

Fort Covington Solar Farm

NYGATS ID: PRO40747

Community Engagement Plan

Submitted to NYSERDA RESRFP24-1

August 08, 2024

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1.0 Introduction

Boralex has been present in the New York State energy market for over 20 years and is committed to building sustainable relationships based on transparency, communication and respect for the communities hosting its projects. As a developer and long-term operator, Boralex makes every effort to establish sustainable relationships with its host communities and to respect the environment from the moment a project begins to take shape. This is a testimony to the long-term vision to which Boralex subscribes, working earnestly and diligently to ensure that its projects are well received in the region and effectively integrated with host communities for the duration of their operating lives.

This document describes Boralex's Community Engagement Plan (the "Outreach Plan") associated with Fort Covington Solar Farm project (the "Bid Facility") and supports an open and inclusive public process.

This Outreach Plan identifies strategic steps to maintain transparency throughout the Bid Facility's development, construction and operation, reflects an understanding of local interests and concerns and proposes a frequency and duration for future outreach activities.

2.0 Identify the Authorities Having Jurisdiction

AHJs and Taxing School Districts		
Name	Title	Contact Information
Franklin County		
Edward Lockwood	Chairman, Board of Legislators	518-481-1642 edward.lockwood@franklincountyny.gov
Town of Fort Covington		
Pat Manchester	Town Supervisor	518-358-9946
School District		
Dr. Stanley Harper, Superintendent	Salmon River School District	518-358-6610

3.0 Outreach Strategies

Borex's outreach approach has always been based on active listening, open dialogue and mutual respect, the keys to building harmonious relationships. This section describes how Borex intends to sustain these elements through the Bid Facility's development, construction and operation.

Development

Borex used various communication streams to deliver Bid Facility information during the Bid Facility's development phase. The company's multi-pronged approach starts with in-person meetings to make sure that stakeholders have a sound understanding of the Bid Facility and that the Bid Facility development team understands stakeholders' comments and issues regarding the Bid Facility. Stakeholders include, but are not limited to, landowners, abutters, Town of Fort Covington officials and residents, and Franklin County representatives, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, local businesses, affected agencies and other interest groups. Through conversations with landowners and the Town of Fort Covington, Borex identified key stakeholders and built a contact list of people interested in receiving information about the Bid Facility. This list has evolved over the Bid Facility's development, and Borex will continue to provide opportunities for interested parties to add their names to the list (see below for details on how and where stakeholders will find Borex's development team contact details).

Engaging with stakeholders at an early stage allows Borex to improve the Bid Facility by incorporating stakeholder feedback into their plans. Borex is committed to keeping in touch throughout the Bid Facility's development phase and to adapting its communication methods to each stakeholder – whether by phone, email, post or by organizing additional in-person meetings – to ensure ongoing communication. Through this engagement, Borex made several changes to the Bid Facility including: adding vegetation screenings around array areas to improve the visual landscape, worked with landowners to avoid prime agricultural locations, changing the design to avoid impacts to archaeological sites, changing the design to avoid wetlands and avian occupied habitat to the greatest extent practicable while implementing mitigation plans in accordance with guidelines from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

Borex has created a toll-free phone number (1-844-990-9146), an email address (info.usa@borex.com) and a website dedicated to the Bid Facility (www.borex.com/projects/fort-covington/). In addition to providing Bid Facility details and information on the development process, the Bid Facility website includes links to prior presentations, and specific contact information for the Borex employees managing the Bid Facility.

During development and construction, Borex has, and intends to continue to implement the following:

- Present the Bid Facility development status to relevant municipal authorities (e.g. town board, planning board, etc.). During these presentations Borex will ask elected officials about their

interests and concerns and pursue opportunities to partner with the Town and the County on actions that are important to them.

- Participate in a public hearings/meeting as requested and as required by the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) siting process.
- Organize public open houses. During the open houses, Boralex provides information on the Bid Facility to the public and request their feedback and comments. Boralex also provides information on solar energy, the development process and how stakeholders can get involved. The information is displayed on large posterboards, and a group of at least four members of Boralex’s development team are present to go over to each board with attendees and answer their questions to make sure they understand the Bid Facility. The open houses are held at times and places based on feedback received through stakeholder meetings, so that as many community members as possible can attend. Different schedules are proposed to accommodate people (e.g. held at different times of the day), and the open houses are announced two to three weeks in advance. To date, Boralex has held the following Open Houses:
 - Voluntary Open House (March, 2023)
 - 94-C compliant Open House (December 13, 2023)
 - Project Presentation to Salmon River School District Board (July 8, 2024)
- Engage with local media (e.g., newspaper and/or radio) to provide information regarding the Bid Facility and its development status and promote events and activities. The media may also serve as a valuable channel for educating the public on renewable energy and solar facilities.
- Partner with local organizations, affected agencies and elected officials to promote sustainability and renewable energy in the host community.
- Regularly update the Bid Facility website.

Construction

Boralex has also been in contact with Empire State Development to identify key workforce partners in the project area. Potential partners include: the St. Lawrence County Workforce Development Board (WDB), and the Jefferson-Lewis WDB.

While the Bid Facility is under construction, Boralex will set up mechanisms to provide the local community with progress updates on its work, capture and record their concerns and answer their questions. These actions will include:

- Holding public information sessions. The place and time of these sessions will be based on the success of the development-phase open houses and feedback received from community members.
- Provide opportunities for local businesses to learn about Boralex’s needs during construction and operation, as well as opportunities to introduce their offerings to Boralex and its contractors.
- Sending out a Construction Info newsletter by mail and/or email to community members, businesses and the municipality. The newsletter will include information on construction activities that may interest community members, such as road closures.
- Remaining in regular contact with relevant municipal authorities to ensure they kept apprised of Facility construction and that Boralex is responsive to any issues or concerns.
- Distributing a code of conduct to all workers.
- Regularly updating the Bid Facility website.

All these actions will be implemented to ensure that stakeholder concerns and suggestions have been considered. Boralex will communicate regularly with local stakeholders while the Bid Facility is under construction and is committed to taking the local community into account and responding to their needs as best as possible.

The toll-free phone number and the email address established during the development phase will be maintained and the Bid Facility website will be kept up to date. Boralex will still respond to any information requests, ideally within three business days. Boralex will also ensure follow-ups with elected officials, interest groups and affected agencies, by phone, email, post or in-person, depending on their preferences.

Operation

Project commissioning marks the beginning of a Bid Facility’s life, and for Boralex, as a long-term owner/operator, it also means the continuation of the company’s relationships with the local community and stakeholders. Therefore, the usual communication channels, such as phone, email, post and in-person meetings, will remain in effect, and Boralex’s team will remain accessible.

In addition to these ongoing communication methods, Boralex plans to put in place the following initiatives to continue providing information and receiving comments on the Bid Facility:

- An opening ceremony with landowners, elected officials and partners
- A public site visit following the inauguration, where possible

- Distribution of a newsletter once a year for the first three years of operation to organizations and residents in the vicinity of the Bid Facility to inform them about environmental monitoring and facility operation
- Continued partnering with local organizations, affected agencies and elected officials to promote sustainability and renewable energy in the host community
- Ongoing maintenance of the Bid Facility website, including contact details for stakeholders to get in touch with Boralex.

Outreach methods

Boralex will employ several communication methods to inform the public and encourage participation in the various public engagement events organized as part of the information and consultation process, including:

- Advertising in local newspapers and on local radio programs
- Mailing information directly to residents located within a two-mile radius of the Bid Facility study area
- Telephoning stakeholders such as local groups and associations who have a potential interest in the Bid Facility
- Emailing information to stakeholders and interested parties, such as local groups and associations, who have expressed interest in the Bid Facility by opting-in for Bid Facility updates via the Bid Facility website.
- The company's team of agricultural and natural resource protection professionals have begun research options for multiuse on the Bid Facility site. They will also convene a local agricultural multi-use working group, made up of landowners, farmers, and other experts and interested parties, to evaluate multi-use options on the site. This group will meet every 5 years to evaluate and advise the agricultural efforts at the site.
- Posting notices of upcoming events on the Bid Facility website

4.0 Climate Act & Disadvantaged Communities

The Bid Facility is fully within the Fort Covington Disadvantaged Community (DAC) providing Boralex the opportunity to engage and direct benefits to that community during the development, construction and operation phases of the Bid Facility. Boralex has also made regular outreach to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and is in active discussions on workforce training initiatives aimed at enabling the local workforce to contribute to the construction and maintenance of the bid facility.

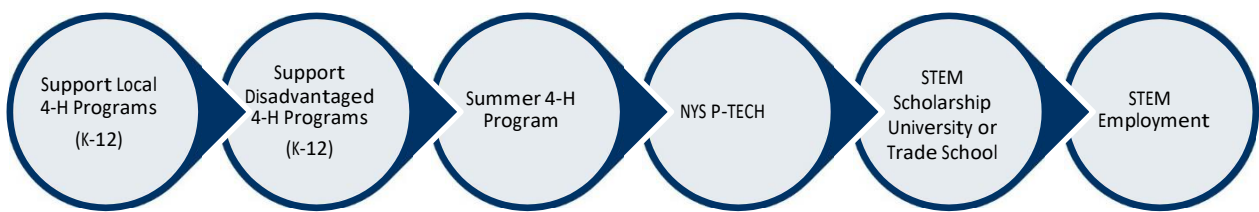
It should be noted that the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) represents an inflection point. The legislation is a clear acknowledgement of the public health benefits of climate action, the deleterious impacts of inaction, and a clear mandate to reduce co-pollutants in disadvantaged communities. Disadvantage communities which currently host fossil fuel units will see reductions in both greenhouse gas emissions and co-pollutants because of increased renewable market penetration.

Implementation of the CLCPA requires the targeting of investments to benefit disadvantaged communities. Boralex is committed to advancing projects that advance the objectives of the CLCPA. Prior to construction, Boralex will initiate targeted outreach to potential contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers located in disadvantaged communities. Furthermore, Boralex will survey its contracts regarding their past and future commitments to advancing opportunities for subcontractors and suppliers located in disadvantaged communities.

Long term historical inequities and injustices require long term commitments. Boralex is committed to the advancement of meaningful measures to address these inequities. Boralex is committed to a multifaceted long-term plan to advance a green and just economy.

4.1 Beyond Renewables Fund

The Beyond Renewables Fund is designed to create meaningful opportunities to benefit disadvantaged communities, underrepresented populations, and the host community. At time of commercial operation, the Fund will direct resources towards local 4-H programs, 4-H summer camps, career focused education programs, and STEM Scholarships. The initiative is intended to connect with and inspire students from elementary learning to university level to seek STEM careers with a focus on increasing the diversity of those entering the STEM workforce.



4.2 Board of Advisors

The Initiative begins with the development of an inclusive Board of Advisors to ensure that these educational and workforce development programs are designed, implemented, and carried out in the best ways possible. This group will also help select candidates for these programs, as necessary, and evaluate the overall effort annually.

Members of this board may include representatives of:

- Host communities
- NYSERDA
- Environmental Justice Organization
- New York Farm Bureau
- 4-H
- P-TECH
- Cornell University College of Agricultural Sciences
- Local Workforce Development Organizations
- Professional Organizations for Underrepresented Populations

4.3 4-H Programs

4-H believes in developing young people who are empowered, confident, hard-working, determined, responsible and compassionate – seeing a world beyond themselves so that they have the life-long skills to succeed in college and career. To do this, 4-H:

- Creates positive learning experiences and following an experiential learning model.
- Delivered by Cooperative Extensions—a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides experiences where young people learn by doing. In New York, in-school, after-school, community club and camp programs are run by Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- Has chapters in almost every county, including New York City's 5 boroughs consisting of 15 or more youth ages 8-19 who work with adult volunteers, including teachers, youth workers, staff and parents.
- Develops programs based on each group's needs and interests.
- Focuses on the advancement of STEM learning through 4-H projects related to nutrition & health, science & technology, environmental education, community development and citizenship.
- Works to eliminate the opportunity gap by addressing critical challenges around broadband access,
- environmental equity, food insecurity, and physical and mental well-being, by increasing access to positive adult relationships, skill-building and leadership opportunities that give kids a sense of belonging and spark their potential.

As an example, Ulster County 4-H runs a weekly STEM mentoring program, The Tech Wizards, for middle and high school youth designed to erase persistent gender and racial inequalities in STEM. By high school, many girls and youth of color are already socialized away from these promising fields, so the program provides an important linkage to keep these communities interested in the opportunities high tech high schools could provide. Since beginning the mentoring programs 6 years ago, they have reached over 150 youth.

4.4 Boralex & 4-H Programs

Through the Beyond Renewables Fund, Boralex will commit to sponsoring and employee volunteering at 4-H Programs conducted in the host community and a disadvantaged community. Boralex will split the resources equally between the communities. Boralex will work with the 4-H Program local leadership to appropriately integrate renewable energy projects in the curriculum. The opportunities are seemingly limitless, but could include simple electricity circuit projects, field trips to hydro, solar or wind facilities, onsite habitat improvements, species identification, and/or advances in soil sequestration. Boralex will also encourage its contractors to consider playing an active role in the 4-H Program.

4.5 4-H of Franklin County

The Bid Facility is located in Franklin County. 4-H of Franklin County is run by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County, a subordinate governmental agency with an educational mission that operates under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University as agent for the State of New York. Boralex will help directly support the work of 4-H of Franklin County. Additionally, we will aid in the development of programs intended to increase participation from those residing in local disadvantaged communities. Furthermore, as mentioned above for every contribution provided to the 4-H of Franklin County, we will contribute directly to 4-H program delivering services to a Disadvantage Community. The 4-H and the program will be identified by the Board of Advisors.

4.6 Pathways in Technology (NYS P-TECH)

NYS P-TECH program is a public-private partnership that prepares New York students for high-skilled jobs of the future. The NYS P-TECH model delivers five core benefits to students:

- A rigorous, relevant and cost-free “grades 9 to 14” education focused on the knowledge and skills students need for STEM careers;
- Workplace learning that includes ongoing mentoring by professionals in the chosen career sector, worksite visits, speakers and internships;

- Intensive, individualized academic support by K-12 and college faculty within an extended academic year or school day that enables students to progress through the program at their own pace;
- An Associate of Applied Science degree in a high-tech field; and
- The commitment to be first in line for a job with the participating business partners following completion of the program.

4.7 Boralex & P-TECH

Through the Beyond Renewables Fund, Boralex will commit to sponsoring and employee volunteering at P-TECH programs across its project portfolio. The P-TECH program in Franklin County is managed by the Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES in partnership with the North County Community College.

Boralex will particularly focus on developing a P-TECH program that recruits students from the local Disadvantaged Community and Indigenous Nations.

4.8 STEM Scholarships

In cooperation with the Advisory Board, the Beyond Renewables Fund, will fund scholarships for graduating high school seniors. The scholarships will target students seeking either a college degree or certificate in a STEM field who live in a Bid Facility’s host community or live in a Disadvantaged Community or participated in the local 4-H program. Boralex will work with 4-H and other relevant stakeholders to promote the scholarships and will ensure that at least 50% of the scholarships will be awarded to students in Disadvantaged Communities.

4.9 Internships

Boralex will work with 4-Hs, other stakeholder groups, and scholarship recipients to provide opportunities to intern at Boralex. Working with programs like the NYSERDA Internship Program, Boralex will help connect the skilled emerging employees with companies focused on developing renewable energy—helping create the much-needed talent pipeline of tomorrow’s skilled workforce.

5.0 Frequency of Public Events

Boralex has always distinguished itself with its proactive and transparent approach. In keeping with this approach, Boralex has organized several public engagement events (see list above) during the development of the Bid Facility. The company will continue that cadence during the construction and operation phases to keep people informed and maintain positive relationships with the local community. The following outlines such public engagement events, noting that their proposed timing and frequency could change depending on progression of the Bid Facility's development.

Anticipated duration:

Boralex will take an active approach to community outreach and engagement during the Bid Facility's development, construction and the initial period of operation. Based on the current Bid Facility schedule, the duration of the active community outreach phase will be four to five years.

Once the Bid Facility is in operation, the community outreach program will be less active though still responsive and supportive. Boralex will continue to maintain the Bid Facility website and respond to inquiries from stakeholders, landowners and elected officials and will continue to pursue partnerships with local organizations and elected officials. Throughout this period, more active public engagement activities may be planned, as appropriate. The duration of this phase of engagement will be for the operational life of the Bid Facility.

Examples:

- Held frequent meetings with local stakeholders along with the Town of Fort Covington, Franklin County, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, and State representatives to present the Bid Facility and take note of their comments, inquiries and suggestions. The Proposer will continue to communicate with local stakeholders through all phases of the Bid Facility.
- During development and construction, Boralex will present the status of the Bid Facility to relevant municipal authorities (e.g. town board, planning board, etc.) as requested.
- Prior to construction and operation, Boralex will offer occasions for local businesses to learn about Boralex's needs during construction and operation, as well as opportunities to present their services to Boralex and its contractors. The frequency of these meetings will be determined following initial stakeholder consultation.
- Construction Info newsletters will be sent during construction, based on site activities.
- An official launch with Bid Facility partners and local elected officials to be organized after the Bid Facility is commissioned.
- Newsletters will be sent out at the start of commercial operation and throughout the first three years of operation.

Boralex has included a table of recent and key stakeholder meetings/events throughout the project's development.

Key Stakeholder Contacts		
Organization/Individual	Date	Purpose
Salmon River School District	July 8, 2024	Provide an update on the Facility and benefits to school district
St Regis Mohawk Tribe	May 17, 2024	Submission of the Phase 1B Archaeological Report to SRMT
SUNY Canton	April 11, 2024	Discuss Fort Covington and Two Rivers Solar Project, Workforce development training needs, NYSERDA and other funding available, and strategy for potential training program
St Regis Mohawk Tribe	April 10, 2024	Akwesasne Cultural Training Session
Franklin County Soil and Water District	December 19, 2023	The Franklin County Soil and Water District Manager, Chastity Miller, provided the snowmobile club trails via a shapefile package for BLX to consider as part of the design.
St Regis Mohawk Tribe	December 13, 2023	Update to St. Regis Environment Division on Environmental studies completed, 94-c process schedule, reviewed open house materials with attendees
Town of Fort Covington Local Agencies Meeting	December 12, 2023	Meeting between Boralex, Young Sommer, and representatives of the Town of Fort Covington and Franklin County to discuss and review the local laws that may require a waiver from ORES. To clarify any interpretations and to discuss concerns, comments, etc.
Towns of Fort Covington, Westville, Malone, Bangor, Moira, Bombay; Bombay Historical Society; Franklin County Historical Society; St. Regis Mohawk Tribe	December 1, 2023	Visual outreach package requesting stakeholder input on aesthetic resources, selection of important or representative viewpoints for inclusion in the VIA, and additional information on known proposed non-project land uses
Fort Covington Fire Department	November 30, 2023	Incorporated suggestions from the Fort Covington Fire Chief into the 94-c application Site Security Plan and Site Safety Plan
St Regis Mohawk Tribe	November 9, 2023	Project update, workforce development training discussion
SUNY Canton, Cornel Cooperative	October 24, 2023	Research and partnership opportunities on Agrivoltaics.
St Regis Mohawk Tribe	July 26, 2023	Discuss Project update, schedule, 94-c process, workforce development training, employment and contracting opportunities
Town of Fort Covington	June 21, 2023	Provide Project update, update on environmental studies, and 94-c process
St Regis Mohawk Tribe	June 21, 2023	Follow up discussion from Tribal Council Meeting, discuss work force training, and project benefits
Voluntary Open House	March 21, 2023	Voluntary public open house

St Regis Mohawk Tribe	March 16, 2023	Update on the Project, discuss workforce development training NYSERDA funding, local benefits and sponsorship opportunities including the Akwesasne Art Show
St Regis Mohawk Tribe	March 16, 2023	Introduction of Boralex and the Fort Covington Project to Tribal Council, discussion of project schedule and environmental work, 94-c process and schedule
Town of Fort Covington	March 9, 2023	Provided details of Public Open House, and poster to advertise event
St Regis Mohawk Tribe	December 6, 2022	Introduce the Project and discuss 94-c process, and environmental studies completed and planned.
Fort Covington Volunteer Fire Department	September 30, 2022	Review Fort Covington Project, and proposed design and main design elements (road widths, maximum grades, turn out and entrances, road construction materials, winter access, fire detection and protection at substation.
St Regis Mohawk Tribe	August 9, 2022	Introductions to Boralex and the Fort Covington Solar Project, 94-c process and schedule.
St Regis Mohawk Tribe	July 13, 2022	Intro to Boralex and Fort Covington Project, request for a meeting for further discussion
Town of Fort Covington Local Agencies Meeting	April 14, 2022	Introduction to Boralex and Fort Covington Solar Project
St Regis Mohawk Tribe	March 2, 2022	Sent Phase IA Archaeological Investigation to SRMT Office of Historic Preservation
Town of Fort Covington	July 1, 2021	Introduction to Boralex, and the proposed Fort Covington Solar Project. Discuss NYSERDA RFP and confirmation letter for the RFP

6.0 Direct Benefits to the Community

For each of its projects, Boralex is committed to generating economic benefits in the host community. Strategies, such as the creation of a local suppliers register and hosting networking events to connect local businesses with the Bid Facility contractor prior to construction will be promoted. Boralex plans to work closely with the Town, the County, local economic groups and affected agencies to put in place these kinds of initiatives, and to determine the best timing, format, and locations for these events and materials.

Based in South Glens Falls since 2003, Boralex has supported over the years many local charities:

- In 2020, Boralex made a \$30,000 donation to contribute to the restoration of Derby Park, an urban park located in Washington County. The Park refurbishment included a new regulation-size soccer field, softball field, basketball court, three pickleball courts, a quarter-mile of paved walking paths and two new event spaces for arts-and-crafts shows and other community festivals.
- To support our neighbors during the onset of the pandemic, Boralex made a special donation of \$5,000 to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York to provide essential aid to those going through difficult times related to COVID-19.
- Boralex continuously seeks ways to support organizations in our host communities to help them meet the needs of the community. This has ranged from sponsoring and volunteering for the Center for Disability Services' Prospect Center events to partnering with the Middle Falls Fire Department and Battenkill Conservancy in improving access to river recreation.
- In an effort to enhance our support to local nonprofits in line with our mission, Boralex joined the Common Roots Foundation as a legacy sponsor in 2022. As a long-term sponsor, we help fund programs that address quality of life issues impacted the greater South Glens Falls area, with a focus on environmental stewardship and community vitality.
- Boralex has supported the Akwesasne Art Market & Juried Show in both 2023 and 2024.
- Boralex has provided support for upgrades to the Town of Fort Covington Rainbow Park, The Fort Covington Fire Department Chicken Roast Fundraiser, and the local Adult Centre Meals on Wheels Program.

The New York State Public Service Commission in February of 2021 established a "host community benefit program" through which owners of large-scale renewable energy facilities would pay \$500/MW for solar each year for the first 10 years of Bid Facility operation. Savings to power bills resulting from these payments will be distributed by the incumbent utility and will be done equally among eligible ratepayers residing in the municipality where the Bid Facility is located.

Boralex will work with the local utilities and the community to implement and raise awareness of the program. This benefit is projected to provide annually \$125,000 per year for the residents of Fort Covington. Over the ten-year period, the program will result in approximately \$1,250,000 in ratepayer savings.

Construction of the Bid Facility will occur entirely within New York State, and it will create more than 180 jobs during construction. Earthwork, foundations, racking and panel installations, collector system and power connection to the substation and to the grid are examples of work that will be done exclusively in New York State, and Boralex intends to rely on workers from New York State to the extent practicable to complete this work.

Local long-term jobs will also be created for the operation and maintenance of the Bid Facility. Ongoing jobs during operation may include, but not be limited to, maintenance and repair of the solar generation equipment, road maintenance, snow removal, internet and IT maintenance, vehicle leasing and maintenance, and land maintenance.

In addition to direct job creation, the Bid Facility presents opportunities for local businesses to offer their services, including environmental consultants, engineering consultants, legal firms, hotels, restaurants and grocery stores. In addition to services, the Bid Facility will need to source material in New York such as, but not limited to, gravel, steel, concrete and sand.

Boralex, through its Beyond Renewables Fund, will also reserve an annual budget for a donation and sponsorship program to support local initiatives and charities near the Bid Facility. This budget will be effective during the construction period and throughout the Bid Facility's operation. Boralex will pursue donation and sponsorship opportunities through consultation with the Town Board, community groups, etc.

Boralex will also promote the Bid Facility's environmental benefits by focusing on environmental stewardship and management during development, construction and operation. The Bid Facility will provide quiet, emission free and reliable power generation for the equivalent of 64,000 NYS households per year. The environmental benefits to the Bid Facility area could also include, but not be limited to, improved storm water management, improved soil fertility and increased pollinator habitat. These benefits will be shared with the local community and stakeholders through the communication materials and events described above.

During its operation, the Bid Facility will also increase tax revenues to the Town of Fort Covington, Franklin County and to the Salmon River School District. The exact tax payments have not yet been determined (see below).

7.0 PILOTs/HCA's

Boralex has begun PILOT discussions with the Franklin County IDA. Franklin County IDA is willing to enter into a PILOT agreement with the Proposer and has completed PILOT agreements for Solar Projects in the County. Discussions with the IDA will continue and detailed negotiations will commence as the Project development advances closer to final design and financial close. .

8.0 Local Interests

Local interests

The Bid Facility benefits from widespread community acceptance, including very enthusiastic support from the Town Supervisor, Pat Manchester. As stated in their letter of support: *“Throughout the time Boralex has been developing the project, they have done an excellent job of explaining the benefits to our community. Boralex has listened to concerns and, more importantly, implemented project changes that have helped build trust and community support. This includes early consultation with the Fort Covington Fire Department on project roads and other design elements to satisfy the department’s requirements. The Boralex team has been very generous with their time, and I have appreciated their responsiveness and candor. Frankly, I wish all my interactions with private developers were as positive as the relationship I’ve been able to build with Boralex.”*

Boralex has also made certain that leadership and environmental and economic development officials with the Saint Regis Mohawk have received regular communication and project updates throughout the Bid Facility’s development.

Local concerns

As indicated by the supportive letter from the Town of Fort Covington Supervisor, the project has widespread community support. As is common with solar generating facilities, the primary concern raised, and addressed, was:

Visuals

- Decreased Facility visibility from residents: Vegetated buffers will be strategically placed to minimize views from non-participating residences adjacent to solar array areas

Establishing harmonious relations with stakeholders has been a successful strategy for Boralex. The foundation of a harmonious relationship is predicated on trust, communication, and shared respect.

For example:

In the fall of 2023 in the Town of Easton, some members of the community approached the Town Board calling for a moratorium on utility-scale solar. Boralex had been developing the Easton Solar project for more than 22 months, appearing before the planning board, attending public hearings, holding open houses, and generally offering opportunities for feedback on the solar project. Building on our engagement over the previous two years and 20 years operating a hydroelectric facility in the Town, we demonstrated a willingness to engage with community members to design a project that valued the community’s feedback. Stakeholder meetings led to the development of: a robust landscape screening plan, complete with input from abutting landowners on preferred plantings;

increased setbacks from the road; reduced footprint; a complaint management plan as part of our operations and maintenance program; and increased interest in our agricultural multi-use efforts and sponsorships. These all contributed to helping our project receive a special use permit, with conditions, in December 2023.

If needed, Boralex will use a similar strategy, based on careful listening, proactive consultation and engaging with the local media, to build public support for and respectfully responding to any opposition to the Bid Facility.

9.0 Mitigation of Concerns

To date, the only substantive concern raised has been on the viewshed of abutters. Boralex is committed to provide strategically placed vegetative screening to minimize the potential views of the Project by abutters and will continue outreach on this issue throughout the Bid Facility's development.

10.0 Soliciting Feedback

Boralex begins outreach to local stakeholders early in the development of projects. We systematically meet with the local elected representatives, Town and County leadership, Industrial Development Associations, Chambers of Commerce, school districts, environmental organizations, local charities, landowners, neighbors, interested members of the community, and more.

To provide stakeholders ample opportunity to share feedback, we host open houses, attend meetings with local organizations, and keep in close contact with stakeholders. We will maintain an email address (info.usa@boralex.com), project-specific website--complete with frequently asked questions and information on sustainability and renewable energy at the project website--and a toll-free number (844-990-9146) to encourage ongoing stakeholder engagement. The website will be updated throughout the development, construction, and operation of the project.

Conclusion

As this Community Engagement Plan highlights, Boralex approaches our host communities as a guest and strives to become a meaningful member of the community. We are proud of the relationships we have built with by addressing issues directly and openly and look forward to continuing to be a good neighbor for decades to come.