

March 22, 2017

To All Townships in Tuscola County

Re: Solar facilities and Drone Use in the townships of Tuscola County

Federal Law requires that all proposed solar facilities within 5 miles of a public airport, must notify these airports before construction.

Drones may not fly within 5 miles of a public airport unless they first contact the airport manager.

All areas in the Conic Zone (yellow zone) of the Tuscola Area Airport are within 5 miles of the ends of the runways. Please see your township map in the Tuscola Area Airport Zoning Ordinance Appendix or view on the Tuscola County website in the Airport Zoning Ordinance Appendix. In addition, for Gilford, Fairgrove, Juniata, Tuscola, and Vassar townships, areas in the pink striped zone on the enclosure map are within 5 miles required notification area of Bauer field.

I have included the following as a possible solar ordinance inclusion for your use.

SES – Solar Energy System
SEF - Solar Energy Facility

AVIATION NOTIFICATION

1. For consideration of potential impacts to civilian flight paths for airport operations, SES located within five (5) nautical miles from the end of any runway or planned runway at any airport listed in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), notification of intent to construct an SEF shall be sent to the airport manager or designated official and the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport District office (ADO) with oversight of Michigan. (Tuscola Area Airport) Notification shall include location of SEF (i.e. map, coordinates, address, or parcel ID), technology (i.e. roof-mounted PV, ground-mounted fixed PV, tracked PV, solar thermal, etc.), and the area of system (e.g. 40 acres). Proof of delivery of notification and date of delivery shall be submitted with permit application. The airport must be given 30 days for review.
2. For consideration of potential impacts to civilian flight paths for airport operations located within five (5) nautical miles from an airport not listed in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems, notification of intent to construct an SEF shall be sent to the airport manager or designated official. (Contact Tuscola County Airport Zoning Administrator for airport contact information) Notification shall include location of SEF (i.e. map, coordinates, address, or parcel ID), technology (i.e. roof-mounted PV, ground-mounted fixed PV, tracked PV, solar thermal, etc.), and the area of system (e.g. 40 acres). Proof of delivery of notification and date of delivery shall be submitted with permit application. The airport must be given 30 days for review.
3. After receiving notification of intent to construct an SEF as described in Section 1 and 2; if requested, the proponent of the SEF shall provide a full report of the latest version of the Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Tool (SGHAT) results, evaluating the solar glare aviation hazard. The full report for each flight path and observation point, as well as the contact information for the zoning administrator, shall be sent to the authority indicated below at least 30 days prior to site

plan approval. Proof of delivery of notification and date of delivery shall be submitted with permit application.

- a. Airport operations at an airport in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) within 5 nautical miles of the center of a proposed SEF: provide required SGHAT analysis information to the airport manager or designated official and the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport District office (ADO) with oversight of Michigan.
 - b. Airport operations at airport *not* in the NPIAS, defined in Section 4, subsection C, within 5 nautical miles of the center of proposed SEF: provide required SGHAT analysis information to the management of the airport.
4. Any applicable SEF design changes (e.g. module tilt, module reflectivity, etc.) after initial submittal shall be rerun in the SGHAT tool and the new full report shall be sent without undue delay to the contact specified in sections 1 and 2 above for accurate records of the as-built system.

A map analysis showing a radius of five (5) nautical miles from the center of the SES with any airport operations within this area highlighted shall be submitted with every permit application.

DRONE REQUIREMENTS

1. Drones must be registered with the FAA.
2. The FAA number must be displayed on the drone.
3. The drone must fly no higher than 400 feet and remain within the line of site of the operator.
4. Drones may not fly within 5 miles of an airport unless the airport manager is first contacted.

I hope this information will be of value to your township as you deal with solar facility requests and drone usage.

Sincerely,

Ione K. Vyse
Tuscola Area Airport
Zoning Ordinance Administrator