have been signed and stamped by a Professional Engineer and a licensed surveyor.

O. Engineer's Certificate

The Commercial Solar Energy Facility engineer's certificate shall be completed by a structural engineer registered in the State of Illinois or by a Professional Engineer with a certification from a structural engineer registered in the State of Illinois and shall certify that the specific soils and subsurface conditions at the site can support the apparatus, given local soil, subsurface and climate conditions. The Commercial Solar Energy Facility engineer's certificate shall be a public record and shall be submitted as part of the Special Use Permit application.

P. Conformance with Approved Application and Plans

The Applicant shall construct and operate the Commercial Solar Energy Facility in substantial conformance with the construction plans contained in a County- approved submitted Special Use Permit application(s), conditions placed upon the operation of the Facility, this ordinance and all applicable state, federal and local laws and regulations.

Q. Additional Terms and Conditions

1. All technical submissions as defined in the Professional Engineering Practice Act of 1989 (225 ILCS 325/4(w)) and contained in the Special Use Permit Application shall be prepared and signed by an Illinois Professional Engineer (or structural engineer) for the relevant discipline.
2. The County may retain a qualified, independent code inspector or professional engineer both to make appropriate inspections of the

Commercial Solar Energy Facility during and after construction and to consult with the County to confirm that the construction, substantial repair, replacement, repowering and/or decommissioning of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility is performed in compliance with applicable electrical and building codes. The cost and fees so incurred by the County in retaining said inspector or engineer shall be promptly reimbursed by the Applicant of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility.

3. The Special Use Permit granted to the Applicant shall bind and inure to the benefit of the Applicant, its successors-in-interest and assigns. If any provision in this Ordinance, or conditions placed upon the operation of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision and, to this end, the provisions in this Ordinance are severable.

4.22.7 OPERATION

A. Maintenance

1. Annual Report. The Applicant must submit, on an annual basis on the anniversary date of the Special Use Permit application, an operation and maintenance report to the County. The report shall contain the following information: (i) a general description of any physical repairs, replacements or modification(s) to the Commercial Solar Energy Facility and/or its infrastructure; (ii) proof of an inspection of all solar panels for cracks or other damage (iii) soil testing reports pursuant to 4.22.6 (J); (iv) compliance with the BCCD vegetation plan (v) complaints pertaining to setbacks, noise, appearance, safety, lighting and use of any public roads received by the Applicant concerning the Commercial Solar Energy Facility and the resolution of such complaints; (vi) calls for emergency services; (vii) status of liability insurance and proof of decommissioning financial assurance; and (viii) a general summary of service calls to the Commercial Solar Energy Facility. Failure to provide the annual report shall be considered a material violation of this Ordinance and subject to Section 4.22.10 Remedies.
2. Re-Certification. Any physical modification to the Commercial Solar Energy Facility that alters the mechanical load, mechanical load path, or major electrical components shall require re-certification under Section 4.22.6.(A)(1) of this Ordinance. Like-kind replacements and modifications that are made in the ordinary course of operations, including expected repairs and warranty items, shall not require re-certification. Prior to making any physical modification (other than a like-kind replacement or other modifications made in the ordinary course of operations), the Applicant shall confer with a relevant third-party certifying entity

identified in Section 4.22.6 (A)(1) of this Ordinance to determine whether the physical modification requires re-certification.

B. Coordination with Emergency Responders:

1. The Applicant shall submit to the local emergency responders a copy of the Site Plan, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), and any amendments to such documents, for the Commercial Solar Energy Facility so that the local law enforcement, fire protection district and rescue units, emergency medical service providers and emergency management service providers that have jurisdiction over each tower site may evaluate and coordinate their emergency response plans with the Applicant of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility.
2. The Applicant, at its expense, shall provide annual training for, and the necessary equipment to, the Operator and local emergency response authorities and their personnel so that they can properly respond to a potential emergency at the Commercial Solar Energy Facility. Prior to the operational date of the solar project, the Applicant and the Fire Protection District (FPD) in which the project is located, shall enter into a written agreement detailing the specific training. The plan shall include but is not limited to time frame of said trainings and a list of the necessary equipment to be provided to the FPD.
3. The Applicant and the Operator shall cooperate with all local emergency responders to develop an emergency response plan. The plan shall include, at a minimum, 24-hour contact information (names, titles, email addresses, cell phone numbers) for the Applicant and the Operator and at least three (3) designated Commercial Solar Energy Facility representatives (a primary representative with two (2) alternate representatives, each of whom are on-call "24 hours per day / 7 days per week / 365 days per year"). Any change in the designated Commercial Solar Energy Facility representative or his/her contact information shall be promptly communicated to the County. The content of the emergency response plan, including the 24-hour contact information, shall be reviewed and updated on an annually basis.
4. Nothing in this section shall alleviate the need to comply with all other applicable life safety, fire / emergency laws and regulations.

C. Water, Sewer, Materials Handling, Storage and Disposal

1. All solid wastes related to the construction, operation and maintenance of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility shall be removed from the site promptly and disposed of in accordance with all federal, state and local laws.

2. All hazardous materials related to the construction, operation and maintenance of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility shall be handled, stored, transported and disposed of in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal laws.
3. The Commercial Solar Energy Facility shall comply with existing septic and well regulations as required by the County Health Department and the State of Illinois Department of Public Health.

D. Signage

Signage regulations are to be consistent with ANSI standards. A reasonably visible warning sign concerning voltage shall be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and substations, and at all entrances to the Commercial Solar Energy Facility.

E. Drainage Systems

The Applicant, at its expense, will repair, in a prompt and timely manner, all waterways, drainage ditches, agricultural drainage systems, field tiles, or any other private and public infrastructure improvements damaged during construction, maintenance and operation phases of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility in accordance with the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement.

4.22.8 LIABILITY INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION

Commencing with the issuance of a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Building Permit, the Applicant shall maintain a current general comprehensive liability policy and automobile liability coverage covering bodily injury, death and illness, and property damage with limits of at least Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) per occurrence and in the aggregate; and, shall further maintain the above-stated lines of insurance from delivery of the Notice to Proceed by the Applicant for the Commercial Solar Energy Facility, in coverage amounts of at least Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) per occurrence and Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) in the aggregate during the life of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility. The Applicant shall file the original certificate of insurance upon commencement of project construction prior to the issuance of a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Building Permit, corresponding policies and endorsements to be provided within sixty (60) days of issuance, and at each subsequent renewal, at least annually thereafter.

The Applicant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County and its officers, appointed and elected officials, employees, attorneys, engineers and agents (collectively and individually, the "Indemnified Parties") from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, suits, causes of action, damages, injuries, costs, expenses and liabilities whatsoever, including reasonable attorney's fees relating to or arising out of the issuance of the Special Use Permit or the construction, operation, maintenance and removal of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility including, without limitation, liability for property damage or

personal injury (including death or illness), whether said liability is premised on contract or on tort (including without limitation strict liability or negligence) or any acts or omissions of the Applicant, the Owner or the Operator under this Ordinance or the Special Use Permit, except to the extent any such claims, demands, losses, suits, causes of action, damages, injuries, costs, expenses and liabilities arise from the negligence or intentional acts of such Indemnified Parties. This general indemnification shall not be construed as limiting or qualifying the County's other indemnification rights available under the law.

4.22.9 DECOMMISSIONING AND SITE RECLAMATION PLAN REQUIRED

The Applicant shall formulate a Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan to ensure that the Commercial Solar Energy Facility is properly decommissioned. The Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan shall be binding upon the Applicant and its successors-in-interest and assigns and shall apply to all participating parcels in the Commercial Solar Energy Facility, irrespective of the owner of title to such parcels. A signed Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan must be submitted to the county prior to the granting of the Special Use Permit. The Applicant shall ensure that the Commercial Solar Energy Facility is properly decommissioned within twelve (12) months of the end of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility life. The Applicant shall include removal of all physical material of the project improvements to a depth of sixty (60) inches beneath the soil surface and the restoration of the area in accordance with the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement.

- A. A Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan shall be prepared by an independent Illinois Certified Professional Engineer and shall include:
 1. A description of the methodology and cost to remove all above ground and below ground Commercial Solar Energy Facility equipment of the approved Special Use Permit;
 2. Provisions for the removal of all above ground and below ground Commercial Solar Energy Facility equipment of the approved Special Use Permit;
 3. Methodology and cost to restore all areas used for construction, operation and access to a condition equivalent to the land prior to the Commercial Solar Energy Facility construction;
 4. A work schedule and a permit list necessary to accomplish the required work;
 5. Methodology to identify and manage any hazardous or special materials.
 6. Methodology to properly dispose of all solar panels and any other material removed from the site.
 7. Submission of a draft form of Financial Security to the County in the form of a surety bond (performance and payment bond),

irrevocable letter of credit or a cash escrow account that names County as the beneficiary, or other type of Financial Security that is approved by the County. If an irrevocable letter of credit or surety bond (performance and payment bond) is selected, the original of the irrevocable letter of credit or surety bond shall be held by the County. If a cash escrow is selected, the cash escrow shall be held and managed by an independent third party (e.g., escrow agent or title company) on behalf of the County, subject to escrow instructions that incorporate the applicable decommissioning and repair / replacement / restoration obligations of this Agreement as executed by the County and the Applicant.

8. The amount of Financial Security shall be equal to the total cost of all decommissioning and restoration work minus the salvage value of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility equipment. To determine that amount, the Applicant shall: (a) obtain bid specifications provided by a professional structural engineer; (b) request estimates from construction / demolition companies capable of completing the decommissioning of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility; and (c) certification of the selected estimate by a professional structural engineer. The County engineer, an independent engineer of the County's choosing, and the Boone County Zoning Administrator will review all estimates and make a recommendation to the County Board for an acceptable estimate. The County reserves the right to pursue other estimates. All costs to secure the estimates will be funded by the Applicant.
9. Boone County retains all rights to challenge any and all salvage value assessments in the Site Decommissioning Plan as a condition of approval of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility Special Use Permit.
10. A provision that the terms of the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan shall be binding upon the Applicant including any of its successors-in-interest and assigns;
11. Confirmation by affidavit that the obligation to decommission the Commercial Solar Energy Facility is included in the lease agreement for every parcel included in the Special Use Permit application. A list of all landowners should be kept current, and affidavits shall be secured from Applicant and landowners stating their financial understanding;
12. A provision that allows for the County to have the legal right to transfer applicable Commercial Solar Energy Facility material to salvage firms;
13. Identification of and procedures for the County to access the Financial Assurances; and

14. A provision that the County shall have access to the site, pursuant to reasonable notice to affect or complete decommissioning. A portion of the Decommission Security will be required to be held for one (1) year past the decommissioning to settle any potential disputes.

B. Provisions triggering the decommissioning of any portion of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility:

1. Inactive construction of twelve (12) consecutive months.
2. If no electricity is generated by the Commercial Solar Energy Facility for twelve (12) consecutive months after electricity is initially generated.
3. If Applicant has not paid landowners an amount owed in accordance with their lease agreements for a period of six (6) consecutive months.
4. The Applicant dissolves or abandons the Commercial Solar Energy Facility without first transferring the Commercial Solar Energy Facility to a successor-in-interest or assign.
5. If any part of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility falls into disrepair or creates any other health and safety issue.

C. Provisions for the removal of structures, debris and cabling; both above and below the soil surface:

1. Items required to be removed include but are not limited to: solar panels, cells and modules; solar panel mounts and racking, including any helical piles, ground screws, ballasts, or other anchoring systems; solar panel foundations, if used, to a depth of 60 inches; transformers, inverters, energy storage facilities, or substations; overhead collection system components; operations/maintenance buildings, spare parts buildings and substations/switching gear buildings; access roads; operation/maintenance yard/staging area; debris and litter; underground cables, fencing, access roads and culverts. A landowner must sign an agreement if they wish for operations/maintenance buildings, spare parts buildings and substations/switching gear buildings; operation/maintenance yard/staging area; access roads or culverts to remain.

D. Provisions for the restoration of soil and vegetation:

1. All affected areas shall be inspected, thoroughly cleaned and all construction related debris shall be removed.

2. All affected areas must be remediated pursuant to the terms of the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
3. Items required to be restored include but are not limited to: windbreaks, waterways, site grading, drainage tile systems and topsoil to former productive levels.
 - a. In work areas involving decommission from widening access roads or any other work areas, the topsoil must be first removed, identified and stored separate from other excavated material for later replacement as applicable.
 - b. The 60-inch below-surface excavation area shall be filled with clean sub-grade material of similar quality to that in the immediate surrounding area.
 - c. All sub-grade material will be compacted to a density similar to surrounding grade material.
 - d. All unexcavated areas compacted by equipment used in decommissioning shall be de-compacted in a manner that adequately restores the topsoil and sub-grade material to the proper density consistent and compatible with the surrounding area.
 - e. Where possible, the topsoil shall be replaced to its original depth and surface contours.
 - f. Any topsoil deficiency and trench settling shall be mitigated with imported topsoil that is consistent with the quality of the effected site.
4. Items required to be repaired after decommissioning include but are not limited to: roads, bridges and culverts.
5. An independent drainage engineer shall be present to ensure drainage tiles, waterways, culverts, etc. are repaired as work progresses.
6. A soil erosion control plan shall be approved by the County Soil and Water Conservation District.
7. All applicable stormwater management, floodplain and other surface water rules, regulations and ordinances shall be followed.

E. Estimating the costs of decommissioning:

1. Costs shall include but not be limited to engineering fees, legal fees, accounting fees, insurance costs, decommissioning and site

restoration minus the salvage value of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility.

2. Adjustments to the financial assurance amount that reflect changes in the decommissioning costs shall be submitted every five (5) years after the initial ten (10) years of operation and shall be adjusted for inflation and other factors. The amount of the Decommission Security shall be adjusted accordingly within six (6) months of receiving the updated information as determined by an Illinois professional engineer. Failure to provide financial assurance as outlined herein shall be considered a cessation of operation.

F. Financial assurance:

1. Financial Security shall be phased in and provided to the County over the first eleven (11) years of the project as follows:
 - a. On or before the first anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date, the Applicant shall provide the County with Financial Security to cover ten (10) percent of the estimated costs of decommissioning the Commercial Solar Energy Facility as determined in the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan.
 - b. On or before the sixth anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date, the Applicant shall provide the County with Financial Security to cover fifty (50) percent of the estimated costs of decommissioning the Commercial Solar Energy Facility as determined in the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan.
 - c. On or before the eleventh anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date, the Applicant shall provide the County with Financial Security to cover one hundred (100) percent of the estimated costs of decommissioning the Commercial Solar Energy Facility as determined in the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan.
2. The County shall have immediate access, upon written notice to the Applicant, to use the Decommission Security if:
 - a. After abandonment of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility, the Applicant, upon a reasonable determination by the County Board, fails to address a health and safety issue in a timely manner; or
 - b. The Applicant fails to decommission the abandoned Commercial Solar Energy Facility in accordance with the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan.

3. If possible, for the type of Decommission Security provided, the Applicant shall grant perfected security in the Decommission Security by use of a control agreement establishing the County as an owner of record pursuant to the Secured Transit Article of the Uniform Commercial Code, 810 ILCS 9/ et seq.
4. The County Board or its escrow agent shall release the Decommission Security when the Applicant has demonstrated and the County concurs that decommissioning has been satisfactorily completed, or upon written approval of the County to implement the decommissioning plan. Ten percent (10%) of the Decommission Security shall be retained one (1) year past the date to settle any outstanding concerns.
5. Any interest accrued on the Decommission Security that is over and above the total value as determined by the Illinois professional structural engineer shall go to the Applicant.
6. The Applicant shall identify procedures for the County to assess the financial assurances, particularly if it is determined that there is a health and/or safety issue with the Commercial Solar Energy Facility and the principal company fails to adequately respond as reasonably determined by the County Board.
7. The County shall be listed as a debtor in connection with any proceeding in insolvency or bankruptcy but shall not be responsible for any claims against the Applicant.
8. The Applicant shall agree that the obligations and liabilities under a Special Use Permit shall be binding upon the Applicant (which, for the avoidance of doubt, includes its successors-in-interest and assignees) and the Operator. The Applicant further shall agree that the sale, assignment in fact or at law, or other transfer of the Applicant's financial interest in the Commercial Solar Energy Facility shall in no way effect or change the Applicant's obligation to continue to comply with the terms, covenants and obligations of a Special Use Permit unless such successor-in-interest or assignee agrees to assume all obligations of the Special Use Permit, including but not limited to the decommissioning obligations associated with the Commercial Solar Energy Facility.
9. The County and its authorized representatives have the right of entry onto the Commercial Solar Energy Facility premises for the purpose of inspecting the methods of reclamation or for performing actual reclamation if necessary.

4.22.10 REMEDIES

- A. The Applicant's failure to materially comply with any of the provisions under the Special Use Permit, any conditions imposed on the project,

and/ or failure to comply with any law or regulation shall be a default and shall be grounds for revocation of the Special Use Permit by the County Board.

B. Prior to implementation of the applicable County procedures for the resolution of default(s), the County Board must first provide written notice to the Applicant and Operator, setting forth the alleged default(s) and provide an opportunity for the Applicant or the Operator to cure the default(s) within a thirty (30) calendar day period from the date of the notice. Should the Applicant commence the cure within that 30-day cure period, and diligently pursues a cure, then the Applicant shall receive an additional sixty (60) days to continue to pursue the cure before the County pursues procedures for the resolution of default. If the default relates to a life safety issue or interference with local, government public safety (police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management services, 911 dispatch) communications, the Applicant or the Operator shall take all necessary and available commercial measures to immediately cure the default. If the Applicant or Operator cannot cure the default(s) or resolve the alleged default(s) within the cure period, then applicable County ordinance provisions addressing the resolution of such default(s) shall govern.

4.22.11 FEE SCHEDULE AND PERMITTING PROCESSES

1. Application Fees

- a. Prior to processing any Application for a Commercial Solar Energy Facility, the Applicant must submit a certified check to the County for the Application Fee established by the Boone County Fee Schedule adopted by the Boone County Board for Special Use Permits. These funds shall be placed in an FDIC insured account and will be used to cover the county's cost incurred in processing the Application.
- b. Should the actual costs to the County exceed the submitted Application Fee, the Applicant shall be responsible for those additional costs and shall remit additional funds to the County within 15 days of receipt of a request from the County. No hearings on an Application shall be conducted nor final decisions rendered on an Application if there are Application fees due to the County.
- c. Any unused amounts of the Application Fee shall be refunded to the Applicant within six months of the County Board rendering a final decision on the matter, unless any pending litigation, disputes or negotiations involving the County exist regarding the Commercial Solar Energy Facility, in which case any amounts owed to the Applicant shall be refunded within six months of the conclusion of the

litigation, disputes or negotiations. An Applicant may request any unused Application Fee be applied toward the Building Permit Fees for the Facility.

2. Building Permit Fees

- a. Prior to the issuance of building permits, the Building Permit Applicant must deposit a Building Permit Fee established by the Boone County Fee Schedule adopted by the Boone County Board for Building Permits.

3. Engineering and Legal Fees

- a. Road Use Agreement (RUA)

Not less than thirty (30) days after a Special Use Permit has been granted, an initial engineering and legal fee as established by the Boone County Road Use Agreement Schedule adopted by the County Board to cover all engineering consulting and legal fees incurred by the County for the duration of the project from the initial construction efforts to completion. The amount of the initial engineering and legal fee may be adjusted at the discretion of the County Engineer based on the size of the proposed project. Additional funds shall be required, as deemed necessary by the County Engineer. Monies remaining in the Consulting Fund at the completion of the project will be refunded back to the WEFS project.

- b. Engineering Fees

For any provision in this Ordinance, when the County has to retain an outside expert based on specific expertise or lack of staff time to review, the Applicant at their sole expense shall pay said expert for their fees related to said review.

- c. Legal Fees

For any provision in this Ordinance, when the County has to retain an outside legal counsel based on specific expertise or lack of staff time to review, the Applicant at their sole expense shall pay said legal counsel for their fees related to said review.

4. All Costs to be Paid by Applicant or Owner

In addition to all fees noted above, the Applicant or Owner shall pay all costs incurred by the County, including but not limited to, those costs associated with all offices, boards and commissions of the County, and third-party costs incurred by the County. This

includes, but is not limited to, the direct or indirect costs associated with the hearing, permitting, operations, inspections, decommissioning, litigation, disputes, and/ or negotiations.

4.22.12 HEARING FACILITATOR

The County may engage the services of a hearing facilitator at the recommendation of the Zoning Administrator. The hearing facilitator shall be an independent contractor who shall conduct a hearing in accordance with all applicable rules of the board and the county but has no adjudicatory responsibility other than ruling on requests for continuances, procedural matters, admissibility of evidence and the propriety of any arguments.

The hearing facilitator shall be an attorney, licensed to practice in the State of Illinois. The Applicant shall reimburse the county for the fees and costs charged by the facilitator.

4.22.13 HEARING FACTORS

The County Board may approve a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Special Use Permit application, if it finds the evidence complies with state and federal law and regulations, and with the standards of this zoning code including the factors listed below. The factors below are applied as a balancing test, not individual requirements to be met.

- a. The establishment, maintenance or operation of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, morals, comfort or general welfare;
- b. The Commercial Solar Energy Facility will not be injurious to the uses and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity for the purposes already permitted, nor substantially diminish and impair property values of surrounding properties;
- c. The establishment of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of the surrounding properties;
- d. Adequate public utilities, access roads, drainage and/or necessary facilities have been or will be provided;
- e. Adequate measures have been or will be taken to provide ingress and egress so designed as to minimize traffic congestion in the public streets;
- f. The proposed Commercial Solar Energy Facility is not contrary to the objectives of the current comprehensive plan of the County (if any); and

- g. The Commercial Solar Energy Facility shall, in all other respects, conform to the applicable regulations of this Ordinance and the zoning district in which it is located (if a zoning ordinance is in effect), except as such regulations may, in each instance, be modified pursuant to the recommendations of and approved by the County Board.
- h. To preserve prime agricultural land for agricultural uses, the Solar Project site's Land Evaluation (LE) score is 82 or lower.
- i. To protect sensitive aquifer recharge areas within the County, the Solar Project site is located where the Aquifer Recharge Area has minimal impact, as determined by the relevant groundwater and hydrogeologic studies and maps utilized by Boone County.

1. Special Use Permit Conditions and Restrictions. The County Board may stipulate conditions, guarantees and restrictions, upon the establishment, location, construction, maintenance, and operation of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility as are deemed necessary for the protection of the public interest and to secure compliance with the standards and requirements of this Ordinance.
2. Revocation.
 - a. In any case where a Special Use Permit has been approved for a Commercial Solar Energy Facility, the Applicant shall apply for a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Building Permit from the County and all other permits required by other government or regulatory agencies to commence construction, and commence and actively pursue construction of the Project within thirty-six (36) months from the date of the granting of the Special Use Permit. If the Applicant fails to apply for a Commercial Solar Energy Facility Building Permit from the County and all other permits required by other government or regulatory agencies prior to construction and/or fails to commence and actively pursue construction of the Project within the thirty-six (36) month period, then without further action by the County Board, the Special Use Permit authorizing the construction and operation of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility shall be automatically revoked and void. Notwithstanding Boone County Zoning Ordinance 2.7.7 A., upon written request supported by evidence that the Applicant has diligently pursued issuance of all necessary government and regulatory permits for the Project required to commence construction and that any delay in commencement of construction of the Project is due to conditions out of his/her/its control, the

County Board, in its sole discretion, may extend the above thirty-six (36) month period by passage of an ordinance that amends the Special Use Permit.

- b. The Special Use Permit shall be subject to revocation if the Applicant dissolves or ceases to do business, abandons the Commercial Solar Energy Facility or the Commercial Solar Energy Facility ceases to operate for more than twelve (12) consecutive months for any reason.
 - c. Subject to the provisions of Section 4.22.10-Remedies, a Special Use Permit may be revoked by the County Board if the Commercial Solar Energy Facility is not constructed, installed and/or operated in substantial conformance with the County-approved Project plans, the regulations of this Ordinance and the stipulated Special Use Permit conditions and restrictions.
3. Transferability; Owner or Commercial Solar Energy Facility Permittee. The Applicant shall provide written notification to the County Board at least thirty (30) days prior to any change in ownership of a Commercial Solar Energy Facility of any such change in ownership. The phrase "change in ownership of a Commercial Solar Energy Facility" includes any kind of assignment, sale; lease, transfer or other conveyance of ownership or operating control of the Applicant, the Commercial Solar Energy Facility or any portion thereof. The Applicant or successors-in-interest or assignees of the Special Use Permit, as applicable, shall remain liable for compliance with all conditions, restrictions and obligations contained in the Special Use Permit, the provisions of this Ordinance and applicable County, state and federal laws.
4. Modification. Any modification of a Commercial Solar Energy Facility that alters or changes the essential character or operation of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility in a way not intended at the time the Special Use Permit was granted, or as subsequently amended, shall require a new Special Use Permit. The Applicant or authorized representative, shall apply for an amended Special Use Permit prior to any modification of the Commercial Solar Energy Facility.
5. Permit Effective Date: The Special Use Permit shall become effective upon approval of the ordinance by the County Board.

WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS (WECS) SITING AND OPERATION ORDINANCE

4.8.1. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this Section to:

- A. Assure the protection of the health, safety, welfare for all Boone County residents and landowners.
- B. Assure that any development of WECS in Boone County is safe and effective.
- C. Facilitate economic opportunities for local residents.
- D. Comply with Illinois' statutory goal of increasing energy production from renewable energy sources.

4.8.2 DEFINITIONS

- A. "Applicant" means the entity who submits to the County an application for the siting and operation of any WECS or Substation. All references to Applicant in this Ordinance shall include Applicant's successors-in-interest and assigns, which includes a WECS Permittee (as defined below).
- B. "Commercial Operation Date" means the calendar date on which the WECS Project produces power for commercial sale, not including test power.
- C. "Commercial Wind Energy Facility" means a wind energy conversion facility of equal or greater than 500 kilowatts in total nameplate generating capacity. Also referred to herein as "Wind Energy Conversion System" or "WECS" or "WECS Project".
- D. "Financial Assurance" or "Financial Security" or "Decommission Security" means assurance from a credit worthy party, examples of which include a surety bond (e.g., performance and payment bond), trust instrument, cash escrow, or irrevocable letter of credit.
- E. "Meteorological Tower" means those towers which are erected primarily to measure wind speed and direction plus other data relevant to siting and operation of a WECS Project. For purposes of this ordinance, Meteorological Towers do not include towers and equipment used by airports, the Illinois Department of Transportation, or other similar applications or government agencies, to monitor weather conditions.
- F. "Notice to Proceed" means a written document, named as such, stating that the Applicant expresses an intent to commence construction

activities on a WECS Project and identifying the date on which the construction activities are scheduled to commence.

- G. "Nonparticipating property" means real property that is not a participating property.
- H. "Nonparticipating residence" means a residence that is located on nonparticipating property and that is existing and occupied on the date that an application for a permit to develop the WECS Project is filed with the county.
- I. "Occupied community building" means any one or more of the following buildings that is existing and occupied on the date that the application for a permit to develop the WECS Project is filed with the county: a school, place of worship, day care facility, public library, or community center.
- J. "Operator" means the person or entity responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of a wind energy conversion system, including any third-party subcontractors. The Operator must be a qualified wind power professional. All references to Operator in the Ordinance shall include Operator's successors-in-interest and assigns.
- K. "Owner" means the person or entity or entities with an equity interest in a wind energy conversion system, including their respective successors-in-interest and assigns. The Owner does not mean (i) the property owner from whom land is leased for locating a wind energy conversion system (unless the property owner has an equity interest in a wind energy conversion system); or (ii) any person holding a security interest in a wind energy conversion system solely to secure an extension of credit, or a person foreclosing on such security interest, provided that after foreclosure, such person seeks to sell a wind energy conversion system at the earliest practicable date. This definition includes the definition of Facility Owner as defined in 55 ILCS 5/5-12020.
- L. "Participating property" means real property that is the subject of a written agreement between a facility owner and the owner of the real property that provides the facility owner an easement, option, lease, or license to use the real property for the purpose of constructing a WECS Project or supporting facilities. "Participating property" also includes real property that is owned by a facility owner for the purpose of constructing WECS Project or supporting facilities.
- M. "Participating residence" means a residence that is located on participating property and that is existing and occupied on the date that an application for a permit to develop the WECS Project is filed with the county.
- N. "Professional Engineer" means a qualified individual who is licensed as a professional engineer in Illinois. Where a structural engineer is required to take some action under terms of this Ordinance, a Professional Engineer may serve as the structural engineer if he or she has the appropriate

structural engineering certification and is licensed as a Structural Engineer by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations.

- O. "Protected lands" means real property that is subject to a permanent conservation right consistent with the Real Property Conservation Rights Act, or registered or designated as a nature preserve, buffer, or land and water reserve under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act.
- P. "Public Conservation Lands" means land owned in fee title by County, state or federal agencies and managed specifically for conservation purposes, including but not limited to County, state and federal parks, state and federal wildlife management areas, state scientific and natural areas, and federal wildlife refuges and waterfowl protection areas. Public conservation lands do not include private lands upon which conservation easements have been sold to government agencies or non-profit conservation organizations. Public conservation lands also do not include private lands for which the owners have entered into contractual relationships with government or non-profit conservation organizations for conservation purposes...
- Q. "Special Use Permit" means a permit approved by the County Board, after a public hearing, allowing a particular use at a specified location subject to compliance with certain specified special conditions as may be required by the County Board.
- R. "Substation" means the apparatus that collects and connects the electrical collection system of the WECS(s) and increases the voltage for connection with the utility's transmission lines.
- S. "Supporting Facilities" means the transmission lines, substations, access roads, meteorological towers, storage containers, and equipment associated with the generation and storage of electricity by the WECS.
- T. "WECS Permittee" means an Applicant who applies for and receives a Special Use Permit under this Ordinance for the siting and operation of any WECS or Substation. All references to a WECS Permittee in this Ordinance shall include a WECS Permittee's successors-in-interest and assigns.
- U. "WECS Tower" or "Wind Tower" means and includes wind turbine tower, nacelle, and blades.
- V. "WECS Tower Height" means the distance from the rotor blade at its highest point to the top surface of the WECS foundation.
- W. "WECS Building Permit" means a permit necessary for the commencement of work performed toward the construction, erection or installation of an approved WECS, Substation or operations and maintenance building in connection with a WECS Project. A WECS Building Permit may be issued by the county after a WECS Project has

obtained a Special Use Permit from the County Board and the Boone County Zoning Administrator determines that all conditions, if any, have been satisfied that are imposed by the Special Use Permit. The WECS Building Permit shall require the Applicant (WECS Permittee) to deliver a written "Notice to Proceed" for the WECS Project to the county prior to commencement of construction of the WECS Project. The term "commencement of construction", as used in this Ordinance, includes any site development work (e.g., demolition, grubbing, grading, excavation, road work, construction of Project-related structures and infrastructure improvements, etc.) regarding the WECS Project.

- X. "Wind Turbine" means any piece of electrical generating equipment that converts the kinetic energy of moving wind into electrical energy through the use of airfoils or similar devices to capture the wind.

4.8.3. APPLICABILITY

- A. This Ordinance governs the siting and operation of WECS and Substations that generate electricity to be sold to wholesale or retail markets.
- B. Owners of WECS with an aggregate generating capacity of 0.5MW or less who locate the WECS(s) on their own property are not subject to this Ordinance.

4.8.4 PROHIBITION

- A. No WECS Project, WECS or Substation governed by this Ordinance shall be constructed, erected, installed, or located within the county, unless prior siting approval has been obtained for each individual WECS Project, WECS and Substation or for a group of WECS Projects and Substations under a joint siting application pursuant to this Ordinance.

4.8.5 SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION

- A. To obtain siting approval, the Applicant must first submit a Special Use Permit application to the County. The application is not considered accepted until the County has a reasonable opportunity to review the application to ensure all the requirements pursuant to this ordinance are included. The application fee is required at the time of submission but will not be deposited with the County until the application is complete and deemed accepted. The Applicant shall receive written notice of the date the application is accepted.
- B. The Special Use Permit application shall contain or be accompanied by the following information:
 1. A WECS Project Summary, including, to the extent available: (a) a general description of the project, including (i) its approximate overall name plate generating capacity, (ii) the potential equipment manufacturer(s), (iii) type(s) of WECS(s), (iv) the

number of WECS, and name plate generating capacity of each WECS, (v) the maximum height of the WECS Tower(s) and maximum diameter of the WECS(s) rotor(s), (vi) the number of Inverters and Transformers (vii) the number of Substations and/or grid interconnections required, (viii) a project site plan, project phasing plan and project construction timeline plan, and (ix) the general location of the project; and (b) a description of the Applicant, Owner and Operator, including their respective business structures;

2. The name(s), address(es), and phone number(s) of the Applicant(s), Owner and Operator, and all property owner(s), if known, and documentation demonstrating land ownership or legal control of the property;
3. A site plan for the WECS Project showing the planned location of each WECS Tower, including legal descriptions for each site, guy lines and anchor bases (if any), Participating and Non-participating Residences, Occupied Community Buildings parcel boundary lines (including identification of adjoining properties), setback lines, public access roads and turnout locations, Substation(s), operations and maintenance buildings, and permanent Meteorological Towers, electrical cabling from the WECS Tower to the Substation(s), ancillary equipment, third party transmission lines, the location of any wetlands, flood plain, drainage structures including surface ditches and subsurface drainage lines, all drainage tile, underground mines, scenic and natural areas within one thousand five hundred (1,500) feet of the proposed WECS, the location of all known communications towers within two (2) miles of the proposed WECS, and the layout of all structures within the geographical boundaries of any applicable setback;
4. All determinations of No Hazard to Air Navigation from the Federal Aviation Administration;
5. A proposed Decommissioning Plan for the WECS Project including cost estimations;
6. All required studies, reports, certifications, and approvals demonstrating compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance;
7. An Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) executed between the Applicant and the Illinois Department of Agriculture;
8. Detailed maps including (a) a topographic map with the WECS Project site and the surrounding area; and (b) subsurface maps to include but not limited to (1) the aquifer and (2) sensitive aquifer recharge area (SARA);

9. A review by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency for a cultural and historical review of the area;
10. Any other information normally required by the County as part of its permitting requirements for siting buildings or other structures;
11. Waivers from the setback requirements executed by the occupied community building owners and/or the non-participating property owners bearing a file stamp from the Boone County Clerk and Recorder's Office confirming that the waiver was recorded against title to the affected real property.
12. Waivers from the shadow flicker mitigation requirements executed by the occupied community building owners and/or the non-participating property owners bearing a file stamp from the County Recorder of Deeds Office confirming that the waiver was recorded against title to the affected real property.
13. Results and recommendations from the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources obtained through the Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool or a comparable successor tool.
14. Results of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consulting environmental review or a comparable successor tool that is consistent with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines.
15. Information demonstrating that the WECS Project will avoid protected lands.
16. Any other information requested by the County or the County consultants that is necessary to evaluate the siting application and operation of the WECS Project and to demonstrate that the WECS Project meets each of the regulations in this Ordinance, including the Special Use Permit standards set forth below.

C. The County reserves the right to request the Applicant participate in a pre-application meeting with representatives from the planning department, building department, county highway engineer, impacted townships, the Boone County Soil and Conservation District and all other applicable departments and agencies as determined by the planning department.

D. Material changes to the application are not permitted once the notice of the public hearing has been published, unless requested or permitted by the County; and

E. The Applicant shall submit twenty-five (25) copies of the Special Use Permit application to the County, and at least one (1) copy in electronic format.

4.8.6 DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

A. Design Safety Certification

1. WECSs shall conform to applicable industry standards, including those of the American National Standards Institute ("ANSI"). Applicants shall submit certificates of design compliance that equipment manufacturers have obtained from Underwriters Laboratories ("UL"), Det Norske Veritas ("DNV"), Germanischer Lloyd Wind Energie ("CGL"), or an equivalent third party. All turbines shall be new equipment commercially available; no used or experimental equipment shall be used in the WECS Project without the approval of a variance by the County Board.
2. Following the granting of siting approval under this Ordinance, a structural engineer shall certify, as part of the WECS Building Permit application process, that the foundation and tower design of the WECS is within accepted professional standards, given local soil, subsurface and climate conditions.

B. Controls and Brakes

All WECSs shall be equipped with a redundant braking system. This includes both aerodynamic overspeed controls (including variable pitch, tip, tilt, and other similar systems) and mechanical brakes. Mechanical brakes shall be operated in a fail-safe mode. Stall regulation shall not be considered a sufficient braking system for overspeed protection.

C. Electrical Components

All electrical components of the WECS shall conform to applicable local, state, and national codes, and relevant national and international standards (e.g. ANSI and International Electrical Commission).

D. Aesthetics and Lighting

The following items are recommended standards to mitigate visual impact:

1. **Coatings and Coloring:** Towers and blades shall be painted white or gray or another non-reflective, unobtrusive color.
2. **Turbine Consistency:** To the extent feasible, the WECS Project shall consist of turbines of similar design and size, including tower height. Further, all turbines shall rotate in the same direction. Turbines shall also be consistent in color and direction with nearby facilities.
3. **Lighting:** WECS Projects shall utilize minimal lighting that is compliant with the applicable FAA regulations, as amended by the

FAA. To the extent that such tower lighting is available, and is approved by the FAA for a WECS Project, the Applicant shall install Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems ("ADLS") or other similar technology to reduce light pollution and visual impacts caused by the WECS Towers.

4. Intra-project Power and Communication Lines: All power lines used to collect power from individual turbines and all communication lines shall be buried underground at a depth in accordance with the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement until same reach the property line or a substation adjacent to the property line.
5. All Transformers and Inverters shall have signage and be enclosed with secure fencing to prevent any unauthorized access.

E. Warnings

1. A reasonably visible warning sign concerning voltage must be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and Substations, and at all entrances to the Wind Towers.
2. Visible, reflective, colored objects, such as flags, plastic sleeves, reflectors, or tape shall be placed on the anchor points of guy wires and along the guy wires up to a height of fifteen (15) feet from the ground.

F. Climb Prevention

1. All WECS Towers must be unclimbable by design or protected by anti- climbing devices such as:
 - a. Fences with locking portals at least ten (10) feet high in A1 zoning district or the maximum allowed in other zoning districts; or
 - b. Anti-climbing devices fifteen (15) feet vertically from the base of the WECS Tower.

G. Setback Requirements

WECS Towers shall be sited as follows, with setback distances measured from the center of the base of the WECS Tower;

- a. Occupied Community Buildings: 2.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the nearest point on the outside wall of the structure.
- b. Participating Residences: 1.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the nearest point on the outside wall of the structure;

- c. Nonparticipating Residences: 2.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the nearest point on the outside wall of the structure;
- d. Boundary Lines of Participating Property: None.
- e. Boundary Lines of Nonparticipating Property: 1.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the nearest point on the property line of the nonparticipating property.
- f. Public Road Rights-of-Way: 1.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the center point of the public road right-of-way.
- g. Overhead Communication and Electric Transmission and Distribution Facilities (Not Including Overhead Utility Service Lines to Individual Houses or Outbuildings): 1.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the nearest edge of the property line, easement, or right of way containing the overhead line.
- h. Overhead Utility Service Lines to Individual Houses or Outbuildings: None.
- i. Fish and Wildlife Areas and Illinois Nature Preserve Commission Protected Lands: 2.1 times the maximum blade tip height of the WECS Tower to the nearest point on the property line of the fish and wildlife area or protected land.

The setback requirements may be waived by the written consent of the owner(s) of each affected property. The Applicant does not need to obtain a variance from the County upon waiver by the property owner of the setback requirement. Any waiver of any of the above setback requirements shall run with the land and be recorded with the Boone County Clerk and Recorder's Office.

H. Compliance with Additional Regulations

Nothing in this Ordinance is intended to preempt other applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

I. Use of Public Roads

- 1. An Applicant proposing to use any state, county, municipality, township or village road(s), for the purpose of transporting WECS or Substation parts and/or equipment for construction, operation, or maintenance of the WECS(s) or Substation(s), shall:
 - a. Identify all such public roads and bridges;
 - b. Obtain applicable weight and size permits from relevant government agencies prior to construction;
 - c. Conduct a Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) that details the expected construction routes and the ESAL count per

roadway segment. Core samples, or non-destructive testing methods, as approved by the County Engineer, shall be used to determine the base and surface thickness of each public roadway used; and

- d. Evaluate all bridges and culverts on the construction routes for structural adequacy.
2. To the extent an Applicant must obtain a weight or size permit from the County, municipality, township or village, the Applicant shall:
 - a. Conduct a pre-construction baseline survey to determine existing road conditions for assessing potential future damage; and
 - b. Any proposed public roads that will be used for construction purposes shall be identified and approved in writing by the respective Road District Commissioner and the County Engineer prior to the granting of the Special Use Permit. Traffic for construction purposes shall be limited to these roads. All overweight and/or oversized loads to be transported on public roads may require a permit from the respective highway authority. Any road damage caused by the transport of the facility's equipment, the installation, maintenance, or removal, must be completely repaired to the reasonable satisfaction of the Road District Commissioner and the County Engineer. The Road District Commissioner and County Engineer may choose to require either remediation of road repair upon completion of the WECS Project and are authorized to collect fees for overweight and oversized load permits. Further, financial assurance in an amount to be fixed by the Road District Commissioner or County Engineer to ensure the Road District or the County that future repairs are completed to their reasonable satisfaction shall be provided. Applicant shall submit a draft form of said financial assurance with application for Special Use Permit.
 - c. Enter into a Road Use Agreement (RUA) with the County, each affected Road District and the Illinois Department of Transportation (if applicable) that includes the following provisions, at a minimum:
 - i. A project layout map including adequate exhibits so that the full impact to the public roadways within the project footprint can be determined;
 - ii. A transportation impact analysis (TIA);
 - iii. Pre-construction plans including but not limited to utility installations on or near the rights of way;

- iv. A project traffic map including information to regulate construction traffic impacts;
- v. Project scope of repairs;
- vi. Post-construction repairs including a requirement for repairing the damages to the roadway base, surface and appurtenances, in addition to providing for roadway surface upgrades;
- vii. A Certificate of Liability Insurance for ten million (\$10,000,000.00) per occurrence;
- viii. Requirement for a Letter of Credit in the amount of one hundred twenty-five (125%) of the estimated roadway base damage repair and roadway surface repairs and upgrades.

The road use agreement shall require Applicant to be responsible for the reasonable cost of improving roads used to construct WECS and the reasonable cost of repairing roads used by the facility owner during construction of the WECS so that those roads are in a condition that is safe for the driving public after the completion of the WECS construction. Roadways improved in preparation for and during the construction of the WECS shall be repaired and restored to the improved condition at the reasonable cost of the developer if the roadways have degraded or were damaged as a result of construction-related activities.

- 3. All repairs and improvements to County public roads and roadway appurtenances shall be subject to the prior approval of the County Engineer before being made and shall also be subject to inspection and acceptance by the County after such repairs and improvements are completed.
- 4. The County's road use agreement, and any further agreements contemplated therein, regarding the maintenance and repair of County public roads and highways, must be approved by the County Engineer prior to the approval of any WECS Building Permit applications related to the construction of the proposed WECS Project.

J. Site Assessment

- 1. To ensure that the subsurface conditions of the site will provide proper support for the WECS Towers and soil restoration, the Applicant, at its expense, shall provide soil and geotechnical boring reports to the County Engineer, who at their discretion may retain a Structural Engineer for their review, with respect to each WECS Tower location, as part of its WECS Building Permit. The Applicant shall follow the guidelines for Conservation Practices Impact Mitigation submitted by the County Soil and Water Conservation District (or equivalent regulatory agency). The Applicant shall submit grading plans for the proposed Substations for review and comment by the County Soil and Water Conservation District (or an outside agency at the discretion of the

County Soil and Water Conservation District) prior to the issuance of any WECS Building Permit for the construction of said substations.

2. A soil test at the base of every turbine site to establish baseline levels of contaminants shall be taken immediately after final inspection approval of each turbine. Soil draws shall be at identified locations and mapped for subsequent testing. Soil tests shall be conducted once a year and upon the request of the Zoning Administrator based on a reasonable belief that the wind turbine incurred damage. The test shall be compared to the baseline sample for any findings of contaminants as listed within the most recent Environmental Protection Agency Hazardous Waste listing. Samples shall be taken and evaluated by a third-party certified soil test agency chosen by the County and paid for by the Applicant. The Applicant/Owner shall immediately remediate based on a recommendation of the evaluating agency and any costs for remediation shall be paid by the Applicant/Owner.

K. Communications Analysis; Interference

1. The Applicant, at its expense, shall have a third party, qualified expert conduct an appropriate analysis of the television reception documenting the television stations that are received within one and one-half (1 ½) miles of the footprint of the WECS Project. The results of said study shall be public record and will serve as a baseline reading for television reception conditions prior to the construction of the WECS Project and shall be submitted as part of the Special Use Permit application. The expert shall be approved by the Boone County Zoning Administrator based on the expert's resume and experience prior to the study being conducted. The approval may not be unreasonably withheld.
2. The Applicant, at its expense, shall have a third party, qualified expert conduct a communications analysis that indicates that the E9-1-1 communications, emergency communications or official County and local municipal communications reception shall not be negatively impacted or influenced by the proposed wind power facility. Said communication analysis shall be a public record and shall be submitted as part of the Special Use Permit application. The expert shall be approved by the Boone County Zoning Administrator based on the expert's resume and experience prior to the study being conducted. The approval may not be unreasonably withheld.
4. The Applicant and the Operator, at the Applicant's expense, shall take immediate actions to minimize or mitigate interference with electromagnetic communications, such as radio, telephone, microwaves or television signals and to eliminate any such interference that impacts local government public safety (police,

fire, emergency medical services, emergency management services, 911 dispatch) communications, caused by the operation of the WECS. The Applicant shall provide the applicable microwave transmission providers and local emergency service provider(s) (911 operators) copies of the WECS Project Summary and Site Plan, as set forth in Section 4.8.5 B(1) and (3) of this Ordinance. To the extent that the above provider(s) demonstrate a likelihood of interference with its communications resulting from the WECS(s), the Applicant and the Operator, at Applicant's expense, shall take reasonable measures to minimize and mitigate such anticipated interference and with regard to interference with local, government public safety (police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management services, 911 dispatch) communications, the Applicant and the Operator, at Applicant's expense, shall take all necessary and available commercial measures to eliminate any such interference. If, after construction of the WECS, the Applicant (WECS Permittee) or Operator receives a written complaint related to the above-mentioned interference, the Applicant (WECS Permittee) shall take commercially reasonable steps to respond to the complaint, except in the case of a complaint of interference with local, government public safety (police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management services, 911 dispatch) communications. In the case of local, government public safety communications, the Applicant (WECS Permittee) and the Operator, at the Applicant's expense, shall immediately take all necessary and available commercial measures to eliminate any such interference.

5. The Applicant shall at the Applicant's expense take immediate actions to minimize or mitigate interference with electromagnetic communications, such as radio, telephone, global positioning systems (GPS), microwaves or television signals and eliminate any such interference that impacts the property and surrounding properties.

L. Noise Levels

Noise levels from each WECS or WECS Project shall be in compliance with applicable Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB) regulations. The Applicant shall submit manufacturer's wind turbine sound power level characteristics and other relevant data regarding wind turbine noise characteristics necessary for a competent noise analysis. The Applicant, through the use of a qualified professional, shall appropriately demonstrate compliance with the applicable noise requirements in its Special Use Permit application.

M. Agricultural Impact Mitigation

Pursuant to 505 ILCS 147/15(a), the Applicant, at its expense, shall enter into an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement with the Illinois

Department of Agriculture prior to any public hearing required before a siting decision on the WECS Project application. All impacted agricultural land, whether impacted during construction, operation, or decommissioning activities, must, at a minimum, be remediated by the Applicant pursuant to the terms of the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The Applicant shall submit the executed Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement to the County as part of the Special Use Permit application.

N. Avian and Wildlife Impact Study

The Applicant, at its expense, shall have a third party, qualified professional conduct an avian and wildlife impact study and submit said study to the County as part of the Special Use Permit application. Each WECS or WECS Project shall be located, designed, constructed, and operated so as to avoid and if necessary, mitigate the impacts to wildlife. The expert shall be approved by the Boone County Zoning Administrator based on the expert's resume and experience prior to the study being conducted. The approval may not be unreasonably withheld.

O. As-Built Map and Plans

Within sixty (60) calendar days of completion of construction of the WECS Project, the Applicant or Operator shall deliver "as-built" maps, site plan and engineering plans for the WECS Project that have been signed and stamped by a Professional Engineer and a licensed surveyor.

P. Engineer's Certificate

The WECS Project engineer's certificate shall be completed by a structural engineer registered in the State of Illinois or by a Professional Engineer with a certification from a structural engineer registered in the State of Illinois and shall certify that the WECS tower and foundation design is compatible with and appropriate for each turbine design proposed to be installed and that the specific soils and subsurface conditions at the site can support the apparatus, given local soil, subsurface and climate conditions. All commercially installed wind turbines must utilize self-supporting, tubular towers. The WECS Project engineer's certificate shall be a public record and shall be submitted as part of the Special Use Permit application.

Q. Conformance with Approved Application and Plans

The Applicant shall construct and operate the WECS Project in substantial conformance with the construction plans contained in a County- approved submitted Special Use Permit application(s), conditions placed upon the operation of the Facility, this ordinance and all applicable state, federal and local laws and regulations.

R. Additional Terms and Conditions

1. All technical submissions as defined in the Professional Engineering Practice Act of 1989 (225 ILCS 325/4(w)) and contained in the Special Use Permit Application shall be prepared and signed by an Illinois Professional Engineer (or structural engineer) for the relevant discipline.
2. The County may retain a qualified, independent code inspector or professional engineer both to make appropriate inspections of the WECS Project during and after construction and to consult with the County to confirm that the construction, substantial repair, replacement, repowering and/or decommissioning of the WECS Project is performed in compliance with applicable electrical and building codes. The cost and fees so incurred by the County in retaining said inspector or engineer shall be promptly reimbursed by the Applicant of the WECS Project.
3. The Applicant shall install locked metal gates or a locked chain at the access road entrances of all the wind turbine generator locations. An exception may be made when the landowner has filed a written statement with the County which states that the owner does not want a locked metal gate installed and has provided a signed liability waiver to the County.
4. The Special Use Permit granted to the Applicant shall bind and inure to the benefit of the Applicant, its successors-in-interest and assigns. If any provision in this Ordinance, or conditions placed upon the operation of the Commercial Wind Energy Facilities held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision and, to this end, the provisions in this Ordinance are severable.
5. No wind turbine generator shall be installed in any location where its proximity with existing fixed broadcast, retransmission, or reception antenna for radio, television, or wireless phone or other personal communication systems would produce electromagnetic interference with signal transmission or reception. The wind turbine generator shall not be installed in a location along the major axis of existing microwave communications link where its operation is likely to produce electromagnetic interference in the link's operation.
6. The Applicant of the WECS Project shall use two (2) methods to detect icing conditions on turbine blades: (1) sensors that detect when blades become imbalanced or create vibration due to ice accumulation; and (2) meteorological data from on-site meteorological towers, on-site anemometers, and other relevant weather sources that will be used to determine if ice accumulation is occurring. These control systems will either automatically shut down the turbines(s) in icing conditions or the Applicant will manually shut down the turbine(s) if icing conditions are identified.

4.8.7 OPERATION

A. Maintenance

1. Annual Report. The Applicant (WECS Permittee) must submit, on an annual basis on the anniversary date of the siting approval application, an operation and maintenance report to the County Zoning Administrator. The report shall contain the following information: (i) a general description of any physical repairs, replacements or modification(s) to the WECS and/or its infrastructure; (ii) soil testing reports pursuant to 4.8.6 (J); (iii) complaints pertaining to setbacks, noise, shadow flicker, appearance, safety, lighting and use of any public roads received by the Applicant concerning the WECS and the resolution of such complaints; (iv) calls for emergency services; (v) status of liability insurance and proof of decommissioning financial assurance; and (vi) a general summary of service calls to the WECS. Failure to provide the annual report shall be considered a material violation of this Ordinance and subject to 4.8.10 Remedies.
2. Re-Certification. Any physical modification to the WECS that alters the mechanical load, mechanical load path, or major electrical components shall require re-certification under Design and Safety Certification section 4.8.6.(A)(1), of this Ordinance. Like-kind replacements and modifications that are made in the ordinary course of operations, including expected repairs and warranty items, shall not require re-certification. Prior to making any physical modification (other than a like-kind replacement or other modifications made in the ordinary course of operations), the Applicant shall confer with a relevant third-party certifying entity identified in Design and Safety Certification section 4.8.6 (A)(1), of this Ordinance to determine whether the physical modification requires re-certification.

B. Coordination with Emergency Responders:

1. The Applicant shall submit to the local emergency responders a copy of the Site Plan, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), and any amendments to such documents, for the wind power facility so that the local law enforcement, fire protection district and rescue units, emergency medical service providers and emergency management service providers that have jurisdiction over each tower site may evaluate and coordinate their emergency response plans with the Applicant of the WECS Project.
2. The Applicant, at its expense, shall provide annual training for, and the necessary equipment to, the Operator and local emergency response authorities and their personnel so that they can properly respond to a potential emergency at the WECS Project. Special equipment to be provided includes, but is not

limited to, permanently installed rescue equipment such as winches, pulleys, harnesses, etc. Prior to the operational date of the WECS, the Applicant and the Fire Protection District (FPD) in which the project is located shall enter into a written agreement detailing the specific training plan. Including but not limited to a time frame of said trainings and a list of the necessary equipment to be provided to the FPD.

3. The Applicant and the Operator shall cooperate with all local emergency responders to develop an emergency response plan. The plan shall include, at a minimum, 24-hour contact information (names, titles, email addresses, cell phone numbers) for the Applicant and the Operator and at least three (3) designated WECS Project representatives (a primary representative with two (2) alternate representatives, each of whom are on-call "24 hours per day / 7 days per week / 365 days per year"). Any change in the designated WECS Project representative or his/her contact information shall be promptly communicated to the County. The content of the emergency response plan, including the 24-hour contact information, shall be reviewed and updated on an annually basis.
4. Nothing in this section shall alleviate the need to comply with all other applicable life safety, fire / emergency laws and regulations.

C. Water, Sewer, Materials Handling, Storage and Disposal

1. All solid wastes related to the construction, operation and maintenance of the WECS shall be removed from the site promptly and disposed of in accordance with all federal, state and local laws.
2. All hazardous materials related to the construction, operation and maintenance of the WECS shall be handled, stored, transported and disposed of in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal laws.
3. The WECS Project shall comply with existing septic and well regulations as required by the County Health Department and the State of Illinois Department of Public Health.

D. Shadow Flicker

The Applicant shall present to the County Board a model study on potential shadow flicker. The Applicant shall appropriately demonstrate to the County Board through industry standard modeling that no occupied community building or non-participating residence will experience an expected duration of 30 hours or more per year. An occupied community building owner or a non-participating participating residence owner may waive this shadow flicker mitigation requirement. Each waiver of the above shadow flicker mitigation requirement shall be set forth in a written

waiver executed by the occupied community building owner or non-participating residence owner and filed with the Boone County Clerk and Recorder's Office against title to the affected real property.

E. Signage

Signage regulations are to be consistent with ANSI and AWEA standards. A reasonably visible warning sign concerning voltage shall be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and substations, and at all entrances to Wind Towers.

F. Drainage Systems

The Applicant, at its expense, will repair, in a prompt and timely manner, all waterways, drainage ditches, agricultural drainage systems, field tiles, or any other private and public infrastructure improvements damaged during construction, maintenance and operation phases of the WECS Project in accordance with the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement.

G. Complaint Resolution

The Applicant shall, at its expense and in coordination with the County, develop a system for logging and investigating complaints related to the WECS Project. The Applicant shall resolve such non-emergency complaints on a case-by-case basis and shall provide written confirmation to the County. All costs and fees incurred by the County in attempting to or resolving complaints shall be reimbursed by the Applicant of the WECS Project. The Applicant shall also designate and maintain for the duration of the WECS Project either a local telephone number or a toll-free telephone number and an email address as its public information / inquiry / and complaint "hotline" which shall be answered by a customer service representative 24/7 basis. The Applicant shall post the telephone number(s) and email address(es) for the customer service representative(s) in a prominent, easy to find location on their websites and at the WECS Project site on signage.

4.8.8 LIABILITY INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION

Commencing with the issuance of a WECS Building Permit, the Applicant shall maintain a current general comprehensive liability policy and automobile liability coverage covering bodily injury, death and illness, and property damage with limits of at least Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) per occurrence and in the aggregate; and, shall further maintain the above-stated lines of insurance from delivery of the "Notice to Proceed by the Applicant under the turbine supply and/or balance of plant construction contract(s) for the WECS Project, in coverage amounts of at least Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) per occurrence and Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) in the aggregate during the life of the WECS Project. The Applicant shall file the original certificate of insurance upon commencement of project construction prior to the issuance of a WECS Building Permit, corresponding policies and endorsements to be provided within

sixty (60) days of issuance, and at each subsequent renewal, at least annually thereafter.

The Applicant (WECS Permittee) shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County and its officers, appointed and elected officials, employees, attorneys, engineers and agents (collectively and individually, the "Indemnified Parties") from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, suits, causes of action, damages, injuries, costs, expenses and liabilities whatsoever, including reasonable attorney's fees relating to or arising out of the issuance of the Special Use Permit or the construction, operation, maintenance and removal of the WECS and affiliated equipment including, without limitation, liability for property damage or personal injury (including death or illness), whether said liability is premised on contract or on tort (including without limitation strict liability or negligence) or any acts or omissions of the Applicant (WECS Permittee), the Owner or the Operator under this Ordinance or the Special Use Permit, except to the extent any such claims, demands, losses, suits, causes of action, damages, injuries, costs, expenses and liabilities arise from the negligence or intentional acts of such Indemnified Parties. This general indemnification shall not be construed as limiting or qualifying the County's other indemnification rights available under the law.

4.8.9 DECOMMISSIONING AND SITE RECLAMATION PLAN REQUIRED

The Applicant must formulate a Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan to ensure that the Commercial Wind Energy Facility is properly decommissioned. The Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan shall be binding upon the Applicant and its successors-in-interest and assigns, and shall apply to all participating parcels in the Commercial Wind Energy Facility, irrespective of the owner of title to such parcels. A signed Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan must be submitted to the county prior to the granting of the Special Use Permit. The Applicant shall ensure that the Commercial Wind Energy Facility is properly decommissioned within twelve (12) months of the end of the Commercial Wind Energy Facility life. The Applicant shall include removal of all physical material of the project improvements to a depth of sixty (60) inches beneath the soil surface and the restoration of the area in accordance with the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement. A final scaled site plan indicating the size, dimensions, and materials remaining subsurface shall be filed and recorded with the County Clerk's office upon complete decommission.

- A. A Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan shall be prepared by an independent Illinois Certified Professional Engineer and shall include:
 1. A description of the methodology and cost to remove all above ground and below ground WECS facilities of the approved Special Use Permit;
 2. Provisions for the removal of all above ground and below ground WECS facilities of the approved Special Use Permit;

3. Methodology and cost to restore all areas used for construction, operation and access to a condition equivalent to the land prior to the Commercial Wind Energy Facility construction;
4. A work schedule and a permit list necessary to accomplish the required work;
5. Methodology to identify and manage any hazardous or special materials.
6. Submission of a draft form of Financial Security to the County in the form of a surety bond (performance and payment bond), irrevocable letter of credit or a cash escrow account that names County as the beneficiary, or other type of Financial Security that is approved by the County. If an irrevocable letter of credit or surety bond (performance and payment bond) is selected, the original of the irrevocable letter of credit or surety bond shall be held by the County. If a cash escrow is selected, the cash escrow shall be held and managed by an independent third party (e.g., escrow agent or title company) on behalf of the County, subject to escrow instructions that incorporate the applicable decommissioning and repair / replacement / restoration obligations of this Agreement as executed by the County and the Applicant.
7. The amount of Financial Security shall be equal to the total cost of all decommissioning and restoration work minus the salvage value of the WECS Project. To determine that amount, the Applicant shall: (a) obtain bid specifications provided by a professional structural engineer; (b) request estimates from construction or demolition companies capable of completing the decommissioning of the WECS Project; and (c) certification of the selected estimate by a professional structural engineer. The County engineer, an independent engineer of the County's choosing, and the Boone County Zoning Administrator will review all estimates and make a recommendation to the County Board for an acceptable estimate. The County reserves the right to pursue other estimates. All costs to secure the estimates will be funded by the Applicant.
8. Boone County retains all rights to challenge any and all salvage value assessments in the Site Decommissioning Plan as a condition of approval of the WECS special use permit.
9. A provision that the terms of the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan shall be binding upon the Applicant including any of its successors-in-interest and assigns;
10. Confirmation by affidavit that the obligation to decommission the Commercial Wind Energy Facility is included in the lease agreement for every parcel included in the Special Use Permit application. A list of all landowners should be kept current, and

affidavits shall be secured from Applicant and landowners stating their financial understanding;

11. A provision that allows for the County to have the legal right to transfer applicable Commercial Wind Energy Facility material to salvage firms;
12. Identification of and procedures for the County to access the Financial Assurances; and
13. A provision that the County shall have access to the site, pursuant to reasonable notice to affect or complete decommissioning. A portion of the Decommission Security will be required to be held for one (1) year past the decommissioning to settle any potential disputes.

B. Provisions triggering the decommissioning of any portion of the Commercial Wind Energy Facility:

1. Inactive construction for twelve (12) consecutive months.
2. If no electricity is generated by the WECS Project for twelve (12) consecutive months after electricity is initially generated and the Applicant has not paid landowners amount owed in accordance with their lease agreements for a period of six (6) consecutive months.
3. The Applicant dissolves or abandons the WECS Project without first transferring the WECS Project to a successor-in-interest or assign.
4. If any part of an individual turbine or the WECS Project falls into disrepair, is in threat of collapsing or any other health and safety issue.

C. Provisions for the removal of structures, debris and cabling; both above and below the soil surface:

1. Items required to be removed include but are not limited to: turbines, transformers, foundation pads, electrical collection systems and transporters, underground cables, fencing, access roads and culverts. A landowner must sign an agreement if they wish for the access roads or culverts to remain.

D. Provisions for the restoration of soil and vegetation:

1. All affected areas shall be inspected, thoroughly cleaned and all construction related debris shall be removed.

2. All affected areas must be remediated pursuant to the terms of the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
3. Items required to be restored include but are not limited to: windbreaks, waterways, site grading, drainage tile systems and topsoil to former productive levels.
 - a. In work areas involving decommission from expansion of turbine crane pads, widening access roads or any other work areas, the topsoil must be first removed, identified and stored separate from other excavated material for later replacement as applicable.
 - b. The 60-inch below-surface excavation area shall be filled with clean sub-grade material of similar quality to that in the immediate surrounding area.
 - c. All sub-grade material will be compacted to a density similar to surrounding grade material.
 - d. All unexcavated areas compacted by equipment used in decommissioning shall be de-compacted in a manner that adequately restores the topsoil and sub-grade material to the proper density consistent and compatible with the surrounding area.
 - e. Where possible, the topsoil shall be replaced to its original depth and surface contours.
 - f. Any topsoil deficiency and trench settling shall be mitigated with imported topsoil that is consistent with the quality of the effected site.
4. Items required to be repaired after decommissioning include but are not limited to: roads, bridges and culverts.
5. An independent drainage engineer shall be present to ensure drainage tiles, waterways, culverts, etc. are repaired as work progresses.
6. A soil erosion control plan shall be approved by the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District.
7. All applicable stormwater management, floodplain and other surface water rules, regulations and ordinances shall be followed.

E. Estimating the costs of decommissioning:

1. Costs shall include but not be limited to engineering fees, legal fees, accounting fees, insurance costs, decommissioning and site

restoration minus the salvage value of the Commercial Wind Energy Facility.

2. Adjustments to the financial assurance amount that reflect changes in the decommissioning costs shall be submitted every five (5) years after the initial ten (10) years of operation and shall be adjusted for inflation and other factors. The amount of the Decommission Security shall be adjusted accordingly within six (6) months of receiving the updated information as determined by an Illinois professional engineer. Failure to provide financial assurance as outlined herein shall be considered a cessation of operation.

F. Financial assurance:

1. Financial Security shall be phased in and provided to the County over the first eleven (11) years of the project as follows:
 - a. On or before the first anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date, the Applicant shall provide the County with Financial Security to cover ten (10) percent of the estimated costs of decommissioning the WECS Project as determined in the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan.
 - b. On or before the sixth anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date, the Applicant shall provide the County with Financial Security to cover fifty (50) percent of the estimated costs of decommissioning the WECS Project as determined in the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan.
 - c. On or before the eleventh anniversary of the Commercial Operation Date, the Applicant shall provide the County with Financial Security to cover one hundred (100) percent of the estimated costs of decommissioning the WECS Project as determined in the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan.
2. The County shall have immediate access, upon written notice to the Applicant, to use the Decommission Security if:
 - a. After abandonment of the Project, the Applicant, upon a reasonable determination by the County Board, fails to address a health and safety issue in a timely manner; or
 - b. The Applicant fails to decommission the abandoned turbine(s) or the entire WECS Project in accordance with the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan.

3. If possible, for the type of Decommission Security provided, the Applicant shall grant perfected security in the Decommission Security by use of a control agreement establishing the County as an owner of record pursuant to the Secured Transit Article of the Uniform Commercial Code, 810 ILCS 9/ et seq.
4. The County Board or its escrow agent shall release the Decommission Security when the Applicant has demonstrated and the County concurs that decommissioning has been satisfactorily completed, or upon written approval of the County to implement the decommissioning plan. Ten percent (10%) of the Decommission Security shall be retained one (1) year past the date to settle any outstanding concerns.
5. Any interest accrued on the Decommission Security that is over and above the total value as determined by the Illinois professional structural engineer shall go to the Applicant.
6. The Applicant shall identify procedures for the County to assess the financial assurances, particularly if it is determined that there is a health and/or safety issue with the Commercial Wind Energy Facility and the principal company fails to adequately respond as reasonably determined by the County Board.
7. The County shall be listed as a debtor in connection with any proceeding in insolvency or bankruptcy but shall not be responsible for any claims against the Applicant.
8. The Applicant shall agree that the obligations and liabilities under a Special Use Permit shall be binding upon the Applicant (which, for the avoidance of doubt, includes its successors-in-interest and assignees) and the Operator. The Applicant further shall agree that the sale, assignment in fact or at law, or other transfer of the Applicant's financial interest in the Commercial Wind Energy Facility shall in no way effect or change the Applicant's obligation to continue to comply with the terms, covenants and obligations of a Special Use Permit unless such successor-in-interest or assignee agrees to assume all obligations of the Special Use Permit, including but not limited to the decommissioning obligations associated with the Commercial Wind Energy Facility.
9. The County and its authorized representatives have the right of entry onto the Commercial Wind Energy Facility for the purpose of inspecting the methods of reclamation or for performing actual reclamation if necessary.

4.8.10 REMEDIES

1. The Applicant's failure to materially comply with any of the provisions under the Special Use Permit, any conditions imposed

on the project, and/ or failure to comply with any law or regulation shall be a default and shall be grounds for revocation of the Special Use Permit by the County Board.

2. Prior to implementation of the applicable County procedures for the resolution of default(s), the County Board must first provide written notice to the Applicant and Operator, setting forth the alleged default(s) and provide an opportunity for the Applicant or the Operator to cure the default(s) within a thirty (30) calendar day period from the date of the notice. Should the Applicant commence the cure within that 30-day cure period, and diligently pursues a cure, then the Applicant shall receive an additional sixty (60) days to continue to pursue the cure before the County pursues procedures for the resolution of default. If the default relates to a life safety issue or interference with local, government public safety (police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management services, 911 dispatch) communications, the Applicant or the Operator shall take all necessary and available commercial measures to immediately cure the default. If the Applicant or Operator cannot cure the default(s) or resolve the alleged default(s) within the cure period, then applicable County ordinance provisions addressing the resolution of such default(s) shall govern.

4.8.11 FEE SCHEDULE AND PERMITTING PROCESSES

1. Application Fees
 - a. Prior to processing any Application for a Commercial Wind Energy Facility, the Applicant must submit a certified check to the County for the Application Fee established by the Boone County Fee Schedule adopted by the County Board for Special Use Permits. These funds shall be placed in an FDIC insured account and will be used to cover the county's cost incurred in processing the Application.
 - b. Should the actual costs to the County exceed the submitted Application Fee, the Applicant shall be responsible for those additional costs and shall remit additional funds to the County within 15 days of receipt of a request from the County. No hearings on an Application shall be conducted nor final decisions rendered on an Application if there are Application fees due to the County.
 - c. Any unused amounts of the Application Fee shall be refunded to the Applicant within six months of the County Board rendering a final decision on the matter, unless any pending litigation, disputes or negotiations involving the County exist regarding the WECS Facility, in which case any amounts owed to the Applicant shall be refunded within six months of the conclusion of the litigation,

disputes or negotiations. An Applicant may request any unused Application Fee be applied toward the Building Permit Fees for the Facility.

2. Building Permit Fees

- a. Prior to the issuance of building permits, the Building Permit Applicant must deposit a Building Permit Fee equating established by the Boone County Fee Schedule adopted by the County Board for Building Permits.

3. Engineering and Legal Fees

a. Road Use Agreement (RUA)

Not less than thirty (30) days after a Special Use Permit has been granted, an initial engineering and legal fee as established by the Boone County Road Use Agreement Schedule adopted by the County Board to cover all engineering consulting and legal fees incurred by the County for the duration of the project from the initial construction efforts to completion. The amount of the initial engineering and legal fee may be adjusted at the discretion of the County Engineer based on the size of the proposed project. Additional funds shall be required, as deemed necessary by the County Engineer. Monies remaining in the Consulting Fund at the completion of the project will be refunded back to the WEFS project.

b. Engineering Fees

For any provision in this Ordinance, when the County has to retain an outside expert based on specific expertise or lack of staff time to review, the Applicant at their sole expense shall pay said expert for their fees related to said review.

c. Legal Fees

For any provision in this Ordinance, when the County has to retain an outside legal counsel based on specific expertise or lack of staff time to review, the Applicant at their sole expense shall pay said legal counsel for their fees related to said review.

4. All Costs to be Paid by Applicant or Owner

In addition to all fees noted above, the Applicant or Owner shall pay all costs incurred by the County, including but not limited to, those costs associated with all offices, boards and commissions of the County, and third-party costs incurred by the County. This includes, but is not limited to, the direct or indirect costs associated with the hearing, permitting, operations, inspections, decommissioning, litigation, disputes, and/ or negotiations.

4.8.12 HEARING FACILITATOR

The County may engage the services of a hearing facilitator at the recommendation of the Zoning Administrator. The hearing facilitator shall be an independent contractor who shall conduct a hearing in accordance with all applicable rules of the board and the county but has no adjudicatory responsibility other than ruling on requests for continuances, procedural matters, admissibility of evidence and the propriety of any arguments.

The hearing facilitator shall be an attorney, licensed to practice in the State of Illinois. The Applicant shall reimburse the county for the fees and costs charged by the facilitator.

4.8.13 HEARING FACTORS

The County Board may approve a Commercial Wind Energy Facility Special Use Permit application if it finds the evidence complies with state, federal and local law and regulations, and with the standards of this zoning code including the factors listed below. The factors below are applied as a balancing test, not individual requirements to be met.

- a. The establishment, maintenance or operation of the WECS Project will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, morals, comfort or general welfare;
- b. The WECS Project will not be injurious to the uses and enjoyment of other property in the immediate vicinity for the purposes already permitted, nor substantially diminish and impair property values of surrounding properties;
- c. The establishment of the WECS Project will not impede the normal and orderly development and improvement of the surrounding properties;
- d. Adequate public utilities, access roads, drainage and/or necessary facilities have been or will be provided;
- e. Adequate measures have been or will be taken to provide ingress and egress so designed as to minimize traffic congestion in the public streets;
- f. The proposed WECS Project is not contrary to the objectives of the current comprehensive plan of the County (if any); and
- g. The WECS Project shall, in all other respects, conform to the applicable regulations of this Ordinance and the zoning district in which it is located (if a zoning ordinance is in effect), except as such regulations may, in each instance, be modified pursuant to the recommendations of and approved by the County Board.

- h. To preserve prime agricultural land for agricultural uses, the WEC's Project site's Land Evaluation (LE) score is 82 or lower.
 - i. To protect sensitive aquifer recharge areas within the County, the WEC Project site is located where the Aquifer Recharge Area has minimal impact, as determined by the relevant groundwater and hydrogeologic studies and maps utilized by Boone County.
- 1. Special Use Permit Conditions and Restrictions. The County Board may stipulate conditions, guarantees and restrictions, upon the establishment, location, construction, maintenance, and operation of the WECS Project as are deemed necessary for the protection of the public interest and to secure compliance with the standards and requirements of this Ordinance.
- 2. Revocation.
 - a. In any case where a Special Use Permit has been approved for a WECS Project, the Applicant shall apply for a WECS Building Permit from the County and all other permits required by other government or regulatory agencies to commence construction, and commence and actively pursue construction of the Project within thirty-six (36) months from the date of the granting of the Special Use Permit. If the Applicant fails to apply for a WECS Building Permit from the County and all other permits required by other government or regulatory agencies prior to construction and/or fails to commence and actively pursue construction of the Project within the thirty-six (36) month period, then without further action by the County Board, the Special Use Permit authorizing the construction and operation of the WECS Project shall be automatically revoked and void. Notwithstanding Boone County Zoning Ordinance 2.7.7 A., upon written request supported by evidence that the Applicant has diligently pursued issuance of all necessary government and regulatory permits for the Project required to commence construction and that any delay in commencement of construction of the Project is due to conditions out of his/her/its control, the County Board, in its sole discretion, may extend the above thirty-six (36) month period by passage of an ordinance that amends the Special Use Permit.
 - b. The Special Use Permit shall be subject to revocation if the Applicant dissolves or ceases to do business, abandons the WECS Project or the WECS ceases to operate for more than twelve (12) consecutive months for any reason.
 - c. Subject to the provisions of Article XI (Remedies), a Special Use Permit may be revoked by the County Board if the WECS Project is not constructed, installed and/or operated in substantial conformance with the County-approved Project plans, the

regulations of this Ordinance and the stipulated Special Use Permit conditions and restrictions.

3. Transferability; Owner or WECS Permittee. The Applicant shall provide written notification to the County Board at least thirty (30) days prior to any change in ownership of a WECS Project of any such change in ownership. The phrase "change in ownership of a WECS Project" includes any kind of assignment, sale; lease, transfer or other conveyance of ownership or operating control of the Applicant, the WECS Project or any portion thereof. The Applicant or successors-in-interest or assignees of the Special Use Permit, as applicable, shall remain liable for compliance with all conditions, restrictions and obligations contained in the Special Use Permit, the provisions of this Ordinance and applicable County, state and federal laws.
4. Modification. Any modification of a WECS Project that alters or changes the essential character or operation of the WECS Project in a way not intended at the time the Special Use Permit was granted, or as subsequently amended, shall require a new Special Use Permit. The Applicant or authorized representative, shall apply for an amended Special Use Permit prior to any modification of the WECS Project.
5. Permit Effective Date: The Special Use Permit shall become effective upon approval of the ordinance by the County Board.