

**Bear Ridge Solar, LLC, 100 Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic Generating Project
Niagara County, New York**

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF PRELIMINARY SCOPING STATEMENT AND PUBLIC MEETING

Bear Ridge Solar, LLC (Bear Ridge) is seeking authority from the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (Siting Board) to construct a 100 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic electric generating facility (Facility) in the Towns of Cambria and Pendleton, Niagara County, New York, under Article 10 of the New York State Public Service Law. As required by 16 NYCRR 1000.5, this publication provides notice that Bear Ridge will file its Preliminary Scoping Statement (PSS) with the Siting Board on or about February 15, 2019. The PSS will summarize the proposed scope of studies that Bear Ridge will undertake - the results of which will form the basis for its eventual Application to the Siting Board for authorization to construct the Facility. In conjunction with the PSS filing, Bear Ridge will seek input from the public, interested agencies and municipalities on the scope and methodology of studies to be conducted, and interested persons will have 21 days from filing of the PSS to submit such comments. Bear Ridge will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, February 13, to provide additional information on the Facility and the PSS, how to submit comments, and the Article 10 process. The meeting details are as follows:

**Cambria Volunteer Fire Company Hall
4631 Cambria-Wilson Road
Lockport, NY 14094**

**February 13, 2019
4-6 PM (presentation at 4:30)
7-9 PM (presentation at 7:30)**

The Facility is a proposed 100 MW solar electric generating facility comprised of clusters of solar panels in the Towns of Cambria and Pendleton, New York. The Facility is proposed to be constructed on approximately 900 acres - 750 in Cambria and 150 in Pendleton. Facility components will be connected by underground, and possibly overhead, collection lines. Energy produced by the Facility will be delivered into National Grid's existing Mountain-Lockport 115 kV electric transmission line.

The Facility will safely generate enough clean, renewable electricity to power approximately 25,000 households. As a renewable resource, the Facility will also avoid harmful emissions and other adverse impacts, associated with traditional fossil-fueled power plants, and further the State Energy Plan's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 40% by the year 2030.

The PSS marks the beginning of the formal public scoping process. The PSS document will, among other things, describe and identify: the environmental setting in the area where the Facility is proposed, the potential environmental and community impacts from construction and operation of the Facility, and anticipated benefits of the Facility on the environment and local community, as well as on the State's achievement of its renewable energy generation goals. The PSS will identify and describe the proposed environmental studies it plans to conduct during the Article 10 process in order to assess potential impacts to land uses in the Facility area; public health and safety; ecological resources, protected species and habitats, and water resources; communications, transportation, and utilities; cultural, historical and recreational resources; visual impacts and screening; sound; and impacts on the statewide electrical system, among other things. Further, the PSS will outline potential measures to minimize environmental impacts from the Facility, as well as reasonable alternatives, other required permits/authorizations, and other relevant information to be provided in the Article 10 Application.

With the PSS, Bear Ridge will also submit \$35,000 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 Bear Ridge's website at <https://ccrenew.com/projects/bearridge/>. Later in the Article 10 process, when the formal Article 10 Application is submitted, additional Application-phase intervenor funding will be made available to facilitate municipal and party participation in the Application and Hearing phase.

Within 21 days after the PSS is filed, any interested person, agency, or municipality may submit comments on the PSS by serving such comments on Bear Ridge and filing a copy with the Secretary to the Siting Board. Comments must reference Case 18-F-0338 and may be submitted in writing to Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary to the Siting Board, New York State Public Service Commission, Agency Building 3, Albany, NY 12223 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 Article 10 proceeding. Bear Ridge will prepare a summary of the material comments and any reply thereto within 21 days after the comment period has closed.

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 Bear Ridge and other parties negotiate and agree upon refining studies, conducting additional 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 providing a schedule and instructions on how interested parties may apply for such funds.

The Article 10 Application review process affords stakeholders and other interested parties ample opportunities to participate, ask questions, share comments, concerns, and knowledge, 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 construction of the Facility. Additional information on how to participate in the Siting Board matters may be obtained by contacting Bear Ridge's project representative or the Siting Board Public Information Coordinator.

Bear Ridge Project Representative

**Marisa Scavo
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Siting Board Public Information Coordinator

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Hard copies of the PSS and related project documents are available for review at the following local document repositories: Sanborn-Pekin Free Library, 5884 West Street, Sanborn, NY 14132; Lockport Public Library 23 East Avenue Lockport, NY 14094, and; Town of Pendleton Town Hall, 6570 Campbell Boulevard, Lockport, NY 14094.

Find additional information and documents online at the Siting Board's website: www.dps.ny.gov/Siting_Board or on the project website at <https://ccrenew.com/projects/bearridge/>.

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