



7 Bridges Solar Q & A

Q: Why did you pick the Chase City area for your project when there are already others approved for the same part of the county?

A: While there are many factors that go into choosing a site for a solar project, the three most important are: (1) proximity to an existing transmission line, (2) buildable land that is available, and (3) land that has a substantial amount of existing natural screening and is away from major roadways. 7 Bridges Solar meets all three of these criteria for a solar site. There are two major transmission lines that run through the Chase City area near the 7 Bridges site. The Mullin property has been logged for decades and is suitable for building a solar facility on. And finally, the proposed site was chosen because it is out of view from major roadways and has a mature forest along nearly all of the perimeter of the site.

Q: Won't this solar project lock up even more of our limited, valuable agricultural land?

A: No. Longroad Energy understands not only the importance of agriculture historically to Mecklenburg County, but also its continued importance and impact today. The location we found for 7 Bridges Solar is currently, as well as historically, used for forestry. No working farm will be displaced by approval of 7 Bridges Solar. However, once the solar site is decommissioned the land will have had grasses and flowers growing for decades, which could make the area attractive for agricultural use.

Q: Some people say that this solar project will harm the Meherrin River and spoil the character of views along the river. Will 7 Bridges Solar harm the Meherrin River?

A: No. 7 Bridges Solar has been set back 400 feet and more from the Meherrin River. Longroad Energy places a high value on protection of our natural resources. This buffer will ensure that the solar project can't be seen from the river and provide additional protection during construction.

Q: Will this project change the rural character of the area?

A: No. The developer of 7 Bridges Solar chose this site in part because it is sited on property that is almost entirely forested, which allows for extensive setbacks and buffers using existing tree growth. Solar panels will not be visible from any roadway or residence. Once constructed, the only way to know it is there would be to visit the facility.

Q: Do solar panels contain toxic materials that can leak into the groundwater, or streams and rivers?

A: 7 Bridges Solar will use panels that are safe according to many studies that have confirmed that broken panels do not release toxic materials to the environment. Panels are manufactured to survive most natural threats including hail and hurricanes. If a panel does break, it is removed from the site and replaced with a new panel.

Q: Aren't these panels made in China? How do you know what is in them?

A: Longroad Energy uses panels made by a USA company, First Solar. The specification for any panel used will be known in advance and will be provided to Mecklenburg County officials. The panels we use are safe and composed of materials that can be recycled at the end of their useful life.

Q: What if your company goes out of business? Will the taxpayers of Mecklenburg County be stuck with paying for removal of the solar panels?

A: 7 Bridges Solar, LLC, is the ownership company of the 7 Bridges Solar Project. If Longroad Energy were to go out of business, 7 Bridges Solar, LLC, would still have income from the project and operating contracts to continue providing power to the grid. There is a decommissioning plan that will be funded to pay for removal of the project and restoration of the land at the end of the project life, even if Longroad Energy were to no longer exist.

Q: I hear there are not many jobs involved with solar projects? What do we in Mecklenburg County get out of this?

A: 7 Bridges Solar will benefit Mecklenburg County taxpayers through increased tax revenues of about **\$7,000,000** as a result of the project. Additionally, Longroad Energy has committed to funding wireless internet expansion in Mecklenburg County.

During the construction period of approximately 18 months there will be around 200 construction jobs. During operations, there will be a few local jobs to maintain operation of the project.

Numerous local businesses will benefit from supplying goods or services during construction, and from increased sales from construction workers as they eat in local restaurants, shop in local stores and, for some, stay in local motels or short-term rentals.

Longroad has already begun support of Southside Virginia Community College's new Utility-Scale Solar Worker training program and looks forward to working with the school system and others to help with other community needs.

7 Bridges Solar will also make Mecklenburg County more attractive to companies looking to relocate their operations. Increasingly, companies are looking for evidence that a locality is actively looking to its future – including local sources of renewable energy – as the kind of place in which it will create new jobs.