

# Genesee Road Solar Energy Center

## Erie County, New York

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### **NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF PRELIMINARY SCOPING STATEMENT**

EDF Renewables Development, Inc. (“Applicant”), a subsidiary of EDF Renewables, Inc., is proposing to construct a major solar electric generating facility up to 350 Megawatts (“MW”) in capacity in the Towns of Sardinia and Concord, Erie County, New York (the “Genesee Road Solar Energy Center” or the “Facility”). To construct the Facility, the Applicant must obtain a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (“CECPN”) from the New York State Board on Electric Generating Siting and the Environment (“Siting Board”) pursuant to Article 10 of the Public Service Law and the Siting Board’s rules (16 NYCRR Part 1000). This notice announces that on or about February 20, 2020, the Applicant will file a Preliminary Scoping Statement (“PSS”), pursuant to 16 NYCRR 1000.5, which is designed to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the scope and methodology of studies to be conducted in support of a future Application. The filing of the PSS will start a 21-day public comment period on the scope and methodology of the studies proposed.

The PSS filing marks the beginning of a 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.

The Facility is proposed to include the installation of arrays of photovoltaic (“PV”) panels, approximately 9 feet in height and arranged in discrete subarrays dispersed throughout the Facility Site, as well as associated electrical collection lines, inverters, a potential energy storage facility(s), interconnection substation, fencing, access roads and an Operations and Maintenance (“O&M”) building. The Facility would deliver electricity to the New York State power grid via a collector substation and then stepped up to the interconnection voltage (345 kV) at the Facility substation. The Facility will interconnect with the grid via the Point of Interconnection (“POI”) switchyard, which will connect to the NYSEG 345-kV Southwest to Stolle Road transmission line, which crosses the Facility Site. More information on the proposed Facility can be found on the Siting Board’s website under Case 19-F-0602, on the project’s dedicated website ([www.geneseeroadsolar.com](http://www.geneseeroadsolar.com)), and at the local document repositories listed at the end of this notice.

Within 21 days after filing of the PSS, any person, agency or municipality may submit comments on the PSS by serving such comments on the Applicant and filing a copy with the Secretary to the Siting Board at the addresses provided below. The Applicant will prepare a summary of the material comments and its reply to those comments within 21 days after the closing of the comment period. The scoping process is overseen and mediated by a Hearing Examiner. The Hearing Examiner will schedule a pre-application meeting, which will commence the stipulations negotiation process and will allow for the discussion and award of intervenor funding. Additional notice of the pre-application meeting will be published by the Examiners.

To facilitate participation by local municipalities and community groups, the Applicant will provide \$122,500 (or \$350 per MW) toward an intervenor fund, which is disbursed by the Hearing Examiners to groups seeking assistance with expenses associated with their participation in the Article 10 process during the pre-application review phase. By law, at least fifty percent of these intervenor funds are reserved for host municipalities. Once the PSS is filed, the Hearing Examiners will issue a notice that such intervenor funds are available, will describe the kinds of expenditures which are eligible for receipt of those monies, and will provide instructions and a schedule for interested groups to apply for pre-application intervenor funds. 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.

#### **Contact Information**

To obtain information regarding the Project, please contact:

EDF Renewables Development, Inc.  
15445 Innovation Dr.  
San Diego, California 92128

Project Representative:

Jack Honor, Development Manager  
1-833-333-7369  
[NewYork.Solar@edf-re.com](mailto:NewYork.Solar@edf-re.com)

Contact information for the DPS public information coordinator:

James Denn  
NYS Department of Public Service  
3 Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY  
(518) 474-7080  
[james.denn@dps.ny.gov](mailto:james.denn@dps.ny.gov)

Hard copies of the PSS and related project documents are available for review at the following local document repositories: Hulbert Library of the Town of Concord, 18 Chapel St., Springville, NY 14141; Town of Sardinia, 12320 Savage Road, Sardinia NY 14134; Town of Concord, 86 Franklin St., Springville, NY 14141.

Digital copies of the PSS and related project documents are available on the Siting Board's Docket for this case, which can be accessed by visiting <http://www.dps.ny.gov/>, going to "Search" on the top of the webpage and then searching using the Case Number 19-F-0602, or by going to the project website maintained by the Applicant at [www.geneseeroadsolar.com](http://www.geneseeroadsolar.com).

**Requests for Notices**

Any interested member of the public may file a request with the DPS Secretary to receive copies of all notices concerning the project, including but not limited to notices regarding any proposed pre-application stipulations. Written requests should be sent to the DPS Secretary at [secretary@dps.ny.gov](mailto:secretary@dps.ny.gov) or sent by mail to the following address:

Honorable Michelle Phillips  
Secretary to the Commission  
NYS Public Service Commission  
Agency Building 3  
Albany, New York 12223-1350