

### **III. Research on Solar Farms**

#### **A. *Appraisal Market Studies***

I have also considered a number of impact studies completed by other appraisers as detailed below.

##### **CohnReznick – Property Value Impact Study: Adjacent Property Values Solar Impact Study: A Study of Eight Existing Solar Facilities**

Patricia McGarr, MAI, CRE, FRICS, CRA and Andrew R. Lines, MAI with CohnReznick completed an impact study for a proposed solar farm in Cheboygan County, Michigan completed on June 10, 2020. I am familiar with this study as well as a number of similar such studies completed by CohnReznick. I have not included all of these studies but I submit this one as representative of those studies.

This study addresses impacts on value from eight different solar farms in Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Virginia and North Carolina. These solar farms are 19.6 MW, 100 MW, 11.9 MW, 23 MW, 71 MW, 61 MW, 40 MW, and 19 MW for a range from 11.9 MW to 100 MW with an average of 31 MW and a median of 31.5 MW. They analyzed a total of 24 adjoining property sales in the Test Area and 81 comparable sales in the Control Area over a five-year period.

The conclusion of this study is that there is no evidence of any negative impact on adjoining property values based on sales prices, conditions of sales, overall marketability, potential for new development or rate of appreciation.

##### **Christian P. Kaila & Associates – Property Impact Analysis – Proposed Solar Power Plant Guthrie Road, Stuarts Draft, Augusta County, Virginia**

Christian P. Kaila, MAI, SRA and George J. Finley, MAI developed an impact study as referenced above dated June 16, 2020. This was for a proposed 83 MW facility on 886 acres.

Mr. Kaila interviewed appraisers who had conducted studies and reviewed university studies and discussed the comparable impacts of other development that was allowed in the area for a comparative analysis of other impacts that could impact viewshed based on existing allowed uses for the site. He also discussed in detail the various other impacts that could cause a negative impact and how solar farms do not have such characteristics.

Mr. Kaila also interviewed county planners and real estate assessors in eight different Virginia counties with none of the assessor's identifying any negative impacts observed for existing solar projects.

Mr. Kaila concludes on a finding of no impact on property values adjoining the indicated solar farm.

##### **Fred Beck, MAI, CCIM – Impact Analysis in Lincoln County 2013**

Mr. Fred Beck, MAI, CCIM completed an impact analysis in 2013 for a proposed solar farm that concluded on a negative impact on value. That report relied on a single cancelled contract for an adjoining parcel where the contracted buyers indicated that the solar farm was the reason for the cancellation. It also relied on the activities of an assessment impact that was applied in a nearby county.

Mr. Beck was interviewed as part of the Christian Kalia study noted above. From that I quote "Mr. Beck concluded on no effect on moderate priced homes, and only a 5% change in his limited research of higher priced homes. His one sale that fell through is hardly a reliable sample. It also