



# Community Engagement Plan

Teele Solar

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 Lisbon, New York. The taxing School District is the Lisbon Central School District. The school district ID is 3617430.

## Locally Elected Officials

The locally elected officials for the Town of Lisbon, New York are in the table below.

Name	Title and Office	Tenure	Contact	Address
<b>Ronald Bush</b>	Town Supervisor, Town of Lisbon	Elected-4 Years Term ending 12/31/27	(315) 393-0410 <a href="mailto:supervisor@townoflisbony.org">supervisor@townoflisbony.org</a>	Lisbon Town Office 6963 Country Route 10 Lisbon, NY 13658
<b>Patricia Bartlett</b>	Town Board, Town of Lisbon	Elected 4-Years Term ending 12/31/27	(315) 393-0410 <a href="mailto:pbartlett@twcny.rr.com">pbartlett@twcny.rr.com</a>	Lisbon Town Office 6963 Country Route 10 Lisbon, NY 13658
<b>Jeffrey Dumas</b>	Town Board, Town of Lisbon	Elected 4-Years Term ending 12/31/25	(315) 393-0410 <a href="mailto:dumasjeffrey24@gmail.com">dumasjeffrey24@gmail.com</a>	Lisbon Town Office 6963 Country Route 10 Lisbon, NY 13658
<b>Robert McNeil</b>	Town Board, Town of Lisbon	Elected 4-Years Term ending 12/31/2025	(315) 393-0410 <a href="mailto:rmcneil5@twcny.rr.com">rmcneil5@twcny.rr.com</a>	Lisbon Town Office 6963 Country Route 10 Lisbon, NY 13658
<b>Hunter Forsythe</b>	Town Board, Town of Lisbon	Elected 4-Years Term ending 12/31/2027	(315) 393-0410 <a href="mailto:hunterbasswood88@gmail.com">hunterbasswood88@gmail.com</a>	Lisbon Town Office 6963 Country Route 10 Lisbon, NY 13658
<b>Alberta L. Hyde</b>	Town Clerk & Tax Collector Town of Lisbon	Elected 4-Years Term ending 12/31/2025	(315) 393-5988 <a href="mailto:Townclerk@townoflisbony.org">Townclerk@townoflisbony.org</a>	Lisbon Town Office 6963 Country Route 10 Lisbon, NY 13658
<b>Michael Baldock</b>	Highway Superintendent Town of Lisbon	Elected 4-Years Term ending 12/31/2027	(315) 393-2779	Lisbon Town Office 6963 Country Route 10 Lisbon, NY 13658
<b>Marc McDonnell</b>	Code Enforcement Officer Town of Lisbon	Unkown	(315) 854-4026 <a href="mailto:codeofficer@townoflisbony.org">codeofficer@townoflisbony.org</a>	Lisbon Town Office 6963 Country Route 10 Lisbon, NY 13658
<b>Wade Wood</b>	Planning Board Chair Town of Lisbon	Appointed 1-Year	(315) 393-0410	Lisbon Town Office 6963 Country Route 10 Lisbon, NY 13658

\* Some officials do not have terms listed. The Proposer will continue to monitor the Town website to determine position appointments.

# Outreach Strategies and Activities

## Bid Facility Background

Teele Solar (the “Bid Facility”) is a proposed 19.8 megawatt (MWac) solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located in the Town of Lisbon in St. Lawrence County, New York. The Bid Facility Area will span approximately 88 acres and plans to interconnect to the Alcoa – N. Ogdensburg 115 kV transmission line.

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 22,736 metric tons a year - the equivalent of powering approximately 4,400 homes' electricity use per year. This will help New York State achieve its target of 70% renewably sourced electricity by 2030 and a 100% carbon free electric grid by 2040.

Additionally, the Bid Facility will contribute to the local economy by producing tax revenue and other economic benefits for the area.

## SEQR Application Status

On July 7, 2022, the Proposer submitted Part I of the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), under the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Act, to the Town of Lisbon Planning Board. The Planning Board completed a coordinated environmental review, and on February 13, 2023, determined that the Bid Facility constituted a "Type I Action" with no significant environmental impact.

At a Planning Board meeting on May 8, 2023, a unanimous resolution was passed declaring the Town of Lisbon Planning Board as Lead Agency under SEQR and adopting a Negative Declaration under SEQR. The Board also voted unanimously to grant site plan approval under the Town of Lisbon Site Plan Review Law.

The Bid Facility has obtained all necessary permits and approvals, ensuring compliance with federal, state, and local regulations for a successful and environmentally conscious development.

## 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 Lisbon. The Town Board representing the host community within the Bid Facility Area was identified by a review of town and county boundary maps and are considered stakeholders. Points of contact (POC) will be the Town Supervisor and the Town Clerk.

## Community Members

Community members include the participating and adjacent landowners, host community residents, the local school district, as well as town, county, and state agencies who are expected to take part in or have interest in the progression of the Bid Facility.

## Local Agencies

Local affected agencies are also stakeholders. These groups include: Lisbon Town officials, St. Lawrence County officials, New York State (NYS) officials, Lisbon Central School District, local first responders, fire departments, and utility providers. Contact regarding the Bid Facility has primarily been through Marc McDonnell, the Town of Lisbon Code Enforcement Officer Supervisor.

In addition to local consultation efforts, the Proposer has consulted with state agencies during the permitting process, including with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), NYS Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRH).

## Methods of Communication

The Proposer has consistently communicated with the Lead Agency regarding the Bid Facility. This communication will remain through all phases of the Bid Facility, and the Proposer will remain accessible.

Local requirements for communication have been adhered to by the Proposer.

The Proposer will remain accessible to stakeholders for matters related to the Bid Facility. The AES New York website provides contact information and a schedule of weekly virtual office hours.

<b>AES New York website</b>	<a href="https://www.aes.com/new-york">https://www.aes.com/new-york</a>
<b>AES New York Toll-Free Phone Number</b>	(866) 757-7697
<b>AES New York Email</b>	nystakeholderrelations@aes.com

## Outreach Efforts – Pre-Award and Development

The Proposer has been in regular communication with local officials in the host community. Additional outreach efforts are described below.

Date	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Event
<b>March 6, 20221</b>	The landowners wrote a letter to the St. Lawrence County board supporting the Teele project, stating that it would bring agricultural and financial resources to the town.
<b>January 9, 2023</b>	A town board meeting was held, and AES representatives were in attendance.

Date	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Event
February 13, 2023	AES representatives attended a board meeting where the planning board accepted the landscape plan.
May 8, 2023	The town board approved the Site Plan at a town board meeting. By unanimous vote, the planning board declared a Negative Declaration under SEQR and declared themselves as Lead Agency for the project.

At stakeholder meetings, it is the Proposer’s customary practice to introduce Bid Facility representatives, inform attendees about the Bid Facility, and answer questions. In addition, the Proposer solicits feedback from community members and members of local agencies. The Proposer publishes all required notices and notices of public meetings in accordance with the local laws.

Over time, the Proposer has applied consistent effort to ensure the towns have an opportunity to communicate concerns and questions regarding the Bid Facility and its impact on the community.

## Outreach Strategies – Construction

The Proposer will continue community outreach and engagement on an ongoing basis during the construction phase of the Bid Facility’s life. 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.

## Outreach Strategies – Operations

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 AES 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

During the development and construction of our 2.5+ GW renewable energy portfolio in New York, AES intends to continue growing our Social Impact program for the state. The funds allocated for this program will be distributed among host communities, regions, and disadvantaged communities during development and construction.

On March 27, 2023, the New York State Climate Justice Working Group established criteria for disadvantaged communities. The Proposer will use these criteria and guidance from the Climate Justice Working Group to invest social impact funding in designated disadvantaged communities.

## 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 AES team collaborates with community leaders from government, business, education, social services, and residents to identify opportunities where AES can provide financial support 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 AES' 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.

## Direct Benefits to the Community

As described in this Community Engagement Plan, AES launched its 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 Teele Solar.

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

During development and construction of the Bid Facility, the Proposer will continue Social Impact funding across New York State, 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 expects to execute a PILOT agreement, which will require annual PILOT payments from the Proposer to each taxing jurisdiction. The terms of the PILOT agreement have not been finalized. The Proposer also expects to execute an HCA with the host municipalities and the financial and economic benefits for the host community and county are expected to exceed one million dollars during the life of the Bid Facility.

## Balancing Stakeholder Interests

The Proposer has conducted stakeholder outreach throughout the local permitting and development of the proposed Bid Facility. These efforts include stakeholder consultation and opportunity for public comments at local community meetings. Ample notification periods were provided ahead of local community meetings in compliance with the local guidance.

### Building Stakeholder Support

The Bid Facility’s success depends on continuing a strong relationship with the Lisbon Town Boards and host community. Because the Bid Facility is required to follow local requirements for permitting and approval, the Proposer must 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.

During the local site plan approval process, the Lisbon Town Planning Board reviewed the Bid Facility’s civil plan and landscaping plan. The Proposer provided visual simulations to show the proposed Bid Facility and proposed landscaping. The Proposer worked closely with the Town Planning Board and community members to create a robust landscaping plan for visual screening.

The town praised the Proposer for their willingness to work with the community members on creating a site plan that all stakeholders were proud of. The landscaping plan was approved as part of the local site plan approval process on May 8, 2023.

## 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 local 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 local 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.

Throughout the development of the Bid Facility all concerns raised by stakeholders have been addressed. However, should any arise, the Proposer will work diligently to address the

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concerns, as they did during the site plan approval process.

## Feedback Solicitation

This Community Engagement Plan has been designed to ensure stakeholder participation and the plan adheres to the AHJ's requirements during the development and lifespan of the Bid Facility. The Proposer has described explicit methods through which feedback is being solicited and incorporated into ongoing Bid Facility development.