



# **WATKINS GLEN SOLAR ENERGY CENTER**

**Case No. 17-F-0595**

**1001.3 Exhibit 3**

**Location of Facilities**

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## Figures

Figure 3-1. Project Component Locations

## **Exhibit 3: Location of Facilities**

This Exhibit will track the requirements of Stipulation 3, dated February 21, 2020, and therefore, the requirements of 16 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) § 1001.3. This Exhibit contains maps, drawings, and explanations showing the proposed location of Project Components including all on-site interconnections and any proposed ancillary facilities not located on the Facility site such as roads, switchyards, and similar facilities in relation to municipalities (county, city, town, and village) and taxing jurisdictions associated with any part of the overall development proposal. The Project Area totals approximately 771 acres. The total area of the Limit of Disturbance (LOD) for the Project is approximately 392 acres, and total fenced area is approximately 352 acres. The proposed ancillary features, including the access roads, collection substation, switchyard, and an approximately 375-foot-long 115-kilovolt (kV) interconnection line (from the switchyard looping into the existing New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) Bath-Montour Falls 115-kV transmission line) will be located within the Project Area. This Exhibit details specific Project features and the representative mapping prepared.

### **3(a) Topographic Maps**

The Applicant has reproduced the most recent United States Geologic Survey (USGS) maps at original scale to indicate the locations of the Project facilities, including all Project Components and interconnection facilities. Designed to deliver a coherent perspective of the data in a Geographic Information System (GIS) accessible format, the USGS/National Map topographic mapping portrays information consistent with the most recent USGS 7.5-minute (1:24,000) quadrangle topographic maps at large scales (USGS/The National Map, 2019). The Project Area is located within the Beaver Dams quadrangle. The USGS mapping database presents detailed topographic mapping for the United States, as well as land cover imagery for the world. The following subsections describe mapping produced to represent Project Facilities on topographic mapping.

#### ***(1) Location of Project Components***

Figure 3-1 depicts the locations of the proposed major electric generation components and interconnection facilities associated with the Project. These items include the solar panel arrays, inverters, perimeter fencing (around solar panel arrays, substations, switchyard), access roads within the Project Area (detailing the location of access roads from public roadways to be utilized for construction and operation of these facilities), collection lines, on-site laydown/staging areas,

collection substation, Point of Interconnection (POI) switchyard, employee operational parking, and locations of proposed landscape berms, fences, and other features, as applicable, and an approximately 375-foot-long interconnection line from the switchyard looping into the existing NYSEG transmission line. No Operation & Maintenance (O&M) building will be proposed as part of the Project. The facilities mapped on Figure 3-1 are collectively referred to as the Project.

The Project is composed of multiple land parcels currently under lease from a private landowner. The location of these parcels is shown on Figure 4-3 in Exhibit 4.

Alternative solar panel array locations were evaluated during the course of the Project siting effort. These alternative locations are shown on Figure 9-1 and discussed in Exhibit 9 (Alternatives).

### ***(2) Proposed Interconnection Locations***

The Project Components will be located within the defined Project Area and are mapped on Figure 3-1. More specifically, the interconnection facilities will be located within the fence line of the collection substation that will be situated approximately 145 feet west of Kuhl-Winner Way in the Town of Dix. The Project will have no need for potable water connection or wastewater connection as there is no proposed O&M building as part of the Project.

### ***(3) Proposed Ancillary Features***

The proposed ancillary features, including the access roads, collection substation, switchyard, and a 115-kV interconnection line from the switchyard looping into NYSEG's existing Bath-Montour Falls 115-kV transmission line will be located within the Project Area. The proposed ancillary features are shown on Figure 3-1. Ancillary features are not proposed outside the Project Area.

### ***(4) Proposed Electric Transmission Facility Subject to Article VII***

There are no proposed electric transmission line or fuel gas transmission line interconnections that are subject to review under Article VII of the Public Service Law proposed as part of the Project; therefore, this information is not required to be included as part of the Application. The Applicant will consult with the New York State Department of Public Service (NYSDPS) and with NYSEG during this Article 10 proceeding concerning the proposed tap into NYSEG's Bath-Montour Falls transmission line and any implications for NYSEG's Article VII Certificate for the line.

### ***(5) Project Study Areas***

Numerous studies were conducted in support of this Article 10 Application. A Study Area encompassing a 2-mile radius around the Project Area was employed during the Preliminary Scoping Statement process and agreed to in the Stipulations. Depending upon the specific resource being evaluated, variations from the 2-mile Study Area were employed as described below:

- Noise (see Exhibit 19 for additional detail): The potential for noise generated from operation of the proposed Facility was assessed for receptor locations to a distance of 1 mile from the Project Area based upon the proximity of residences, outdoor public facilities and areas, hospitals, places of worship, and schools to facility components, and structure areas assumed to be sensitive where a structure was not accessible for field verification or classifiable using aerial imagery.
- Archaeological Area of Potential Effect (APE) (see Exhibit 20 for additional detail): The APE was defined as where ground disturbances may occur, inclusive of access roads, workspaces, collection lines, the proposed substation and interconnection facilities, and other areas of significant ground-disturbing activities in accordance with New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation guidance.
- Architectural Survey Area (see Exhibit 20 for additional details): For assessment of direct effects, the APE is defined as the Project footprint and extends beyond the Project's LOD to areas within a 2-mile-radius Study Area that have views of the undertaking. For assessment of indirect effects, the APE is defined as those areas removed in the distance, where Project Components will be visible and where there is a potential for significant visual effect, the extents of which were determined based on the results of a viewshed assessment.
- Visual Study Area (VSA) (see Exhibit 24 for additional detail): A primary VSA of 5 miles was evaluated.
- Wetland/Stream Survey Area (see Exhibits 22 and 23 for additional detail): Wetland and stream delineations were conducted on 771 acres within the Project Area. A total of 34 wetlands and 25 streams were delineated within the Project Area. Wetland estimation was conducted by the Applicant for areas located within 500 feet of areas to be disturbed by the Project.

The Project is not located in areas of significant resource concern that would justify expanding the Study Area.

### **3(b) Maps of Project Area**

Figure 3-1 shows the location of the Project Area and the Study Area, which will be a 2-mile Study Area surrounding the Project Area, unless otherwise noted. Figure 3-1 also shows Project Components, including the commercial-scale solar arrays, interconnections, electric collection lines, collection substation, and the POI facilities in relation to municipal boundaries, taxing jurisdictions, designated neighborhoods, or community districts at a scale to determine and demonstrate relation of facilities to those geographic and political features, where applicable.

### **3(c) Description of the Proposed Facility Location Relations**

The Project Area and ancillary features are located entirely within Schuyler County and more specifically within the Town of Dix. The Project is not located within designated neighborhoods or community districts. Refer to Exhibit 4 for additional information regarding municipalities.

The Project and its proposed components, including its interconnection facilities, electric collection lines, collection substation, and POI switchyard are located within the Watkins Glen Central School District. The Village of Watkins Glen is located approximately 4.3 miles northeast of the Project Area boundary.

## References

USGS Topo Maps. 2019. *ESRI Map Service*.

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=99cd5fbd98934028802b4f797c4b1732>.

Accessed February 2020.