

Dear Building Owner,

When a project incorporates rooftop solar panels the selection of roofing system becomes more critical. A key design requirement would be to delay the eventual need to reroof a project with solar panels due to the added cost and complexity of safely removing and then replacing the solar panels. Since the "Remove and Replace" cost penalty can be significant, it's smart and sustainable to select a roofing system with the longest life cycle that can survive the elements. Listed below are some reasons to consider EPDM roofing systems for rooftop solar applications.

- **WEATHERABILITY.** EPDM membranes typically perform better than other single-ply membranes in Xenon Arc and Q-Trac accelerated weathering tests. Testing of 30-year-old weathered membrane still pass tensile and tear strength requirements for new membrane. Non-Reinforced 60-mil EPDM offers more than twice the amount of weathering material compared to reinforced 60-mil sheets that only have 20-25 mils over the scrim. So not only does EPDM weather better there is more of it on the roof.
- **HAIL RESISTANCE.** EPDM rubber has very good resistance to damage from hailstorms whereas other roofing materials can become more brittle with age and therefore more prone to fracture upon hail strikes.
- **EASY TO SEAL PENETRATIONS OR MAKE REPAIRS.** EPDM based "peel & stick" uncured flashings are ideal for sealing the numerous penetrations from solar racking systems and EPDM is easily repairable with these same flashings even at the tail end of the roofs service life. Thermoplastic membranes on the other hand can become more difficult to weld as the membrane ages.
- **WINTER SAFETY ISSUES.** Frost, dew, and ice on roofs are common in central and northern climates and can be difficult to see on white roofs creating a slip hazard for maintenance people. Dark colored EPDM rubber also helps reduce the snow load on buildings and rubber naturally provides more traction than plastic based membranes.
- **OPTIMIZE HEATING OR COOLING ENERGY COSTS.** EPDM is available in a dark color helping to lower heating costs which are predominant in central and northern climates. White EPDM is ideal in southern climates where cooling costs are greater than heating costs.

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Goodman
Marketing Manager, EPDM Roofing Systems

