

Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC

Case No.: 17-F-0595

50-Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic Generation Project, Schuyler County, New York

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF PRELIMINARY SCOPING STATEMENT

Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC, is seeking authority from the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (the Siting Board) to construct a 50-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic electric generating facility (the Project) in the Town of Dix, Schuyler County, New York, adjacent to the Watkins Glen International Racetrack known as “The Glen,” pursuant to Article 10 of the New York State Public Service Law (PSL). Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC, hereby provides notice that it will file a Preliminary Scoping Statement (PSS) with the Siting Board on or about August 8, 2019. The PSS will summarize the proposed scope of the studies that Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC, will undertake, the results of which will form the basis of its Article 10 Application to the Siting Board. Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC, also seeks input from the public, interested agencies, and local municipalities on the scope and methodology of the proposed studies to be conducted.

The Project components will include commercial-scale solar arrays, access roads, buried (and possibly overhead) electric collection lines, and electrical interconnection facilities. The interconnection facilities will consist of a new collection substation and point of interconnection (POI) switchyard that will be transferred to New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) to own and operate. The proposed collection substation and interconnection facilities will be located on land south of the solar arrays within the Project Area, adjacent to the existing NYSEG Bath – Montour Falls 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The Project is proposed to be constructed on land leased from a private landowner.

The Project will safely generate enough clean, renewable electricity to power approximately 12,000 households. The Project will offset air emissions from other sources of electrical generation, such as fossil fuel-powered generation plants, and will be consistent with New York State’s policies promoting renewable energy goals, including the 2015 New York State Energy Plan (SEP), the Clean Energy Standard (CES), and the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which requires that 70% of the State’s electricity be generated by renewables by 2030 and that all power-sector emissions be eliminated by 2040.

Based upon reasonably available information, the PSS will describe the scope of review and proposed studies to be performed under Article 10, including the environmental setting of the Project, environmental and health considerations to be evaluated, as well as construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project, proposed benefits of the Project, and Project security.

With the PSS, Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC, will also submit \$17,500 in intervenor funding. Interested parties may apply for intervenor funding to be used to pay for expenses such as administrative, attorney, and/or consultant fees. A guide to applying for intervenor funding can be found on the New York State Department of Public Service’s (DPS) website by using the following direct link: goo.gl/avcprS.

Within 21 days after the date on which the PSS is filed, any person, agency, or municipality may submit comments on the PSS by serving such comments on Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC, at the address provided below and filing a copy with the Secretary to the Siting Board. Comments must reference Case 17-F-0595 and may be submitted to Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary to the Siting Board, New York State Public Service Commission, Agency Building 3, Albany, NY, 12223-1350 or electronically to secretary@dps.ny.gov. Any interested person may also file a request with the Secretary to receive copies of all notices concerning the Project, including notices regarding any proposed pre-application stipulations. Documents filed in this proceeding may also be viewed at the DPS website at www.dps.ny.gov by clicking “Search” on the homepage and then entering Case 17-F-0595 in “Search by Case Number.”

Within 21 days after the closing of this comment period, Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC, will prepare a summary of the material comments and its replies thereto, and file and serve the summary in the same manner as Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC, files and serves the PSS.

Not less than 22 days after the PSS is filed, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will hold a conference to, among other things, initiate the stipulation process in which Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC, and other parties attempt to negotiate and agree on the studies and other issues to be addressed in the Article 10 Application. The ALJ will also issue a notice of availability of pre-application intervenor funds that will provide a schedule and instructions on how interested parties may apply for such funds. Requests for intervenor funds are due within 30 days of issuance of the notice. A pre-application meeting will also be convened to consider funding requests no less than 45 days, but no more than 60 days, after the filing of the PSS.

Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC, will use the results of the studies it conducts to prepare the Application, which will be filed no less than 90 days after the PSS is filed. The Application will include, among other topics, a description of the Project, an evaluation of the environmental and health impacts and avoidance/mitigation measures, a summary of public involvement activities, a statement of why any local laws or ordinances should not be applied, electrical interconnection and system reliability studies, security and emergency plans, a statement demonstrating compliance with the most recent State Energy Plan and other relevant information.

The Siting Board will then determine whether the Application is compliant with filing requirements. Once it is deemed compliant, the ALJ will schedule a public hearing and issue a notice that additional intervenor funds in the amount of \$50,000 will be available for parties participating in the Application phase. The ALJ will also schedule a pre-hearing conference to identify intervenors, award intervenor funds, identify issues for hearings 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 will render its decision on whether to certify the Project. State law requires that the Siting Board must render a decision on the Application within 12 months of its determination that the Application is compliant with filing requirements.

Additional information on how to participate in Siting Board matters may be obtained by contacting Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC's project representative or the Siting Board Public Information Coordinator:

Watkins Glen Solar Energy Center, LLC
Representative
Michael Dowling
NextEra Energy Resources
700 Universe Blvd, E5E
Juno Beach, FL 33408
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Michael.dowling@nexteraenergy.com

Siting Board Public Information Coordinator
James Denn
NYS Department of Public Service
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223
Telephone: 518-474-7080
james.denn@dps.ny.gov

To find more information, please go to the Siting Board's website at www.dps.ny.gov/SitingBoard, the Project website at or call the Project's toll-free number: (800) 201-2402.

Hard copies of the PSS will also be available for review at the following local document repositories:

- Town of Dix Town Hall, 304 7th Street, Watkins Glen, NY 14891
- Watkins Glen Public Library, 610 S. Decatur Street., Watkins Glen, NY 14891