



GreenbackerSM

NYSERDA RESRFP23-1

Community Engagement Plan

Little Pond Solar, LLC



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Company Profile: Little Pond Solar, LLC (the “Project” or “Little Pond”) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Greenbacker Renewable Energy Company LLC (“GREC” or “Greenbacker”). Founded in 2011 by a group of industry veterans, Greenbacker had a single goal of creating an investment vehicle that would enable the ordinary American investor to participate in the burgeoning revolution of renewable energy to tackle climate change. Over the years, Greenbacker has evolved into a publicly reporting, non-traded climate-focused investment manager, independent power producer, and long-term owner and operator of renewable infrastructure assets across North America. As of today, Greenbacker currently manages over 3.3 GW of wind, solar, energy storage, and biomass projects across 445 projects in 35 states, districts, and provinces. As an already active operator and owner of 100 MW of wind and solar in New York, Greenbacker has established itself as a long-term partner with the State of New York and the communities it operates in.

Project Summary: The Project, as proposed, is an approximately 26.94 MW utility-scale solar facility located in the Town of Deerpark, Orange County, New York. The Project will be located on private lands that are primarily rural in nature, of which the Project will utilize approximately 110 acres. The Project is in the late stages of development and although project details may evolve prior to the start of construction, the Project design, area, and boundary are ultimately in their final stages.

The Project’s facilities will include commercial-scale solar arrays, access roads, buried (and possibly overhead) electric collection lines, a collection substation, and electrical interconnection facilities with the interconnecting utility Orange & Rockland (“O&R”). The Project’s proposed Point of Interconnection (“POI”) is O&R’s 69 kV a tap of Mongaup – Cuddebackville Line 131, approximately 5 miles from the existing Mongaup 69 kV substation. The POI station will be owned and operated by Orange & Rockland and require relay upgrades for the project at the remote ends. The Point of Change of Ownership (“PCO”) is the line termination at the 69 kV insulators on the POI Station termination structure. Additional communication work has been added to the project to enhance the reliability.

Project Benefits: the Project will have considerable, positive socioeconomic impacts through its development, construction, and long-term operations. During its expected 18-month construction cycle, Greenbacker estimates that the Project will generate more than 100 temporary construction jobs and will look to source as much local labor to the maximum extent practicable. Additionally, the underlying land used to house the Project’s generating facilities will economically benefit the landowner, either through long-term rent or upfront payments. Aside from the direct benefits of local employment and spending, indirect benefits to the community would include increased spending in the economy through increased restaurant use, hotel usage, and gas consumption during the Project’s construction window. Local employment will primarily benefit those in the construction trades, including equipment operators, truck drivers, electricians, and laborers. Once the Project is fully operational, it is projected to generate upwards of 37,820 megawatt-hours (“MWh”) of clean, sustainable electricity in a single year. Utilizing the U.S. Energy Information Administration’s (“EIA”) public data on average annual electricity used by U.S. residential households, the Project will have the ability to provide 100% clean, affordable electricity to approximately 3,505 households within Orange County.



The Project has successfully executed a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (“PILOT”) Agreement with the Town of Deerpark, Port Jervis City School District, and Orange County on June 1, 2020. The PILOT Agreement will pay the three taxing jurisdictions an escalating amount for 15 years to support and increase the local community’s annual operating budget.

Greenbacker and the Project understand New York State’s commitment in in prioritizing the safety and health of disadvantaged communities through implementation of the CLCPA, while also seeing there is a continual increase in the demand for energy in the State. This Project will help New York State create a local, emission free, source of energy while maintaining greenspaces and aiding in keeping small family farms in business. Upon operation, solar projects do not emit any greenhouse gases. Indirectly, this Project along with other renewable energy projects, is assisting the State of New York meet energy demands in a non-conventional way. Conventional energy generation is historically sited in areas where disadvantaged populations live, and renewable energy projects help meet this demand without adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere and disproportionately impacting such communities.

Zoning: the Project’s original development team, Cypress Creek Renewables, LLC (“Cypress Creek”) began its initial outreach to the Town of Deerpark and Orange County in late 2018. Over several months, Cypress Creek met with the Town of Deerpark Planning Board, the Orange County Government and affiliate organizations, the Sparrow Bush Fire Department, and the Port Jervis Central School District. Cypress Creek submitted its formal application, which included the SEQRA Full Environmental Assessment Form, to the Town of Deerpark Planning Board in early March 2019, and the Town of Deerpark Planning Board declared its intent to be lead agency under the State’s Type 1 SEQRA process on March 27, 2019. After an 11-month process conducted by the lead agency, third-party consultants, comments from the involved agencies, stakeholders, adjacent landowners, the community, and the many environmental reports and studies prepared by the Project, the Town of Deerpark Planning Board issued a Negative Declaration under SEQRA as the lead agency on February 12, 2020.

