



GreenbackerSM

NYSERDA RESRFP23-1

Community Engagement Plan

Tayandenega Solar, LLC



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Company Profile: Tayandenega Solar, LLC (the “Project” or “Tayandenega”) 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 19.77 MW utility-scale solar facility located in the Town of St. Johnsville (the “Town”), Montgomery County, New York. The Project will be located on private lands that are primarily rural in nature, of which the Project will utilize approximately 97 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 National Grid. The Project’s proposed Point of Interconnection (“POI”) is a direct tap of the National Grid’s 115kV Marshville-Inghams Line 11/6 in Montgomery County, New York with the addition of line switches and monopoles to interconnect the line to new Collector Substation and the Point of Change of Ownership (“PCO”). The POI will be approximately 12.79 miles from the Connecting Transmission Owner’s Marshville Substation and 4.2 miles from the Connecting Transmission Owner’s Inghams Substation.

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 landowners, 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 29,219 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 2,708 households within Montgomery County.



The Project has successfully executed a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (“PILOT”) Agreement with the Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Central School District on March 4, 2020. Additionally, the Project executed a PILOT Agreement with the Town on November 19, 2020. As the Project progresses through rezoning with the Town, it will look to re-engage Montgomery County about a potential PILOT Agreement. In addition to the Project’s long-term financial contributions to increase the taxing jurisdictions annual operating budget, it intends to discuss a Host Community Agreement (“HCA”) with the community to support community programs and potential infrastructure projects.

Greenbacker and the Project understand New York State’s commitment 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 with the Town and Montgomery County in the middle of 2019. Over several months, Cypress Creek met with the Town of St. Johnsville Planning Board (the “Board”), Montgomery County, and the Oppenheim-Ephratah-St. Johnsville Central School District. Cypress Creek submitted its formal application, which included the SEQRA Full Environmental Assessment Form, to the Board on June 7, 2019, and the Town declared its intent to be lead agency under the State’s Type 1 SEQRA process on July 9, 2019. After a six-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 Board issued a Negative Declaration under SEQRA as the lead agency on November 12, 2019 and site plan approval on December 10, 2019.

Since that time, one of the host landowners requested to withdraw their participation from the Project. Respecting the concerns of local stakeholders, Greenbacker honored this request and engaged the adjacent neighboring landowner that was interested in project involvement. The result was the complete removal of parcel ID 273889 3.-1-10.11 and the addition of parcel IDs 273889 7.-1-3 and 273889 7.-1-15.3, located along Hillabrandt Road. These changes resulted in an approximately 18-acre reduction in overall solar area and thus an overall decrease in impacts associated with the facility.

The Project submitted an updated site plan application to the Town in July 2023 to memorialize these changes. The Town was provided with an updated engineering design set, a review of the Project’s conformance to town zoning laws, copies of landowner lease agreements, proof of injection capacity into the electrical grid, a revised full Environmental Assessment Form, and various other supporting documents such as Operations & Maintenance Plan, Emergency Response Plan, discussion of visual impacts, etc.

The Board is overseeing review of these modifications. Project representatives have attended multiple meetings to discuss the design modification and the updated application documents. The Board has



commissioned a third-party review of the application documents and will serve as the lead agency to undertake the coordinated review once the third-party firm advises the application materials are complete. Presently, Greenbacker is preparing responses to comments provided by this reviewer. Greenbacker has otherwise met with the Board on multiple occasions since the updated application materials were filed and anticipates meeting with the Board throughout Spring 2024 to re-perform the SEQ, host a public hearing, and receive updated approvals from the Town.

