

Pinelands Commission approves solar field for Atlantic City airport

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The Pinelands Commission approved a plan Friday for Onyx Renewable Partners to build a \$1.4 million ground-mounted solar energy facility at Atlantic City International Airport.

It will provide 0.85 megawatts of electricity for two South Jersey Transportation Authority buildings, SJTA Chief Engineer Stephen Mazur said.

Onyx will build and operate it, and sell electricity back to the SJTA at a reduced rate. The company was chosen through a Request for Proposals process, Mazur said.

SJTA did not want to have to maintain and run the facility, he said, so it chose to partner with a business.

The facility will cover about 2.5 acres, Mazur said, and provide electricity to both a fire and rescue building and a snow-equipment building.

It is part of a 2,381-acre grassy area, according to the commission, in an area designated for development such as aircraft maintenance hangars, air freight warehouses and aircraft taxiways. It is in a Pinelands designated Military/Federal Installation Area.

Onyx plans to build an underground stormwater infiltration facility and replant the area with drought-tolerant grasses to comply with commission standards, the commission said in its approval.

The commission wasn't able to live stream its monthly meeting, because it still didn't have internet service after the last nor'easter hit last Wednesday, spokesman Paul Leakan said.

The commission was closed Wednesday and Thursday, due to not having heat or electricity, Leakan said. Those were restored by Friday, but the internet connection didn't come back until after the meeting ended.