



## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND ENERGY

Issued: October 10, 2025  
Revised: December 1, 2025

### **GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM** **ACT 279, SOLAR SITING PERMITS**

Act 279 of the 2025 Regular Session states that “[n]o person shall construct, install, or operate a solar power generation facility with a footprint of seventy-five or more acres without holding a permit issued by the department pursuant to this Part.” See La. R.S. 30:1143(A). The “Part” referenced is Part III of Chapter 12, of Title 30 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, which is comprised of Sections 1142-1145. The Act 279 permitting requirement took effect on August 1, 2025, and thus immediately precludes construction, installation, or operation of a solar power generation facility of seventy-five or more acres without a permit issued by the Department of Conservation and Energy (“C&E”) pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1142 through 1145.<sup>1</sup>

C&E acknowledges that Act 279 creates urgent compliance requirements for solar power generation facilities at variable stages of development and operation. Accordingly, C&E provides submission criteria and compliance procedures for a siting permit applicable to solar power generation facilities that begin construction after January 1, 2026. *See* Section 1144(D).

#### **Compliance Criteria**

##### **I. Definitions**

For purposes of this guidance memorandum, the following definitions apply:

“Subject Facility” means a solar power generation facility located in the State of Louisiana with a footprint of seventy-five acres or more that will begin construction after January 1, 2026.

“Solar Siting Permit” means a permit administratively issued by C&E authorizing the commencement of construction, installation, and operation of a Subject Facility in accordance with the requirements of Act 279. The Solar Siting Permit does not concern and is not conditioned upon the decommissioning plan and financial security requirements set forth in La. R.S. 30:1154(D).

##### **II. Applicability**

In accordance with Act 279, a Solar Siting Permit is required to commence construction, installation, and operation of a Subject Facility. As such, owner(s) or operator(s) of a Subject Facility shall apply for and obtain a permit in order to commence any construction, installation, and operation activity. The siting standards set forth in Section 1144 shall not apply to a Subject

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<sup>1</sup> “All laws enacted during a regular session of the legislature shall take effect on August first of the calendar year in which the regular session is held . . . However, any bill may specify an earlier or later effective date.” La. Const. Art. III, Section 19.

Facility where a parish has adopted solar ordinances and submitted a resolution to C&E affirming such adoption. *See* La. R.S. 30:1142(B).

### **III. Application Requirements**

A person or entity responsible for a Subject Facility shall submit a Solar Siting Permit application to C&E. The application requires submission of the following:

1. The name of the Subject Facility.
2. The location of the Subject Facility, including:
  - a. The Parish(es) in which the Subject Facility is located;
  - b. One of the following:
    - i. The Township, Range, and Section(s) where the Subject Facility located;
    - ii. The physical address of the Subject Facility; or
    - iii. The latitude and longitude coordinates of the Subject Facility; and
  - c. The zoning designation(s) of the site where the Subject Facility is or will be located.
3. The name, address, e-mail address, and phone number of the operator(s) of the Subject Facility, and a copy of the facility's registration form.
4. The name, address, e-mail address, and phone number of each person or entity with equity ownership of the Subject Facility at the time of application.
5. One or more plat, survey, or map of the property to be encumbered by the Subject Facility, prepared, signed, and sealed by a Louisiana licensed engineer, that provides the following information, to the extent practicable, at the time of application:
  - a. The footprint of the Subject Facility;
  - b. The anticipated or actual location of all solar devices, equipment, and component parts used or planned to be used in the Subject Facility's operations;
  - c. All property lines crossing or intersecting the Subject Facility; and
  - d. All applicable setbacks.
6. A written description of the Subject Facility's development status at the time of application.
7. A copy of each permit application submitted to a local authority, or permit issued by a local authority, concerning construction, installation, or operation of the Subject Facility. Each permit application or permit submitted pursuant to this requirement should include all related attachments, exhibits, and supporting information. To the extent a local permit or

permit application includes the information required in items 1 – 6, then its submission shall be deemed to satisfy those items as well.

8. A stamped landscape plan by a licensed landscape architect or landscape horticulturalist that illustrates the applicable vegetative barriers:
  - a. For residential property, a 300-foot setback from the residential property line to the nearest solar device, unless provided otherwise by written agreement between the property owner and the facility operator, with either:
    - i. A 35-foot vegetative barrier composed of new plant material; or
    - ii. A 50-foot vegetative barrier composed of natural plant material.
  - b. For natural and navigable water bodies, a 100-foot setback from the ordinary low water mark to the nearest solar device.
  - c. For public roads, a 50-foot setback from the edge of the paved road surface to the nearest solar device with a 35-foot vegetative barrier.
9. If applicable, a copy of the resolution affirming the adoption of solar ordinances by each parish where the Subject Facility is located, and a copy of the solar ordinances.
10. A written certification that noise levels at the property line shall not exceed 10 A-weighted decibels (dbA) above the ambient noise level prior to operation of the facility.
11. A written certification that chemical(s) not approved for agricultural application have not and will not be sprayed for maintenance of the Subject Facility.

#### **IV. Application Review and Findings**

If C&E determines that the application is complete and compliant with the applicable provisions of Act 279, then it will issue a Solar Siting Permit authorizing the construction, installation, and operation of the Subject Facility as described in the application. C&E will post the Immediate Permit on its website and send a copy to the applicant. If C&E determines that the application is insufficient, then it will provide written notice of each deficiency to the applicant and suspend further review pending resolution. Notice of C&E's decision will include information on how the decision may be legally challenged.

#### **V. Additional Information**

Please direct all questions, comments, and requests for additional information to [DCE-Renewables@la.gov](mailto:DCE-Renewables@la.gov).

For permit applications and related materials, as well as future updates on rulemaking, please visit [C&E Solar Permitting](#).

**Summary of Part III of Act 279**

Immediate Solar Permit	Solar Siting Permit
Applies to facilities in operation, constructed, under construction, or will begin construction on or before January 1, 2026.  Subject Facility must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have permit (30:1143(A))</li><li>• Comply with chemical prohibition (30:1145)</li></ul>	Applies to Subject Facilities that begin construction after January 1, 2026.  Facility must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have permit (30:1143(A))</li><li>• Meet siting requirements (30:1144)</li><li>• Comply with chemical prohibition (30:1145)</li></ul>