

# NYSERDA BUILD-READY PROGRAM

## May 25, 2021 Public Input Session Q&A

### *BENSON MINES PROJECT SITE*



The following Q&A has been prepared to provide feedback and responses to questions that were raised at the May 25<sup>th</sup> Public Input Session held by NYSERDA and its partners to introduce the Clifton-Fine community to the BR Benson Mines Solar project.

1. Does NYSERDA negotiate PILOT agreements?

When appropriate, and in cooperation with local partners, the Build-Ready Program may negotiate the terms of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with the local real property taxing authorities before transferring the rights and obligations of a project to a private developer for construction and operation. Like all community benefits, any PILOT agreement will need to balance costs to ensure a project remains commercially viable.

2. Would local communities see any savings on monthly utility bills?

Host community benefit packages have the potential to include utility bill credits to members of the local community.

3. Is any environmental remediation anticipated and what might it look like?

NYSERDA's environmental consultants are currently conducting field surveys of the BR Benson Mines Solar Project area. Our goal is to avoid any negative environmental impacts where possible, and in our initial assessment, no environmental remediation appears to be necessary. Ultimately, however, any conclusions regarding environmental remediation will be guided by the results of those field surveys.

4. What are the top three benefits to the community and local homeowners?

As the BR Benson Mines Solar Project progresses, our hope is to solicit input from the local community and its leadership to help develop the benefits that would best-serve local residents. We will continue to update the project website with dates for future open houses and intend to further define optimal host community benefits during those sessions.

5. What is the project timeline?

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Our goal is to secure all necessary approvals and permits, and auction the project to a developer, by early 2024. We will keep the community updated on our expected timeline for construction start dates, as well as the anticipated in-service date, as things advance.

6. Like other solar projects in the Adirondacks, will this one have the capability of supplying power to the local hospital or schools?

Host community benefit packages have the potential to include utility bill credits to members of the local community. This project will not connect directly to the hospital or schools, but instead to "the grid".

7. For a project of this size, how many long-term local jobs would be created?

Based on the anticipated size of the project, we estimate that a minimum of 100 temporary jobs will be brought to the area during construction. However, because we are still in the early stages of defining its potential size and capability, it is difficult to determine how many permanent local jobs will come directly as a result of the project. As part of a host community benefits package, however, workforce development and training programs can become a part of the developer's obligations to ensure that local residents are well-equipped for long-term operations and maintenance jobs.