



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ROOSEVELT SOLAR PROJECT

A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY EMEREN US, LLC

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Prepared [1/17/24]

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Emeren US, LLC plans on applying to construct the Roosevelt Solar Project. This project is a 19.90 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) photovoltaic solar energy generation facility located off Roosevelt Road in the town of Massena, within St. Lawrence County, New York (see section 2.2 for parcel location and project site map). The project will fall under the SEQR permitting process of the Public Service Law. Under the rules of the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment, applicants proposing to submit an application to construct a major electric generating facility must submit a Public Involvement Program (PIP) Plan. This document is the PIP for the Roosevelt Solar Project.

The goal of this plan is to introduce the project to the local community and other interested parties and to explain the public outreach and involvement efforts that Emeren will pursue throughout the development of this project. Stakeholder concerns, interests, local knowledge, and recommendations will be evaluated, addressed, and considered by the Applicant and Siting Board.

Through this PIP Plan, Emeren (1) formally introduces the Project; (2) describes the SEQR process to the local community, stakeholders, and other interested parties and shares information about available funding and tools to encourage stakeholder participation; and (3) outlines future public meetings and other outreach efforts through which Facility-related information will be shared, and the public will have an opportunity to participate by asking questions and providing comments. The PIP Plan also provides important information about the kinds of notices community members can expect to receive throughout the SEQR process, as well as resources for obtaining further information.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Company Profile

With professional teams in more than 10 countries, Emeren is a leading global solar project developer and operator. The Company focuses on solar power project development, construction management and project financing services. Headquartered in Stamford, Connecticut, Emeren was founded in 2005 and is operating nearly 200 MW of C&I and small scale utility solar assets. Emeren US, LLC has a current development pipeline of almost 3 GW of varying stage solar, storage, and hybrid projects. By using clean, renewable sources to provide electricity to the public, Emeren furthers the State of New York's renewable energy policy, which requires 50% of the State's energy to come from renewable sources by the year 2030. Here are examples of utility-scale solar facilities that Emeren has completed over the past few years:

- 10 MW solar project in Jackson County, OR

- 12.7 MW, 10 MW, and 12.79 MW solar projects in Klamath County, OR
- 12.5 MW solar project in Lake County, OR
- 11 Operating Community Solar Projects totaling 20 MW

Here is a list of some of Emeren's current pipeline of varying stage utility solar projects:

- 19.9 MW in Mercer County, PA
- 19.9 MW & 17.9 MW in Crawford County, PA
- 50 MW solar in Dekalb County, IL
- 100 MW & 59 MW in Whiteside County, IL
- 250 MW solar + 125 MW BESS in Grundy County, IL
- 16 MW solar in Stephenson County, IL
- 19.9 MW solar in Will County, IL
- 75 MW solar in Suwannee, FL
- 13 MW solar + 13 MW BESS in Yolo County, CA
- 100 MW solar + 50 MW BESS in Cibola County, NM
- 8.4 MW solar + 6 MW BESS in St. Lawrence County, NY
- 65 MW solar + 185 MW BESS in Cortland County, NY
- 58 MW & 80 MW in Lowndes County, AL 110 MW in Fayette County, TN
- 120 MW solar in Oktibbeha County, MS

2.2 Project Summary

The Roosevelt Solar Project is a proposed 19.90-megawatt alternating current (MWac) photovoltaic solar facility located in the town of Massena, St. Lawrence County, New York. Project facilities will include solar panels and racking, access roads, inverters, buried and overhead electric collection lines, a Project substation, an operation and maintenance (O&M) building, and electrical interconnection facilities. The anticipated life of the project is approximately 40 years. Emeren estimates the Project will operate at an annual net capacity factor (NCF) of 22.6%. This means the Project, if built at the maximum expected generating capacity of 19.90 MW, would generate approximately 39,438 megawatt hours (MWh) of energy per year.

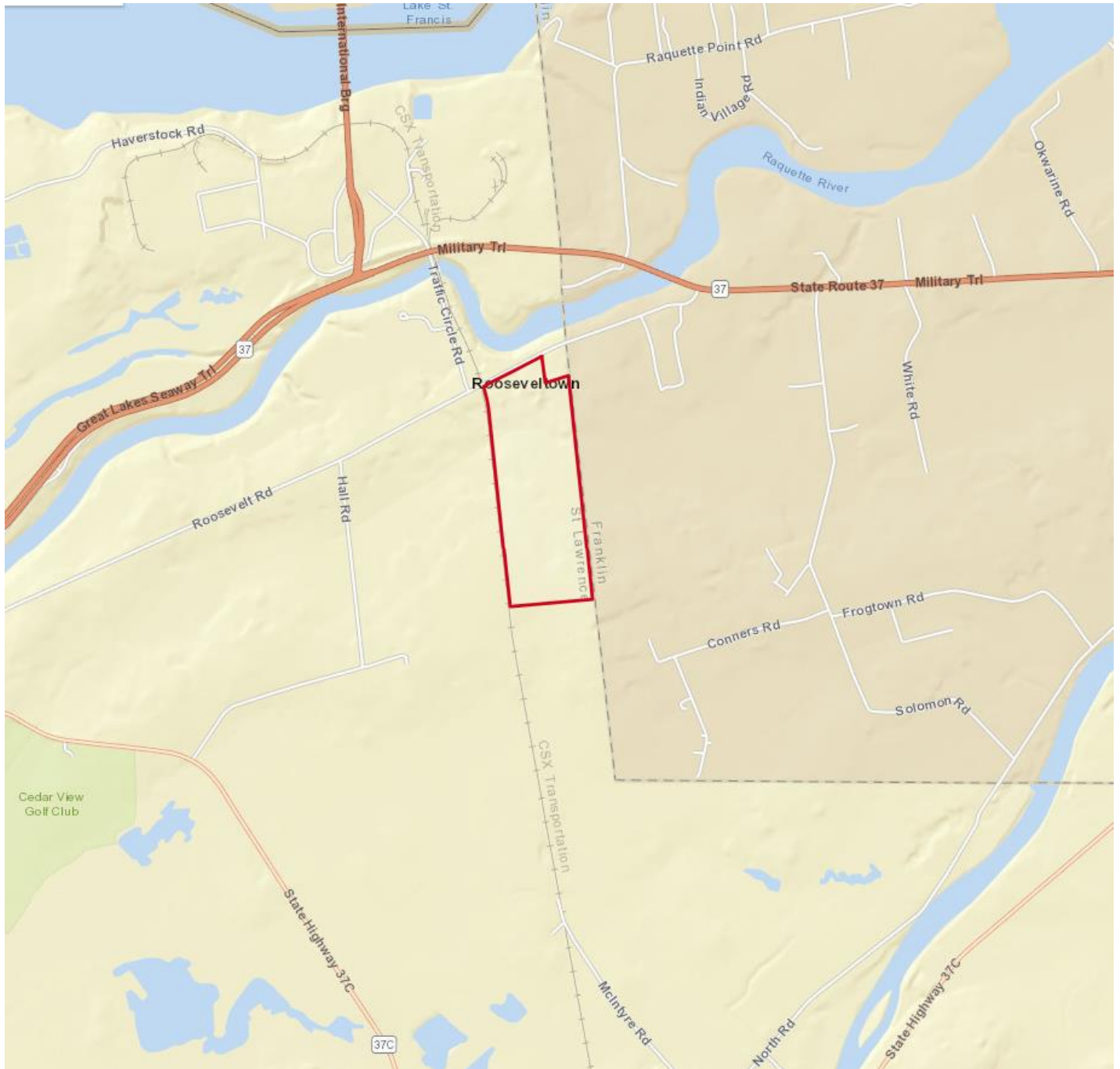


Figure 1. Project Parcel (in red)

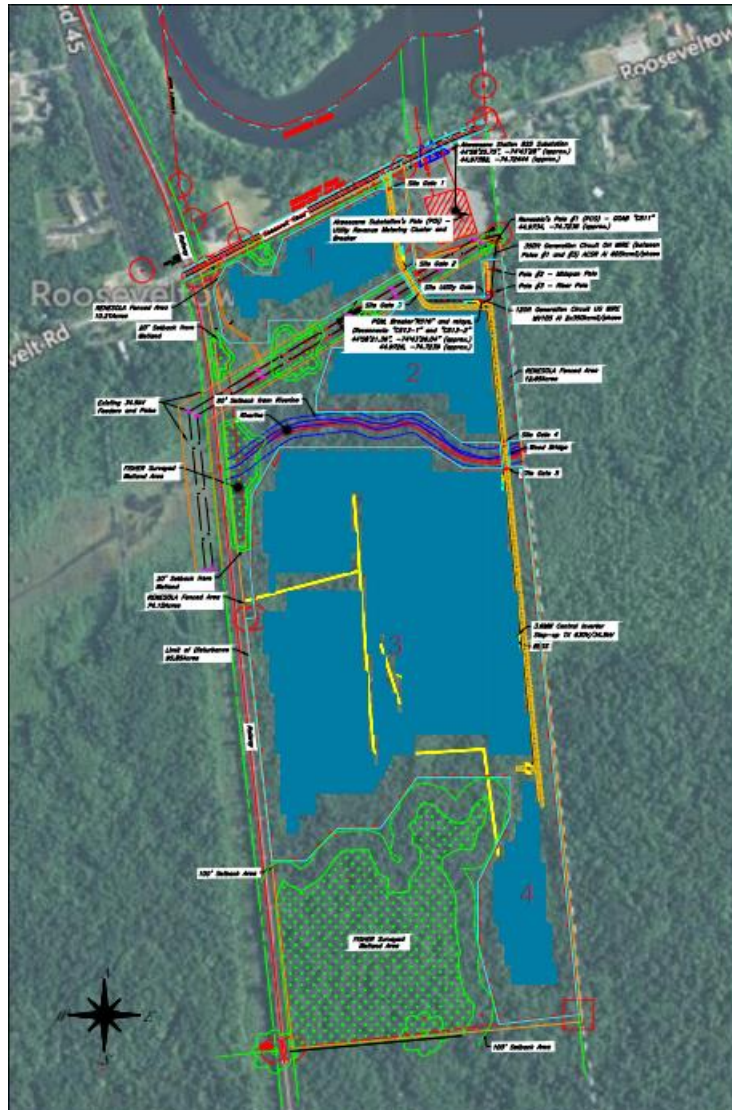


Figure 2. Solar facility layout

The primary factor directing the siting of a solar facility is proximity to a transmission infrastructure with sufficient interconnection capacity. The Facility will interconnect to the New York power grid via a new Point of Interconnection (POI) located on the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp transmission line on site. An interconnection application has been filed and accepted with New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), queue number 1212. The POI will be a new substation and POI switchyard to be constructed within the Facility Area; the Project substation and POI switchyard will be owned and operated by Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. The selection of appropriate sites for a solar-powered electric generation facility is constrained by numerous other factors that are essential considerations for a project to operate in a technically and economically viable manner. These important factors include the availability of flat, open, and appropriately oriented land to site the panels, willing land lease participants, and preliminary environmental screenings that have not indicated any significant environmental or societal

barriers. The lands being evaluated for potential solar development are located entirely in the town of Massena, St. Lawrence County, New York. Not all the land included in the Facility Area will be utilized by the Project. Rather, the Facility Area represents the broader area within which participating parcels will be developed into the solar Project. This provides flexibility during the development phase to minimize and avoid impacts to wetlands, cultural resources, visual resources, wildlife habitat, and other sensitive resources. The Project will ultimately be sited on leased private land within the Facility Area, which consists primarily of cleared land.

2.3 Project Benefits

Figure 1 depicts the proposed Facility Area in relation to its regional context. The Project is consistent with the New York State Energy Plan and the Public Service Commission (PSC) proceeding implementing a Clean Energy Standard (CES), which encourage the development of clean energy and renewable resources as a tool in combating climate change, curbing harmful air pollution, and greening New York State's economy. The Facility will safely generate enough clean, renewable electricity to power more than 3,700 New York households.

The Facility will also provide an economic stimulus to the area during construction by providing jobs and local contracts for goods and services. During operation, the Facility will offer long-term, highly skilled operational positions and significant long-term economic benefits through lease revenue to local landowners and property tax revenue to the community. Based on similar Project experience elsewhere, Emeren estimates that approximately 52 temporary construction jobs will be generated during the approximate 6-9 months of construction. Most temporary construction employment will likely be drawn from the St. Lawrence, Franklin, and Jefferson County labor markets. Local construction employment will primarily benefit those in the construction trades, including equipment operators, truck drivers, laborers, and electricians. Emeren encourages local hiring to the greatest extent possible. Workers from outside the area who fill specialized job functions will add to the regional economy by staying in area hotels, eating in the local restaurants, and shopping in St. Lawrence County stores.

Through very deliberate site selection, careful planning and design, and the benign nature of the technology, the Facility is expected to have minimal impacts on the surrounding community. Solar facilities are very quiet and produce no vibration. The PV solar panels proposed to be used for the Facility do not contain hazardous materials and have a low height profile. Setbacks, fencing, and landscape buffering allow solar projects to have minimal visual impact on the community and natural setting of the area.

The Project plans to enter into a PILOT agreement with the County Industrial Development Agency, and it will be subject to special district taxes. Specific estimates of amounts the Project might pay to different jurisdictions will depend on the Project layout and structure of the agreements. Based on similar arrangements at other solar projects in New York, BRS estimates a 19.90 MW project will generate approximately \$30,000.00-\$40,000.00 per year in taxes and

tax-related payments to the county, towns, school districts, and fire departments that serve the parcels where Emeren installs Project facilities and approximately a \$888,000 purchase option to the local landowners for the sale of their land to the Project.

3.0 IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

A fundamental first step in the public outreach process for the project is determining the stakeholders that may be affected by the construction and operation of the proposed Facility. Based on Emeren’s experience, we have successfully engaged with interested agencies, municipalities, utilities, host landowners, and other potential stakeholders to build project support through education and transparency. Identification of specific stakeholders for the Facility is informed by past experience and utilizes DPS guidance; prior submissions of other SEQR PIP plans; review of County GIS records, tax records, personal visits, and internet research. Additionally, the Applicant considered the following in compiling its list of affected agencies and other actual stakeholders:

- The anticipated locations of Facility components within the Facility Area
- The POI
- “Local Party,” as defined in the Siting Board’s rules (16 NYCRR §1000.2[s])
- “Affected Agencies,” as that term is used in the Siting Board’s rules (16 NYCRR § 1000 et seq.)
- Host municipalities, which, for the purposes of this PIP Plan, refers to those municipalities that are currently within the Facility Area and are anticipated to host Facility components (to be determined and further described in the PSS)
- Public interest groups
- State and federal elected officials representing the Host Municipalities and, if different, other municipalities within the Study Area.

A master list of stakeholders (also referred to as the Notification List), which includes all known, potentially interested stakeholders and parties, was developed based on the combination of efforts described above. Emeren anticipates that the Notification List will be updated as necessary based on information and requests from interested stakeholders received during PIP Plan activities. In addition, potentially affected or interested stakeholders include host landowners with a land agreement with Emeren and landowners who would normally be notified of a local Town land use action.

3.1 Affected State and Federal Agencies

NYS Governor's Office
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Central Office
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 8
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority ("NYSERDA")
NYS Attorney General
NYS Office of General Services
NYS Department of Health
NYS Department of Economic Development
NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
NYS Department of Public Service
NYS Department of State
NYS Department of Transportation
New York Power Authority
New York Independent System Operator (NYISO)
New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Empire State Development Corporation
US Senator, Kirsten E. Gillibrand
US Senator, Charles E. Schumer
U.S. House of Representatives, Elise M. Stefanik, 21st Congressional District
NY State Senator Dan Stec, 45th Senate District
State Assemblyman Scott Gray, 116th Assembly District
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Federal Aviation Administration

3.2 Local Agencies

St. Lawrence County Administrator's Office
St. Lawrence County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
St. Lawrence County Department of Highways
St. Lawrence County Department of Public Transportation
St. Lawrence County Emergency Services
St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council
St. Lawrence County Planning Office
St. Lawrence County Public Health Department
St. Lawrence County Real Property Department
St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
Town of Massena Assessor
Town of Massena Code Enforcement
Town of Massena Community Economic Development
Town of Massena Fire Department
Town of Massena Highway Department
Town of Massena Town Board
Town of Massena Mayor's Office
Town of Massena Superintendent
Town of Massena Village Clerk
Town of Massena Historian
Town of Massena Board of Trustees

Town of Massena Local Officials Information

Position	Name	Contact Information
Massena Board Member	Francis Carvel	fcarvel@massena.us
Massena Board Member	Deb Willer	dwiller@massena.us
Massena Board Member	Patrick Facteau	pfacteau@massena.us
Massena Board Member	Adrian Taraska	ataraska@massena.us
Massena Town Supervisor	Susan Bellor	sbellor@massena.us

3.3 Municipalities and School Districts in the Facility Area

St. Lawrence County (AHJ)

Town of Massena (AHJ)

Massena Central School District

3.4 Host and Adjacent Landowners

Host landowners are landowners with whom the Applicant has entered (or will enter) into a lease or easement agreement. As defined in the Siting Board’s rules, adjacent landowners are landowners with property within 500 feet of proposed Project components. For the purposes of this PIP Plan, however, the Applicant is expanding the definition of adjacent landowners to include landowners with property within 2,500 feet of a solar collector array or substation or within 500 feet of other Project components (e.g., collection lines, POI, O&M facility, etc.). Landowners who would typically be notified of local Massena land use actions will be included. The identities of potential host and adjacent landowners are determined from county GIS records, tax records, and personal visits by representatives of the Applicant. The final layout will be determined by incorporating further input from stakeholders and processing data from fieldwork (e.g., avoidance of impacts to wetlands identified during field delineation efforts). Therefore, specific host and adjacent landowner information is not included in this PIP Plan. However, see figure 3 below for a map of a 2500-foot buffer from the solar facility.

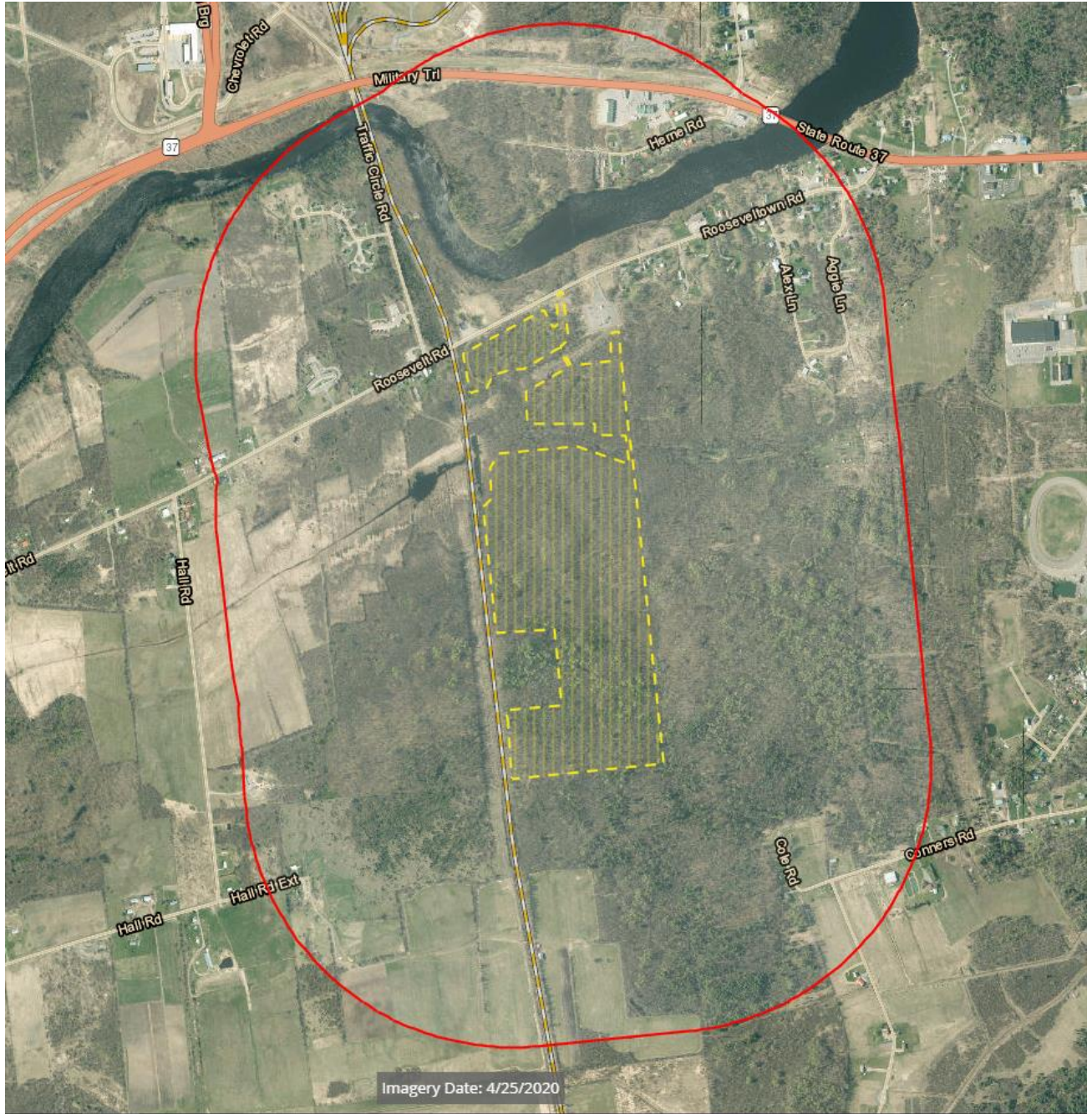


Figure 3. 2500-foot buffer from solar project (site in yellow and buffer in red)

3.5 Disadvantaged Communities that may be Affected by the Proposal

Targeting disadvantaged communities is a large part of our effort during the preliminary project development process, and the goals of the CLCPA directly align with the benefits the project can bring to such communities. These benefits include additional revenue, jobs, and both direct and indirect economic benefits to disadvantaged communities. As you can see in figure 4, our project site is directly located within the disadvantaged community of Massena. Surrounding disadvantaged communities include Massena and Hogansburg. . We believe that these communities will directly and indirectly benefit from the project. The project will create several local jobs, both through construction and operations and maintenance once the project is operating. The construction crew can also benefit the community with expenditures such as lodging, restaurants, local retail, construction yard rental, office space rental, and others. We are also planning on sourcing our materials from the area, meaning local businesses will benefit through equipment rental, gravel, fuel, and other source materials.

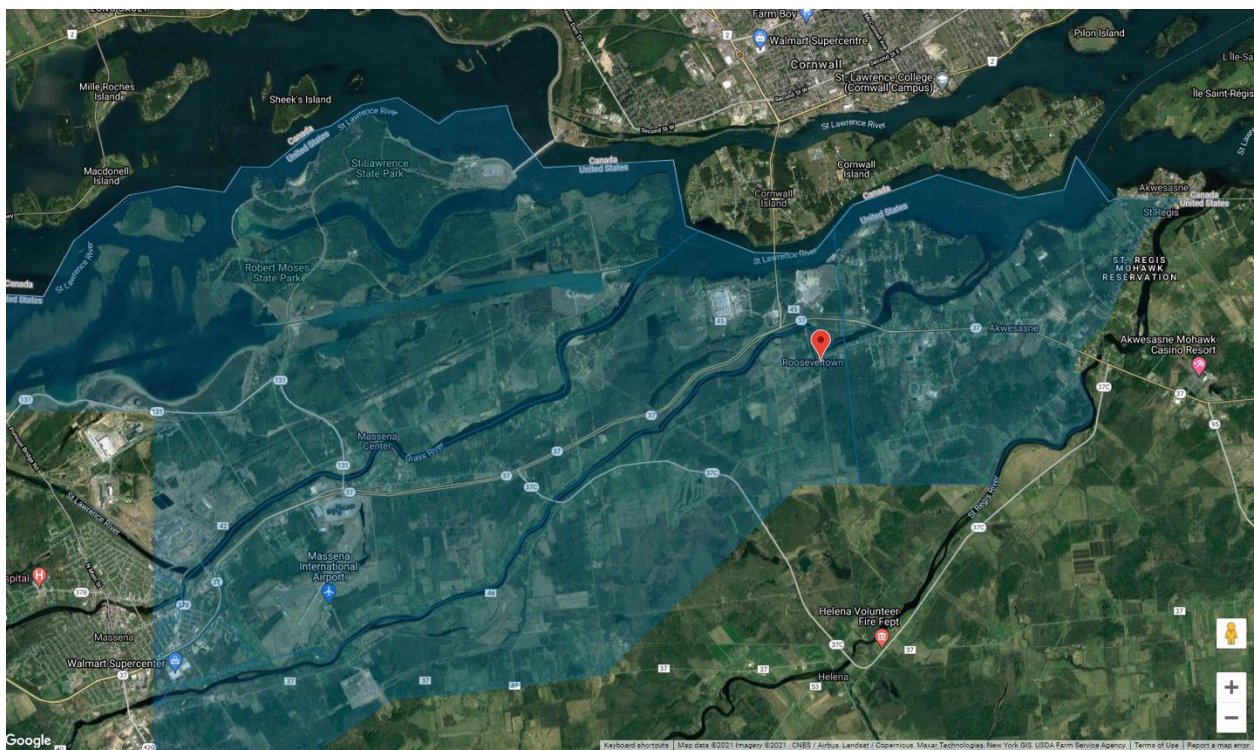


Figure 4. Disadvantaged Communities Map (project site in red)

3.6 Environmental Justice Communities that may be Affected by the Proposal

SEQR requires prospective applicants to identify whether environmental justice communities are in close proximity to a proposed Facility. SEQR requires adherence to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) if such communities exist. Information obtained during the pre-application process will be used, as appropriate, to assist in developing

the final layout for the Roosevelt Solar Project. In addition, the final layout will be determined by incorporating further input from stakeholders, as well as processing data from fieldwork (e.g., avoidance of impacts on wetlands identified during field delineation efforts).

Per NYSDEC Environmental Justice Policy CP-29, Potential Environmental Justice Areas include census block groups featuring populations that meet or exceed at least one of the following statistical thresholds:

1. At least 51.1% of the population in an urban area reported themselves to be members of minority groups; or
2. At least 33.8% of the population in a rural area reported themselves to be members of minority groups; or
3. At least 23.59% of the population in an urban or rural area had household incomes below the federal poverty level.

Based on data obtained from the NYSDEC's Geospatial Information System (GIS) Tools for Environmental Justice website (www.dec.ny.gov/public/911.html), there are no Potential Environmental Justice Areas in the Facility Area or Study Area. As shown in Figure 5 on the following page, the project site is located directly within a Potential Environmental Justice Area, Census Block Group 15000US360894903005. Further discussion on Potential Environmental Justice Areas, including the cumulative impact of existing sources of air pollutants and the projected emission of air pollutants from the proposed Facility, will be included in the PSS and the Application pursuant to SEQR Regulations.

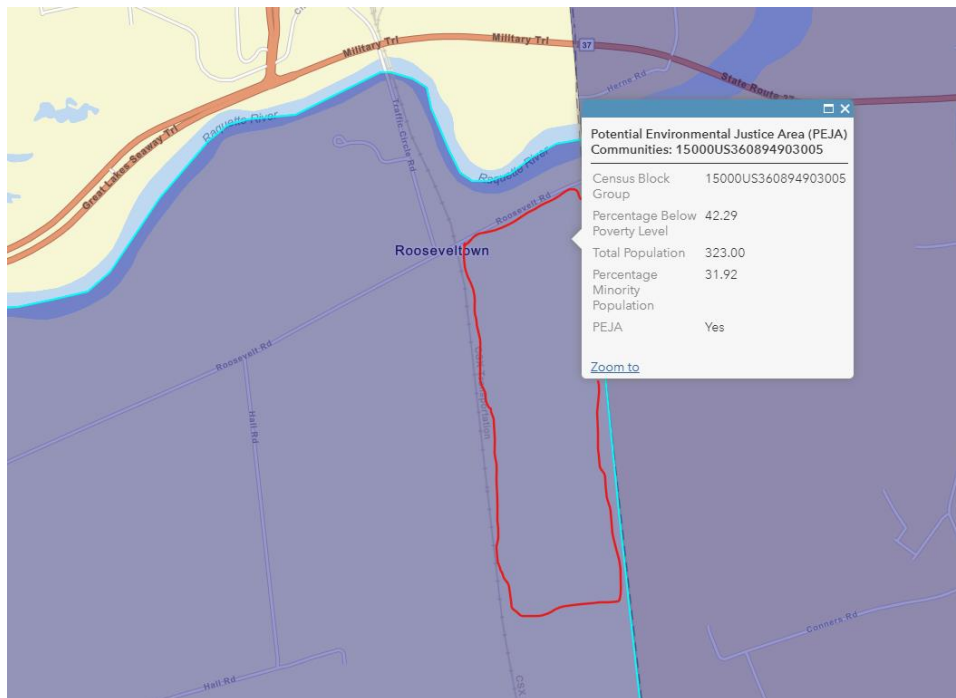


Figure 5. Environmental Justice Area Map (site roughly outlined in red)

4.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OUTREACH PLAN

The table below lists the PIP activities Emeren plans to conduct and the tentative schedule and goals for each activity. In addition to the initial meetings, PIP activities will be conducted throughout the SEQR process, including after the PSS and Application have been submitted.

Stakeholder Consultations

Emeren anticipates almost all stakeholders will be interested in a meeting or conference call. For any such stakeholder meetings or conference calls, one or more representatives will represent Emeren. Topics covered during stakeholder consultations will vary depending on the stakeholder’s role and potential impact. Possible topics include payment in lieu of tax agreements, highway agreements, local laws, emergency response requirements, intervenor funds, and environmental impacts. Meetings will also specifically cover potential synergies or conflicts with stakeholder plans. Content of stakeholder consultation meetings will be documented in the PIP Tracking Report, and comments received will be recorded. As appropriate, Emeren will conduct subsequent meetings to answer specific questions and to discuss studies, mitigation, or other strategies that could address stakeholder concerns.

Town Board Meetings

Emeren will present during some regularly scheduled monthly board meetings of the local town boards in the Project Area. We will also request to present the project to the County Legislature at one of its regularly scheduled meetings. Emeren representatives will be available to attend future town board meetings as requested by the boards and will offer to attend town board meetings in adjacent communities in the Study Area. The above meetings and any future presentations at town board meetings will be documented in the PIP tracking report.

Activity/Milestone	Date	Goals
Stakeholder consultations	August 2021	Basic introduction. Identify points of contact for each stakeholder. Identify areas of interest in the project design and review process. Identify other stakeholders. Emphasize importance of reviewing the PSS and submitting comments within 21 days of its filing.
Meeting with Massena Town Supervisor	July 2022	Basic introduction. Obtain copies of applicable town laws. Encourage and

		explain ways to be involved in the review process.
Check in with Massena Town Supervisor & Board Members	March 2023	Followed up with the Town Supervisor to give her and another member updated regarding our projects.
Town Board Meeting	September 2023	Introduce project and inform the board of next steps and how they can support us through them.
Stakeholder Mailing	April-August 2024	Inform stakeholders of the Project, new information availability, and the timeline for commenting on the PSS.
Town Board Meetings	September-October 2024	Explain latest Project plans. Explain next steps in SEQR review process.
Participating landowner meeting	June 2025	Introduce landowners to the construction team. Explain construction schedule and procedures.

5.0 PROPOSED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

5.1 Project Contact Information

The following PIP Plan elements will carry on through the duration of the certification process:

- Office Information:

Emeren US, LLC
100 First Stamford Place, Suite 302
Stamford, CT 06902
(347) 577-9055

- Project Representatives:

Billy Polymeros
Project Development Manager
billy.polymeros@emeren.com
(508) 768-8098

Ania Krutul
Project Developer
ania.krutul@emeren.com
(251) 508-8239

- Website Info

<https://www.emeren.com>

- Local Document Repositories:

Massena Town Hall

60 Main Street

Massena, NY 13662

Phone: (315) 769-8625

5.2 Proposed Public Involvement Program

Emeren proposed PIP Plan focuses first and foremost on early and frequent communication with host communities, including the town of Massena and St. Lawrence County. Emeren met with the Massena Town Board Solar Committee on August 2021, to present the project, share the site map and project details, and discuss the SEQR process. We will maintain such communication with the town, county, and interested stakeholders throughout the project. This PIP Plan will be made available in the document repositories listed in Section 6.1.

Aside from the towns and county, there are many important stakeholders to consider in developing a solar project of this scale. SEQR Regulations require that a PIP Plan include: (1) consultation with the affected agencies and other stakeholders; (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 SEQR review process, including the availability of funding for municipal and local parties; (4) the establishment of a link on the company website to disseminate information to the public; (5) notifications; and (6) activities designed to encourage participation by stakeholders in the certification and compliance process. It is anticipated that this will be an ongoing, evolving process throughout all phases of the SEQR review process (pre-application phase, application phase, hearing and decision phase, and post-certification phase) and is intended to disseminate information regarding the Facility to stakeholders, solicit information from those stakeholders during public outreach events, and generally foster participation in the SEQR review.

Emeren has established a user-friendly website that describes the Facility, describes the SEQR process, and provides Facility updates throughout the development and construction phases of the Facility to keep the community informed of the Facility's status.

5.3 Consultation with the Affected Agencies, Municipalities, and Stakeholders

SEQR Regulations require both general and specific consultations with affected agencies and municipalities. Affected agencies, listed in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, were identified through review of the SEQR regulations in consultation with the Facility's permitting counsel and environmental consultant. Affected municipalities are identified in Section 3.3.

Emeren will continue to communicate with the municipality and make initial contact with each affected agency to make certain they are aware of the Facility, identify the agency's interests or concerns, and inform them of any progress on a regular basis.

Coordination with affected agencies and municipalities will include the following general steps:

1. Emeren will contact each agency or municipality to inform them of the Facility and the SEQR process, including the availability of intervenor funding for municipalities, and to provide information on whom to contact with any questions or comments about the Facility and/or about the SEQR process
2. Subsequent interaction with each agency or municipality, as needed, to answer specific questions or interests about the Facility and to identify the applicable studies and impact analyses to be performed and how they pertain to the Facility
3. Regular coordination with appropriate agency staff during early development of the PSS and throughout the SEQR process
4. Regular consultation with DPS Staff at appropriate times during the outreach period, including during early development of the PSS
5. Other specific coordination as required by SEQR Regulations or as needed to inform the process.

The goals of the initial consultation with each municipality or agency will be to establish contact with representatives, disseminate information, request information, and schedule follow-up meetings and/or consultations, as appropriate. Specific information provided to the affected agencies and municipalities will include a description of the Facility and location; explanation of the phases of the SEQR process and how the agency or municipality can participate in each step; description of the available intervenor funding, and the process for obtaining funding; description of the ad hoc committee process and local municipal responsibility; information about other planned coordination and studies to be performed in connection with the Facility; and sources of additional information about the Facility and SEQR (e.g., the Facility and Siting Board websites). Information to be requested from affected municipalities and agencies will vary by the involvement of each, but may include topics such as local laws, emergency response procedures, environmental impact review, and determination of news sources to be used for official notices. Stakeholder consultation meetings will be documented and summarized. Goals of coordination with various utilities within the Study Area include avoiding impacts on utility infrastructure and minimizing any potential impacts on local service providers and utility customers during Facility construction and operation.

Emeren recognizes that public and stakeholder participation in the SEQR process may be new to many and that the timeframes provided for certain milestone steps can be short. For example, under SEQR Regulations, stakeholders and public members are given 21 days to comment on the Preliminary Scoping Statement filed with the Secretary to the Siting Board. To

ensure stakeholders are aware of important deadlines and opportunities for participation, Emeren intends to engage municipalities, agencies, and stakeholders throughout the PIP Plan implementation process to explain upcoming milestones, identify stakeholders' respective interests, and obtain information regarding particular resources, locations, concerns, and recommendations of the affected communities, agencies, and interest groups. Before filing the PSS, this will be accomplished through various methods, including open house meetings, direct correspondence, review of comments submitted through the Project and DPS websites, and targeted meetings with some of the individual stakeholders identified herein. Stakeholder coordination meetings will be documented and discussed in the PSS and the Application.

5.4 Pre-Application Activities to Encourage Stakeholder Participation

Emeren has engaged involved and interested agencies, municipalities, utilities, host landowners, and other potential stakeholders on many solar and wind projects throughout North America. Emeren intends on using this prior experience to facilitate meaningful stakeholder interaction through the SEQR review process for the Roosevelt Solar.

In addition to the engagement activities already taking place, Emeren will continue pre-application activities to encourage stakeholder participation. A project website and local document repositories will ensure information is available to stakeholders, and notifications will ensure deadlines and updates are disseminated when needed. Emeren intends to engage municipalities, agencies, and stakeholders throughout the PIP Plan implementation process to identify their respective interests and obtain information regarding particular resources, locations, concerns, and recommendations of the affected communities, agencies, and interest groups.

5.5 Activities to Educate the Public on the Proposal, Process, and Funding

The Applicant plans to attend Town meetings, is planning Applicant-sponsored public information sessions, will be distributing educational materials, and will provide a Facility website, which will offer information on the proposed Facility, as well as links to and information on the SEQR process, intervenor funding, and other important stakeholder issues. These efforts will allow the Applicant to engage with stakeholders regarding the proposed Facility and will offer multiple avenues of information distribution so that stakeholders and the public have multiple, varied opportunities to obtain information on the Facility and participate in the proceedings. Public outreach efforts are discussed in further detail below.

5.5.1 Public Meetings

The Applicant intends to hold a minimum of two open-house style public meetings prior to the submission of the PSS and two prior to the submission of the Application. Representatives for the Applicant will be present to provide Facility information and answer questions. It is anticipated that these meetings will be held at a public meeting space in reasonable proximity to the Facility Area and that each respective set of

meetings will be held at different times on the same day. The Applicant will conduct a mass mailing to all residents and property owners in the Study Area to announce the initial set of public meetings and will properly notice these meetings in local newspapers, at least 14 days prior to the scheduled event. Notification of all public meetings held by the Applicant will also be mailed or emailed to the Stakeholders. Additional stakeholders will be added to this list as they are obtained through the initial public meetings and the Facility website. The updated list will then be used for future mail and email notifications and the list will be further updated based on additional requests. The Applicant will provide Staff with informal notice of all scheduled public meetings.

5.5.2 Educational Materials

The Applicant will develop educational materials to inform the public about solar energy, the proposed Facility, the SEQR process, and intervenor funding. These materials will include poster-sized maps and graphics to be displayed at public meetings. In addition, more portable materials (e.g., factsheets and brochures) will be distributed at public meetings, via local libraries, and/or mailings to stakeholders and additional addresses obtained through public meetings and the Facility website. Materials will also be available on the Facility website. To facilitate public understanding of the information provided herein, the Applicant has prepared a Summary of the Public Involvement Program Plan and will also be posted on the Facility website and available as a handout at public information meetings. These materials will allow the public to learn more about the Facility and will include links to the Siting Board and Facility websites.

5.6 Notifications

As noted previously, Emeren plans to properly advertise (with sufficient lead time) its progress at town board meetings, by mailings or emails to stakeholders (including all Study Area residents as described above), on the Project website. The open house is anticipated to be advertised at least two weeks before the event. As part of its mailing to stakeholders on the open house, Emeren will include instructions on contacting us if a stakeholder cannot attend the open house and would like to schedule a one-on-one meeting or a webinar. Emeren will publish notices as required by the SEQR regulations. In addition to the newspaper notices the stakeholder list will be notified via email or mail (depending on their stated preference) when the PSS and Application filings will be available for review. Copies of the PSS and Application will be distributed to the local repositories in addition to being posted on the Project website.

5.7 Activities to Encourage Stakeholder Participation

All of the activities described above, including the open house and various forms of stakeholder outreach, have been designed to provide opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the SEQR certification and compliance process. Consultations will be considered successful if information about the Project and the SEQR process (including PSS and Application submittal

milestones and document availability) was provided to stakeholders in an appropriate and timely manner (as described above), any relevant information provided to the Applicant was utilized to help advance the PIP process and the preparation, submittal and review of the Application, and if follow-up meetings or consultations were scheduled or undertaken, if necessary.

Following project certification, Emeren will conduct additional public outreach and notifications as the project enters the construction phase. These efforts will include notification to various parties regarding the start of construction and implementation of a Complaint Resolution Plan, which will be submitted with the SEQR Application.

6.0 Frequently Asked Questions

6.1 Project Revenue

6.1.1. What is the difference between a “Large-Scale Renewable” (LSR) project and a “Distributed Energy Resource (DER) project?”

Solar projects in New York State are divided into these two categories. Large-scale projects are typically larger than 5 MWac and are built with the primary purpose of supplying wholesale electricity to the grid. A DER project is typically 5 MWac or less and must have customer(s), known as the “offtaker”, to purchase the electricity. At Emeren, we develop both LSR and DER projects. This project is a Large-Scale Renewable project.¹

6.1.2 How do large-scale projects make money?

Large-scale solar projects rely on two main streams of income to generate revenue and continue operations:

1. the sale of electricity generated by the renewable generator, typically either sold in the NYISO market (wholesale) or sold to an offtaker under a contract called a power purchase agreement, which compensate projects based on the power they generate, and
2. the sale of RECs to NYSERDA or another offtaker, which provides compensation for the project’s environmental attributes. Through annual Renewable Energy Standard solicitations, NYSERDA seeks to purchase eligible RECs from renewable energy projects under long-term contracts to provide these projects with a predictable revenue stream via selling their RECs.¹

6.1.3 What are Renewable Energy Certificates? Do all projects Qualify?

A renewable energy certificate (REC) is a certificate created by a tracking system, such as the New York Generation Attribute Tracking System (NYGATS), that represents the

environmental attributes of one megawatt hour of electricity generated from a renewable source like solar or wind. A typical New York household requires about seven megawatt hours of electricity to be powered for a full year. RECs are used to substantiate environmental claims related to renewable energy use, such as for compliance with a State-mandated renewable compliance program, or for voluntary claims such as a climate action pledge. As such, RECs provide a tradable, traceable means for claiming the benefits of renewable electricity generation. The RECs for this project have been approved by NYGATS and are deemed Tier 1 eligible.¹

6.2 Local Benefits

6.2.1 What is RPTL 487?

New York State Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) Section 487 provides a 15-year exemption from real property taxation for renewable energy systems, including solar. This statute only applies to the value that a solar electric system adds to the property's overall value; landowners with an installed renewable energy system continue to pay property tax on their homes and land. Property owners must also continue to pay special district taxes (such as a fire district tax payment, which could include a library, sewer, water, or ambulance tax). The exemption has been a cornerstone of the State's efforts to meet its clean energy goals, providing essential economic incentives for solar. Local taxing jurisdictions can opt out of RPTL §487 and make the system fully taxable; however, projects may not be financially viable at full taxation. If a jurisdiction opts out of RPTL §487, it must opt out for systems of all sizes, not just large-scale, and must file copies of the local law opting out of RPTL §487 with both the New York Department of Taxation and Finance and NYSERDA.¹

6.2.2 What are PILOTs and Host Community Agreements?

If a taxing jurisdiction does not opt out of RPTL §487, it may enter a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement – an annual payment that replaces a portion of the property tax revenue a project would have otherwise generated. A PILOT cannot exceed the value of taxes that would be paid without the exemption. In order to negotiate a PILOT agreement, taxing jurisdictions must notify solar developers of their intent to require a PILOT within 60-days after being notified of the developer's intent to construct a project in their community. PILOT payments can also be paired with Host Community Agreements (HCAs), which provide certain benefits directly to the municipality hosting the project and can be uniquely adapted for each municipality. Unlike PILOTs, which are typically distributed with constraints similar to tax revenue, HCAs are flexible and can be allocated as the host community sees fit.¹

6.2.3 Why should solar projects receive tax breaks?

Even while receiving an exemption under RPTL 487, a solar project can generate economic benefits in a community by growing the tax base, creating jobs, and generating supplemental income for farmers and landowners. Solar development can take place on existing or abandoned commercial sites, brownfields, landfills, agricultural lands, former industrial sites, and otherwise underutilized sites. Often, this land generates minimal or no income for the municipality. By choosing to develop solar on this land, municipalities can turn underutilized sites into valuable and revenue-generating land, with the flexibility to direct PILOT payments or HCAs where the need is greatest. Full taxation typically discourages solar project development and would cause communities to miss out on opportunities to fund local infrastructure and public services. Once installed, renewable energy systems do not create significantly increased demands on municipal services or infrastructure, so PILOT payments usually provide a net benefit to the host community.¹

6.2.4 Is solar a good use of farmland?

While local governments can implement zoning laws to protect their most productive farmland, solar can be developed on farmland to maintain the current economic benefits to the community and preserve prime farmland. In addition, solar projects can be designed with co-use in mind, as developers are more proactively designing project layouts that include fencing and water access for sheep, pollinator-friendly landscaping for honey production, and compatible native vegetation for soil and water erosion prevention. When solar is developed on farmland, it often supplies the landowner with significantly higher income than they would have received without solar on the land and can support the continuation of agricultural practices on farms with distressed economics, including ensuring that farms retain local ownership. As such, the local community benefits from PILOTs, HCAs, and land lease payments. These lease payments can provide farmers with 20 years or more of guaranteed financial security, diversifying their income while preserving the land for future use. Unlike alternative types of development, such as residential construction, after decommissioning at the end of a solar energy system's useful life, agricultural land can be returned to its original state, and farming may resume.¹

In many instances, even while supporting solar, the land can continue to be used for agricultural operations such as livestock grazing, beekeeping, cultivation of certain crops, or planting pollinator-friendly vegetation under and around the panels. New York has seen an emergence of solar projects that incorporate wildflowers and native plants to support bees, hummingbirds, and insects, which may increase the future productivity of the soil. Increasing the habitat for pollinators supports agricultural production and is great for New York's food supply. Other options include planting shade-tolerant crops and elevating solar panels to allow farm equipment to pass safely underneath.

6.2.5 Our region is often overcast or cloudy. Does solar make sense in New York?

Yes! It is a common misconception that solar only works well in climates with abundant sunshine. Solar panels do not require perfectly sunny weather to generate electricity, and modern solar resource datasets allow developers to estimate the amount of sunshine at a given location accurately. Solar photovoltaic (PV) technology continues to become more efficient, enabling solar projects to generate without strong, direct sunlight, and increasing the viability of project locations throughout New York. Additionally, the cooler temperatures in New York make panels more efficient. Combined with the strong demand for renewable energy throughout New York, the availability of suitable land, and supportive policies, solar makes sense in most areas of New York State.¹

6.3 Safety

6.3.1 Are solar panels toxic?

Solar panels largely consist of widely used and non-toxic components, including an aluminum frame, tempered glass, and various common plastics. The most common type of solar panel consists of crystalline silicon PV cells, which generate electricity when exposed to light. These non-toxic crystalline silicon cells consist almost entirely of silicon, one of the most common elements in the Earth's crust.¹

6.3.2 Should we be worried about electromagnetic fields (EMF) associated with solar?

There are two kinds of EMF; "ionizing fields," which are high-level and harmful, and "non-ionizing," which are low-level and generally harmless. Non-ionizing radiation comes from computers, appliances, cell phones, and wireless routers, whereas ionizing radiation comes from harmful sources such as UV lights or X-rays. EMF from solar systems are non-ionizing, similar to your household appliances. Studies show that the exposure level within the array or at the fenced boundary of a system falls well below the recommended exposure limits. This exposure level decreases even more as you move away from the system and is nonexistent at night when the system is not producing energy. Ultimately, EMF from solar systems is extremely insignificant and cannot be associated with a health effect.¹

6.3.3 Do solar panels create glare? I'm worried about visual impacts for my town.

Solar panels are designed to be dark colors, usually black or blue, that absorb the sunlight to create electricity. If panels were reflecting the sun, or creating glare, they would not be effective. PV panels are designed with anti-reflective coating to increase panel efficiency and keep the level of reflected light around 2% - less than the reflectivity of water. Airports worldwide have been installing PV arrays to provide onsite generation, and studies show that glare from the solar arrays is a negligible issue.¹

6.3.4 Do solar PV systems generate noise?

Solar panels are noise-free, and residential solar inverters are quieter than refrigerators. Large-scale, ground-mounted systems may have minor noise associated with the transformers and inverters within the array and the electrical equipment required for utility interconnection. Any system noise is typically at background levels at a distance of 50 to 150 feet from the site boundary.¹

6.3.5 How are endangered species protected?

Endangered species are accounted for and protected throughout the life of a large-scale solar project. First, solar projects must conduct an initial screening with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify if endangered species exist in the area. In consultation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, developers must identify potential impacts to endangered or threatened species from facility construction, operation, or maintenance and work with the DEC to mitigate impacts. Issues related to direct and indirect habitat loss, mortality, breeding, and wintering and migration patterns of birds and bats are all addressed during the process through which solar projects obtain their permits to construct and inform the final design of the project and mitigation measures. Potential mitigation measures include construction buffers around known bald eagle nests, avoiding disturbing sensitive habitats, and developing conservation funds to offset any unavoidable impacts.¹

¹ Source: 1. NYSERDA New York State Solar Guidebook: [New York State Solar Guidebook - NYSERDA](#)