

B. A person shall remove fyke net poles from the water within 30 days after removing the net from the poles.

JEANNIE HADDAWAY-RICCIO
Secretary of Natural Resources

Subtitle 13 ENERGY AND COASTAL ZONE ADMINISTRATION

08.13.02 Pollinator-Friendly Designation of Solar Generation Facilities

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§3-303 and 3-303.1, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[20-022-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to adopt new Regulations .01—.04 under a new chapter, **COMAR 08.13.02 Pollinator-Friendly Designation of Solar Generation Facilities**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to enable the Department to certify photovoltaic ground-mounted solar facilities greater than 1 acre as pollinator-friendly. The proposed action effectuates the requirements of Ch. 372, Acts of 2017, as informed by the Power Plant Research Program’s Pollinator Work Group. Work Group stakeholders included beekeepers, renewable energy developers, DNR’s Wildlife and Heritage Service, the University of Maryland, USFWS, USGS, and the Maryland Farm Bureau.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to David Tancabel, Director, Power Plant Research Program, Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Avenue, B-3, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8691, or email to david.tancabel@maryland.gov, or fax to 410-260-8670. Comments will be accepted through February 18, 2020. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.01 Scope.

This chapter applies only to a solar generation facility that contains photovoltaic cells for the purpose of generating electricity, is ground-mounted, and is at least 1 acre in size.

.02 Definitions.

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meaning indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

(1) “Designation” means a letter in writing from the Department establishing that a solar generation facility is pollinator-friendly.

(2) “Facility” means the geographic area that is occupied by permanently installed solar generation equipment, including buffers or security areas under the management of the operator of the solar generation facility.

(3) “Owner” means a person that owns the solar generation facility.

.03 Designation Process.

A. Application.

(1) To apply for a pollinator-friendly designation, the owner of the solar generation facility shall submit:

(a) A completed application on a form provided by the Department; and

(b) A pollinator habitat plan.

(2) Additional Information.

(a) If the Department requests an applicant to submit additional information related to the application, the applicant shall submit the requested information to the Department within 30 days of the Department’s request.

(b) Failure to submit the additional information within 30 days of the Department’s request shall result in termination of the application.

B. On-Site Inspection.

(1) Upon notification from the Department that the solar generation facility’s application meets the application requirements, the owner of the solar generation facility shall implement the approved pollinator habitat plan.

(2) After the approved pollinator habitat plan has been implemented, the owner shall:

(a) Have a Department-approved inspector conduct an on-site inspection of the facility in accordance with §B(3) of this regulation; and

(b) Forward the results from the inspection to the Department within 30 days of the inspection.

(3) Any on-site inspection shall include:

(a) A final score calculation for the facility using the Solar Site Pollinator Habitat Planning and Assessment Scorecard adopted by the Department in accordance with Natural Resources Article, §3-303.1, Annotated Code of Maryland;

(b) A written evaluation of whether the facility is planted and managed in accordance with the approved pollinator habitat plan; and

(c) Any other factors or elements that the Department requires.

C. The Department may issue a designation to the owner if the results of the on-site inspection indicate that the facility:

(1) Meets the minimum standards established on the Solar Site Pollinator Habitat Planning and Assessment Scorecard; and

(2) Is planted and managed in accordance with the approved pollinator habitat plan.

.04 Pollinator Friendly Designation.

A. A designation is valid for 2 years after the date of issuance.

B. The owner of a pollinator-friendly solar generation facility shall:

(1) Properly maintain the facility in accordance with the facility’s approved pollinator habitat plan;

(2) Comply with the conditions of the designation;

(3) Make the facility’s pollinator habitat plan available to the Maryland, DC, and Virginia Solar Energy Industries Association or other nonprofit solar industry trade associations; and

(4) Notify the Department of any change in contact information for the solar generation facility within 30 days of the change, on a form provided by the Department.

C. The Department may revoke a designation if the facility is not managed or maintained in accordance with:

(1) A provision of Natural Resources Article, §3-303.1, Annotated Code of Maryland;

(2) A provision of the facility’s approved pollinator habitat plan; or

(3) A condition of the designation.

D. Renewal of a Designation.

(1) A designation may be renewed in accordance with this section if the results of an on-site renewal inspection indicate that the facility:

(a) Meets the minimum standards established on the Solar Site Pollinator Habitat Planning and Assessment Scorecard; and

(b) Is being managed in accordance with the approved pollinator habitat plan.

(2) To renew a pollinator-friendly designation, the owner of the solar generation facility shall:

(a) Have an inspector complete an on-site renewal inspection of the facility;

(b) Forward the results of the renewal inspection to the Department; and

(c) Submit a renewal request on a form provided by the Department.

(3) A renewal request shall:

(a) Be submitted within 90 days of the expiration of the designation;

(b) Include a Solar Site Pollinator Habitat Planning and Assessment Scorecard completed by the on-site renewal inspector; and

(c) Include a written evaluation by the inspector indicating the land is planted and managed in accordance with the facility's approved pollinator habitat plan.

E. Pollinator Habitat Plan Modification.

(1) The Department may approve a modification to a solar generation facility's pollinator habitat plan if the owner of a solar generation facility submits a written request to modify its pollinator habitat plan to the Department.

(2) Additional Information.

(a) If the Department requests an applicant to submit additional information related to the requested modification, the owner shall submit the requested information to the Department within 30 days of the Department's request.

(b) Failure to submit the additional information within 30 days of the Department's request shall result in termination of the Department's review of the requested modification.

JEANNIE HADDAWAY-RICCIO
Secretary of Natural Resources

Title 09
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR
Subtitle 03 COMMISSIONER OF
FINANCIAL REGULATION

09.03.07 Credit Reporting Agencies

Authority: Business Regulation Article, §2-105; Commercial Law Article, §§14-1216(b), 14-1217(b)(9) and (10) and (d), and 14-1226(f) and (g); Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[20-020-P]

The Commissioner of Financial Regulation proposes to amend Regulations .02 and .03, adopt new Regulations .04 and .06—,08, and amend and recodify existing Regulation .04 to be Regulation .05 under COMAR 09.03.07 Credit Reporting Agencies.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to generally enhance consumer rights and protections, update the consumer credit reporting agency regulations to better reflect existing market practices and conditions, and improve the channels of information exchange between the Commissioner and consumer credit reporting agencies, and specifically to ensure accuracy in the information that consumer credit reporting agencies collect, efficiency in the systems that consumer credit reporting agencies use for maintaining consumer information and responsiveness to consumer complaints, transition consumer credit reporting agencies' registration to NMLS, and establish bond requirements and standards.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is a corresponding federal standard to this proposed action, but the proposed action is not more restrictive or stringent.

Estimate of Economic Impact

I. Summary of Economic Impact. The proposed regulations could result in an increase in the operating costs incurred by consumer credit reporting agencies due to the requirements for registration, reporting, and data security measures. Such changes, however, increase consumer rights and provide consumers with greater protections. The Commissioner is unable to determine whether any increased costs to consumer credit reporting agencies associated with compliance with the proposed regulations would be meaningful or, if so, pass through to their customers or consumers.

II. Types of Economic Impact.	Revenue (R+/R-)	Magnitude
	Expenditure (E+/E-)	
A. On issuing agency:	(E+)	Minimal
B. On other State agencies:	NONE	
C. On local governments:	NONE	
	Benefit (+) Cost (-)	Magnitude
D. On regulated industries or trade groups:	(+)	Indeterminable
E. On other industries or trade groups:	NONE	
F. Direct and indirect effects on public:	(+)	Indeterminable

III. Assumptions. (Identified by Impact Letter and Number from Section II.)

A. The Commissioner currently registers 57 consumer reporting agencies through a manual process. The new regulations will require registration through NMLS (an electronic system). While the Commissioner will pay the \$100 NMLS registration fee (aggregate annual cost of \$5,700), the Commissioner will experience a cost savings due to greater efficiency (i.e., use of NMLS), which should offset somewhat the increased cost.

D. The regulated industries will benefit from transitioning to the more efficient and streamlined electronic NMLS registration process. Further, those industries will not see an increase in costs for using the electronic system due to the Commissioner paying the NMLS registration fees (\$100 per registrant, aggregate annual cost of \$5,700). Further, on-going improvement to NMLS for registration