

Community Engagement Plan Summary

This document summarizes Mohawk Solar LLC’s Public Involvement Program (PIP), stakeholder outreach, correspondence with Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs), and communication with the public.

In acknowledgement that the NYSERDA RESRFP23-1 requires a Community Engagement Plan, and that Mohawk Solar has completed all community engagement requirements as evidenced by the issuance of an Article 10 Certificate in November 2020, Table 1 demonstrates how Mohawk Solar has met the RESRFP23-1 Community Engagement Plan requirements through past community engagement efforts.

Table 1: Mohawk Solar Community Engagement Plan Compliance

NYSERDA RESRFP23-1 Community Engagement Plan Requirement	Mohawk Solar’s Article 10 Actions and Findings	Documentation
1) Identify the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and taxing School District, including local elected officials’ names, contact information and tenure.	Mohawk Solar’s Public Involvement Program (PIP) identified AHJ’s, taxing school districts, stakeholders, and elected officials.	Mohawk Solar’s PIP is available in Attachment 1 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=188084&MatterSeq=53189

NYSERDA RESRFP23-1 Community Engagement Plan Requirement	Mohawk Solar's Article 10 Actions and Findings	Documentation
<p>2) Detail outreach strategies and activities the Proposer 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 the Proposer intends to use to disseminate Bid Facility information.</p>	<p>Outreach strategies are outlined in Mohawk Solar's PIP. A summary of outreach activities, including methods of communication and stakeholders, parties, and agencies contacted is available in Exhibit 2 of Mohawk Solar's Article 10 application. Details related to these meetings and outreach activities are recorded in Mohawk Solar's Meeting Log.</p>	<p>Mohawk Solar's PIP is available in Attachment 1 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=188084&MatterSeq=53189</p> <p>Mohawk Solar's Exhibit 2 is available in Attachment 2 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId={CD16B5EB-1138-453D-A9CD-E26423B1580A}</p> <p>Mohawk Solar's Meeting Log is available in Attachment 3</p>
<p>3) Applicability of the Climate Act goals regarding benefits to Disadvantaged Communities that would be realized with the development and construction of the Bid Facility.</p>	<p>Mohawk Solar's Article 10 application was submitted prior to the Climate Justice Working Group's development of the Disadvantaged Communities framework. Impacts to Environmental Justice communities were assessed in Exhibit 28 of Mohawk Solar's Article 10 application. Impacts and benefits to Disadvantaged Communities are addressed in this application. Overall applicability to New York State Climate goals is addressed in Exhibit 10.</p>	<p>Mohawk Solar's Exhibit 28 is available in Attachment 4 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=227758&MatterSeq=53189</p> <p>Mohawk Solar's Exhibit 10 is available in Attachment 5 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=227758&MatterSeq=53189</p>



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<p>4) Planned frequency of 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.</p>	<p>Mohawk Solar held four open house style meetings from 2017-2019, and a pre-construction open house meeting in 2021 after receiving their Article 10 certification. Additionally, between August 2016 and August 2019 Mohawk Solar attended or participated in over 115 meetings. A summary of Mohawk Solar's community outreach activities is available in Exhibit 2 of Mohawk Solar's Article 10 application. Details related to these outreach activities are recorded in Mohawk Solar's Meeting Log.</p>	<p>Mohawk Solar's Exhibit 2 is available in Attachment 2 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId={CD16B5EB-1138-453D-A9CD-E26423B1580A}</p> <p>Mohawk Solar's Meeting Log is available in Attachment 3</p>
<p>5) Details of the direct benefits to the community the Proposer will advance, which may include a local ownership stake in the facility, reduced energy bills for those with homes or businesses in the Bid Facility's vicinity, and/or other direct benefits.</p>	<p>Mohawk Solar assessed direct benefits of the project in Exhibit 27 of Mohawk Solar's Article 10 application, including local jobs created, land lease payments, Host Community Agreement (HCA) payments, PILOT payments, and additional payments to AHJ's. The benefits identified in Exhibit 27 were shared with the community during community engagement events.</p>	<p>Mohawk Solar's Exhibit 27 is available in Attachment 6 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=227758&MatterSeq=53189</p>
<p>6) Details on past/planned engagement regarding payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreements or host community agreements (HCAs).</p>	<p>Mohawk Solar assessed all PILOT agreements and additional payments in Exhibit 27. Meetings where the PILOT and other payments were</p>	<p>Mohawk Solar's Exhibit 27 is available in Attachment 6 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at:</p>



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	discussed are documented in Mohawk Solar's Meeting Log.	https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=227758&MatterSeq=53189 Mohawk Solar's Meeting Log is available in Attachment 3
7) Describe local interests and concerns, including identifying plans to thoughtfully build support for and respectfully responding to any opposition to the Bid Facility.	Mohawk Solar identified and addressed local interests and concerns in the Preliminary Scoping Statement (PSS) as required by the Article 10 process. Concerns identified in the PSS include impacts to wetlands, wildlife, water resources, land use – particularly agricultural lands, and visual impacts. The PSS allowed for an additional public comment period, and Mohawk Solar addressed additional comments received during the public comment period.	Mohawk Solar's PSS is available in Attachment 7 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=195290&MatterSeq=53189 Mohawk Solar's Response to Comments Received on the PSS is available in Attachment 7 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=197701&MatterSeq=53189
8) Identify strategies the Proposer will use to mitigate concerns raised by the public regarding the Bid Facility. This may include visibility and viewshed Impact mitigation efforts, accommodations to co-locate	Mohawk Solar identified strategies to address and mitigate concerns raised by the public in their Response to Comments Received on the PSS.	Mohawk Solar's Response to Comments Received on the PSS is available in Attachment 7 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=197701&MatterSeq=53189



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agricultural activities, or other issues of importance to the host communities		
9) Method for soliciting feedback and input from the public and affected agencies and the process for sharing feedback and responses publicly.	Mohawk Solar outlined methods for soliciting feedback from the public and affected agencies in the PIP. Additionally, Exhibit 2 of Mohawk Solar's Article 10 application summarizes public outreach and feedback. Finally, Mohawk Solar's PSS allowed for additional input and comments. Mohawk Solar logged all comments and input from the public with the DPS DMM database.	<p>Mohawk Solar's PIP is available in Attachment 1 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=188084&MatterSeq=53189</p> <p>Mohawk Solar's Exhibit 2 is available in Attachment 2 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId={CD16B5EB-1138-453D-A9CD-E26423B1580A}</p> <p>Mohawk Solar's PSS is available in Attachment 7 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at: https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=195290&MatterSeq=53189</p> <p>Mohawk Solar's Response to Comments Received on the PSS is available in Attachment 7 and on file with the Department of Public Service (DPS) Document Matter Master (DMM) at:</p>



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Project Description

Mohawk Solar, LLC. is proposing to develop the Mohawk Solar Project, an up to 90.5-megawatt (MW) solar energy generating project located on approximately 2,600 acres (Facility Site) in the Towns of Canajoharie and Minden, Montgomery County, New York. The summary of community engagement described in this memorandum and corresponding documentation will demonstrate that Mohawk Solar maintained regular and meaningful communication with AHJ's, the public, and stakeholders throughout the Article 10 permitting process. Mohawk Solar was issued an Article 10 Certificate on November 19, 2020.

Mohawk Solar Public Involvement Program (PIP)

The Mohawk Solar PIP was finalized in May of 2017 and is available in Attachment 1 and on file with the New York State Department of Public Service (DPS) in compliance with Article 10 requirements. The PIP was developed to ensure early and frequent communication with the Town of Canajoharie, the Town of Minden, and Montgomery County. It includes the following guidelines:

- (1) consultation with the affected agencies and other stakeholders (see Exhibit A for goals and plans)
- (2) pre-application activities to encourage stakeholders to participate at the earliest opportunity
- (3) activities designed to educate the public as to the specific proposal and the Article 10 review process, including the availability of funding for municipal and local parties
- (4) the establishment of a website to disseminate information to the public
- (5) notifications
- (6) activities designed to encourage participation by stakeholders in the certification and compliance process

A copy of the PIP is available on the NYSDPS DMM at:

<https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=188084&MatterSeq=53189>

Summary of Outreach Activities

Pre-Application Outreach

In addition to the PIP, Mohawk Solar conducted pre-application outreach activities. A summary of notable pre-application outreach includes:

- (1) August 2016 - The Project was presented to Town officials and the Montgomery County Planning Department.
- (2) November 2016 - The Project was presented to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSAGM), DPS, and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).



- (3) April 2017 – Met with Town officials from Canajoharie and Minden to discuss the filing of the PIP. In addition, Mohawk Solar held meetings with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and NYSEDA to introduce and discuss the Project.
- (4) May 2017 – Met with DPS to discuss Project details.
- (5) August 2017 - Held the first set of public meetings with stakeholders and residents from the Facility Site and surrounding area. Approximately 30 members of the public attended the meetings. Notices for these meetings are on file in DPS's Document Matter Master (DMM) website.
- (6) August 2017 - Met with NYSAGM and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) to discuss Project details.
- (7) September 2017 - Sent a mailing to stakeholders and interested parties about the upcoming filing of the Preliminary Scoping Statement (PSS). Notices of the mailing are on file in DMM.
- (8) November 2017 - Communicated with a representative from the Dominion Pipeline regarding the location of the Project in relation to nearby pipelines.
- (9) March 2019 – Held the second set of public meetings with stakeholders and residents from the Facility Site and surrounding area. Approximately 50 members of the public attended the meetings. Notices for these meetings are on file in DMM.
- (10) June 2021: Held a public pre-construction open house meeting after receiving the Article 10 certification.
- (11) Throughout Project development through Dec 2023– Participated in meetings and conference calls with stakeholders, state agencies, and host communities to discuss potential environmental impacts, scoping, stipulations, and community benefits, to include Host Community Agreements and PILOT payments.

Mohawk Solar conducted open-house style meetings to provide stakeholders and residents with an overview of the project. Meeting notices were mailed to approximately 4,000 stakeholders and residents and published in two local newspapers. In addition to the open house meetings, Mohawk Solar created a Facility specific website (<https://www.avangrid.com/w/mohawk-solar>) as well as a local number and toll-free number for residents or stakeholders to call with questions or comments.

Stakeholders

Mohawk Solar identified stakeholders that would be affected by construction and operation of the proposed facilities. Stakeholders were provided with specialized meeting notices and additional opportunities to engage with Mohawk Solar regarding the Facility. The identified stakeholders include:

- 43 State and Federal Agencies
- 31 Local Agencies and Host Municipalities
- 7 Municipalities and School Districts
- 49 Host and Adjacent Landowners

Mohawk Solar's master list of stakeholders is available in Exhibit A of Mohawk Solar's PIP on file with the NYSDPS DMM at:



Outreach Occurrences

Between August 2016 and December 2023, Mohawk Solar attended or participated in over 100 meetings. The audiences for these meetings included residents, stakeholders, and NYSERDA, DPS, NYSAGM, NYS NYSDEC, and NYSOPRHP. A summary of these meetings is available in Attachment 1.

Preliminary Scoping Statement (PSS)

In accordance with the Article 10 regulations, Mohawk Solar submitted a PSS to the DPS on October 18, 2017 and available in Attachment 7. This opened a public comment period and with its closing, Mohawk Solar prepared a document based on the comments received available in Attachment 7. The comments were submitted by NYSDPS, NYSDEC, Towns of Canajoharie and Minden, NYSAGM, New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and NYSOPRHP. The comments were centered on water resources, avian activity, wetlands, and land use.

Mohawk Solar worked with relevant agencies to address the concerns expressed during the public comment period. Additionally, Mohawk Solar reached out to the communities where the proposed Facility would be placed to accommodate any local laws or concerns. Collectively, the concerns from the outreach efforts are summarized as follows:

- Wildlife and wetland impacts - Described in Exhibit 22 of the PSS and available in Attachment 8 and the NYSDPS DMM at [NYSDPS-DMM: Matter Filing Item](#).. Mohawk Solar prepared an extensive review of avian and ecological studies. Mohawk Solar has coordinated with the NYSDEC to address concerns on wildlife and wetland through studies, avoidance, and mitigation efforts.
- Impacts to water resources – Described in Exhibit 23 of the PSS and available in Attachment 9 and the NYSDPS DMM at [NYSDPS-DMM: Matter Filing Item](#). Mohawk Solar continued communication with the NYSDEC and carried out studies to address water resource concerns.
- Land use concerns – Mohawk Solar has coordinated directly with the host communities' Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeals for optimal Facility siting. This is shown within Exhibit 4 and available in Attachment 10 and the NYSDPS DMM at [NYSDPS-DMM: Matter Filing Item](#).
- Impacts to agricultural land – Mohawk Solar designed the Facility to lessen impacts to agricultural land to the largest extent practicable and the land will be restored to its original state to the maximum extent practicable once the Facility is decommissioned. This is shown within Exhibit 23 and available in Attachment 9 and the NYSDPS DMM at [NYSDPS-DMM: Matter Filing Item](#)..
- Visual impacts – Mohawk Solar organized extensive outreach to local communities to identify concerns and provide the information needed to assess the potential visual impact of the Facility. This is shown within Exhibit 24 of the PSS and available in Attachment 11 and the NYSDPS DMM at [NYSDPS-DMM: Matter Filing Item](#).

The PSS and summarizing public comments and conclusions of the PSS is available in Attachment 7 and the NYSDPS DMM at <https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/MatterFilingItem.aspx?FilingSeq=195290&MatterSeq=53189>.

Pre-Construction Open House

Mohawk Solar continues to be in contact with AHJs, stakeholders, and the public regarding the Facility. Following the issuance of Mohawk Solar's Article 10 Certificate, Mohawk Solar held a Pre-Construction Open House on June 16, 2021. The meeting provided an overview of the project, summary of public outreach events, project schedule, expected sequencing of construction activities, and a question-and-answer period. A copy of the Pre-Construction Open House presentation is available in Attachment 3.



ATTACHMENT LIST

(Provided as Separate PDF Documents)

- Attachment 1: Public Involvement Plan
- Attachment 2: Exhibit 2 – Overview and Public Involvement
- Attachment 3: Pre-Construction Open House Boards
- Attachment 4: Exhibit 28 – Environmental Justice
- Attachment 5: Exhibit 10 – Consistency With Energy Planning Objectives
- Attachment 6: Exhibit 27 – Socioeconomic Effects
- Attachment 7: Preliminary Scoping Statement
- Attachment 8: Exhibit 22 – Terrestrial Ecology and Wetlands
- Attachment 9: Exhibit 23 – Water Resources and Aquatic Ecology
- Attachment 10: Exhibit 4 – Land Use
- Attachment 11: Exhibit 11 – Visual Impacts

Due to NYSERDA's MB limit on the portal website, Avangrid cannot currently upload these attachments. Avangrid will provide these attachments upon request.