

**Attachment B. Public Release of Bid Facility Information and Community Engagement Plan**

Proposers can refer to Section 4.3.8 of RESRFP25-1 for full guidance on submitting the information requested here. All Proposers must provide a complete Attachment B. Proposers are advised to not report any confidential information.

Bid Facility Information	
Bid Facility Name:	Diamond Island Hydroelectric Project
Proposer:	Energen Renewables, LLC
Technology:	Run-of-River Hydroelectric
Proposed Nameplate Capacity (Megawatts AC):	0.8MW
Interconnection Queue Number:	Not Applicable
Interconnecting Utility:	National Grid
NYS PSC Article 10/ORES Case Number (if applicable):	Not Applicable
Bid Facility Website (if applicable):	<a href="https://energenrenewables.co/">https://energenrenewables.co/</a>
Proposed In-Service Date:	The facility is currently operating. Full SOQ expected Dec, 2026

General description of Project (250 words or more):
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## **General Description of Project (250 words or more)**

The Diamond Island Hydroelectric Project is a historic renewable energy facility located on the Black River in Watertown, New York—a community designated by the state as a disadvantaged community as defined under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) criteria. Built in 1914, the plant has produced clean electricity for more than a century and remains an important part of the region’s energy and economic landscape. The facility operates as a “run-of-the-river” system, meaning it relies on the natural flow of the river rather than large reservoirs.

Over the years, Diamond Island has undergone several major upgrades, including extensive rehabilitation in the early 1980s that modernized the dam, intake, gates, and powerhouse. In recent years, however, mechanical failures have reduced the plant’s ability to operate at full capacity. By late 2023, two of the three generating units were offline, and the remaining operational unit lacked automated water-level controls, resulting in reduced efficiency and less consistent generation.

Under new ownership, Energen Renewables is committed to restoring and improving the facility so it can continue contributing to New York’s clean-energy goals while also supporting the local community. The company is applying for Tier I renewable energy certification under the state’s repowering criteria, which encourage meaningful reinvestment in aging renewable assets.

Restoring Diamond Island will ensure it remains a reliable, tax-paying entity and a long-standing economic contributor to Watertown. The project will also help preserve an important feature of the city’s riverfront, maintaining its role as a clean-energy asset that benefits both the community and the state of New York for decades to come.

Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) Information	
County(ies):	Jefferson County
City/Town/Village(s):	City of Watertown
Taxing School District(s):	Watertown City School District
Located in Agricultural District? (Yes/No)	No
Local Elected Official Name(s), Contact Information, and Tenure:	Mayor Sarah V. C. Pierce City Hall – Room 302 245 Washington Street Watertown, NY 13601-3380 Office: (315) 785-7720 Cell: (315) 775-8167 spierce@watertown-ny.gov

Description of local outreach strategies, engagement activities, and public events to date:
<p>The Diamond Island Hydroelectric Project has been an integral part of the Watertown waterfront since 1914. In the early 1980s, the Project underwent a comprehensive Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) review, which included the full, mandated community engagement process and resulted in the facility receiving a FERC exemption in 1982. Operating continuously since then, no further formal outreach requirements have been triggered. However, the facility has remained a familiar presence along the Black River, and the owner has continued informal communication with local officials, neighboring property owners, and community members as routine operational activities and maintenance needs have arisen.</p>

Description of planned local outreach strategies, engagement activities, and public events:

Taking ownership of Diamond Island Hydroelectric Project in July, 2025, Energen Renewables has further invested in the local economy by opening an office and machine shop in Harrisville and employing four, local, full-time employees. Energen management and its employees are committed to continuing the legacy when possible, of employing local contractors, being a good neighbor and preserving public access in collaboration with state and local agencies.

Description of benefits to disadvantaged communities that would be realized with the development and construction of the Bid Facility:

The Diamond Island Hydroelectric project has been an integral part of the Watertown riverfront since 1914. The project pays local taxes directly to the City of Watertown, a defined Disadvantaged Community(DAC) as defined under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) criteria. In addition to paying taxes directly to the City, the continued operation and reinvestment in the project as part of participating in this solicitation preserves a valuable city infrastructure asset.

Description of the direct benefits to the community:

The Diamond Island Hydroelectric Project continues to provide meaningful, long-standing benefits to the City of Watertown and the surrounding community. As an operating renewable resource, the facility supplies clean, locally generated power to the region, contributing to grid stability and helping advance New York State's decarbonization goals.

The Project directly supports the local economy through annual property tax payments to the City of Watertown, a community designated as a Disadvantaged Community under the CLCPA. These payments support essential municipal services, public schools, and community infrastructure.

The Project also maintains an important recreational amenity along the Black River. Portions of the Black River Trail system run along or adjacent to Project property, offering river views of the dam and falls. Continued investment in the facility ensures this stretch of the riverfront remains safe, accessible, and visually maintained for residents, hikers, and visitors.

Energen Renewables employs local personnel and relies on local contractors and businesses for materials, fabrication, machining, and ongoing plant maintenance. The company's new machine shop in Harrisville expands this economic footprint, supporting additional trades and vendors in Jefferson and Lewis Counties.

Overall, the Project provides clean energy, supports local jobs and businesses, contributes to the municipal tax base, and helps preserve a highly valued piece of the Watertown riverfront. These benefits will continue and grow as the facility undergoes reinvestment and modernization.

Description of past or planned PILOT and HCA engagements:

The Diamond Island Hydroelectric Project has been an integral part of the Watertown riverfront since 1914. Currently operating and paying taxes, the proposer does not have any planned PILOT or HCA engagements.



Description of local interests and concerns, including strategies to build support and/or mitigate concerns:

The Diamond Island Hydroelectric Project has been an integral part of the Watertown riverfront since 1914. The prime concern for the community is the continued operation, maintenance and re-investment in the century-old facility. The project employs local contractors, pays local taxes and is an integral part of the City of Watertown Black River Hiking Trail, which passes along the edge of the project's property and includes nice views of the dam and waterfall. New ownership and recent approval as a Tier 1 resource paves the way for Diamond Island to remain an important local and regional energy resource for decades to come.

Description of method for soliciting project feedback, including the process for sharing feedback:

In addition to being an integral part of the Watertown river front for over 100 years, the project property has prominent signage in compliance with FERC and local regulations that has the ownership, FERC Exemption Number and contact phone number. Any inbound calls are documented, shared within the Energen Operations and Regulatory team and addressed appropriately. In cases of emergencies, the operations team follows clear protocols for contacting and interacting with local emergency resources.

Energen Renewables also provides a publicly accessible website with a dedicated “Contact Us” page (<https://energenrenewables.co/>), allowing community members to easily submit comments or questions electronically. Submissions are routed to the relevant operations or regulatory personnel for timely response and internal tracking.