



Solar Energy Facility Bonding and Decommissioning Decommissioning Plan Instructions and Checklist

Montana Administrative Rule (ARM) 17.86.105 requires solar generation facility owners to submit decommissioning plans to the Department of Environmental Quality. Pursuant to this rule, a decommissioning plan must include:

- As-built plans, including general structural and electrical information relative to the calculation of the bond for all facilities and all disturbances associated with the facility.** Please attach either an affidavit signed by an owner of the facility, or any person authorized to act on the owner's behalf, attesting to the completeness and accuracy of the as-built plans, or the as-built plans certified by a professional engineer. *Ref. ARM 17.86.105(1)(b)*

To avoid the storage of unnecessary confidential documents please contact the Montana Energy Office before submitting any information your company deems confidential. If the documents are determined to be required, please include an affidavit with the submitted documents.

- A detailed estimate of the cost of decommissioning the facility with supporting calculations** *Ref. ARM 17.86.105(1)(c)*
- Map of the Facility.** This map should include where facility components are placed as well as differentiate between features that will be decommissioned and features that will remain. This map should be of sufficient quality to demonstrate that the bond calculation has considered all factors.
- Documentation that demonstrates private bonding.** If applicable, include the terms and conditions of a lease agreement between the landowner and facility owner that incorporate bonding requirements for decommissioning a facility. *Ref. ARM 17.86.107(5)(b)*
- Any agreement signed by all landowners and the facility owner(s) providing for alternative reclamation or non-removal of buildings, cabling, electrical components, roads, or any other associated facilities.** Please attach any relevant landowner agreements to the decommissioning plan. Proprietary information in these agreements may be redacted as necessary. *Ref. ARM 17.86.105(1)(d)*
- A description of the way the facility will be decommissioned and a proposed decommissioning schedule.** See "Decommissioning Requirements" below. *Ref. ARM 17.86.105(1)(e)*
- A detailed estimate of the current salvageable value of the facility by an evaluator who is not an employee of the owner.** *Ref. ARM 17.86.105(1)(f)*
- An estimate of all other expenses related to decommissioning that are the responsibility of the owner.** *Ref. ARM 17.86.105(1)(g)*

Decommissioning Requirements

Unless the landowner agreements provide for alternative reclamation or non-removal of buildings, cabling, electrical components, roads or any other associated facilities the decommissioning must include:

- a) Dismantling and removal of all overhead electrical transmission lines and structures, transformers, buildings and all other ancillary equipment and debris from operation of the facility that is not associated with interconnecting the facility to the grid. *Ref. ARM 17.86.105(1)(e)(i)*
- b) Removal of all underground cables and pipelines to a depth of 24 inches, or deeper if necessary for the post operation land use. *Ref. ARM 17.86(1)(e)(ii)*
- c) Removal of wind turbine and solar foundations and other concrete foundations and slabs to a minimum depth of 36 inches below natural grade or an alternative depth as approved by the department if appropriate for the post operation land use. *Ref. ARM 17.86(1)(e)(iii)*
- d) Reclamation of the facility site to the approximate original surface topography that existed prior to the start of the construction of the facility with grading, topsoil application over the disturbed areas at a depth similar to the depth prior to the disturbance, reseeding, and revegetation to achieve the same utility as the surrounding area at the time of decommissioning to prevent adverse hydrological effects. *Ref. ARM 17.86.105(1)(e)(iv)*
- e) Repair and reconstruction from damage to public roads, culverts, and natural drainage ways resulting directly from operation of or decommissioning the facility. *Ref. ARM 17.86.105(1)(e)(v)*
- f) Removal and grading of all access roads to pre-construction or natural grade as appropriate. *Ref. ARM 17.86.105(1)(e)(vi)*