



November 26, 2025

White River Township
Planning Commission
c/o William Schmiede, Zoning Administrator
7386 Post Road
Montague, Michigan 49437

Re: Lakeside Solar – Public Act 233 Application PC Inquiries

Dear Planning Commissioners:

As you know, Lakeside Solar, LLC ("Lakeside"), a subsidiary of Geronimo Power, LLC, is seeking an approval for its proposed Solar and Battery Energy Storage Project in White River Township ("Township"). On November 10, 2025, the Planning Commission Chair forwarded Lakeside several pages of questions from each of the Township's consultants — Mckenna and CES. Subsequently, on November 13, 2025, the Township's Zoning Administrator sent an additional 18 pages of questions, all of which Lakeside has now reviewed. Please consider this letter (and accompanying response table) Lakeside's response to such questions.

It should be noted that many of the consultants' follow-up questions address subjects that fall outside the scope of a compatible renewable energy ordinance ("CREO") under Public Act 233 of 2023 ("PA 233"). The Michigan Public Service Commission's guidance is clear what constitutes a CREO. The MPSC's Application and Filing Instructions and Procedures ("AFIP") states: "A CREO under Act 233 may only contain the setback, fencing, height, sound, and other applicable requirements expressly outlined in Section 226(8), and may not contain additional requirements beyond those specifically identified in that section." See Page 2 of MPSC's AFIP (emphasis added).

The subject matter of the consultants' questions—including master plan consistency findings, overlay-district alternatives analysis, detailed site-wide landscaping and grading plans, and others—go beyond Section 226(8)'s requirements and indicate the Township's ordinance is not a CREO under PA 233. In other words, many of the consultants' questions are not relevant to the legal standards that apply to utility-scale renewable energy projects in Michigan and are therefore not necessary to process Lakeside's application. Moreover, local zoning is expressly preempted by Public Act 234 of 2023, so an ordinance that attempts to impose requirements beyond those included in Section 226(8) is expressly preempted.



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Additionally, many of the consultants' questions are duplicative and have been answered previously by Lakeside. In fact, certain questions posed suggest that Lakeside's application materials have not been adequately reviewed by the Township's consultants — as many of the questions are easily answered by merely reviewing Lakeside's application. Providing information that has already been submitted to the Township is frustrating, given the time, effort, and resources Lakeside must dedicate to review and respond to these follow-up questions.

Notwithstanding the above, Lakeside — acting in good-faith and to avoid further delay — endeavored to respond to each of the consultants' questions to the extent possible. Please find Lakeside's response table accompanying this letter.

Lakeside respectfully requests that any further inquiries the Township may have be related to information necessary to determine compliance with a CREO under PA 233. Otherwise, Lakeside respectfully requests that the Township promptly process its application in accordance with PA 233's requirements.

Sincerely,

Amber Miller

Amber Miller
Director, Permitting