Public Statement Hearing

Mohaw

January 15, 2020

Canajoharie Library, Canajoharie, NY

Mohawk Solar Project Team









Young / Sommer LLC Th

The Ayers Law Firm, PLLC



Mohawk Solar

Owner/Developer	Avangrid Renewables
Permitting/Operation Authority	NYS Siting Board, pursuant to Article 10 of the NYS Public Service Law (Project Case #: 17-F-0182)
Energy Generation	90.5 MW/expected to meet annual average electricity consumption of 28,000 households
Interconnect	St. Johnsville-Marshville 115 kV Line
Facility Site	Towns of Minden & Canajoharie, NY 27 privately owned parcels (23 in Canajoharie; 4 in Minden)
Photovoltaic (PV) Panels	37 fenced array clusters totaling ~700 acres Canajoharie: 25 array clusters totaling ~525 acres Minden: 12 array clusters totaling ~175 acres
Facility Components	PV arrays, access roads, collection lines, collection substation, interconnection switchyard, storage facility, fencing & landscape screening.



Public Outreach

- Local office: 29 Church Street, Canajoharie, NY 13317
- Phone/Email: 518-673-0018 / MohawkSolar@Avangrid.com
- Website (<u>www.avangridrenewables.com</u> search for "Mohawk Solar")
- Milestone Mailings to Stakeholder List
- Public Notices
- Open Houses
 - August 2017 & March 2019
- Public Statement Hearings
- Intervenor Funding
- Attendance at local board meetings
- Area Variance Application Meetings & Hearings
 - Town of Minden August, September 2019
 - Town of Canajoharie September, October 2019

Documents, Outreach, Public Comments archived on NYS DPS Website:

http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterSeq=53189

Or http://www3.dps.ny.gov and search for "Mohawk Solar"

Key Drivers of Facility Design: Environmental Impact Minimization & Landowner Permission

Based on environmental studies conducted in support of the Article 10 Application, the Facility has been designed to avoid, or minimize, potential impacts to prime farmland, wetlands, forested areas, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, viewsheds, and ambient noise conditions, among others.



Project Schedule

- Project Development/Environmental Studies 2016-2019
- Public Involvement Program Plan filed: May 17, 2017
- Preliminary Scoping Statement filed: October 18, 2017
- Article 10 Application filed: June 5, 2019
- Article 10 Application Supplement filed: October 18, 2019
- Article 10 Application Deemed Complete: November 21, 2019
- Anticipated Milestones
 - Permitting complete: Q3 2020
 - Interconnection Agreement: Q2 2020
 - Construction start/complete: Q4 2020/Q4 2021
 - Commercial Operation: November 30, 2021

Article 10 Application

- 41 Exhibits
- 32 Figures
- 54 Appendices
- Civil and Electrical Design Drawings and Details
- Hard copies are available for review at:
 - Town of Canajoharie & Fort Plain Library
 - Canajoharie & Minden Town offices
 - Mohawk Solar Project Office: Canajoharie

Article 10 Application Exhibits

- 1 General Requirements
- 2 Overview and Public Involvement Summary
- 3 Location of Facilities
- 4 Land Use
- 5 Electric System Effects
- 6 Wind Power Facilities
- 7 Natural Gas Power Facilities
- 8 Electric System Production Effects
- 9 Alternatives
- 10 Consistency with Energy Planning Objectives
- 11 Preliminary Design Drawings
- 12 Construction
- 13 Real Property
- 14 Cost of Facilities
- 15 Public Health and Safety
- 16 Pollution Control Facilities
- 17 Air Emissions
- 18 Safety and Security

19 Noise and Vibration

20 Cultural Resources21 Geology, Seismology and Soils

22 Terrestrial Ecology and Wetlands

23 Water Resources and Aquatic Ecology

24 Visual Impacts

25 Effect on Transportation

26 Effect on Communication

27 Socioeconomic Effects

- 28 Environmental Justice
- **29** Site Restoration and Decommissioning **30** Nuclear Facilities

31 Local Laws and Ordinances

- **32** State Laws and Regulations
- 33 Other Applications and Filings
- 34 Electric Interconnection
- 35 Electric and Magnetic Fields
- 36 Gas Interconnection
- 37 Back-up Fuel
- 38 Water Interconnection
- 39 Wastewater Interconnection
- 40 Telecommunications Interconnection
- 41 Applications to Modify or Build Adjacent

Exhibit 19: Noise & Vibration

- **Study**: Sound Emissions Assessment
 - Winter (leaf-off) and summer (leaf-on) ambient sound level monitoring in 2018
- Result:
 - The Project will be compliant with all design goals, noise standards and local regulatory requirements
 - <u>Construction</u>: Sound emissions will be based on the construction phase/activity, and will be low in magnitude and short in duration
 - <u>Operation</u>: No significant noise impacts anticipated at adjacent residences during project operation
 - Noise will be limited to 40 dBA Leq (1 hour) at the outside wall of any non-participating residence

Exhibit 22: Terrestrial Ecology & Wetlands

- Studies: Plant and Wildlife Inventories
- Results:
 - Facility layout intentionally designed to avoid impacts to most forested and wetland areas
 - Access roads and collection lines have been sited along existing farm roads where practicable to minimize fragmentation
 - Suitable on-site habitat will remain for a wide variety of species within the Facility Area

Exhibit 22: Terrestrial Ecology & Wetlands

- Study: Wetland Delineation Report
- Results:
 - Site visits completed with NYSDEC and USACE
 - Most wetlands and streams will be fully avoided
 - Efforts have been made to minimize remaining impacts
 - Impacts offset with on-site mitigation, as required



Exhibit 22: Terrestrial Ecology & Wetlands

- Studies: Wintering Raptor Survey & Breeding Bird Survey
- Results:
 - NYSDEC has identified occupied habitat for three state-listed grassland bird species (short-eared owl, northern harrier, upland sandpiper)
 - Net Conservation Benefit Plan prepared
 - Ongoing consultation with NYSDEC
 - Appropriate mitigation measures will be identified to address habitat impacts

Exhibit 27: Socioeconomic Impacts

- Study: Socioeconomic Report
- Results:
 - 300+ construction-related jobs
 - 4 full-time operations-related jobs
 - \$600,000+ in annual landowner payments
 - \$300,000 annual PILOT payments escalating for 15 years
 - Shops, hardware stores, restaurants, construction material suppliers will benefit during construction and operations

Exhibit 31: Local Laws & Ordinances

- Consistency with Local Ordinances:
 - The Facility was designed to comply with local laws and ordinances where possible
 - Applicant has cooperatively worked with the Towns of Canajoharie and Minden throughout development of the project
 - Submitted Applications for Area Variances to both Towns
 - Needed to minimize environmental impacts while achieving design goals
 - Zoning Boards of Appeal (ZBAs) for both Towns granted variances in 2019

Exhibit 24: Visual Mitigation

- Study: Visual Impact Assessment (VIA)
- Results:
 - 5-Mile Visual Study Area (Viewshed Analysis)
 - Identified Visually Sensitive Resources
 - Research
 - Municipal and Local Outreach
 - Visual Simulations/Rating Panel Results
 - Conceptual visual mitigation
 - Visual screening/planting modules

Viewshed Analysis

- Understanding Locations of Potential Visibility :
 - Illustrates potential impact to Visually Sensitive Resources
 - Used to drive field work
 - Identifies viewpoints for representative visual simulations
 - Helps to understand areas for potential mitigation modules

Proposed Visual Screening of Facility

- Proposed visual screening would:
 - Utilize existing vegetative material
 - Replicate existing landscape character
 - Incorporate native planting materials
 - Decrease potential for environmental impacts
 - Soften views of the Project with different combinations of sizes and varieties of vegetation
 - Allow for open views to background mountains and Mohawk Valley

Module 1 - Roadside Enhancement A



A'

Module 2 - Roadside Enhancement B



Module 3 - Hedgerow In-Fill





PLANT LIST									
KEY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	TYPE	SPACING	MATURE SIZE			
+	Acer rubrum*	Red Maple	2" cal.	B&B	As Shown	40-70" H x 15-25' W			
+	Acer saccharum*	Sugar Maple	2" cal.	B&B	As Shown	60-75' H x 40-50' W			
•	Crataegus crus-galli	Cockspur Hawthorn	1 3/4" cal.	B&B	As Shown	25-35' H x 25-35' W			
+	Liriodendron tulipifera*	Tulip Tree	2º cal.	B&B	As Shown	60-90' H x 30-50' W			
+	Quercus coccinea*	Scarlet Oak	2" cal.	B&B	As Shown	50-70' H x 40-50' W			
•	Rhus typhina	Staghorn Sumac	5' ht	#5 cont	As Shown	10-20' H x 20-30' W			
+	Tilia americana*	American Basswood	2" cal.	B&B	As Shown	50-80' H x 30-50' W			
1/1	Pollinator Seed Mix		7 lbs per acre			Average 36' H			



Native Trees and Pollinator Mix

Open Field

Fence Grass Loop Road



A

Module 4 - Adjacent Resource/Residence





		PLANT L	IST			
KEY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	TYPE	SPACING	MATURE SIZE
(+)	Acer rubrum	Red Maple	2* cal.	B&B	As Shown	40-70" H x 15-25' W
+	Crataegus crus-galli	Cockspur Hawthorn	1 3/4" cal.	B&B	As Shown	25-35' H x 25-35' W
(+)	Picea glauca	White Spruce	8' ht	B&B	As Shown	40-60' H x 20-25' W
0	Pinus strobus	Eastern White Pine	6' ht.	B&B	As Shown	70-80' H x 20-35' W
\odot	Amelanchier stolonifera	Running Serviceberry	24" ht	#5 cont	4' on center	4-6' H x 4-5' W
0	Diervilla lonicera	Bush-Honeysuckle	18" ht	#3 cont	3' on center	2-3' H x 3-4' W
•	Rhus typhina	Staghorn Sumac	5' ht	#5 cont	As shown	10-20' H x 20-30' W
////	Pollinator Seed Mix		7 lbs per acre			Average 36" H





Adjacent Resource

Visual Simulation – No Mitigation



Nestle Road (Minden)

Adjacent Resource

Visual Simulation – 5 – 7 Years



Nestle Road (Minden)

Roadside Enhancement B

Visual Simulation – No Mitigation



Marshville Road (Canajoharie)

Roadside Enhancement B

Visual Simulation – 5 – 7 Years



Marshville Road (Canajoharie)

Natural Field +

Visual Simulation – No Mitigation



H Jones Road (Canajoharie)

Natural Field +

Visual Simulation – 5 – 7 Years



H Jones Road (Canajoharie)

Roadside Enhancement A

Visual Simulation – No Mitigation



Nestle Road (Canajoharie)

Roadside Enhancement A

Visual Simulation – 5 – 7 Years



Nestle Road (Canajoharie)

Comments Welcome!

- To New York State:
 - Online at <u>www.dps.ny.gov</u>
 - Via email to Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary: <u>secretary@dps.ny.gov</u>
 - By mail or delivery to:
 - Secretary Phillips at the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment
 - Three Empire State Plaza
 - Albany, New York 12223-1350
 - Call the Department of Public Service's Opinion Line: <u>1-800-335-2120</u>
- To Mohawk Solar:
 - In person: 29 Church Street, Canajoharie, NY 13317
 - Email: <u>Mohawksolar@avangrid.com</u>
 - Phone: 1-518-673-0018

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THANK YOU!

