



Community Engagement Plan

Riverhead Solar 2

NYSERDA RESRFP23-1

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Key Contacts

The Proposer has identified the following key contacts as of Q1 2024.

Authorities Having Jurisdiction and Taxing School District

The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) is the Town of Riverhead. The taxing School District is the Riverhead Central School District. The school district ID is 3624690.

Locally Elected Officials

The locally elected officials for the Town of Riverhead, New York are listed below.

Name	Title and Office	Tenure	Contact	Address
Tim Hubbard	Supervisor Town of Riverhead	2024-2025 (2 Years)	hubbard@townofriverheadny.gov 631-727-3200 Ext. 223	4 West Second Street Riverhead, NY 11901
Joann Waski	Town Council Member, Town of Riverhead	2024-2027 (4 Years)	(631) 727-3200 Ext. 253	4 West Second Street Riverhead, NY 11901
Denise Merrifield	Town Council Member, Town of Riverhead	2024-2027 (4 Years)	merrifield@townofriverheadny.gov (631) 727-3200 Ext 223	4 West Second Street Riverhead, NY 11901
Kenneth Rothwell	Town Council Member, Town of Riverhead	2024-2027 (4 Years)	(631) 727-3200 Ext. 253	4 West Second Street Riverhead, NY 11901
Bob Kern	Town Council Member, Town of Riverhead	2024-2027 (4 Years)	(631) 727-3200 Ext. 253	4 West Second Street Riverhead, NY 11901
James M Wooten	Town Clerk, Town of Riverhead	2024-2027 (4 Years)	wooten@townofriverheadny.gov	4 West Second Street Riverhead, NY 11901
Michael Zaleski	Highway Superintendent, Town of Riverhead	2022-2025 (4 Years)	zaleski@townofriverheadny.gov	4 West Second Street Riverhead, NY 11901
Lori Hulse	Town Justice Town of Riverhead	2020-2024 (4 Years)	Hulse@townofriverheadny.gov	4 West Second Street Riverhead, NY 11901
Sean Walter	Town Justice Town of Riverhead	2020-2024 (4 Years)	Walter@townofriverheadny.gov	4 West Second Street Riverhead, NY 11901
Laverne Tennenberg	Assessor Chair, Town of Riverhead	2022-2025 (4 Years)	tennenberg@townofriverheadny.gov	4 West Second Street Riverhead, NY 11901
Dana Brown	Assessor, Town of Riverhead	2024-2027 (4 Years)	brown@townofriverheadny.gov	4 West Second Street Riverhead, NY 11901

Name	Title and Office	Tenure	Contact	Address
Meridith Lipinsky	Assessor, Town of Riverhead	2024-2027 (4 Years)	mlipinsky@townofriverheadny.gov	4 West Second Street Riverhead, NY 11901

Outreach Strategies and Activities

Bid Facility Background

Riverhead Solar 2 (the "Bid Facility") is a proposed 36 megawatt alternating current (MWac) solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located in the Town of Riverhead, Suffolk County, New York. The Bid Facility Area spans approximately 194 acres and plans to interconnect to the Edwards Ave 138kV substation.

The Bid Facility site is currently comprised of industrial sod farms and a derelict golf course. The land is industrial zoned and is located adjacent to solar facilities to the west and south. Previously, parts of the site have been developed with a tree farm, soil stockpiling operation, and a paintball facility.

The Proposer is committed to the responsible development of renewable energy as a catalyst for long-term community benefit. The Bid Facility is anticipated to positively impact both the environment and the local economy by reducing carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 73,000 metric tons each year – the equivalent of powering over 8,500 homes' electricity use per year. Additionally, the Bid Facility will contribute to the local economy by producing tax revenue and other economic benefits for the area.

94-c Application Status

On June 25, 2021, the Bid Facility received its Final 94-c Siting Permit through the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) to develop, design, construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the Bid Facility in the Town of Riverhead in Suffolk County. The Final Siting Permit has undergone two permit modifications, both approved as minor modifications. The Proposer will approach all aspects of development, operation, and decommissioning of the Bid Facility in accordance with the specifications laid out in the 94-c permit. The Final Siting Permit and all other materials filed in the Riverhead Solar 2 94-c proceeding can be found in the in the New York State Document and Matter Management System (DMM) under [DMM Matter Number 21-00024](#).

Prior to the establishment Section 94-c under ORES, the Bid Facility was going through the Article 10 permitting process. On June 29, 2020, Riverhead Solar 2, LLC submitted an Article 10 Application under Article 10 of the Public Service Law to construct and operate a solar electric generating facility in the Town of Riverhead. On January 8, 2021, the Proposer filed its Transfer Application with ORES to transfer the Bid Facility to the 94-c permitting process. Because an application completeness determination was issued in the Public Service Law Article 10 proceeding, the Transfer Application was deemed complete upon filing.

Description of Stakeholder List

The stakeholder list includes a variety of individuals and parties with interest in the Bid Facility. The host community is the Town of Riverhead. The Town Board representing the host community has been. Points of contact (POC) are the Town Supervisor and the Town Clerk.

Community Members

Within this Community Engagement Plan, community members include the participating and adjacent landowners and community members within a 1-mile radius of the boundaries of the Bid Facility, the local school district, the town, county, and state agencies who are expected to take part or have interest in the Bid Facility.

Local Agencies

Local affected agencies are also stakeholders. The Proposer has been in regular contact with local agencies, following 94-c regulations. These groups include officials from the Town of Riverhead and Suffolk County, NYS officials, the Riverhead Central School District, local first responders and fire departments, utility providers, and local interest groups. Contact has been made with the local agency representatives listed below.

- Annemarie Prudenti – Town of Riverhead, Deputy Town Attorney
- Jefferson Murphree – Town of Riverhead, Former Head of Planning Board

Throughout the 94-c permitting process, the Proposer has consulted with state agencies on several occasions, including with ORES, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM), and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP).

The Proposer has engaged in outreach with local stakeholder groups including the Long Island Farm Bureau and the Riverhead Chamber of Commerce.

Methods of Communication

The Proposer utilizes a variety of communication channels to disseminate information about the Bid Facility including: the Bid Facility website, mailed notifications, and notices in local papers. Additionally, the Proposer asks the town to post key Bid Facility information on the Town Board website when possible. Permit application materials are made available at key locations in the host community, per 94-c regulations.

The Proposer consistently meets 94-c communication requirements regarding public meeting notifications, notifications about key Bid Facility milestones, and status of the 94-c application. A mailing list has been developed that includes the stakeholders listed above, as well as additional addresses solicited from community meetings and the Bid Facility website.

Bid Facility updates will continue to be shared on the Bid Facility website as necessary.

Bid Facility website	https://www.aes.com/riverhead-solar-2-project
Bid Facility email	Riverheadsolar2@aes.com
Town Board website	https://www.townofriverheadny.gov

Outreach Efforts – Pre-Award and Development

In addition to regular communication with local officials in the host community, the Proposer has conducted community engagement and outreach events for the Bid Facility in accordance with 94-c regulations. Some of these outreach efforts are described below.

Date	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Event
March 14, 2018	<p>Community Meeting at the Residence Inn by Marriott Long Island East End</p> <p>Presenters: sPower representatives (prior to the sPower acquisition by AES) The open-house style meeting was hosted to educate interested parties, receive public comments, and answer questions about the project.</p>
August 4, 2020	<p>Virtual Information Session</p> <p>Presenters: sPower representatives (prior to the sPower acquisition by AES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Farrell – Senior Manager, sPower • Anthony Bell – Permitting Manager, sPower • Jim Muscato – External Counsel, Young Sommer <p>Watch Recording</p>

Community Engagement Event Details

Community engagement events offer opportunities for the Proposer to meet with local stakeholders. The purpose of community meetings is to introduce the Proposer and the Bid Facility, inform the community on the 94-c permitting process, present next steps in Bid Facility development, and inform the community on ways to get involved. The Proposer notifies stakeholders about community engagement events in accordance with 94-c regulations.

At stakeholder meetings, it is the Proposer’s customary practice to introduce Bid Facility representatives, inform attendees about the Bid Facility and permitting process, answer questions, and solicit feedback. The Proposer publishes all required notices and notices of public meetings in accordance with the 94-c permitting process.

Notification of Community Events

Prior to June 29, 2020, the Bid Facility was under review for permitting through the Article 10 process. A requirement under Article 10 was the creation of a Public Involvement Program (PIP) Plan. The purpose of the PIP was to introduce the Bid Facility and the Proposer to the local community and other interested parties, explain the public outreach and involvement efforts that Riverhead Solar 2 will pursue throughout the development of the Bid Facility, and explain how these efforts comply with and satisfy New York State’s legal and regulatory requirements. The development efforts and the proposed PIP for Riverhead Solar 2 focused first and foremost on early and frequent communication with host communities, including the Town of Riverhead and Suffolk County.

In the PIP, Riverhead Solar 2 committed to hosting events and outreach activities which encourages stakeholder participation. On June 29, 2020, the Bid Facility transferred to the 94-c permitting process under ORES. From that point forward, notice was provided in advance of community engagement events in compliance with 94-c regulations.

Outreach Strategies – Construction

The Proposer will continue community outreach and engagement during the Bid Facility’s construction phase.

In consideration of the local host community and the temporary disruption caused by construction, the Proposer is receptive to hosting a local Construction Open House to inform the community about what to expect during the construction phase.

The Proposer will abide by the 94-c regulations to develop and implement a Complaint Management Plan prior to the construction phase. At a minimum, the Complaint Management Plan shall describe the following:

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

Through these engagement processes, the Proposer will ensure that stakeholders have appropriate recourse to learn and share feedback about the Bid Facility’s construction phase.

Outreach Strategies – Operation

The Proposer will make reasonable efforts to keep the community informed about the Bid Facility throughout all phases. During operation there will be signage posted at the Bid Facility with The Proposer’s contact information. Signage will also include the number to call in the event of an emergency.

Throughout the life of the project, the Proposer is committed to being accessible to the community and all stakeholders.

Climate Act Goals and Benefits for Disadvantaged Communities

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

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

An overview of our contributions through social impact partnerships in the Town of Riverhead is described below.

Social Impact Program

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

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

1. Partnering for access to safe, efficient, and affordable energy and basic services
2. Partnering for Inclusive Economic Growth & Education
3. Partnering for the Environment
4. Partnering for Community Resilience

Within these pillars, the Social Impact Program strives to create partnerships that align with AES’ purpose and values while strengthening the Proposers investment in community-led initiatives that meet the targets set forth by the United Nations’ [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and American Clean Power’s [Energy Transition for All initiative](#).

These targets and goals closely align with the Climate Act’s goals for disadvantaged communities.

Plans for Public Engagement

Community outreach will continue on an ongoing basis during the development, construction, and operation phases of the Bid Facility. The Proposer has a robust plan to provide stakeholders with continued access to Bid Facility representatives to ensure there are numerous opportunities for community input.

The Bid Facility website provides the designated Bid Facility email address, a New York phone number, and information about weekly office hours. It is regularly updated to provide the community with easy access to Bid Facility information.

Direct Community Benefits

As described in this Community Engagement Plan, AES launched the Social Impact Program in New York State in 2021. This program is designed to support host communities during the development and construction of our renewable energy projects, including Riverhead Solar 2.

You can learn more about the importance of the Prosper to the communities where the Prosper is developing and operating projects [in this video](#).

Local Partnerships and Memberships

The Proposer’s presence in Long Island, New York has led to partnerships with the local Chamber of Commerce, the Long Island Farm Bureau, and other non-profit organizations.

To date, the Proposer has partnered with and sponsored events for:

- Shark Tank High School Competition
- Sponsorship of Reflexions Art Event
- Long Island Farm Bureau Golf Tournament fundraiser
- Trust for Public Land’s Race for the Greenway
- The Cardboard Boat Race sponsor

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

Community Economic Benefits

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and Host Community Agreement (HCA)

The Proposer has begun conversations with the taxing jurisdictions regarding a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement and will continue with these discussions. The Proposer expects to execute a Host Community Agreement (HCA) with the host municipalities and the financial and economic benefits are expected to be in the millions of dollars during the life of the Bid Facility.

Additionally, the Proposer will provide the residents of the Town of Riverhead with electric utility bill credits for the first 10 years of its operation. The credits will total \$18,000 annually, based on \$500 per MW capacity. Over the 10-year period, a total of \$180,000 in credits will be given.

Balancing Stakeholder Interests

The Proposer has conducted stakeholder outreach throughout the development of the Bid Facility. These efforts include stakeholder consultation, public education, public meetings, ample notification periods, and public comment periods at key milestones in compliance with 94-c regulations. This information is outlined in the Article 10 application, which can be found on the DMM website. Further information is also available to the community via the Bid Facility website. These outreach efforts have ensured community participation during the Bid Facility's development.

Building Stakeholder Support

The Bid Facility's success depends on continuing a strong relationship with the Riverhead Town Board and the host community. The Proposer will take the appropriate steps to ensure the community is aware of and participates in the planning, development, construction, and operation of the Bid Facility. Our desire is to be sensitive to local concerns and to build a final Bid Facility that results in a project that the community is proud of.

Response to Community Concerns

The Proposer has worked in cooperation with the community throughout the development of the Bid Facility. The Bid Facility takes into consideration concerns raised by the community and has incorporated solutions to respond accordingly.

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

Mitigating Concerns from Stakeholders

Throughout the development of the Bid Facility, the Proposer is committed to listening to, understanding, and responding appropriately to the public and local community’s concerns and feedback.

The Proposer has a long history of working with participating and non-participating landowners of the Bid Facility. While Bid Facility updates are being shared throughout the 94-c permitting process, the Proposer is committed to working with individual landowners to mitigate any of their Bid Facility-related concerns and impacts.

The Proposer has conducted surveys and studies for the Bid Facility, as required by the 94-c permitting process. These studies assess and measure environmental and community impacts and identify potential opportunities for avoidance and mitigation.

The Proposer will use a variety of fencing, screening, setback, and landscaping to preserve existing viewsheds and maintain the rural character of the area surrounding the Bid Facility. Through careful siting of the Bid Facility and its components, AES’ solar projects positively impact the environment in many ways by providing natural vegetation that can serve as wildlife habitat and improve water quality by reducing stormwater runoff.

The Bid Facility will have a decommissioning plan that includes a financial security to ensure that the Proposer can cover the cost of removing the infrastructure at the end of the Bid Facility’s life.

Community Questions and Answers

During meetings with the host community, the Proposer holds Q&A sessions. Throughout development, the Proposer will continue to solicit feedback and input. Listed below are some of the concerns that have been raised by the host community and how the Proposer has responded.

Question	Answer
Will the project cause any impacts to wetlands on site?	No, there are no state or federally-regulated wetlands on site that will be impacted by the Bid Facility.
What will you do to prevent your trucks from tracking dirt and mud onto our local, public roads?	Our site plan is designed with specific access roads and entrances and exits for our trucks and personnel. The exits will have washing stations for the trucks leaving the site during construction. With washing stations, there should be no concern that mud or dirt will track onto the local roads.

Feedback Solicitation

This Community Engagement Plan has been designed to ensure stakeholders’ participation in the Bid Facility lifespan. The Proposer has described explicit methods through which feedback

is being solicited and incorporated into ongoing Bid Facility development. In summary, the Proposer:

- Organizes community meetings; two have been organized thus far.
- Hosts Q&A sessions (and posts results for viewing on the Bid Facility website) and distributes feedback forms.
- Solicits input on the Bid Facility website.
- Monitors the Bid Facility email Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm.

The Proposer is committed to sharing feedback, publicly when required, when asked, and/or when it is appropriate to do so.

Additionally, the Proposer follows 94-c regulations for responding to public comment. Public comments are posted on the New York State Department of Public Service Document Matter Master (NYS DPS DMM).