

Herring Solar Array Receives Somerset County Planning Award

Montgomery, NJ – The Herring Solar Array Project (23 Orchard Road) in Montgomery Township, Somerset County received a Somerset County Planning Award at the reorganizational meeting on January 17th, 2012. The project was one of six 2012 recipients.

The 23 Orchard Road project is significant since it addresses an important issue facing Somerset County concerning the re-use of older office buildings built during the building boom of the 1970s and 1980s. This project upgrades a vacant, 30-year old, 240,000 square foot office building to bring it up to the 21st century.

VCEA assisted JER Herring Orchard LLC (“Herring”) on the large solar array project. The solar array will provide up to 1.25 Megawatts of power which is approximately 30% to 40% of the building’s existing annual energy needs and in the summer will provide 80% of the power. The proposed solar array project is located adjacent to the office building surrounding the existing sewer treatment plant. It would be in the area of 5.5 acres which is currently mowed lawn with the exception of a 1.5 acre wooded portion. The area falls into the NJ Flood Hazard Area Limit (flood plain) and the DRCC Stream Corridor, which present unique restrictions and permitting challenges. VCEA responsibilities include site design, permitting, and public testimony.

Mike Ford, P.E. of the Hillsborough Office was the project manager.

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