



Community Engagement Plan

Valcour Bliss Windpark

NYSERDA RESRFP24-1

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Bid Facility Background

The Bid Facility is a 108 MW wind facility, originally constructed in 2008 by Noble Environmental Power as part of a six-Wind Park portfolio, which was acquired by AES from Cogentrix in November 2021, with the intention of pursuing a project repower. The Bid Facility will be fully repowered, current turbines will be decommissioned and new larger, fewer turbines will be built. The repower will lead to the continuation of the economic benefits associated with the Project's operations.

The Bid Facility is located in Western New York in Wyoming County within the town of Eagle. The local AES office is in the nearby Hamlet of Bliss and has 17 full-time employees. Positions include Regional Manager, Safety Representative, Planner, Team Lead, Technicians, and an O&M Administrator - all of whom serve the Bliss and Wethersfield Wind Parks.

The Proposer is committed to the responsible development of renewable energy as a catalyst for long-term community benefit. The Bid Facility is anticipated to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 247,704 metric tons each year, producing enough electricity to power approximately 50,016 homes annually.

Article VIII (Formerly 94-c) Permitting Application Status

Effective April 20, 2024 the Renewable Action through Project Interconnection and Deployment (RAPID) Act repealed Executive Law 94-c, repealed the current Public Service Law Article VIII, and enacted a new Public Service Law Article VIII entitled "Siting of Renewable Energy and Electric Transmission" (Article VIII).

The RAPID Act also transferred the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) from the Department of State to the Department of Public Service (DPS), continuing all existing functions, powers, duties, and obligations of ORES under the former Executive Law 94-c. In addition, ORES's existing regulations remain in full force and effect.

The new law provides one place for the environmental review and permitting of both renewable energy generating facilities and major electric transmission facilities by the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES).

The Bid Facility will be permitted under Article VIII.

Key Contacts

The Proposer has identified the following key contacts as of Q3 2024.

Authorities Having Jurisdiction and Taxing School District

The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) is the Town of Eagle, in Wyoming County New York. The taxing School District is the Letchworth and Yorkshire Pioneer Central School District. The Letchworth Central School District ID is 3617130, and the Yorkshire Pioneer Central School District ID is 3608970.

Name	Title and Office	Tenure	Contact	Address
Todd Campbell	Superintendent, Letchworth Central School District	Appointed by Letchworth Central School Board of Education in 2017.	(585) 493-5450 tcampbell@letchworth.k12.ny.us	5550 School Road Gainesville, NY 14066
Nicholas Silvaroli	Interim Superintendent, Pioneer Central School District	Appointed by Pioneer Central School Board of Education on January 18, 2023.	(716) 492-9304	12145 County Line Road Yorkshire, NY 14173

Locally Elected Officials

The locally elected officials for Wyoming County and the Town of Eagle New York are listed in the table below. Superintendents of the bid facilities local school districts have also been included in the table below.

Name	Title and Office	Tenure	Contact	Address
Michael Roche	Supervisor, Town of Eagle	Elected 4-year term. (1/1/24 - 12/31/27)	(585) 301-3432	6288 Route 362 Bliss, NY 14024
Stacy L. Prevorse	Clerk/ Tax Collector/ Registrar, Town of Eagle	Elected 4-year term. (1/1/24 - 12/31/2027)	(585) 322-9257 teagleclerk@rochester.rr.com	7285 Eagle Rd Bliss, NY 14024
John Hamilton	Council Member, Town of Eagle	Elected 4-year term. (1/1/24 - 12/31/2027)	(585) 322-4945	3957 Route 39 Bliss, NY 14024
Chris Jones	Council Member, Town of Eagle	Elected 4-year term. (1/1/21 - 12/31/2024)	(585) 322-7521	3482 E. Main Street Bliss, NY 14024
Diana Henry	Council Member, Town of Eagle	Elected 4-year term. (1/1/2022 - 12/31/2025)	(585) 880-0813	2823 W. Hill Road Bliss, NY 14024
Clarence George	Council Member, Town of Eagle	Elected 4-year term. (1/1/2022 - 12/31/2025)	(585) 322-2633	3425 Liberty Street Bliss, NY 14024
Anthony C. George	Justice, Town of Eagle	Elected 4-year term. (1/1/24 - 12/31/27)	(585) 322-8888	7780 Cadwell Road Bliss, NY 14024
Alan Sabadasz	Justice, Town of Eagle	Elected 4-year term. (1/1/2022 - 12/31/2024)	(716) 560-2991	4122 Route 39 Bliss, NY 14024
James Kirsch	Assessor, Town of Eagle	Appointed 6 – year term. (10/1/2019 - 09/30/2025)	(585) 689-9533 jkassessor@yahoo.com	P.O. Box 156 North Java, NY 14113

Name	Title and Office	Tenure	Contact	Address
Lorraine Wagner	Historian, Town of Eagle	Appointed by Town Council. Term is at the pleasure of the Town Council or per terms of contract with Town Council.	(716) 397-0246	P.O. Box 67 Bliss, NY 14024
Marc Roche	Superintendent of Highways, Town of Eagle	Elected 4-year term. Term ends 1/1/2024 - 12/31/27	(585) 322-7667	3560 E. Main Street Bliss, NY 14024
Wyoming County Zoning	Zoning Enforcement Officer, Wyoming County	Term of Appointment: Zoning enforcement officer appointments are annual.	(585) 786-3152	36 Center Street Suite C Warsaw, NY 14569
Rebecca J. Ryan	Warsaw Town Supervisor; Chair of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors	Appointed to Board; Re-elected for 1-year term as Chair in January 2023. Term as Chair expires 12/31/2023.	(585) 786-8800	143 North Main Street Suite 220 Warsaw, NY 14569

Permitting and Regulatory Agencies and Representatives

Permitting agencies and associated agency representatives who are expected to take part or have interest in the progression of the Bid Facility are listed below. For Article VIII notices, the service list includes the following persons/agencies.

Department	Contact	Address
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Basil Seggos, Commissioner	(518) 402-9188 Sita.crounse@dec.ny.gov	ATTN: Sita Crounse, Senior Attorney CENTRAL OFFICE 625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233
NYSDEC – Region 9 Julie Barrett O’Neil, Regional Director	(716) 851-7165 dep.r9@dec.ny.gov	ATTN: David Denk, Region 9 Permit Administrator 700 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, NY 14209
NYSDEC – Division of Water Toni Cioffi, Bureau of Water Permits	(518) 402-8233 DOWinformation@dec.ny.gov (518) 402-8109 Toni.cioffi@dec.ny.gov	625 Broadway 4 th Floor Albany, NY 12233
NYSDEC – Natural Heritage Program Andrea Chaloux, Environmental Review Specialist	(518) 402-8935 (518) 402-8927 achaloux@esf.edu	625 Broadway 5 th Floor Albany, NY 12233
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets	(518) 457-6468	ATTN: Tara Wells, Senior Attorney 10B Airline Drive
Richard A. Ball, Commissioner	Tara.wells@agriculture.ny.gov	Albany, NY 12235
NYS Department of Health Mary T. Bassett, Commissioner	(518) 473-4632 William.sacks@health.ny.gov	ATTN: William G. Sacks, Senior Attorney, Bureau of Program Counsel Division of Legal Affairs 2468 Corning Tower Albany, NY 12237
NYS Department of Public Service Rory M. Christian, Chair & CEO	(518) 486-1966 Noreena.chaudari@dps.ny.gov	ATTN: Noreena Chaudari, Assistant Counsel Empire State Plaza Agency Building 3 Albany, NY 12223-1350

Department	Contact	Address
NYS Department of Transportation Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner	(518) 457-4422 Janice.mclachlan@dot.ny.gov	ATTN: Janice McLachlan, Division of Legal Affairs 50 Wolf Road Albany, NY 12232
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) - State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Nancy Herter, Coordinator SHPO Archaeology Unit Robyn Sedgwick, Technical Preservation Services for Wyoming County	(518) 268-2170 Nancy.herter@parks.ny.gov Robyn.Sedgwick@parks.ny.gov	P.O. Box 189 Waterford, NY 12188
Office of Renewable Energy Siting	(518) 473-4590 general@ores.ny.gov	ATTN: Application Review c/o OGS Mailroom Empire State Plaza 240 State Street P-1 South, J Dock Albany, NY 12242
United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	(800) 833-6390, Ext. 3 Public.Affairs@lrb01.usace.army.mil	Buffalo District 1776 Niagara Street Buffalo, NY 14207
United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	(607) 753-9334 FW5ES_NYFO@fws.gov	New York Field Office 3817 Luker Road Cortland, NY 13045
Wyoming County Department of Real Property Tax	(585) 786-8828 realproperty@wyomingoco.net	143 N Main Street Warsaw, NY 14569

Emergency Responders

Fire departments, emergency responders and police or sheriff departments serving parcels in the Bid Facility Area were identified by review of county tax maps and online research. Details are listed below.

Department	Contact	Address
Bliss Fire Dept (Eagle Hose Co # 1), Fire Chief Clarence George	(585) 322-7325	6655 Pearl Street Bliss, NY 14024
Wyoming County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff David P. Linder	(585) 786-8989 dlinder@wyomingco.net	151 N Main Street Warsaw, NY 14569
New York State Police – Troop A, Major - Stanley J. Edwards (Troop Commander)	(585) 344-6200	4525 West Saile Drive Batavia, NY 14020-1095

State Officials

Name	Title and Office	Tenure	Contact	Address
The Honorable Kathy Hochul	Governor of New York State	Appointed August 2021 to fill vacated seat. Elected November 2022 for term ending 12/31/2026.	Office Phone: (518) 474-8390	NY State Capitol Building State Street and Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12224
The Honorable Antonio Delgado	New York State Lieutenant Governor	Appointed May 2022 to fill vacated seat. Elected November 2022 for term ending 12/31/2026.	Office Phone: (518) 474-8390	NY State Capitol Building State Street and Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12224
Thomas P. DiNapoli	New York State Comptroller	Elected 4 years. Re-elected November 2022 for term ending 12/31/2026.	NYC Office: (212) 383-1600 Albany Office: (518) 474-4044	NYC Office: 59 Maiden Lane New York, NY 10038 Albany Office: 110 State Street Albany, NY 12236
Letitia A. James	New York Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General	Elected 4 years. Re-elected November 2022 for term ending 12/31/2026.	(800) 771-7755 Letitia.james@ag.ny.gov	NY State Capitol Building State Street and Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12224
George M. Borrello	Senator, New York State Senate District 57	2-year term. Re-elected November 2022 for term ending 12/31/2024.	(716) 372-4901 borrello@nysenate.gov	Room 706, Legislative Office Building, 188 State Street, Albany, NY 12247
David J. DiPietro	Assemblymember, New York State Assembly District 147	Re-elected November 2022 for term ending 12/31/2024.	(585) 655-0951 dipietrod@nyassembly.gov	411 Main Street East Aurora, NY 14052

Outreach Strategies and Activities

The stakeholder list includes a variety of individuals and parties with interest in the Bid Facility. These stakeholders are described and listed in Section 1 of this Community Engagement Plan. A summary description of the stakeholder list is included below.

Description of Stakeholder List

The stakeholder list includes a variety of individuals and parties with interest in the Bid Facility. The host community is the Town of Eagle. The Town Board representing the host community within the Bid Facility Area was identified by a review of town and county boundary maps and are considered stakeholders. The primary point of contact (POC) is the Town Supervisor.

Community Members

Within this Community Engagement Plan, community members include the participating landowners, Bid Facility neighbors, adjacent landowners and residences/businesses within a 5-mile radius of the boundaries of the Project Area. The community members also include any residents of the local community who reach out to the Proposer directly and have an interest in the progression of the Bid Facility.

Local Agencies

Local affected agencies are also stakeholders. The Proposer has been in contact with local agencies, including the Town of Eagle and Wyoming County officials and the NYS officials. local first responders and fire departments, adjacent municipalities, utility providers, and local interest groups. Contact has been made with the local agency representatives.

In addition to local consultation efforts, the Proposer has consulted with state agencies during the pre-application process, including NYSDEC, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM), and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP).

The Proposer continues to identify and collaborate with key local stakeholder groups. Should other key stakeholder groups come to our attention, the Proposer will initiate outreach and engagement with them, and will add them to our stakeholder list.

Methods of Communication

The Proposer utilizes a variety of communication channels to disseminate information about the Bid Facility including: the Bid Facility website, mailed notifications and notices in local papers. Further details on methods of communication are described below.

- Postcard notifications providing specific Bid Facility information and upcoming meeting dates are mailed to the master stakeholder list between 14 and 30 days before events.

- Information regarding public meetings for the Bid Facility can be found via the Bid Facility website, notices in local papers, and the town board website.
- Updates will continue to be shared on the Bid Facility website throughout the repowering process. Community meeting materials, such as slide presentations, are also made available on the Bid Facility website. When stakeholders contact the Project team via phone, the Proposer responds with a return phone call within two business days.

The table below offers a summary of the Proposer’s primary channels of communication. Please see Section 9 of this document for a comprehensive list of contact information that stakeholders can use to contact the Proposer to share any feedback. The Proposer looks forward to continuing communication and public involvement throughout the remainder of the repowering process.

Bid Facility Website	www.aes.com/bliss-wind
Bid Facility Email	blisswind@aes.com
Bid Facility Local Office Number	(585) 322-7671
Local AES Office Address	3700 Route 78, Bliss, NY 14024
AES New York Toll-Free Phone Number	(866) 757-7697
AES New York Email	nystakeholderrelations@aes.com

Outreach Efforts – Pre-Award and Development

In addition to regular communication with local officials in the host community, the Proposer has conducted community engagement and outreach events for the Bid Facility. Some of these outreach efforts are described below.

At community engagement events, it is customary practice that the Proposer introduces Bid Facility representatives, informs attendees about the Bid Facility, and answers questions. In addition, the Proposer solicits feedback from community members and members of local agencies. The Proposer publishes all notices of public engagement events in accordance with permitting regulations.

Community Engagement Event Details

Community engagement events offer valuable opportunities for the Proposer to meet with local stakeholders. The purpose of these events is to introduce AES and the Bid Facility to the host community, to inform the community about next steps in the repowering process, and to inform the community about how to get involved.

On June 8, 2022, the Proposer held a Bliss and Wethersfield Windpark Repower Community Meeting. This Community Meeting was held in an open format consisting of informational boards displayed throughout the event space. Bid Facility representatives and subject matter experts were available at each station. This gave members of the community an opportunity to

speak with Bid Facility representatives and voice their opinions and concerns about the Bid Facility.

During these engagement events, community members raised questions regarding retrofitting impacts, operations complaints being addressed in a timely manner, the stages of repower development, status of economic benefits to the Towns of Eagle and Wethersfield, and the Bid Facility schedule.

Notification of Community Engagement Events

On June 8th, 2022 the proposer held a community meeting to discuss the repower of both the Bliss and Wethersfield Windparks. Ahead of the June 8, 2022, Repower Community Meeting, the Proposer sent invitations to all participating landowners and Bid Facility neighbors within a 1-mile radius of the project boundaries. Invitations to this community engagement event were mailed approximately a month in advance so that they arrived at least two weeks prior to the event. Community Meeting details were posted on the Bid Facility website at least two weeks prior. Additionally, notification of the Community Meeting was provided in the following publications:

- Arcade Herald – The print/online publication serving the Town of Eagle and the Hamlet of Bliss. Notice published on June 2, 2022.
- Batavia Daily News – The print/online publication serving the Town of Wethersfield and Wyoming County. Notice published on June 2, 2022.
- Warsaw Penny Saver – A free publication mailed to Wyoming County (also available online). Notice published on June 5, 2022.

Local agencies were also notified of and invited to attend the June 8, 2022, Repower Community Meeting. Local agency invitees were notified of the meeting at least two weeks prior. Ten mailed notices and sixteen emailed notices were sent. The following agencies and organizations were invited to attend, alongside Town of Eagle and Wethersfield officials, Wyoming County officials, NYS officials, and relevant permitting agencies. The invitation list included the following representatives:

- Town of Wethersfield (Town Supervisor; ATTN: Deputy Town Clerk)
- Town of Eagle (Town Supervisor; ATTN: Town Clerk & Tax Collector)
- Wyoming County (Rebecca J. Ryan, Chairwoman, Board of Supervisors; ATTN: Cheryl Ketchum, Board Clerk)
- Office of the Attorney General (ATTN: Letitia James, Attorney General)
- Patrick M. Gallivan, Senator, 59th State Senate District
- David DiPietro, Assemblymember, 147th State Assembly District
- Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ATTN: Application Review)
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (Basil Seggos, Commissioner; ATTN: Sita Crouse, Senior Attorney)
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation REGION 9 (Chad Staniszewski, Acting Regional Director; ATTN: David Denk, Region 9 Permit Administrator)
- NYS Department of Public Service (Rory M. Christian, Chair & CEO; ATTN: Noreena Chaudari, Assistant Counsel)

- NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (Richard A. Ball, Commissioner; ATTN: Tara Wells, Senior Attorney)
- NYS Department of Health (Mary T. Bassett, Commissioner; ATTN: William G. Sacks, Senior Attorney, Bureau of Program Counsel)
- NYS Department of Transportation (Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner; ATTN: Janice McLachlan, Division of Legal Affairs)
- NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (Erik Kulleseid, Commissioner; ATTN: Nancy Herter, Coordinator).

Community Meeting notices were sent by both mail and email to the AHJs of both Bid Facility and addressed to the Town Supervisor. The notices were also emailed to the Town Supervisor, care of the Town Clerks. An appropriate number of copies of each notice were distributed. The Proposer also provided notices to each member of the State Legislature whose district lies within any portion of the proposed Bid Facility Area.

Outreach Strategies – Repowering

Public involvement and community outreach will continue as necessary on an ongoing basis during the decommissioning and construction phases of the Bid Facility.

In consideration of the local host community and the temporary disruption caused by the repowering process, the Proposer will work with the host community to minimize disruption and be as communicative as possible.

The Proposer will have a Complaint Management Plan that will include:

- Methods for registering a complaint, which shall include a phone number, email address, mailing address, and a form to report complaints.
- Notification to the public of the complaint procedures.
- Process for responding to and resolving complaints in a consistent, timely, and respectful manner.
- Logging and tracking of all complaints received and resolutions achieved, with records of the following for each complaint containing:
 - The name and contact information of the person filing the complaint.
 - Location and owner of the property where the complaint originated.
 - Date and time of the underlying event causing the complaint.
 - Description of the complaint; and
 - Current status and description of measures taken to resolve complaints.
- Reporting to the Office and the NYSDPS any complaints not resolved within 30 days of receipt.
- Mediating complaints not resolved within 60 days; and
- Providing annual reports of complaint resolution tracking to the Office staff and NYSDPS staff, which shall also be filed with the Executive Director of the Office and Secretary of the NYSDPS.

Through these engagement tactics, the Proposer will ensure that stakeholders have appropriate recourse to learn and share feedback and concerns about the Bid Facility's repower process.

Outreach Strategies – Operations

The Proposer will make every effort to keep the community informed about the Bid Facility throughout all phases. During post-repower operation, as during current operation, there is signage posted at both the Bid Facility site and local office with Bid Facility contact information. Signage includes specific instructions on responding to an emergency.

The Proposer will continue to engage with the local community in appropriate and meaningful ways. The Proposer is committed to being accessible to the community and all stakeholders. In particular, the Proposer will remain accessible at the local AES office located in Hamlet of Bliss.

Climate Act Goals and Benefits for Disadvantaged Communities

The Climate Act requires the state to invest or direct resources in a manner designed to ensure that disadvantaged communities receive at least 35%, with the goal of 40%, of overall benefits of spending on:

- Clean energy and energy efficiency programs
- Projects or investments in the areas of housing, workforce development, pollution reduction, low-income energy assistance, energy, transportation, and economic development

During the development and construction of our 2+ GW renewable energy portfolio in New York, AES intends to continue growing our Social Impact program for the state. The funds allocated for this program will be distributed among host communities, regions, and disadvantaged communities during development and construction.

In 2023, the New York State Climate Justice Working Group established criteria for disadvantaged communities. The Proposer will use these criteria and guidance from the Climate Justice Working Group to invest social impact funding in designated disadvantaged communities.

Social Impact Program

To support host communities during the development and construction of our renewable energy projects, including the Bid Facility, AES launched its Social Impact Program in New York State in 2021.

Through the Social Impact Program, the AES team collaborates with community leaders from government, business, education, social services, and residents to identify opportunities where AES can provide financial support and other types of support to high-impact initiatives, programs, and institutions that enjoy broad support in the community. AES has developed these four focus pillars from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

1. Partnering for Access to Safe, Efficient, and Affordable Energy and Basic Services
2. Partnering for Inclusive Economic Growth & Education
3. Partnering for the Environment
4. Partnering for Community Resilience

Within these Focus Pillars, the Social Impact Program strives to create partnerships that align with AES' purpose and values while strengthening AES' investment in community-led initiatives that meet the targets set forth by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and American Clean Power's Energy Transition for All initiative. These targets and goals closely align with the Climate Act's goals for disadvantaged communities.

AES Social Impact Spending for, in, or near Disadvantaged Communities

Per the Climate Justice Working Group Draft Criteria 32% of residents in Western New York live in a Disadvantaged Community. AES understands the need for investing in workforce development and through our Social Impact program in New York, we have invested in workforce development in Disadvantaged Communities through partnerships with:

- Genesee Community College, Solar Electrical Technician Certificate Program: 2021 - 2022
- Franklin Essex Hamilton Board of Cooperative Education Services (FEH BOCES): 2022
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 910 Apprenticeship Program: 2023
- The United Way of Northern New York Bridges Out of Poverty Program: 2023
- Solar One, Green Workforce Program New York City: 2023 and 2024

Regional Workforce Development

In addition to our financial commitments for Workforce Development in the North Country and Disadvantaged Communities, AES has been invited to join the North Country Workforce Development Board based in Plattsburgh and the Electrical Trades Consultant Committee of the Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES, based in Malone. If there are similar leadership opportunities in regional workforce development in Western NY, the Proposer will consider participating in those as well.

Clean Energy Career Fairs

AES also recognizes the importance of sponsoring and attending Career and Job Fairs in Disadvantaged Communities and as such intends to participate in such events in 2024 and beyond. Equally important to workforce development partnerships at the high school and college level are early education investments in STEM curriculum. To that end, AES is a founding member of the Discovery Education STEM Careers Coalition. This coalition aims to expand the future STEM workforce by creating equitable opportunities for a diverse population of students and supports exposure to STEM careers and opportunities through the development of content and resources.

AES Social Impact Program Commitment to Disadvantaged Communities

Given AES’ own commitment to a just transition and the goals of the Climate Act, AES is committed to ensuring Social Impact spending in New York directly benefits disadvantaged communities, with AES committing to ensuring at least 40% of all social impact spending in New York directly benefits disadvantaged communities.

On March 27, 2023, the New York State Climate Justice Working Group finalized the criteria for Disadvantaged Communities. AES will use the appropriate criteria and guidance from New York State when investing social impact funding in designated Disadvantaged Communities.

Plans for Public Engagement

Community outreach will continue on an ongoing basis throughout the life of the Bid Facility. The Proposer has a robust plan to provide the community with continuing access to Bid Facility representatives to make sure there are plenty of opportunities for community input.

There is a designated Bid Facility email address, a New York phone number, and weekly office hours. Contact information is provided in Section 9 of this document and is also available on the Bid Facility website. The Bid Facility website is also regularly updated with new information and development schedules so that the community has access to them.

As described in detail within Section 2 of this document, the Proposer uses effective methods of communication to notify all stakeholders and ensure that public engagement events are widely attended.

Community Notifications

The Proposer will notify members of the stakeholder list of the proposed Bid Facility community events in accordance with the Article VIII permitting process

Local Partnerships and Memberships

AES' presence in Western New York has led to partnerships with school districts, a community college, local not-for-profit organizations, and community groups.

The Proposer will also provide electric utility bill credits for the first 10 years of the Bid Facility's operation to the utility customers in the Town of Eagle. The credits will total \$108,000 annually, based on \$1000 per MW of capacity. Over the 10-year period, a total of \$1,080,000 in credits will be given.

During the repowering process of the Bid Facility, AES will continue investing Social Impact funding in the host community and region, in the critical areas of clean energy and energy efficiency programs, investments in the areas of housing, workforce development, pollution reduction, low-income energy assistance, energy, transportation, and economic development.

Community Economic Benefits

The Bid Facility has provided economic benefit to the local taxing jurisdictions in the form of Payments In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) and Host Community Agreements (HCAs) since the Bid Facility operation date. The Proposer will continue to provide economic benefits through the repower timeline.

The Proposer expects to execute a PILOT and a Host Community agreement(s), which will require annual PILOT payments. Payments will also be made in association with easement agreements executed to host Bid Facility components. These easement payments offer direct benefits to New York State.

Balancing Stakeholder Interests

The Proposer has conducted stakeholder outreach throughout the current pre-award and development phase of the Bid Facility. These efforts include stakeholder consultations, a public Repower Community Meeting, and other forms of engagement. These outreach efforts have ensured community participation during the Bid Facility's development

Building Stakeholder Support

The Bid Facility's success depends on continuing our strong relationship with the elected officials and community members of the Town of Eagle throughout decommissioning, repower construction and commercialization of the Bid Facility, and will continue to do so. The Proposer's desire is to be sensitive to local concerns throughout the realization of the Bid Facility, resulting in a project that the community is proud of.

The Proposer will continue to work in cooperation with the community throughout the repower process. Overall, the local community is accepting of the Bid Facility and recognizes local economic benefits and other general benefits that the Bid Facility will bring well into the future.

Response to Community Concerns

The Proposer has worked in cooperation with the community throughout the previously proposed partial repower and current full repowering of the Bid Facility. The Proposer takes into consideration concerns raised by the community and has incorporated solutions to respond accordingly. Please see examples listed below.

a. General concerns about wind development: flicker impacts, sound impacts, visual impacts.

The Proposer continues to facilitate one-on-one conversations with stakeholders concerned about shadow flicker, sound impacts, and visual impacts. Stakeholders have been assured that the repowered Bid Facility is anticipated to have similar sound, flicker, and visual impacts as the current operating Bliss Windpark. Perceived burdens related to flicker, sound, and visual impacts will be addressed by the Proposer throughout the development of the full repower and permitting processes.

b. Preservation of rural landscape and minimizing impacts on the local community.

The Proposer is cognizant that preserving the current landscape is a main concern and priority for many members of the local community. To this end, the Proposer aims to mitigate and minimize full repower impacts related to the Bid Facility and aims to enable the Bid Facility to continue operating post-repower the same way it has for the past 14 years. The Proposer believes that realization of the repower will enable preservation of the local landscape and that the Bid Facility will have no new impacts on the community. The Bid Facility Area will be preserved for up to an additional 30 years of operation, and economic benefits to the local community will be able to continue via extended PILOT and HCA agreements.

c. Questions about future Windpark economic benefits.

Community members expressed the significant positive impact that HCA and PILOT payments have had on the community from 2009 to the present. These community members have stated that they want these payments to continue and have expressed concern about the lost economic benefits to the community if the Bid Facility is not repowered. The Proposer has communicated with community members and local agencies that our desire is to see the life of the Bid Facility extended through a full repower and with it, the economic benefits that have been experienced by the community for the past 14 years. Receipt of a NYSERDA Tier 1 Bid and realization of the Bid Facility are the mechanisms by which current economic benefits will be able to continue.

Our community engagement philosophy is to create a strong foundation at the local level and build additional layers of support at the regional and state levels. The Proposer will continue this outreach and is committed to respond respectfully to community feedback and concerns.

The Proposer is committed to addressing concerns and opposition by listening respectfully, providing factual and thorough resources where applicable, acknowledging our stakeholders' concerns, and taking mitigatory or responsive action where possible. The Proposer will continue this stakeholder outreach during the repower process.

Mitigating Concerns from Stakeholders

The Proposer is committed to hearing local community and landowners' concerns with the Bid Facility and aid in mitigation where required or appropriate. The Proposer has a long history of working with participating and non-participating landowners of the Bid Facility site and is committed to working with individual stakeholders to mitigate Bid Facility-related concerns and impacts when possible.

In a typical process, any person impacted by the Bid Facility can contact the Bid Facility team through the avenues described in Section 2 of this document: Bid Facility phone lines, Bid Facility email, the Bid Facility website, as well as contact the local office. Public concerns are taken seriously, and a Bid Facility representative will respectfully communicate with the stakeholder to identify the source of their concern as well as any potential mitigation that may be required. If warranted, the Proposer will attend either virtual or in-person one-on-one meetings with the stakeholder with the goal of achieving a mutual agreement.

The Proposer will coordinate closely with the many teams involved in the Bid Facility Operations, Repower Development, Asset Management, and Stakeholder Relations to address and mitigate any identified concerns. The Proposer is committed to being accessible and ensuring stakeholders receive information and resolutions to concerns as quickly as possible. Some of the concerns that have been raised by the host community and how AES has responded to them are listed in Section 7 of this document. The Proposer will continue to solicit feedback and input throughout all Bid Facility phases.

Feedback Solicitation

The Community Engagement Plan has been designed to solicit feedback and input from stakeholders during the Bid Facility repower process. The Proposer described explicit methods through which feedback is being solicited and incorporated into ongoing Bid Facility operation and development and this can be found in Sections 2 and 4 of this document. In summary, the Proposer:

- Organizes community meetings; one has been organized thus far
- Solicits input via our phone line, email, and the Bid Facility website.
- Monitors the Bid Facility email and phone lines Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm.