

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:	Rich Road Solar Energy Center
Proposer:	Rich Road Solar Energy Center, LLC
Technology:	Solar
Proposed Nameplate Capacity (Megawatts AC):	240
Interconnection Queue Number:	800
Interconnecting Utility:	New York Power Authority
NYS PSC Article 10/ORES Case Number (if applicable):	ORES MATTER NO. 22-00031
Bid Facility Website (if applicable):	https://www.richroadsolar.com/
Proposed In-Service Date:	December 31, 2028

General description of Project (250 words or more):
<p>EDF power solutions, Inc. (“EDFps NA”), the Proposer’s parent company, has developed, financed, constructed, operated and managed over 20 GW of renewable energy projects in North America over the last 35 years. Our recent experience in New York on the 80 MW Copenhagen Wind Farm operating in Lewis County and the first ORES permitted project now in operation, the 177 MW Morris Ridge Solar Center in Livingston County. The Proposer seeks to deeply understand the host community, to develop strong renewable energy project that bring many benefits to the local community in partnership with its stakeholders. The Proposer is committed to honesty and transparency with all stakeholders.</p> <p>The Rich Road Solar Energy Center is a 240 MW solar project sited on approximately 1,400 acres of private land located in the Town of Canton, St. Lawrence County. The project lands are primarily agricultural land consisting of fallow, hay, and row crops. The point of interconnection where the electricity will be delivered to the New York Independent System Operator's (NYISO’s) grid, will be on the Haverstock - Adirondack 345KV line HA2 line located on Site. The Project will be comprised of about 450,000 solar panels mounted on a tracker system secured to the ground by piles. A series of inverters and transformers will condition the electricity generated by the solar panels before it is injected into the existing grid. The project is expected to provide enough electricity to meet the demand of approximately 60,000 New York homes.</p> <p>The Proposer has kept the Town of Canton well informed of the Rich Road Solar Energy Center starting with introductory meetings in 2019 and budding into robust collaboration and workshops in 2022 to establish the permit layout in conformance with local law. Engagement with the Town has continued by progressing discussions related to tax agreements, host community benefits, and road use agreements. All of the major environmental and engineering studies were completed for the Article VIII Application submitted in March 2023 followed by issuance of a Final Siting Permit from ORES on September 24, 2024.</p>

General description of Project (250 words or more):

The Rich Road Solar Energy Center is anticipated to provide significant benefits to the host community, local school district and St. Lawrence County. Over \$30 million in new revenues are anticipated for the community during the first 20 years of operation through an increase in underlying property taxes, anticipated PILOT Agreement with SCLIDA, and expected Host Community Agreement with the Town. More than \$1,000,000 per year in lease revenue to local landowners will be paid and with the State's host community electricity benefit, \$120,000 in credits on residential electricity bills will be distributed among households in the Town of Canton annually for the first 10 years of operation. In addition, more than 250 union jobs are anticipated to be created at the peak of construction, and 2-3 full time positions during the operating life of the Project. New business for the local hospitality, material supply, and service sectors are expected during project construction and operation.

The Proposer understands the importance of honesty, transparency, and acknowledgement from the local communities. The Proposer strives to remain fully transparent and to go above and beyond the minimum requirements throughout the development of their renewable energy projects. As part of this initiative, the Proposer will fund a 10 year community led donation program by making \$50,000 per year available with our Sharing the Sun program that allows a community chosen committee to distribute the funds at their discretion. Therefore, not only will the Proposer make the local communities aware of the proposed project, but they will also work with the town boards and residents to share in the project, gather input from all stakeholders, be present and available in the host community and remain available and open to communication. The Proposer has executed this outreach through town hall meetings, open houses, and distribution of project materials to local officials and residents. Communication with the local communities will remain open and active throughout the development of the project to Commercial Operation, and through the life of the project. The Proposer vows to treat landowners, host communities, and stakeholders fairly and equitably. Members of the public are encouraged to contact the Proposer's team by email at newyorksolar@edf-re.com or by phone at (833) 333-7369 for more information or to share any feedback.

Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) Information	
County(ies):	St Lawrence County
City/Town/Village(s):	Town of Canton
Taxing School District(s):	Canton Central School District
Located in Agricultural District? (Yes/No)	Yes
Local Elected Official Name(s), Contact Information, and Tenure:	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Town of Canton</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Supervisor 2025- Mary Ann Ashley mashley@cantonny.gov 2026 Jim Smith, jsmith@cantonny.gov</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Town Clerk: Heidi Smith (315) 386 - 3735 townclerk@cantonny.gov</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Code Enforcement Officer Mike McQuade, CodeEnforcement@cantonny.us</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Highway Superintendent Steven Smith, townhighway@cantonny.gov</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fire Chief Shawn McGregor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair of Planning Board Ian MacKellar (12/31/2027) townplanning@cantonny.gov</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair of Zoning Board Matthew Scafidi-McGuire, (12/31/27) townzba@cantonny.gov</p>

Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) Information	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St Lawrence County</u> Executive Director of IDA Patrick Kelly, 315-379-9806, Director of Planning Board Jason Ptoenhauer, (315) 379-2292, JPfoenhauer@stlawco.gov Executive Director Of Emergency Response Services Richard Rusaw, (315) 379-2222</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Canton Central School District</u> Superintendent Dr Joseph McDonough, 315-386-8561</p>

Description of local outreach strategies, engagement activities, and public events to date:
<p>Introduction</p> <p>The Proposer believes in a life-cycle approach to community engagement and realizes the process is continual as societal shifts come into play over the long development process and operation cycle of grid scale solar projects. The Proposer engages in a systems theory approach and uses state and local frameworks to guide conversations with local stakeholders, that help to form the identity of energy projects.</p> <p>The purpose of the Proposer’s parent company, EDFps, is: “To build a net zero energy future with electricity and innovative solutions and services, to help save the planet and drive wellbeing and economic development.”</p> <p>Rich Road Solar Energy Center is exemplifying this purpose through creating emissions free energy that helps the state to reach its energy mandate, while providing meaningful benefits for local communities.</p> <p>Municipal Engagement – Town of Canton</p> <p>The Proposer started developing the Rich Road Solar Energy Center in Spring 2019, upon acquiring the project’s initial core landowners. The Proposer first met with the Canton Town Board Solar Committee on April 24, 2019, to present the project, share the potential site map, and other project information. Since then, about a dozen landowners have signed up to host solar panels and interconnection facilities.</p> <p>On April 20, 2022, letters were sent to the Town of Canton’s Supervisor listing applicable substantive requirements and local laws with an outline of efforts made by the Proposer to comply with the laws during development. The Town responded in writing on August 14, 2022, after several coordination meetings between the Proposer and town representatives were completed to discuss local law requirements in detail. On June 14, 2022, the Proposer sent a letter to the Town of Canton’s Supervisor regarding visual impacts consultation. The letter included a visually sensitive resource list and map and a photo log identifying potential key observation points, with recommendations for nine visual simulations.</p> <p>The Proposer and its attorneys engaged in consultation with the Town of Canton, with attendance from the Town’s code enforcement officer, and legal counsel representatives on several occasions, as summarized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 22, 2022, the Proposer distributed materials showing the preliminary Site Plan, overview of environmental studies, draft transportation routes to be used for construction, noise monitoring locations, a viewshed map and photo log identifying potential key observation points, and next steps in the permitting process.

Description of local outreach strategies, engagement activities, and public events to date:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On July 15, 2022, and again on September 16, 2022, the Proposer distributed revised materials showing preliminary site plan development and visual screening materials to discuss the layout of solar arrays and potential visual buffering along US Route 11. • On August 15, 2022, the Proposer presented on taxation and finance structures, discussed project economics, and initiated the conversation about PILOT and Host Community Agreement terms. • On April 25, 2023, the Proposer hosted a Project Application seminar with a combination of local municipal and community resident stakeholders. The Seminar provided an in-depth review of the Article VIII (fka 94-c) Application materials and provided for a detailed discussion and Q&A regarding the project. • On September 13, 2023, the Proposer joined the Town of Canton Board Meeting to discuss project updates • On June 16, 2024, the Proposer met with the Town of Canton to discuss ideas on host community agreements and project updates. • On October 23, 2024, the Proposer met with the representatives of the Town of Canton to discuss real property tax models and the host community agreement. • On August 13th, 2025, the Proposer met with the town of Canton representatives to discuss host community agreement and project updates including federal wetland applications
<p><i>Emergency Medical Services Consultation</i> <i>Village of Canton (Canton Fire District)</i></p>
<p>On October 5, 2022, the Proposer consulted with the St. Lawrence County District One Bureau of Fire Departments consisting of the Canton, Pyrites, Morley, Pierrepont, Russell, and Rensselaer Falls Fire Departments and the St. Lawrence County Emergency Services Fire Coordinator. Along with Canton Fire Department service, several of these fire departments provide additional mutual aid services to the Project Area, and the County Emergency Services coordinate emergency response dispatch. The Proposer reviewed the proposed project, anticipated equipment, and shared copies of the draft Safety and Security Plans included within the 94-c Application Materials.</p>
<p>The Proposer has continued to coordinate with the Town of Canton Fire Code Official to review the access road design and ensure compliance with the Town Code, Fire Code, and the needs of the Canton Fire Department’s vehicular equipment. On March 15, 2023, the Proposer provided the proposed project’s plan set to the Fire Code Official for their reference and use in determining facility compliance in accordance with the New York State Uniform Building and Fire Code.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On August 13, 2025, the Proposer met with the Village of Canton and the combined services Canton Fire Department to discuss equipment and information needs. • On Sept 9, 2025, the Proposer met with the Village of Canton to provide updates and solicit feedback on emergency services needs and information requests
<p><i>St Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On November 17, 2022, the Proposer met with St. Lawrence County and provided the St. Lawrence County Executer with a copy of the Visual Impacts consultation, draft landscape mitigation plan and an update on the status of ongoing coordination between Rich Road Solar Town Representatives.
<p><i>St Lawrence County Planning Department</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Sept 9, 2025, the Proposer met with St. Lawrence County to review positive community engagement progressions and solicit additional feedback

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

St. Lawrence County Agricultural Farmland Protection Board

- On December 1, 2022, the Proposer presented on the Project layout and discussed agricultural benefits and impacts with the St. Lawrence County Agricultural Farmland Protection Board (SLCAFPB). The SLCAFPB consists of representatives from the County legislator, planning, soil and water conservation, industrial development agency, real property tax services, and members of the farming community.

Community Engagement

An intensive community engagement campaign included hosting an Open House Public Meeting on July 22nd, 2021, for adjacent landowners, local stakeholders, and municipal officials. Approximately 60 people attended the meeting. The Proposer notified locals of this meeting in a local newspaper and sent an invitation to everyone in the project area, along with those up to 1,000 feet from the project boundary. The invitation was mailed to 1178 households more than 14 days before the scheduled event.

Reporter Paul Mitchell from *North Country Now* reported on the open house on three separate occasions. On July 14th, in a story titled, *“Talks continue on \$300M Canton solar farm that could be complete by 2025”* mentioned the time and date of the open house. Subsequently, on July 19th they published another article titled *“Community open house Thursday regarding 240-megawatt solar farm planned in Canton”* that provided details of the open house and background information on the project. Then the day after the open house they included a photo from the open house with a caption.

Additionally, the Watertown Daily Times reporter Ellis Giacomelli wrote two articles that mentioned the open house. The first was published on July 19th and titled *“Canton Town Council passes energy storage law as commercial solar development interest grows”*. The second article titled *“Commercial solar farm being developed in Canton through new state siting process”* was published on July 24th and included considerable background information on the project and the 94c permitting process.

The Proposer hosted its second public open house July 14, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the SUNY Canton. The meeting included 54 participants and followed the same protocol as described above with June 2021 meeting.

To assist the local community in navigating the Office of Renewable Energy Siting 94c permitting process, the Proposer hosted a series of informational meetings to provide a deeper insight into both the state process and the Rich Road solar site-specific permit. A recorded version of the informational webinar can be found by visiting richroadsolar.com/resources and viewing the June 6th, 2023, Community Webinar. Careful consideration went into the 94c siting permit to reflect the importance of local waterways and wildlife.

Historically, the Rich Road public involvement program plan for the Article 10 process, as well as Exhibit 2, Overview and Public Involvement of the Office of Renewable Energy Siting 94c siting process, can be found on NYS Department of Public Service Document Matter Master. Rich Road Solar Energy Center Matter Number: 19-01471 Case Number: 19-F-0461

In addition to the ways listed, the Proposer has contributed to the local community by donations to local food banks, to the ADA kayak launch, the Grasse Rive Heritage Area and continues to find ways to create meaningful impact in the local community.

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

Canton Rich Road Solar Planning Committee

Beginning in April 2024, the Proposer began partnering with local community members to form the Canton Rich Road Solar Planning Committee, a group seeking to incorporate local opinions into the final design of the project. The Canton Rich Road Solar Planning Committee has met six times as of the submission of this document (April 22, 2024, June 3, 2024, and June 17, 2024, Fall of 2024, virtually February 2025 and in person September 9th, 2025). Conversations have tossed around community gardens, sports fields, and walking trails. After many group discussions, the group crystallized the vision on a walking trail in the exterior of the solar facility. A survey was distributed to the community to solicit additional feedback on what residents would like to see incorporated into a walking trail.

Through these various iterations and feedback loops, the group has progressed the vision to an ecosystems trail, highlighting how smart-sized solar, like Rich Road Solar, can improve biodiversity and highlight natural flora and fauna.

A design challenge will be created for the local high school students and higher education students to develop the trail, as ADA accessible. The group will continue to meet as the Rich Road Solar project nears final design and construction phase.

SUNY Canton/Higher Education Partnerships

Both in April of 2022 and October of 2023, the Proposer participated in the Green Living Fair hosted by SUNY Canton, St Lawrence University, SUNY Potsdam, and Clarkson University. In October of 2023, the Proposer hosted a design integration workshop, wherein posterboards showing different design aspects of Rich Road Solar and potential agrivoltaic site designs. Both fairs proved to be extremely successful as feedback gleaned continues to be incorporated into final design phases.

On May 14, 2025, the Proposer’s team members hosted a solar car make and take workshop for girls grades 7-12 At SUNY Canton, from schools throughout St. Lawrence County.

Scholarships

Since 2022, the Proposer has donated \$4,000 per year to Canton Central School district for ‘EDF power solutions Clean Energy and Trades’ scholarship for graduating seniors. This has been split into 2x \$2,000 scholarships and is often distributed as 4x \$1,000 to graduating seniors. The student may attend a vocation or training program or a 2- or 4-year higher education institution, in efforts to grow the New York State’s clean energy workforce.

Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA)

As the regional NYSERDA Clean Energy Hub, Climate Smart Coordinators, and Clean Energy Community Coordinators, partnering with ANCA allows the Proposer to align with regional and local climate and energy priorities and needs. The Proposer has sponsored ANCA regional clean energy conference in 2024 and 2025 to assist with such efforts.

The Proposer and ANCA have also initiated a replication and innovative program with grant funds from Rich Road Solar Energy Center going towards addressing the biggest disproportionate burden in the energy transition, that of homeowners converting to a decarbonized system. These funds will be used as gap funding to improve building envelopes and help residents access additional funding either through state or federal sources. To date, \$20,000

Description of local outreach strategies, engagement activities, and public events to date:
has been released to a household in need in the Town of Canton. The resident was able to improve the building envelope, thus reducing the energy burden for the resident and helping to create more vibrant communities. Conclusion Overall, the Proposer is committed to a thorough community engagement program, listening to neighbors, and providing the information and resources necessary to help inform about solar energy and the project, so the project and its benefits are successfully integrated into the community for years to come.

Description of planned local outreach strategies, engagement activities, and public events:
Introduction The Proposer could be nearing the construction phase of its life should a NYSERDA Tier 1 contract be awarded. That being the case, future outreach strategies will involve keeping the community and municipality involved and informed of the continued project progress. Continued conversations and feedback loops will be enabled as project plans and designs are finalized and continue to be integrated into the fabric of community. Municipal Engagement- Town of Canton As the project nears the construction phase several key pieces will still need to be finalized with the Town of Canton, which will require careful conversations and diligent iterations. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road Use Agreement• Host Community Agreement and Payment in Lieu of Taxes• Emergency Response Plans• Continuing towards final design and permitting towards compliance filings for the Art. 8 permitting process Emergency Response Services Village of Canton (Canton Fire Department) The Proposer will work closely alongside the local first responder departments to ensure that all needs from an equipment and information standpoint are responded to. In addition, close alignment will be ensured through regular coordination. Trainings will be held every five years to ensure all local first responders have the knowledge and materials needed in the unlikely case of an event. St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency The Proposer will be meeting with SLC IDA on a joint front with the Town of Canton to discuss payment in lieu of tax negotiations. The Proposer has been working with Labella Associates to provide a comprehensive economic impact study to show how solar is more profitable per acre than other competing land uses, showing how diversifying the county's economy with solar is a smart business decision for the county long term. St Lawrence County Planning Department The Proposer will continue opening itself to partnership and dialogue with the county planning department. Some considerations have included a traffic stop on the county bus line at the facility, once an ecosystem walking trail is established for equity in access for the local community.

St Lawrence County Agricultural Protection Board

The Proposer will continue to work alongside the SLC Agricultural Protection Board throughout the final design and permitting phase, construction and operation to ensure that any dual use considerations including but not limited to sheep grazing, haylage and row cropping, will support and uplift local markets rather than competing or hindering.

Community Engagement

While the Proposer continues through the final design and permitting phase, the project team will continue to solicit feedback from the local community. The Proposer will host a pre-construction meeting open to the community, so residents may have a clear understanding of what to expect during this time. The meeting will be advertised in local papers and notices sent via mail to residents of the Town of Canton. The Town will also be notified of the meeting, so they may share via the Town's communication networks should it be desired. Community newsletters will also go out during the construction period to notify residents of expected schedules.

Canton Rich Road Solar Planning Committee

Next steps for these efforts are securing local long-term partners to assist with the longevity of potential projects and finalizing the design of the ecosystem trail, highlighting woodland, wetland and grassland ecosystems. Greater community partnerships will be sought to design the trail, including design challenges with the local high school and higher education institutions.

Academic/Higher Education Partnerships (SUNY Canton and CSD Scholarships)

The Proposer plans to maintain lifecycle relationships with both SUNY Canton and Canton Central School District. The Proposer will continue to provide 2x \$2,000 scholarships to the Canton Central School District for ten years post commercial operation date. The Proposer will also work with the Canton Central School district or local community college to bring a solar design challenge in partnership with ExPR where students experience designing and constructing a solar facility.

Further, the Proposer plans to continue a working relationship with SUNY Canton and support the school through a multitude of partnerships and opportunities such as engineering months or days, research and education opportunities for the site and exploring dual use opportunities.

Adirondack North Country Association

As the regional Clean Energy Hub and Clean Energy Community Coordinator, the Proposer believes in coordinating and aligning with the Adirondack North Country Association to ensure regional and local cohesion. Once a NYSERDA contract is received, an additional \$200,000 will be released towards the Energy Efficiency for DAC Homeowners program, helping individuals who share the greatest disproportionate burden transition to more energy efficient homes.

The Proposer will also continue to support regional efforts put forth by ANCA, like annual conferences and workshops.

Construction

The Proposer and its parent company, EDFps, can draw lessons from having developed and built Morris Ridge Solar, one of the first large scale solar projects to enter construction in New York State. This experience provides the Proposer unique advantages due to the knowledge gained in the pre-construction and construction phases of solar project development in New York. Important lessons learned are to consider google map directions when negotiating road use agreements, working with local communities such as Amish or

Mennonite to understand and accommodate daily and religious travel patterns, and working with local liaisons to maintain a close and constant point of contact through this phase.

Leading up to construction, the Proposer will engage with the local community to provide a booklet of local services and hospitality businesses to distribute to the hundreds of construction workers who will work in the area for many months. This booklet will help to promote local businesses across St. Lawrence County to maximize opportunities to support the local economy. The Proposer’s parent company implemented a similar booklet during construction of the Morris Ridge Solar project in 2023-2024 and received positive feedback, including local shops saying they received more business directly from project contractors and subcontractors using the booklet. For example, a local pizza shop sold upwards of 50 slices/day to construction workers in the area. When we consider this impact across a variety of sectors and businesses, the collective impact is significant.

Operation

During the operational phase of the project, relationships with the community are managed by the Proposer’s asset optimization team, local site manager, and land and community engagement team. The primary focus of these community relationships are to create educational and partnership opportunities, ensuring the project is operating safely, and maintaining the requirements of our permits (for example the vegetative buffering for visual impact). Refresher training for first responders and emergency personnel will be held as needed and opportunities for field trips or educational seminars are available for local students.

Conclusion

Finally, through a combination of podcasts, webinars, mailers, public meetings, website updates or one on one conversations, the Project team will continue to communicate relevant information and collect meaningful feedback from all stakeholders to better integrate the Project within the community. Stakeholders may continue to reach out at anytime at 833.333.7369, newyorksolar@edf-re.com, or by accessing the project website at www.richroadsolar.com.

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

Introduction

Recognizing most of the state’s utility scale renewable energy projects are located in rural areas, the Proposer maintains the NYSERDA March 2023 definition of Disadvantaged communities to adequately address rural poverty, wherein households that fall within the state level threshold may be categorized as members of disadvantaged communities. In addition, recognizing regional impacts of any kind of development, the Proposer works closely with county and regional organizations to create opportunities for nearby disadvantaged communities. The Proposer further recognizes some of the biggest burdens are local funding opportunities, workforce development and household energy efficiency. According to the March 2023, NYSERDA DAC additional criteria, the Rich Road Solar project would impact the following census tracts in St. Lawrence County:

The above-listed DACs would be positively impacted through the county-level PILOT payments and educational, workforce development, and meaningful employment opportunities the Rich Road Solar Energy Center would bring to the county.

Additionally, in the town of Canton, 27% of households fall within the 0%-60% state income level threshold to qualify as a disadvantaged community member. For these households, the average energy burden is 9.5%. This

Description of benefits to disadvantaged communities that would be realized with the development and construction of the Bid Facility:
<p>number is especially significant for households in the North Country region that has the highest number of households not in a categorized DAC, as according to the NYSERDA DAC fact sheet.</p> <p>Local Funding Opportunities</p> <p>The Proposer is dedicating \$50,000 for ten years beginning at the start of construction for the project’s Share the Sun Fund community benefit funding opportunity. Often, local nonprofits, such as food pantries, have difficulty acquiring funding to serve the members of communities who are most in need. Winners of these funds are chosen by a local selection committee. This funding will occur annually for ten years post commercial operation date</p> <p>Two annual scholarships of \$2,000 each will be created for the Canton Central School District, and we will be working with county workforce organizations and homeowner organizations to implement programs for disadvantaged communities both in project communities and counties. The project will also provide an opportunity to source construction labor, materials, subcontractors, and vendors directly from this disadvantaged area. This scholarship has existed since 2022 and will continue for ten years post commercial operation date.</p> <p>Job Creation and Workforce Development</p> <p>The Rich Road Solar Energy Center will bring much-needed job opportunities not only to the host town, but also to neighboring disadvantaged communities. Specifically, 250 union jobs created at the peak of construction and two-to-three additional full- time, high paying operation jobs for the project’s 35-year operating life. Construction jobs offer prevailing wages, hands- on learning, and serve as a starting point to gain relevant knowledge and experience in a fast-growing energy industry. Full-time operations jobs maintain a starting salary of 16-19% above the median state income level, depending on the position. It is projected that in the next 10 years solar technician demand will increase by 50% in New York State. Rich Road Solar will provide much needed opportunities for individuals and business alike, looking to advance in the clean energy economy.</p> <p>While the direct contributions made by the Proposer will focus on the project’s host town, school district, and county, its proximity to Heuvelton, Massena, and Hammond will provide an opportunity to source hospitality, services, construction labor and materials, subcontractors, and vendors from both disadvantaged community members and recognized DACs in the North Country.</p> <p>The Proposer plans to promote workforce development in the disadvantaged communities and to members of the Rich Road area, by cultivating career pathways in the solar industry. Thus, the Proposer has partnered with ExPR to offer a virtual reality headset tour of a solar construction field, while different careers in the solar industry are discussed, as well as showing an operational site with sheep grazing. The Proposer will offer this virtual reality tour to students at local high schools and community colleges as an introduction to a design innovation workshop. During this workshop crafted by the Proposer and ExPR, students delve into creating an inverter block using a plot of land in the community. This serves as a replicable model of how to introduce career paths to students that they otherwise may not have had access to.</p> <p>Locally, the Proposer has been working with SUNY Canton and LiUNA (Laborers’ Union) on creating direct pathways to local training, and eventually employment at the Rich Road Solar Energy Center. In addition, the Proposer intends to distribute a flyer that highlights the opportunities to pursue a career in renewable energy.</p>

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

Energy Efficiency/Carbon Reductions

In an effort to directly address several goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act at once, the Proposer is implementing an innovative and replicable energy efficiency program for homeowners within the DAC income level threshold within the Town of Canton. The funds will be administered by the Adirondack North County Association, as the regional Clean Energy Hub, responsible for household level energy efficiency measures. Households and vendors will be selected by ANCA, as a trusted community partner. As of January 2024, three homes in the town of Canton were selected to share \$20,000 in upgrades. These upgrades will further allow these households to be eligible for additional NYSERDA funding programs, removing an important barrier to entry for many disadvantaged households in project communities. Upon receipt of a NYSERDA Tier 1 award, the Proposer is committed to investing another \$220,000 into this program for households in the Town of Canton with any remaining funds distributed to the nearest DACs such as Heuvelton and Hammond. The Proposer is proud of this program as it addresses one of the biggest individual energy burdens and challenges of the CLCPA, in bringing energy efficiency to disadvantaged households in rural New York.

Since the initial \$20,000 was released in funding, the network has continued to grow, exploring connecting county level resources from federal funding streams with the resources from the state regional clean energy hubs.

Local Educational Opportunities

The Proposer will be able to provide well-paying jobs to locals who completed relevant educational programs during the construction and operation phases of the project. SUNY Canton, a public university located in Canton, offers relevant courses and programs under the areas of Electrical and Power Transmission Installation, Mechanical Engineering, Building and Construction Site Management, and Electrical Engineering. Working with this local institution can increase opportunities for underrepresented groups, where underrepresented groups make up at least 30% of the student body and 48% are Pell grant recipients. Within a close distance of the project, Clarkson University in Potsdam also has relevant courses and programs, such as Electrical Engineering and Environmental Engineering. Underrepresented groups make up at least 14% of the student body and 21% of students receive Pell grants. These represent just two of the many institutions in the North Country where students are learning skills which could propel them into a career in renewable energy, and perhaps at the Rich Road Solar Energy Center. In 2023, 2024, and 2025, the Proposer donated to SUNY Canton, to provide scholarships to students in need in their electrical engineering program. In addition, the Proposer provided funding to the school to build a solar array on campus that is used as a teaching demonstration to provide a hands on lesson for the students as well as provide, clean, emissions-free, localized power to the campus.

Description of the direct benefits to the community:

Introduction

The Proposer's project team and many community members are excited to see the project be realized, as it will provide many benefits for the community, including:

- More than \$800,000 in new revenues on an average annual basis for the town, county and school districts.
- More than \$1,000,000 annually in landowner payments.
- \$120,000, per year in residential electricity bill credits through the Host Community Benefit program (for the first 10 years of operation). This amounts to \$30-40 per household in the town of Canton.
- \$50,000 annual Share the Sun Fund community benefit fund (during construction and for the first 10 years of operation) to help support local organizations, in addition to any host community agreements or PILOT payments.
- Local Job Creation during construction and operation, and opportunities for material supply and services and opportunities for the hospitality sector.
- Two \$2,000 annual scholarships to the Canton School District for students interested to pursue a post-secondary program in the trades or a program that has a renewable energy component, with the option for a second-year renewal for the recipients.
- Some of the above-mentioned investments are anticipated to benefit disadvantaged communities in the North Country region as well as the 27% of households in the Town of Canton that fall within the 0-60% state income level threshold for disadvantaged community criteria.

The Rich Road Solar Energy Center represents a significant investment in the local towns, county, and the state of New York. The project would rank among the largest, by investment, in the Town of Canton. The project also shows alignment with the CLCPA and this solicitation's stated prioritization of benefits, including job creation and support for disadvantaged communities. The project will help grow and support New York's burgeoning renewable energy supply chains and workforce.

In addition to the category of alignment with the CLCPA, investments in the community fall into three primary categories:

- **Job Creation:** Includes temporary construction jobs and long-term jobs for the life of the facility.
- **Contribution in Taxes and Revenues:** Includes income from a PILOT and/or Host Community Agreements, special district taxes, taxes on underlying land and agricultural exemption conversion penalties.
- **Direct Economic Benefits:** The initial spending on the construction and operation of the photovoltaic (PV) installation creates a second layer of impacts, referred to as "supply chain impacts" or "indirect impacts." Indirect impacts during the construction period consist of the changes in inter-industry purchases resulting from the direct final demand changes and include construction spending on materials and PV equipment and other purchases of goods and offsite services. Focusing on local or in-state indirect benefits, we see the greatest impact in the hospitality, material supply, and construction services sectors.

Alignment with the CLCPA

Rich Road Solar Energy Center contributes to New York State's goal of 70% renewable energy generation by 2030 and decarbonizing our grid and atmosphere. To exemplify this, the Proposer contracted Leidos to conduct an independent study of the impact Rich Road Solar would have on the New York State electric power system power plant emissions. The study concluded that when operational, Rich Road Solar Energy Center can reduce

Description of the direct benefits to the community:
<p>New York State power system power plant carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 0.6%, (149,142 tons per year) and NOx emissions by 0.8% (45 tons per year).</p> <p>As we've shown, the Proposer's efforts to bring clean energy to New York are not only aligned with the goals of the CLCPA, but also with NYSERDA's five core mission outcomes which are greenhouse gas emissions reductions, driving steady and reliable procurements of renewable energy, driving energy efficiency, and building decarbonization, building New York's clean energy economy, and aligning infrastructure, investment, and energy system planning to create a resilient and distributed energy system.</p> <p>To do its part in addressing the environmental justice aspects of the CLCPA, the Proposer will be investing in workforce development, education, household energy efficiency for both disadvantaged community members of Canton and regional identified disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>To ensure these benefits are integrated into project communities, the Proposer believes in creating longstanding partnerships with organizations like local school districts and higher education institutions, BOCES, community groups like Veterans of Foreign Wars or Boys/Girls Scouts, food pantries, county and regional program partners like workforce development boards and NYSERDA Clean Energy Community Coordinators or Clean Energy Hubs.</p> <p>Looking at the larger picture of upstate New York, the Proposer's developments will also have a positive impact on the cities and regions nearby, such as Watertown and Syracuse, and the Adirondack North Country area, each of which host disadvantaged communities. Through these projects, the Proposer is helping to grow a connected and growing renewable energy supply chain in project regions, while developing a skilled local workforce and supporting New York's nation-leading transition to a renewable energy future.</p> <p><i>Economic Development/Local Job Creation: Rich Road</i></p> <p>Figures released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that St. Lawrence County has an unemployment rate of 4.6% as of May 2024¹. The job creation from the project construction will provide contracted work to local companies and/or persons in the workforce for a secured timeline. The Proposer is proposing to contribute over \$20 million in direct payments, averaging more than \$800 thousand per year, to the Town of Canton, St. Lawrence County, and host school districts in the first 20 years of operation. This value includes PILOT and/or Host Community Agreements, special district taxes, taxes on underlying land, and agricultural exemption conversion penalties.</p> <p>More than 250 jobs will be created at the peak of construction, and four full-time, high-paying jobs for its 35+ year operating life. In addition, the Proposer commits to assisting in much needed training opportunities, setting individuals up for a career in one of the fastest growing industries of the future which will be discussed in greater detail in the following sections.</p> <p><i>Contributions to local Revenues and Direct Economic Benefits</i></p> <p>While this Community Engagement Plan provides an overview of the significant localized contributions for the Rich Road community, the economic benefits sections of this solicitation cover the direct benefits in detail. With a fervent commitment to project communities, the Proposer exceeds the base level expectations of</p>

Description of the direct benefits to the community:
<p>benefits a project can bring to a community through listening and responding to needs in real time and bringing the following programs to our communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share the Sun Fund- \$50,000 annual fund given to local organizations. Winners are selected after an application review by a local committee.• 2x \$2,000 Scholarships for students at Canton Central school district interested in renewable energy or the trades.• In person education and outreach events including arts festivals, environmental summits, to school homecomings and county fairs.• Partnerships with local unions• Presentations, scholarships, and partnerships with local schools such as SUNY Canton, Clarkson, SUNY Potsdam, and St. Lawrence University.• Workforce Development offerings as an intro to solar with a virtual reality headset tour of a solar construction site, paired with a design innovation challenge of a solar inverter block. <p>¹ St. Lawrence County Unemployment Statistics LiveStories</p> <p><i>Co-utilization and Site Maintenance Economic Benefits</i></p> <p>In addition to the tax revenues and additional programs offered by the project, the Proposer provides opportunities for farms and local businesses through the introduction of co-utilization and vegetative maintenance opportunities.</p> <p>The Proposer encourages co-utilization of land by incorporating sheep grazing as one of the methods of vegetation management on site. Farmers will be compensated for these efforts, while additional opportunities could exist like wool production or sale of meat or livestock.</p> <p>Beekeeping is another profitable way for farmers to potentially engage in co-utilization of leased land. The Rich Road site is ideal for sustaining beehives, allowing farmers to draw revenue from the sale of honey and wax to the local community and surrounding region.</p> <p>In addition, the Rich Road Solar Energy Center will increase local business revenues and local spending in the Canton community through various onsite needed services. Over the project lifetime, the Proposer will invest an estimated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$2.1 million in local landscaping, vegetation management, fencing, snow removal, and road maintenance services• \$12.2 million in local job opportunities to repair panels and other electrical components, install racking, and maintain site facilities and sub-station.

Description of past or planned PILOT and HCA engagements:

Previous PILOT and HCA Engagements

- On August 15, 2022, the Proposer presented taxation and finance structures, discussed project economics, and initiated the conversation about PILOT and Host Community Agreement terms.
- On June 16, 2024, the Proposer met with the Town of Canton to discuss ideas on host community agreements and project updates.
- On October 23, 2024, the Proposer met with the representatives of the Town of Canton to discuss real property tax models and the host community agreement.
- On August 13th, 2025, the Proposer met with the town of Canton representatives to discuss host community agreement and project updates including federal wetland applications

Planned PILOT and HCA Engagements

Next steps towards the Host Community Agreement and Payment in Lieu of Taxes include the Town of Canton and the Proposer working together with the St Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency to come to mutual agreements on terms and conditions.

The Proposer is in the process of putting together an economic impact study with LaBella Associates to express the greater impact to the county that a grid scale solar project will have. This includes goods and services providers, construction jobs, and maintenance and repair contracts.

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

Local Interests

Town of Canton Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Canton’s most recent Comprehensive Plan is from 2019, as a joint effort with the Village of Canton and Rensselaer Falls and served as the first update since 1968. The plan is organized in four categories: Community Identity, Economic Growth, Resiliency and Sustainability, Transportation, and Mobility.

Rich Road Solar Energy Center will positively contribute to:

1. *Community Identity*- through iterative feedback sessions the Rich Road Solar team has woven the threads of Rich Road Solar into the canton community fabric with things like the ecosystems trail and partnerships with local organizations.
2. *Economic Growth*- solar has shown to be the most cost productive form of land use for St. Lawrence County. The economic stability provided for the town, school district and county through host community agreements and PILOT payments will provide the flexibility and opportunity for the governing bodies to stabilize taxes and pursue additional opportunities such new funding for infrastructure or new programming.
3. *Resiliency and Sustainability*- solar energy provides emissions free energy and adds resilience to the grid by diversifying the energy generation mix. Rich Road Solar will contribute to local resiliency and sustainability measures whenever possible by things like donating to natural heritage areas, participating in Green Living Fairs, and creating an ecosystems trail, as a replicable model of how solar arrays can benefit local biodiversity.

St Lawrence County Agricultural Development Plan

St Lawrence County’s Agricultural Development Plan was developed in 2016. Some important data points and goals that align with the Proposer are (as of the time of release of the document):

- *hay and other crops represent the largest farm category*- the Proposer continues to explore ways to support haylage under panels with SUNY Canton
- *only 5% of farm operators were 35 years old or younger*- the Proposer hopes to allow improved access to entry into the agricultural field through dual use explorations, for those who may have previously faced barriers
- *Improve the productivity and profitability of farm operations and agribusinesses*- a lease in solar allows farmers to diversify their revenue stream, increase farm profitability and allow for farmers to invest into productivity in other areas of their operation

Strategies to Build Support and Mitigate Concerns

Building Support - Municipal Engagement and Support

The Proposer engages across municipalities, the region, and the state to educate project communities about solar and its benefits. To educate municipalities at a state level, the Proposer regularly partners with educational support groups like the former United Solar Energy Supporters, New Yorkers for Clean Power, Sierra Club and the Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee Finger Lakes. The Proposer also participated in the recent Land Use Leadership Alliance training for local governments, by presenting on community benefits, community negotiations and agrivoltaics at the Watertown, Buffalo, Batavia, Cortland and Middletown forums. The Proposer engaged in bus tours of facilities both through NYSERDA and for project officials, as often, a real-time visual example is much more telling than seeing something virtually or on paper.

In efforts to assist municipalities with the complex review process, the Proposer will provide an ESCROW account to pay for local government legal and consulting fees to remain engaged in the project development lifecycle, so the permit review process is not burdensome for local tax payers.

Co-Location Opportunities and Challenges

The Proposer supports opportunities for the integration of agricultural activities including agricultural coproduction, pollinator support, and native habitat support at their large-scale ground-mounted solar projects included in this bid submission.

Large-scale solar developments tend to seek out land that is relatively flat, free of existing obstructions, and are limited in the negative impacts imposed on natural heritage features (i.e. wetlands). Due to this economic design preference, solar developments and agricultural land tend to overlap. It is a common misconception that it is an either/or option. Solar development and agricultural endeavors have the potential to be integrated in a successful and meaningful way.

The Proposer's parent company, EDFps NA, developed, owns, and operates the Arnprior Solar Project ("Arnprior"), a 23 MW commercial scale ground-mounted solar facility on 200 acres of land located near Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. EDFps NA pioneered the use of solar energy in Canada and doubled the grid-connected solar PV capacity in the country by building the Arnprior facility in 2009. Now in its 15th year of operation, the site is host to more than 300 sheep grazing under the solar panels, bees that produce 300 jars of honey annually, and milkweed for endangered monarch butterflies. These initiatives are a commitment to biodiversity, increasing land productivity, and are emblematic of EDFps NA's mission to lead the transition to a truly sustainable energy future by collaborating with the local communities, local agricultural businesses, and landowners. The experience gained at Arnprior will be directly applied to EDFps NA's portfolio of projects.

Team members of the Proposer welcomed municipal officials and landowners from Rich Road Solar to Arnprior for site tours in 2023 and 2024. Further, Rich Road Solar continues to explore ways to support the local dairy economy through dual use opportunities in partnership with local organizations.

Building Community Cohesion

Several residents of the Canton Community expressed frustration with the ORES state permitting process and Rich Road Solar Energy Center, through the public comment period as part of the state permitting process. To help address the community concerns, the Proposer hosted an Article 8 workshop, open to members of the public and municipal officials, to discuss in greater detail how the Article 8 application process works, and the detail into the many exhibits required.

Following these efforts, a concerned resident reached out to team members of the Proposer wanting to take a more involved approach to the project design. Together, with additional community members, the Canton Rich Road Solar Planning Committee was formed to solicit feedback directly from the community and include in the design and integration process in real-time.

The Proposer is proud of this replicable model, wherein deep listening and open partnership has helped to create a productive community group.

Mitigating Concerns

In our over 35 years of renewable energy development experience in North America, EDFps NA has come to find, there are two main factors that contribute toward building community support and responding to opposition:

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

- Providing education about the facility – often, a lack of information can cause confusion about the project. By sharing project details including mitigation measures and permitting constraints, more meaningful dialog can take place.
- Receiving feedback from the community – more importantly, receiving input from the community early in the development cycle allows for critical information to be known that can help craft a project in way that helps maximize support from the community in general.

The exercise of sharing information, receiving, and responding to feedback helps to realize a project with community in mind while seeking to improve overall project acceptance.

Below are specific examples indicating how informing stakeholders and/or receiving feedback either influenced project decisions or helped build community support at the Rich Road Solar Center:

During the development of Rich Road Solar, some concerns surrounding the impact on local farmland were raised, as a general response to solar development in rural areas. The Proposer was able to take an exemplary response to this concern, having a project with a majority of the land avoiding mineral soil groups 1-4. In addition, the Proposer enacted “mitigation in place” to smart design the solar facility to account for native wildlife and wetlands that are characteristic to the local community.

During a public meeting for Rich Road Solar, a neighbor brought up a concern for visual buffering. In response, the Proposer project developers had several sit-down meetings with this project neighbor to discuss project design and visual buffering to arrive at a mutually beneficial solution.

Additionally, when local community members wrote letters to the editor with concerns about the project and Section 94-c permitting process, the Proposer invited the community to an informational meeting and open dialogue on the Section 94-c application process to convey the components and detail included in the submission.

The community and municipality also had pause about the Route 11 corridor running through the project, as it acts as a main transportation route to and from the Town and Village of Canton. To address this, the Proposer worked alongside the Town of Canton to add berms and special planting modules for added visual buffering.

Conclusion

The Proposer appreciated the local community in their efforts to partner with the project and work through concerns collectively. The Proposer further realizes that there will be additional challenges to work through together with the community as the project moves through the construction and operation phases of the project, and is committed to doing so in an inclusive and thoughtful manner.

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

Introduction

The Proposer believes in a lifecycle approach to seeking feedback from local stakeholders. Using the applicable state frameworks, a systems theory approach, and local comprehensive plans, overarching frameworks for engagement are created and used to guide conversations with local stakeholders. This process is continually repeated through the development, construction, and operation of the project.

Municipal Stakeholders

Once a core of landowners is established, the Proposer believes in reaching out to the local governmental bodies early in the development process. The listening experience begins with understanding the needs and questions of the local municipality and engaging in a variety of educational methods to communicate concepts from there. Some of these methods include site tours, visual simulations, town hall sessions, and making subject matter experts available whenever possible.

Engaging with the local municipality can help to form needs for visual buffering, road use plans, and emergency response plans. Some of this can also lead into innovative project design that mirrors the character of the local community.

Community Stakeholders

Understanding local communities have a variety of needs and desires, the Proposer engages in a variety of communication methods to solicit and share feedback. These include newsletters, postcards, podcasts, webinars and workshops.

During to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Proposer needed to adapt its community outreach strategy to continue the important work of informing communities during challenging times when it was not possible to meet in public gatherings. The solution was to hold virtual community meetings where the Proposer’s developers and experts shared updates on project development, studies conducted, land acquisition, our conversations with state and local officials, other consultations, and the Article 10 / Section 94-c permitting processes, including the anticipated application date and information regarding the future availability of local agency and community intervenor funds.

In another effort to make different types of media available to reach out to as many people in our communities as possible, the Proposer developed a podcast series focused on educating the public about solar projects in development across New York state. The podcasts explain the project background and benefits, answer frequently asked questions, and detail the importance of reaching out to the community.

They include interviews with some of our participating landowners, the president of a local chamber of commerce, the beekeeper and farmer grazing sheep on one of our project sites in Ontario, Canada, our project developers, and energy storage safety experts. The podcasts are available on most popular podcast platforms and at the time of publication, were also advertised on the radio in the local markets and on the radio station’s websites. Other podcasts are available on project websites, including for the Rich Road Solar project.

In efforts to further include community feedback into the design process, the Proposer hosted a design integration workshop at the Green Living Fair in October of 2023. Senior Project Developer, Jonathan Geldard, and Senior Community Relations Manager, Haylee Ferington, hosted an hour and a half long iterative dialogue on integrating the project into the design of the community. Outcomes involved finding creative uses for

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

additional lands not used in project design, incorporating pollinator or bird areas, as well as continuing to partner with local organizations on sustainability initiatives.

Project Website

The Proposer has a user-friendly website containing information about specific benefits to both the community and our environment, and any information previously shared with the community, including public meeting information boards, newsletters, and permitting documents. Some websites include multimedia experiences, and all of them include information on how to communicate with our development team, provide feedback, or seek additional information. The Rich Road Solar Project can be found at www.richroadsolar.com

Conclusion

The Proposer is committed to realizing the many benefits for the local community and will be a steadfast regional partner. The Proposer is committed to a life cycle approach of stakeholder and community engagement and realizes that not everyone is available or comfortable to attend public meetings or open house sessions, and therefore continues to share project information and solicit feedback through different media to be more inclusive. In continual efforts to include all members of project communities, EDF power solutions invites stakeholders and community members to reach out at any time to provide feedback at newyorksolar@edf-re.com and 833.333.7369.