



# **MILL POINT SOLAR I PROJECT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

**August 2024**



## PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Company Information:**

ConnectGen Montgomery County LLC  
1001 McKinney Street, Suite 700  
Houston, Texas 77002  
346-998-2020  
[info@ConnectGenllc.com](mailto:info@ConnectGenllc.com)

### **Project Representative:**

Andrew Barrett, Manager, Development  
346-998-2057  
[info@millpointsolar.com](mailto:info@millpointsolar.com)

### **Project Website:**

[www.millpointsolari.com](http://www.millpointsolari.com)

### **Project Toll-free Hotline:**

866-203-1118

### **Project Office:**

Repsol Renewables North America ("RRNA") continues to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a Project office in the vicinity of the Facility Site. Whether or not a local office is ultimately established, will continue to seek public involvement throughout the Section 94-c process. It is RRNA's intent to facilitate communication with interested or affected stakeholders, and to encourage engagement in the public process.

### **Local Document Repositories:**

The Plan and other Project documents and outreach materials will be made available at the document repository listed below:

Glen Town Hall  
7 Erie Street  
Fultonville, NY 12072  
Mon – Fri  
8am – 2pm



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Authorities Having Jurisdiction .....	5
2. Community Outreach Strategy .....	7
2.1. Stakeholder Identification .....	8
2.2. Outreach Activities To-Date .....	8
2.3. Consultation with the Affected Agencies and Stakeholders .....	11
2.4. Pre-Application Activities to Encourage Stakeholder Participation .....	14
2.4.1. Public Education Activities.....	14
2.4.2. Public Meetings.....	17
2.4.3. Educational Materials .....	18
2.4.4. Project Website.....	18
2.4.5. Notifications.....	19
2.4.6. Soliciting Feedback and Input from the Public .....	20
3. Project Benefits.....	21
3.1. Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Host Community Agreement.....	22
3.2. Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities .....	25
4. Local Interests and Concerns and Mitigation Strategies .....	25
5. Method for Public Feedback.....	28
6. Activities to Encourage Stakeholder Participation.....	28



## **MILL POINT SOLAR I PROJECT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

Repsol Renewables North America (“RRNA”) has been and will continue to be committed to building and implementing a robust Community Engagement Plan (“Plan”) that is responsive to the needs of the local community and to maintaining a transparent and responsive relationship with local stakeholders throughout the pre-award, development, construction, and operation of the Mill Point Solar I Project (“Project”). This Plan describes how RRNA has engaged and will continue to engage the local community, host municipalities (Town of Glen and County of Montgomery), stakeholders (including interested state agencies), and interested parties and solicit their involvement throughout the various phases of the Project. It is RRNA’s ongoing intent to facilitate communication with interested or affected stakeholders, solicit public comments, provide timely notice of Project milestones and events, and encourage the public and interested parties to provide input. A robust Plan will ensure that RRNA continues to engage the local community and receive stakeholder support and input throughout the life of the Project.

The Plan is organized to reflect the outreach activities to date and the intended steps to be taken when engaging stakeholders and interested parties going forward and at a minimum will address the following:

1. Identification of the Authority Having Jurisdiction (“AHJ”) and taxing School District, including elected local officials’ names, contact information, and tenure;
2. Detail outreach strategies and activities RRNA has implemented to date and will use to engage stakeholders and interested parties, including affected agencies, and to encourage public involvement throughout the pre-award, development, construction, and operation phases (consistent with the Project Milestone Schedule), including methods of communication and specific channels RRNA has disseminated and will continue to disseminate Bid Facility information;
3. Frequency of past/planned public events and the anticipated duration, in years, of the public engagement events of community outreach, and strategies to ensure that public engagement events are widely attended by a representative cross section of host community residents;
4. Details of the direct benefits to the community the RRNA will advance;
5. Details on past/planned engagements regarding payments in lieu of taxes (“PILOT”) agreements or host community agreements (“HCA”);



6. Applicability of the CLCPA goals regarding benefits to Disadvantaged Communities that would be realized with the development and construction of the Bid Facility;
7. A description of local interests and concerns, including past/planned strategies to thoughtfully build support for and respectfully responding to any opposition to the Bid Facility;
8. Strategies that have been and will be used to mitigate concerns raised by the public regarding the Bid Facility. This may include visibility and viewshed impact mitigation efforts, or other issues of importance to the host communities;
9. Past/planned methods for soliciting feedback and input from the public and affected agencies and the process for sharing feedback and responses publicly; and
10. Any changes to the community and public engagement requirements and standards of the state siting permit approval process resulting from the implementation of final 94-c regulations and USCs by ORES.

## **1. Authorities Having Jurisdiction**

Early in the stakeholder identification process, RRNA identified the AHJ and the taxing School District. As the primary recipients of the Project benefits, RRNA has ensured and will continue to ensure these stakeholders are kept up to date on Project development, included in community engagement activities, and encouraged to provide feedback throughout the development, construction, and operation of the Project.

### **AHJ: Town of Glen**

- Town Hall

Address: 7 Erie Street, Fultonville, NY 12072

Town Phone: 518-853-3633

Regular office hours: Monday–Friday 8am-2pm; Tuesday, 6pm as directed by the court

- Town Supervisor

- o Timothy Reilly

Address: 7 Erie Street, Fultonville, NY 12072

Phone: 518-853-3865

Email: glensupervisor@gmail.com



- Town Board

- Councilperson – Rosalie Farina

Address: 2885 State Highway 5s, Fultonville, NY 12072

Phone: 518-573-6412

Email: [Rosalie.farina.glenpb@gmail.com](mailto:Rosalie.farina.glenpb@gmail.com)

- Councilperson – Susan Whiteman

Address: 1529 Mill Point Rd., Fultonville, NY 12072

Phone: 518-922-5512

Email: [swhiteman705@gmail.com](mailto:swhiteman705@gmail.com)

- Councilperson – Russell Kelly, Jr.

Address: 3259 State Highway 30A, Fultonville, NY 12072

Phone: 518-853-3584

- Councilperson – Ronald Crewell

Address: 213 Hyney Hill Road, Fultonville, NY 12072

Phone: 518-922-5872

**Taxing School District: Fonda-Fultonville Central School District**

- School District Office Address: 112 Old Johnstown Road, Fonda, NY 12068
- School Superintendent: Thomas Ciaccio
  - Address: 112 Old Johnstown Road, PO Box 1501, Fonda, NY 12068
  - Phone: 518-853-4415
- Board of Education:
  - Matt Sullivan, President
    - Phone: 518-853-1920
  - Bonnie Couture, Vice President
    - Phone: 518-853-4219
  - John Wiltey
    - Phone: 518-224-5257
  - Dennis Egelston
    - Phone: 518-922-8615



- Michelle Isabella  
Phone: 518-853-2015
- Adam Sullivan  
Phone: 518-848-1249
- Jessica Munson  
Phone: 518-848-7619

## **2. Community Outreach Strategy**

A robust Plan must include: consultation with the affected agencies and other stakeholders, pre-Application activities to encourage stakeholders to participate at the earliest opportunity, activities designed to educate the public as to the specific proposal and the Section 94-c review process, including the availability of funding for municipal and local parties, the establishment of a website to disseminate information to the public, notifications, and activities designed to encourage participation by stakeholders in the certification and compliance process. The Plan is ongoing and may evolve throughout all phases of the Section 94-c review process (pre-Application phase, Application phase, hearing and decision phase, and post-certification phase). RRNA has disseminated and will continue to disseminate information regarding the Project to stakeholders, solicit information from those stakeholders during public outreach events, and generally foster participation in the Section 94-c review.

RRNA has established a user-friendly website ([www.millpointsolari.com](http://www.millpointsolari.com)) in plain English that describes the Project and RRNA, answers frequently asked questions, and has provided and will continue to provide updates throughout the development and construction phases of the Project to keep the community informed of the Project's status (see Section 2.4.4 below for additional details). The website also provides several avenues to contact RRNA regarding the Project.

Additionally, as part of the state permitting process, the New York State Department of Public Service (NYS DPS) maintains a website (<http://documents.dps.ny.gov>) where all materials associated with the Project review will be published. The NYSDPS website also provides an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the Project or request to be a party in the state permitting process. Should there be any changes to the location where Project materials will be published as the 94-c draft regulations are finalized and adopted, RRNA will ensure that the public is directed to the relevant website.

## **2.1. Stakeholder Identification**

A fundamental first step in the community outreach process is identifying the stakeholders that may be affected by construction and operation of the Project. RRNA maintains a development approach that places transparency, safety, accountability, and respect for local communities as its core values. RRNA's approach is to proactively engage interested community members, agencies, municipalities, utilities, host landowners, and other potential stakeholders by being transparent always and providing timely information to consistently educate and involve all stakeholders. Further, RRNA understands that stakeholders may change during the development cycle of a project; therefore, RRNA has reviewed and will continue to review and assess stakeholder involvement throughout the Project development process to ensure new stakeholders that may have interests in the Project are identified and informed at the earliest opportunity.

The process by which RRNA identifies specific stakeholders for this Project is informed by prior experience both generally, and as part of a New York-specific permitting and community engagement regime. Current and ongoing stakeholder identification efforts for the Project include, but are not limited to, reviewing County GIS records, tax records, personal visits, word-of-mouth, public meeting attendee lists, discussions with local community members, public outreach, and internet research. With the Project website in place, community members are able to request inclusion to RRNA's Notification List via the web portal or contact information publicly available.

RRNA maintains a master list of stakeholders (the "Notification List"), which includes all known potentially interested stakeholders and parties, based upon the combination of efforts described above. This Notification list includes, but is not limited to, local municipal officials, state agencies, host landowners, adjacent landowners, and local emergency responders. RRNA will continue to update the Notification List based on information and requests from interested stakeholders received during engagement activities.

## **2.2. Outreach Activities To-Date**

RRNA's Plan focuses on early and frequent communication with landowners and host communities, including the Town of Glen. In early 2020, representatives of the Mill Point Solar I Project introduced the



Project to the then Glen Town Supervisor, John Thomas, and provided him with general information about RRNA and its approach to utility-scale solar development. The Project team held numerous subsequent meetings with Mr. Thomas and, when elected, Timothy Reilly to provide updates and details related to project development and request feedback regarding the same. A RRNA representative also directly introduced the Project to other members of the Town Board, including Counsellpersons Thomas Murray, Ronald Crewell, Russell Kelly, Rosalie Farina, and Susan Whiteman and has attended numerous monthly Planning Board and Town Board meetings (both virtually and in-person) to date with solar-related agenda items. An RRNA representative continues to attend monthly Town Board meetings in the Town of Glen. In June of 2020, Project representatives submitted comments and recommendations regarding the Town of Glen's draft solar zoning law to Town Supervisor Thomas and shared RRNA's perspective on current industry standards and practical considerations for the development and construction of utility-scale solar projects. The Town Board was receptive to RRNA's feedback regarding the draft law and passed a new solar law in November 2020. RRNA also reviewed and provided comments on the 2022 Solar Law prior to its adoption. RRNA informally introduced the Project to Kenneth Rose, Director of the Montgomery County Business Development Center in 2019 and has communicated with Mr. Rose on several occasions regarding the status of the Project. In October 2022 and February 2023, RRNA representatives met with the Glen Volunteer Fire Department and discussed current department resources, Project design details, and other safety and security needs for the Project. In September 2022, RRNA representatives met with Thomas Ciaccio, Superintendent of Schools for the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District, to introduce the Project. In August and October 2023, Project representatives met with the Montgomery County Sheriff and the Montgomery County Emergency Management Office to introduce the Project, share a Project map and layout, provide a general project schedule, and at the later meeting, review the draft Site Security Plan and draft Safely Response Plan. Additionally, due to the large number of Amish families in the Project Area, the RRNA team met with a local Amish community leader in June 2023 and has ensured paper copies of Project maps and information/updates are available in the Glen Town Hall.

RRNA has made multiple donations per year to community organizations including, but not limited to, the Fonda-Fultonville PTSA, the Montgomery County Office for Aging, the Community Action Agency Food Pantry, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Glen Mohawk VFW Post 942, the Haven of Hope Farm Stand, the Fonda-Fultonville School District, the Town of Glen Volunteer Fire Department, the Toast to the Tatas Golf Tournament, the Amsterdam Mohawks Summer Baseball League and the Fonda Fair.



Engagement with and support of local community organizations is an important element of RRNA's commitment to the local community throughout the development period and through the construction and operations period of the Project.

In April 2021, RRNA hosted a virtual public information meeting during which project representatives gave project updates and answered questions. There were 154 questions submitted during the virtual meeting, and all questions were answered either live or in writing once the meeting ended. The meeting recording and transcript of those questions can be found on the project website. In August 2021, RRNA hosted two separate in-person public meetings to provide project updates and answer questions. Those meetings were attended by 98 individuals, not including the Project team. Subsequently, and in response to community feedback regarding the meeting format, RRNA hosted another community meeting in November 2021, which included RRNA representatives on a panel for live Q&A. That meeting was attended by 68 individuals, not including the Project team. In May 2023, Project representatives held both the Town of Glen Local Consultation Meeting and two pre-Application public meetings to walk local agencies and community members through the information to be contained in RRNA's 94-c Application, including the local laws for which waivers are being requested. Approximately 80 individuals, not including Project representatives, attended those two public meetings. Meeting materials from each public meeting are available on the Project website.

Further, Water Well Surveys were mailed to host and adjacent landowners in September 2021 and again in March 2023. Visual Stakeholder Outreach Surveys and Requests for Information ("RFI") were mailed to state, county, and local stakeholders, including but not limited to the Montgomery County Executive, the Montgomery County Attorney, the Montgomery County Planning Board, the County Historian, the Montgomery County IDA, ORES, the Town of Glen Supervisor, the Town of Glen Zoning and Planning Boards, as well as the Zoning Boards, Planning Boards and Town Supervisors of the neighboring towns of Florida and Mohawk in September 2021 and again in April 2023. These surveys and RFIs solicited feedback and comments on RRNA's inventory of local visual resources and aided in the selection of visual simulations created as part of the Project's 94-c permit application that was submitted in February 2024.



Since January 2020, RRNA has engaged in frequent discussions with both participating landowners and adjoining landowners in the Mill Point Solar I Project Area. To readily provide Project information and land agreements to landowners, RRNA engaged the services of a New York-based land firm and land agent, who continue to support the Project at present. As the Project has advanced over the last 4 years, RRNA regularly extended the opportunity to participate in the project via letter of intent or lease and easement agreement to key landowners with suitable acreage in the general Project Area. As it stands, this group of key landowners currently includes 26 participating landowners and 16 adjoining landowners in the immediate Project Area. RRNA's broad approach to landowner outreach helps to create a general awareness of the Project in the immediate vicinity. As the Project has advanced, RRNA has continued robust in-person outreach efforts with all landowners immediately adjoining the Project Area to ensure they are aware of the Project and the resources available to monitor the Project's progress. As part of this outreach, RRNA has approached and will continue to approach potentially impacted landowners whose land will not host Project facilities and offer them the opportunity to participate in the Project through neighbor agreements.

More broadly and as outlined in this Plan, RRNA has communicated and will continue to communicate with local municipalities and stakeholders throughout the development process to ensure they are aware of the Project and their interests are identified and inputs collected.

### **2.3. Consultation with the Affected Agencies and Stakeholders**

As described above, RRNA has regularly engaged the Town of Glen over the last 4+ years regarding its intentions to develop a solar project in the Town, providing details about the Project and information about the Section 94-c process and keeping Town Officials apprised of Project development efforts and progress. RRNA will continue to communicate with local municipalities and other stakeholders throughout the consultation process to ensure they are aware of the Project and their interests or concerns are identified.

RRNA has consulted with affected state and federal agencies including, but not limited to, the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES), NYSDPS, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM), New York

State Historic Preservation Office (NYSHPO), New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) throughout the development of the Project. This consultation has included incorporation of agency officials to the Notification list and relevant mailings, periodic meetings regarding Project development, and coordination on environmental studies and surveys.

Additionally, RRNA has consulted with various local utilities within the Project Area with the goals of identifying and avoiding impacts to utility infrastructure and minimizing any impacts to local service providers and utility customers during Project construction and operation.

Consultation with affected agencies and municipalities has included and will continue to include the following general steps:

1. RRNA has contacted each identified agency or municipality to make certain they are aware of the Project, obtain information on sensitive resources and planning initiatives, inform them of the Section 94-c process (including steps for intervenor funding), and provide contact information for company representatives to direct any questions or comments about the Project and/or about the Section 94-c process;
2. Subsequent interaction with each agency or municipality has occurred and will continue to occur as needed to answer specific questions or interests about the Project and to identify the applicable studies and impact analyses to be performed and how they pertain to the Project;
3. Regular consultation with ORES Staff occurred during early development of the Project, during the pre-Application stage up to the submission of the Project's 94-c Application in February 2024. Since the submission of this Application, RRNA has been in regular dialogue with ORES regarding the completeness of the Application, and expects this constructive and open dialogue to continue throughout the remainder of the 94-c Application process.; and
4. Other specific consultations as required by the Section 94-c regulations, or as needed to inform the process.



In tandem with its 94-c Application filing in February 2024, RRNA deposited funds for intervenor participation. Funds were deposited with ORES at the time an Application was filed, in an amount equal to \$1,000 for each 1,000 kilowatts (i.e., 1 MW) of generating capacity of the Facility. Under Section 94-c, intervenor funds are held in a Local Agency Account managed and dispersed by NYSERDA to qualifying parties to aid in their participation in the Section 94-c proceeding. Requests for pre-Application intervenor or local agency funds were submitted to ORES within thirty (30) days after the date on which a 94-c Application was been filed, and at least 75% of the local agency funds were be reserved for potential awards to local agencies under Section 94-c.

During the initial consultation with each municipality or agency, RRNA established contact and consulted with representatives, disseminated information, requested information, and scheduled follow-up meetings and/or consultations, as needed. Specific information provided to the affected agencies and municipalities included a description of the Project and location; explanation of the phases of the Section 94-c process and how the agency or municipality can participate in each step; description of the available local agency/intervenor funds and the process for obtaining funding; description of the local municipal responsibility; information about other planned consultations; and sources of additional information about the Project and Section 94-c (e.g., the Project and ORES websites).

Information requested from affected municipalities and agencies varied by the involvement of each, including, but not limited to, topics such as local laws, emergency response, environmental impact review, and determination of news sources to be used for official notices. RRNA has engaged and will continue to engage municipalities, agencies, and stakeholders throughout Project development through a variety of methods, including open house meetings, direct correspondence, review of comments submitted through the Project and ORES websites, and targeted meetings with some of the individual stakeholders identified herein. All stakeholder consultation meetings have been documented, and all presentation materials and meeting transcripts, along with a summary of questions raised and responses provided were included in the Project's Section 94-c Application.

## 2.4. Pre-Application Activities to Encourage Stakeholder Participation

RRNA staff have engaged affected and interested agencies, municipalities, utilities, host landowners, and other potential stakeholders on solar, wind and other energy-related projects throughout North America. RRNA used and will continue to use this prior experience to facilitate meaningful stakeholder interaction during the Section 94-c review process for the Project.

### 2.4.1. Public Education Activities

RRNA has attended Town meetings and conducted RRNA-sponsored public information sessions and will continue to do so. RRNA has distributed educational materials and provided information on the Project website, which describe the proposed Project, and provided links to information on the Section 94-c process, local agency/intervenor funding, and other important stakeholder issues. These efforts will allow RRNA to continue engaging with stakeholders regarding the proposed Project and will offer multiple avenues of information distribution so that stakeholders and the public continue to have multiple, varied opportunities to obtain information on the Project and participate in the proceedings. Previous/planned efforts are discussed in further detail below:

Table 1. Schedule of Key Engagement Activities

Key Milestone	Date/Time	Milestone Details, Including Notification Summary
Virtual Information Meeting	April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hosted online via Zoom due to Covid 19 restrictions</li> <li>- Host and adjacent landowners located within one mile, as well as parties on the notification list, were mailed an invitation prior to the meeting</li> </ul>

Key Milestone	Date/Time	Milestone Details, Including Notification Summary
In-person Community Meetings	August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Held in Fultonville, NY</li> <li>- Two sessions were held at different times of the day to provide more opportunities for public participation</li> <li>- Notice of the sessions was published in the Amsterdam Recorder, Schenectady Daily Gazette, and Gloversville-Johnstown Leader Herald</li> <li>- Host and adjacent landowners located within one mile, as well as parties on the notification list, were mailed an invitation prior to the meeting</li> </ul>
In-person Community Meeting	November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Held in Fultonville, NY</li> <li>- Based on community feedback, the meeting structure was amended to include a group question and answer, with project representatives on a panel</li> <li>- Notice of the sessions was published in the Amsterdam Recorder, Schenectady Daily Gazette, and Gloversville-Johnstown Leader Herald</li> <li>- Host and adjacent landowners located within one mile, as well as parties on the notification list, were mailed an invitation prior to the meeting</li> </ul>
Pre-Application Public Information Sessions	May 2023 (no fewer than 60 days prior to Application filing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Held in Fonda and Fultonville, NY</li> <li>- Two sessions were held on two different days to provide more opportunities for public participation</li> <li>- Notice of the sessions was published in the Amsterdam Recorder, Schenectady Daily Gazette, and Gloversville-Johnstown Leader Herald and posted on the Project website</li> <li>- Host and adjacent landowners located within one mile, as well as parties on the notification list, were mailed an invitation prior to the meeting</li> </ul>

Key Milestone	Date/Time	Milestone Details, Including Notification Summary
Pre-Application Consultation with Town Supervisor and Local Agencies	May 2023 (no fewer than 60 days prior to Application filing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting with Supervisor for Town of Glen and the Montgomery County Executive</li> <li>- Provided overview of Project, demonstrate compliance with local applicable laws, address potential impacts of facilities, review local agency funds and timeline for requesting same</li> </ul>
Filing of 94-c Application	January 2024 (no fewer than 3 days before filing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Notice of the RRNA’s Application filing was published in the Amsterdam Recorder, Schenectady Daily Gazette, and Gloversville-Johnstown Leader Herald and posted on the Project website</li> <li>- Notice was provided via mail to all parties on the Notification List Notice was also served on all parties identified in 94-c regulations</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paper and electronic of the Application were served on all parties identified in and as required by 94-c regulations, including but not limited to ORES, NYSDEC, the Town of Glen, NYSAGM, NYSDOH, NYSDOT, OPRHP, Attorney General for State of New York</li> <li>- Paper copies were provided to the local repositories identified on page 2.</li> <li>- Electronic copies of all documents were posted on the Project website</li> </ul>
Additional Public Information Session	After Application Filing / Prior to Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To be held in local municipalities</li> <li>- Two sessions will be held at different times of the day to provide more opportunities for public participation</li> <li>- Notice of the sessions will be published in the Amsterdam Recorder, Schenectady Daily Gazette, Gloversville-Johnstown Leader Herald, and the Busy Beaver. Host and adjacent landowners as well as, parties on the notification list will be contacted prior to the sessions</li> </ul>

### **2.4.2. Public Meetings**

As mentioned above in 2.2 – Outreach Activities To-Date, RRNA held one virtual and five separate public meetings at various stages of the Project development process. Further, RRNA anticipates holding two additional meetings during the State’s review of the Project. These meetings were held at different times during the day, based on stakeholder feedback, to provide more opportunities for public participation. Representatives for RRNA were present to provide Project information and answer questions. It is anticipated that these post-Application meetings will be held at a public meeting space in reasonable proximity to the Project Area. To provide ample community notice, RRNA will contact residences and businesses within the Project area and parties on the Notification List, notifying them of the date and time of the public meetings.

RRNA conducted a mass mailing to the Notification List to announce each open house-style public meeting and properly noticed these meetings in local newspapers, which include the Amsterdam Recorder, Schenectady Daily Gazette, Gloversville-Johnstown Leader Herald, and the Busy Beaver, at least 14 days prior to the scheduled event. Information regarding public meetings was also posted at the local document repositories and in the Glen Town Hall or other appropriate locations based on the public meeting(s). In addition, RRNA maintained a copy of the mailing and has obtained an affidavit of service as a record of what was mailed and to whom. The most recent meetings were scheduled approximately no later than 60 days prior to the filing of the Application, to present detailed information regarding the anticipated content of the Application and to solicit public input. The subsequent meetings will be scheduled after filing of the Application to present an overview of the Applications content. Notification of all public meetings held by RRNA was and will be mailed to the Notification List. In addition, RRNA has maintained the mailings and the affidavits of mailing for inclusion in the Application.

Additional stakeholders will be added to the Notification List as they are identified. The updated list will then be used for future mail notifications, and the list will be further updated based on additional requests. In addition, the Pre-Application Public Meeting information was posted on the Project website [www.millpointsolari.com](http://www.millpointsolari.com). RRNA has provided and will continue to provide ORES with informal notice of all scheduled public meetings.

### **2.4.3. Educational Materials**

RRNA developed outreach materials – including educational materials – that contain contact information, case number, and document repository information, details for obtaining additional Project information, and outline the process for becoming a party to these proceedings or for joining the Notification List. This information was included in a notice mailed to residences and businesses in the Project area as well as additional groups included in the Notification List. Educational handouts were made available at public meetings that included information on intervenor funding, how to become a party to the proceeding, the Section 94-c process, and general information about solar farms, as well as specific information about this Project. Additionally, the Project website provides information on the proposed Project, links to (and information regarding) solar energy, the Section 94-c process, intervenor funding, how to become a party to the proceeding, and other important stakeholder issues. These efforts will allow RRNA to engage with applicable stakeholders and will offer multiple avenues of information exchange, so stakeholders and the public have the best chance to obtain the right information and participate in the process.

### **2.4.4. Project Website**

RRNA has established a live, user-friendly website with up-to-date Project and company information in plain English ([www.millpointsolari.com](http://www.millpointsolari.com)). RRNA has provided and will continue to provide Project updates throughout the development, post-certification, and construction phases of the Project to keep the community informed of the Project's status. For example, maps have been and will continue to be added to the website as the Project layout evolves, and notices have been and will continue to be posted to the website prior to various milestones and public meetings/outreach events.

The Project website includes:

- Project description;
- Project benefits and need;
- Summary of permitting requirements;
- Information on the Section 94-c process;
- Instructions on how to become a party to these proceedings or join the Notification List, with a link to the appropriate webpage;

- Summary of the Local Agency Account/Intervenor Funding process and how to apply;
- Project contact information, including email address and toll-free telephone number;
- Copies of Section 94-c and related licensing documents;
- Addresses of local document repositories;
- A schedule that lists dates/times/locations for outreach events and key milestone dates, such as when the Application will be filed;
- Information on RRNA;
- News and announcements; and
- Frequently asked questions about the Project, RRNA, and solar energy.

As indicated above, the website includes the Project contact Information (see page 2). Interested parties may request stakeholder status through the website. RRNA has made and will continue to make efforts to respond directly to all substantive inquiries and comments submitted to the Project contact (by email, telephone or mail) within 2-3 business days of receiving the inquiry and/or comment. RRNA's normal business hours are from 9 AM to 5 PM Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays and between Christmas and New Year's. Where the inquiry and comments require a longer response time, the initial response has indicated and will continue to indicate a timeframe anticipated for the full response. Correspondence has been and will continue be documented in a database. In addition, where an in-person meeting is requested, efforts have been and will continue to be made to accommodate such meetings within 15 business days. Email inquiries to the general project email address receive an automated response acknowledging receipt of an interested party's question or comment.

#### **2.4.5. Notifications**

The Section 94-c regulations establish the notification requirements for serving documents. Pursuant to the rules, RRNA has published and will continue to publish all required notices in the Amsterdam Recorder, Schenectady Daily Gazette, and Gloversville-Johnstown Leader Herald, as well as provide notice in accordance with Section 94-c standard notice requirements. In addition, RRNA submitted the last several community meeting notices, the 60-Day Notice of Filing, and the 3-Day Notice of Filing to the Busy Beaver, the Amish community newspaper.



No less than three days before filing of the Application, RRNA published a notice of the Application in the newspapers listed above; served each member of the State Legislature in whose district any portion of the proposed Project is to be located; provided written notice to those persons who have filed a statement with the secretary that wish to receive such notices; and provided mail notification to all parties on the Notification List. In addition, the notice was posted on the Project website.

RRNA will publish any other notices required by the Presiding Examiner or other section of Section 94-c in the manner prescribed by the Presiding Examiner or under the procedures contained in Section 94-c.

An updated Notification List has been and will continue to be provided with all filings, which will include host and adjacent landowners and parties identified through RRNA's outreach efforts, as well as proof that a mailing has occurred.

#### **2.4.6. Soliciting Feedback and Input from the Public**

To ensure that the local community stakeholders and host municipalities are engaged before, during, and after the Section 94-c Application processes, RRNA has employed and will continue to employ the following methods to foster a dialogue and solicit feedback and input:

1. Comment cards have been and will be available at all public meetings hosted by RRNA. This has allowed and will continue to allow RRNA to gather feedback on and questions about the Project and document and respond to stakeholder questions and comments.
2. The information contained in the comment cards has been entered into a database, and members of the Project team used the database to follow up with individuals and inform the content used in educational materials, as necessary.
3. The Project website includes Project contact information, including an email address, a toll-free phone number, a contact form for members of the public to submit comments or questions to the Project team, as well as a page through which visitors can request to be added to the Notification List.

4. The Project website includes information on the Section 94-c Application process, so that stakeholders can monitor and/or become involved in that process, including information regarding any planned open houses.
5. RRNA has conducted and will continue to conduct a mass mailing to the Notification List to announce each public open house meeting and will properly notice these meetings and public hearings in local newspapers, which could include the Amsterdam Recorder, Schenectady Daily Gazette, and Gloversville-Johnstown Leader Herald prior to the scheduled event.
6. Information regarding public meetings and public hearings has been and will continue to be posted in the Glen Town Hall or other appropriate locations based on the where the pending public meeting(s)/hearing(s) will be held.

### **3. Project Benefits**

With a planned nameplate capacity of 250 MWac, the electricity generated by the Mill Point Solar I Project will deliver a material amount of greenhouse gas-free energy to the New York electricity grid. Solar energy is particularly beneficial during the summer months, as consumer demand increases to meet peak demand events, such as residential air conditioning loads. Because it uses no traditional fuel source, solar energy avoids the air pollution that would result from meeting this increased demand solely from fossil fuels, and it dampens the cost of power at this time of peak conventional power cost.

The proposed Project is expected to have positive socioeconomic impacts in the area related to employment opportunities, specifically by generating temporary construction employment, a significant portion of which will likely be drawn from the regional labor market. Local construction employment will primarily benefit those participants in the construction trades, including equipment operators, truck drivers, laborers, and electricians, and is anticipated to potentially generate up to 218 short term full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs during project installation. In addition, Project operation will generate employment and contracting service opportunities for electricians, operations managers, laborers and fencing contractors, and landscaping maintenance crews. RRNA is actively working towards signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Laborers' Local 157 to use their resources during the construction phase of the Project.



In addition, if RRNA is granted a NYSEDA contract, RRNA will establish a Host Community Benefit Program through which \$500/MW is paid into a fund annually over the first ten years of the Project's operations (\$1,250,000 in total). These funds will be distributed equally by the local utility to all residential utility customers in the Town of Glen in the form of an annual utility bill credit.

### **3.1. Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Host Community Agreement**

Over the life of the Project, RRNA is expected to contribute millions of dollars in additional revenue to the Town of Glen, Montgomery County, and the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District in the form of a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement and potential host community agreement (HCA). Preliminary discussions have been held with the Montgomery County Executive and the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District; however, the specific terms of a PILOT agreement or HCA are still to be negotiated and approved. The Project will bring other socioeconomic benefits to the local community including the purchase of goods and services from local shops, hotels, motels, restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, and construction material suppliers, as well as direct lease payments to participating landowners.

Through very deliberate site selection, followed by careful planning and design, and by the benign nature of the technology, the operating Project is expected to have minimal impacts on the surrounding community. Solar facilities are quiet and produce no vibration. The solar PV panels proposed to be used for the Project have a low height profile, while setbacks, fencing, and landscape buffering contribute to minimizing visual impacts on the community and natural setting of the area.

Although the Project will result in a change to the current land use practices in the locations where panel arrays are sited, this land use change is temporary, and all participating landowners entered into the lease agreements voluntarily. The Project is not a permanent structure and will be decommissioned at the end of its operational life, at which time the land can be returned to its former use. Therefore, the land is not permanently lost to development but is temporarily converted to another productive and beneficial use.

In agricultural areas, responsibly sited and operated solar facilities may provide long-term preservation of agricultural land, as the facility prevents other forms of development during the operational term. It can also serve to improve soil quality by allowing the land to lay fallow with appropriate ground cover planting.



It is expected that the Project would take approximately one year for construction and, once completed, would have an operational life of up to 40 years. RRNA has developed and provided a detailed decommissioning plan in its 94-c Application. In accordance with the Section 94-c regulations, the plan will ensure proper removal of the Project and restoration of the land at the end of the Project's useful life.

Impacts associated with the construction of a solar project are generally short-term and temporary, occurring briefly during the construction period. A robust analysis of the potential Project impacts associated with the operation, construction, and decommissioning of the solar facility have been performed as part of the Section 94-c process. As part of the preparation for the Project's 94-c Application with ORES, RRNA conducted a multi-year material facts analysis, including relevant studies and analyses on the following potential impact areas:

- Ecology and Land Use
- Wetland and Water Resources
- Wildlife and Habitat
- Public Health and Safety
- Cultural, Historic, and Recreational Resources
- Transportation
- Communication
- Noise
- Visual

Further detail on these extensive analyses, studies, project component siting, impacts, and mitigation effort is contained in the publicly posted Project 94-c application on the DPS portal (insert website link).

Overall, Project construction-related noise may be associated with site preparation activities and increased traffic associated with equipment and parts deliveries. Limited ground disturbance in the form of clearing and grading may be needed; however, best management practices and stormwater protection measures will be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to water quality. Potential impacts to wildlife could involve the short-term displacement of resident and migratory species associated with the conversion of habitat, although the Project would implement conservation practices to avoid and



minimize adverse effects to sensitive species during construction in consultation with NYSDEC and other relevant stakeholders.

RRNA performed multiple ecological analyses, onsite evaluations, and conducted desktop research to document and evaluate the ecology at the Project site, including review of vegetative communities, ecological cover types, potential wildlife habitat, wetlands and water resources, as well as land uses and zoning districts.

Based on Project-specific information received from the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP), NYSDEC, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and direct onsite observations, a list of state and federally listed species was compiled for those species that are believed to occur or have the potential to occur within the Project site and immediate vicinity. Confidential correspondence on these wildlife and habitat topics, including threatened and endangered species was conducted with ORES in the pre-Application phase of the 94-c process. The avoidance and/or minimization of Project-related impacts to NYS listed species will be accomplished through continued careful site design, implementation of BMPs, adherence to the USCs under Section 94-c, and construction monitoring. Site design practices avoid sensitive habitats by siting solar arrays primarily in agricultural fields, minimizing construction disturbances to the extent practicable, adhering to designated construction limits and species-specific time of year restrictions (as applicable), and avoiding off-limit sensitive areas.

RRNA consulted with the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to develop the scope and methodology for cultural resource studies for the Project. Based on the consultations with SHPO and the results of the architectural and archaeological surveys, the Facility will not result in an adverse effect to significant cultural or archeological resources, including potential visual impacts to aboveground historic properties.

Following completion of construction of the facility, post-construction reclamation activities would be performed to revegetate disturbed areas, reclaim temporary work zones, and remove construction materials debris.

### **3.2. Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities**

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act includes several environmental justice provisions, including setting a target for disadvantaged communities to receive 40 percent of the overall benefits from the state’s climate programs and at a minimum, to receive no less than 35 percent of those benefits. As discussed in greater detail in the Project’s public 94-c (Exhibit 19 – Environmental Justice), a review of the Project and its 0.5-mile buffer found that there is one Potential Environmental Justice Area (PEJA) present, according to the thresholds established by NYSDEC. Additionally, the Impact Study Area includes two Disadvantaged Community (DACs), according to Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) mapping. Based on the analyses detailed above, no significant and adverse disproportionate effects (including noise and vibration, visual, and transportation) on populations in PEJAs or DACs are expected to arise from the construction and operation and maintenance of the Facility. RRNA will avoid and/or minimize any significant and adverse disproportionate environmental impacts of the Project should they arise, to the maximum extent practicable.

Overall, RRNA has applied a community-focused approach to development, with the intent to ensure the community is informed of the Project and aware of potential socioeconomic benefits associated with the long-term operation of the Project. Although no negative impacts to disadvantaged communities are expected, RRNA expects the local communities, including nearby disadvantaged communities, may benefit from jobs and economic opportunities associated with the construction and operation of the Project.

### **4. Local Interests and Concerns and Mitigation Strategies**

Although New York State supports the development of renewable energy facilities, there is some opposition to solar facilities within New York. RRNA is aware of some local opposition and specific local concerns regarding the Mill Point Solar I Project, which are largely focused on land use and visual impact. RRNA acknowledges that there is intensive land use when developing solar projects and carefully sites its projects where transmission and land are available, and the landowner’s preferences control how much and what kind of land, including farmland, are available to be developed. In an effort to reduce agricultural

impacts, RRNA has minimized impacts to soils classified as NYS Agriculture Land Classification's Mineral Soil Groups 1-4. The Project substation and point of interconnection switchyard have not been sited on USDA "prime farmland soils." Several Project landowners are farmers and plan to maintain a portion of the properties in active agriculture and have cited solar lease and easements payments as supporting the economic viability of their farming operations.

As part of the 94-c Application process, RRNA has prepared an Agricultural Plan, consistent with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSAGM) Guidelines for Solar Energy Projects – Construction Mitigation for Agricultural Lands (Revision 10/18/2019), which is included as the 94-c Application. The Agricultural Plan was prepared to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to active agricultural lands to the maximum extent practicable during all phases of the Project, including through Facility construction, post-construction restoration, monitoring and remediation, and decommissioning. The Agricultural Plan will use a third-party Environmental Monitor that is qualified as an Agricultural Monitor in accordance with the 94-c regulations. RRNA also will use commercially reasonable methods to plant and maintain pollinator-friendly undergrowth for the facility. RRNA will follow all applicable NYSDAM Guidelines with regard to construction, and where impacts to prime soil groups cannot be avoided, will engage in the required mitigation measures.

Project opponents are interested in protecting the Town of Glen's agricultural way of life and have expressed concerns that the Project will take agricultural land out of production and impact the Town viewshed. In conjunction with input from the Town of Glen to accurately determine sensitive visual receptors and other areas of importance to the community, RRNA has conducted a Visual Impact Assessment, which includes an assessment of historical markers and scenic by-ways. RRNA has taken community feedback received over the past four years and used it to inform the final Project design, including committing to the following design changes to mitigate local concerns:

- Avoiding the siting of panels on the parcel of land adjacent to the Town of Glen cemetery
- Avoiding the siting of panels within the Hamlet District of the Town of Glen
- Burying all collection lines below ground
- Avoiding placing panels on slopes greater than 15%

- Limiting tree and vegetation removal to the minimum necessary for Project construction and operation

In addition, RRNA has consulted with NYSHPO and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe to avoid archeologically sensitive areas.

Given the Project's low impact construction and operation, RRNA's commitment to continuing transparent and thorough public outreach and responsible siting practices, and the Project's numerous benefits to the host and local community, RRNA does not expect additional opposition to develop. Should any additional local interests and/or concerns arise, RRNA will employ the strategies outlined in Section 5 below.

The Section 94-c siting process requires the study of the environmental, public health, and public safety impacts of the development, design, and construction of solar energy projects, as well as any proposed mitigation measures and reasonable alternatives to the Project. RRNA has worked and will continue to work with the relevant local, state, and federal agencies and stakeholders to ensure that potential impacts are fully considered.

Further, the Section 94-c siting process requires the Project to comply with applicable local laws and regulations, unless such law is unreasonably burdensome in the view of New York State renewable targets and environmental benefits. As previously detailed, the Project team has provided comments and recommendations to the Town Supervisor regarding the Draft Solar Laws for the Town of Glen in 2020 and 2022.

RRNA has endeavored to design the Project in accordance with the local solar law to the greatest extent practicable and thereby reduce the likelihood of an adjudicatory or public statement hearing for non-compliance in the Section 94-c siting process. During the May 2023 Local Agency Consultation Meeting and Community Meetings, RRNA outlined the local zoning regulations for which it will be requesting waivers.



## **5. Method for Public Feedback**

Substantive comments and questions on social and economic factors raised by the stakeholders and host communities, as well as RRNA's responses, have been documented in the educational materials that are distributed to the public and posted on the Project website. Common concerns are addressed in RRNA's solar FAQ handout, have been included in the educational materials posted on the Project website.

## **6. Activities to Encourage Stakeholder Participation**

Beyond the activities described above in Section 2.4, RRNA will continue to identify additional, practical measures to encourage stakeholder participation during the certification process. This has been and will continue to be an ongoing, evolving process throughout all phases of the Section 94-c review process (pre-Application phase, Application phase, hearing and decision phase, and post-certification phase). These efforts are outlined in Table 1.

As previously stated, RRNA has held one virtual and five in-person open-house-style public meetings and intends to hold two additional meetings after the 94-c Application has been filed. These meetings have been held at different times of the day to accommodate workers' schedules and provide the best opportunity for interested persons to attend. In addition, the Project website has been and will continue to be updated continuously with Project developments, meetings, and announcements to keep stakeholders and the public informed.

Following Project certification, RRNA will conduct additional public outreach and notifications as the Project enters the construction phase. These efforts will include notification of the start of construction to various parties and implementation of a Complaint Resolution Plan (a draft of which will be included with the Section 94-c Application). This plan will address public complaints and resolution procedures during Project construction and operation per the Section 94-c regulations.