

Mohawk Solar LLC, 90.5 Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic Generating Project
Montgomery County, New York

NOTICE OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Mohawk Solar LLC (“Mohawk Solar”) is seeking authority from the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (the “Siting Board”) to construct a 90.5 megawatt photovoltaic solar electric generating facility in the Towns of Minden and Canajoharie, Montgomery County, New York (the “Facility”) under Article 10 of the New York Public Service Law (“PSL”). Pursuant to PSL § 164 and 16 NYCRR 1000.6, Mohawk Solar hereby provides notice that, on or about May 22, 2019, it intends to file an Application with the Siting Board for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need authorizing construction and operation of the Facility.

The Project is a proposed 90.5 MW solar electric generating facility which includes clusters of solar photovoltaic generating panels and underground collection lines. The Facility will generate electricity to be delivered into National Grid’s electric transmission system via an interconnection to the existing St. Johnsville-Marshville 115 kV line. The Project is proposed to be constructed on leased private land that is primarily agricultural in nature.

The Facility will generate electricity from the sun, a renewable energy source, without using water—a valuable resource—and without requiring the extraction of fossil fuels, thereby avoiding the harmful emissions that are typically associated with generation from conventional power plants. Construction and operation of the proposed Facility will also assist the State in achieving the objectives outlined in the 2015 State Energy Plan, as well as other State policy initiatives, which requires 50% of all electric generation to be derived from renewable resources by 2030 and a 40% reduction in greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Further, the Facility will provide additional benefits to the local host communities in the form of short and long-term jobs and economic growth, increased revenues to County and local municipality tax bases, and land leases that will provide local farmers with additional revenues to continue farming operations and avoid conversion of the property to other land uses.

The Facility will not produce any emissions and will therefore not result in any additional impacts to local/regional air pollution or global climate change. In addition, the Applicant has attempted to minimize impacts to land associated with the Facility by limiting the disturbance to forested lands and wetlands to the maximum extent practicable. However, the construction and operation of the Facility may result in minor environmental impacts, including, but not limited to: impacts on terrestrial ecology, including impacts to avian species; minor impacts to forested land and wetlands; and traffic and visual impacts.

The Applicant intends to submit a request for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act. The WQC is necessary to obtain a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the minor disturbance to federally regulated wetlands required to construct the Facility.

Consistent with the requirements in Article 10, on October 18, 2017, Mohawk Solar filed its Preliminary Scoping Statement (PSS) with the Siting Board. Individuals, agencies, and municipalities were afforded an opportunity to comment on the PSS within 21 days of its filing. At the conclusion of the comment period, on December 6, 2017, Mohawk Solar filed a summary of the comments on the PSS and its responses thereto.

Having completed the studies outlined in the PSS, Mohawk Solar is now ready to submit its Application. The Application includes, among other things: an analysis of the environmental conditions at the Facility; a description of the Facility, including preliminary design drawings and related information; potential environmental and health impacts from construction and operation of the Facility; environmental, economic, and other benefits of the Facility; results from studies conducted pursuant to the PSS; proposed measures to minimize environmental impacts; and an assessment of reasonable alternatives. The

Application also addresses impacts to land use; consistency with State energy planning objectives, including climate change and renewable energy goals; public health and safety; terrestrial ecology, water resources and aquatic ecology; communications, transportation and utilities; cultural, historical, and recreational resources; and visual and sound impacts. The Article 10 regulations outlining the required contents of the Application can be found at 16 NYCRR Part 1001.

Once the Application is filed and deemed complete by the Siting Board, the Administrative Law Judges (“ALJs”) overseeing the proceeding will schedule a public hearing and issue a notice that additional intervenor funds will be available for parties participating in the Application phase. A pre-hearing conference will also be scheduled by the ALJs to identify intervenors, award intervenor funds, identify issues for the hearing, and establish a case schedule. After the hearings, intervenors may submit briefs to the ALJ who will then issue a recommended decision upon which the Siting Board, in turn, will render its decision. State law requires that the Siting Board must render a decision on the Application within 12 months of its determination that the Application is complete

With the Application, Mohawk Solar will provide \$90,500 in intervenor funding, 50% of which is reserved for municipal parties. Interested parties may apply for intervenor funding to be used to pay for such things as administrative, attorney, and/or consultant fees. A guide to applying for intervenor funding can be found on Mohawk Solar’s website at <http://www.avangridrenewables.us/libraries.html> (Navigate to the following pages once on the site: “About Us” – “Renewables in Your Community” – “Mohawk Solar (NY)” [scroll to the bottom of the page]) or on the PSC’s Web site at <http://www3.dps.ny.gov/W/PSCWeb.nsf/All/6FD11CE8DB088A2785257E200054A99B?OpenDocument>.

The Application will be made available for review during normal business hours at the Department of Public Service’s offices at 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223. Additional copies are also available for viewing at the following local repositories: Canajoharie Library, Erie Boulevard, Canajoharie, NY 13317; Fort Plain Free Library, 19 Willet St., Fort Plain, NY 13339.

The Article 10 Application review process affords stakeholders and other interested parties ample opportunities to participate and ask questions and share comments, concerns, and knowledge with the Siting Board, including participation in and presentation of evidence at administrative hearings, all of which will be considered by the Siting Board in deciding whether to approve the Project. Additional information on how to participate in Siting Board matters may be obtained by contacting Mohawk Solar’s project representative or the Siting Board Public Information Coordinator:

Mohawk Solar Project Representative

Scott McDonald
Avangrid Renewables
7650 North State Street, Suite 1
Lowville, NY 13367
(315) 874-4231 or 1-844-308-4616 (toll free)
Email: mohawksolar@avangrid.com

Siting Board Public Information Coordinator

James Denn
NYS Department of Public Service
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223
(518) 474-7080
Email: james.denn@dps.ny.gov

Find information online at the Siting Board’s Web site: www.dps.ny.gov/SitingBoard; or on the project website <http://www.avangridrenewables.us/libraries.html> (About Us - Renewables in Your Community - Mohawk Solar). You may also review Project documents online at the PSC’s Web site: www.dps.ny.gov, Case 17-F-0182.

A copy of this notice will be served on the Town Supervisors for the Towns of Minden and Canajoharie.



Mohawk Solar

Towns of Canajoharie and Minden, Montgomery County, New York

Proposed Facility

Notes: 1. Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS Online "World Topographic Map" map service.
 2. This map was generated in ArcMap by Environmental Design and Research on May 8, 2019.

Proposed Facility Components

- ▲ O&M Building
- ★ Transformer
- Fence Line
- Access Road
- PV Panel Array
- Facility Site

Civil Boundaries

- ▭ County Boundary
- ▭ City/Village Boundary
- ▭ Town Boundary