



Photograph of Community Energy's Keystone Solar Project in Pennsylvania. Photo Credit: Community Energy.

Summary of the Public Involvement Program Plan *for the Mohawk Solar Project*

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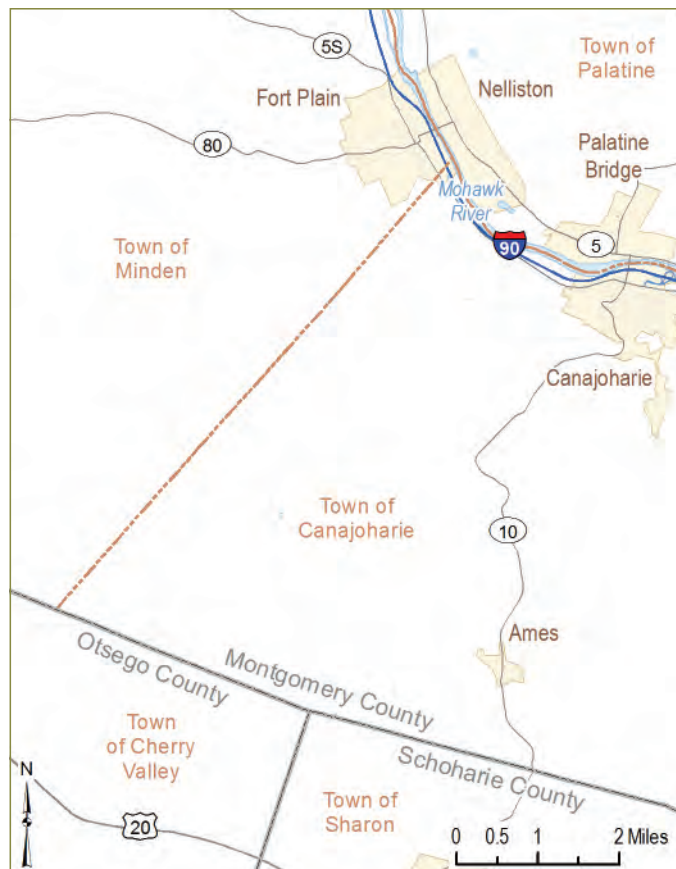
Community Energy, in consultation with Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Resources, D.P.C. (EDR), prepared and submitted a Public Involvement Program (PIP) plan for the proposed Mohawk Solar Project. The PIP has been prepared in accordance with New York State's Article 10 Regulations, which require applicants to actively seek public participation throughout the process, starting with early project planning and continuing through post-certification compliance and implementation. This PIP Summary document has been prepared to provide a brief overview of the applicant (Community Energy), the proposed action (Mohawk Solar Project), the regulatory process (Article 10 of the New York Public Service Law), and the requirements of a PIP, as further described below.

Who is Community Energy?

- Headquartered in Radnor, Pennsylvania, with offices in Colorado, Community Energy is a developer of renewable energy sources, including solar and wind generating facilities. Community Energy was founded in 1999 and has since developed hundreds of megawatts (MW) of utility-scale solar and wind energy across the country.
- Recent examples of utility-scale solar facilities developed by Community Energy include the 80 MW Amazon Solar Farm on the Delmarva Peninsula, in Accomack County, Virginia; the 103 MW Butler Solar Facility, in Taylor County, Georgia; and the 120 MW Comanche Solar Project in Colorado.
- Community Energy also develops community scale solar projects for businesses, universities, and residential customers.

What is the Mohawk Solar Project?

- The Mohawk Solar Project will have a nameplate capacity of 90 MW, and is expected to generate approximately 185,000 MWh of energy for year one of operation.
- This will be enough electricity to meet the average annual consumption of over 20,000 households, based on average annual electric consumption of 7.2 MWh for New York State.
- The Facility will be located on leased private land in the Towns of Canajoharie and Minden, Montgomery County.
- Local construction employment will primarily benefit those in the construction trades, including equipment operators, truck drivers, laborers, and electricians. In addition, Facility operation will generate part-time jobs and contracting service opportunities.
- The Facility will also result in increased revenues to county and local municipality tax bases, purchase of local supplies and goods, and lease revenues to participating landowners.



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Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment

What is the regulatory process?

"Article 10" was enacted in 2011 to be a portion of the New York State Public Service Law. It is a general state law that is applicable in all of New York State. Article 10 empowers the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (Siting Board) to issue Certificates of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (certificate) authorizing the construction and operation of major electric generating facilities.

Article 10 Overview

- Provides a unified review and approval process for major electric generating facilities in New York State.
- Applies to electric generating facilities with generating capacity of 25 MW or more.
- Also applies to renewable energy projects, like solar and wind powered electric generating facilities.
- Also includes existing facilities repowered to add 25 MW of capacity or more.
- Ensures broad public involvement opportunities throughout the process.
- Makes funds available to local parties and municipalities so they can make an effective contribution to the proceedings.

Article 10 Process

- There are five phases of the Article 10 process:

1. Pre-application
2. Application
3. Administrative Hearings
4. Siting Board Decision
5. Compliance

Submittal of the Public Involvement Program (PIP) Plan initiates the pre-application phase and is the first step in the Article 10 process. By regulation, the next step in the process (submittal of the Preliminary Scoping Statement), cannot occur until 150 days after the PIP is submitted.



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Proposed Public Involvement Program

Must Include:

➤ *Consultation with affected agencies and other stakeholders.*

Article 10 regulations require both general and specific consultations with affected agencies and municipalities. The goals of the initial consultation with each municipality or agency will be to consult with representatives, disseminate information, request information, and schedule follow up meetings and/or consultations, as appropriate.

➤ *Pre-application activities to encourage stakeholders to participate at the earliest opportunity.*

Through meetings with various State and local agencies, the Applicant has been engaging in pre-application activities to encourage stakeholder participation. The Applicant will continue pre-application activities to encourage stakeholder participation, such as activities designed to educate the public as to the specific proposal and the Article 10 review process, including the availability of funding for municipal and local parties. The Applicant plans to attend Town meetings, is planning Applicant-sponsored public information sessions, and will be distributing educational materials.

➤ *The establishment of a website to disseminate information to the public.*

The Applicant is establishing a user friendly website in plain English that describes the Project. This website provides information regarding the Article 10 process, intervenor funding, and other important stakeholder issues, and will continue to provide Project updates throughout the development and construction phases of the Project to keep the community informed of the Project's status.

➤ *Notifications and activities designed to encourage participation by stakeholders in the certification and compliance process.*

No less than three days before filing of the PSS and the Application, the Applicant will publish a notification in the Amsterdam Recorder and the Courier-Standard-Enterprise; serve each member of the State Legislature in whose district any portion of the proposed Project is to be located; and shall provide written notice to those persons who have filed a statement with the secretary within the past twelve months that wish to receive such notices. In addition, the Applicant will alert the Towns to the filings prior to the required formal notifications, and will also post the notifications on the Project website.



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Who is a stakeholder?

Stakeholders are defined in the Article 10 regulations as follows: “Those persons who may be affected or concerned by any issues within the Siting Board’s jurisdiction relating to the proposed major electric generating facility and any decision being made about it.” This includes the following:

- Affected State and Federal Agencies
- Local Agencies
- Environmental Justice Communities
- Host Municipalities and School Districts
- Host and Adjacent Landowners
- Public Interest Groups

The stakeholder list for a given project continues to evolve throughout the Article 10 process, and the current stakeholder list for the Mohawk Solar Project can be found attached to the PIP.

Intervenor Funding

Article 10 regulations require that funding be provided to help intervenors (affected municipalities and other parties) hire experts to participate in the review of the application, and for legal fees during both the pre-application and application phase.

Additional Information

This PIP Summary document has been prepared to provide a brief overview of the applicant (Community Energy), the proposed action (Mohawk Solar Project), the regulatory process (Article 10 of the New York Public Service Law), and the requirements of a PIP. Additional Project information, including a complete copy of the PIP, can be found:

- Online at the Siting Board’s Website: **www.dps.ny.gov/SitingBoard**
- Online at the Project’s Website: **<https://communityenergysolar.com/project/mohawk-solar/>**
- In print at the following repositories: **Canajoharie Library
2 Erie Boulevard
Canajoharie, NY 13317
518-673-2314**



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