



Welcome to Sugar Maple Solar community meeting

Contact us!

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Owned and developed by



AES' social impact program in the North Country

Program mission

Our social impact program partners with communities to strengthen positive impact through socioeconomic and environmental partnerships that improve lives today and in the future.

Partnering with communities

AES people live and work in the communities we serve to fulfill our commitments in New York and around the world every day. We focus our efforts and support in key areas that deliver broad and meaningful impact to the community.



AES celebrating our partnership with the United Way of Northern NY



"Our railroad library has been growing since our opening in the early 1990's. But thanks to AES we will be able to display more and the living quarters have come to life once more."

Laurie Halladay
Manager of Railway
Historical Museum

Focus pillars

Our 4 focus pillars are our initial framework for providing donations to community organizations and developing partnerships to positively impact our host communities.

- Partnering for access to safe, efficient, and affordable energy and basic services.
- Partnering for Inclusive economic growth and education.
- Partnering for the environment
- Partnering for community resilience.

Current partnerships

- Lewis County Search and Rescue
- Croghan Volunteer Fire Department
- Railway Historical Society of Northern New York
- Beaver Falls Fire Department
- Town of Lowville Summer Rec Program
- United Way of Northern New York
- Jefferson Lewis Workforce Development Board
- Castorland Fire Department
- Croghan Library



Sugar Maple Solar overview

Nameplate capacity

125MW Solar with
20MW 4 hours Battery Storage



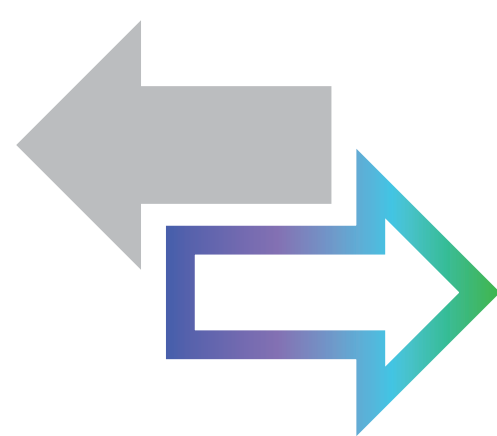
Location

Towns of Wilna, Jefferson County and
Croghan, Lewis County



Point of interconnection

Black River to Taylorville (NY)
and N. Carthage to Taylorville
115kV lines



Environmental benefits

Enough electricity to power
~30,468 homes annually



Project footprint

Approx. 1000 acres



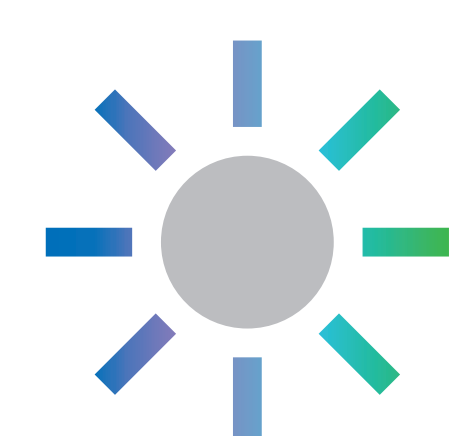
Economic benefits

Sugar Maple Solar can make a positive economic impact on local taxpayers by adding tax dollars to the local economy with relatively little increase in local services. Sugar Maple Solar will create hundreds of high-paying construction jobs and provide local operations jobs in New York State.

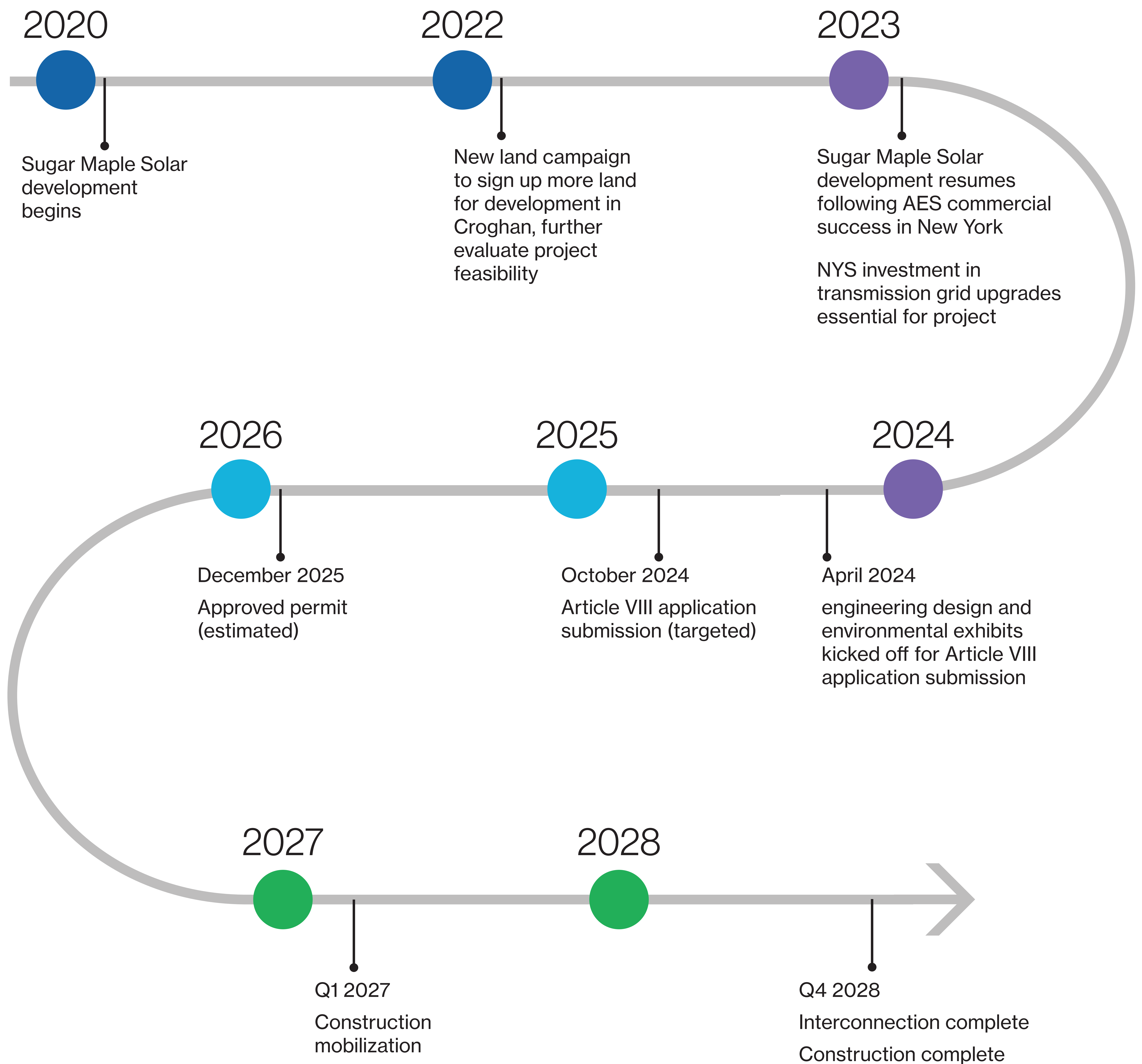


Expected commercial operation date (COD):

2028



Proposed project timeline



Project decommissioning

Facility decommissioning will be initiated when the facility reaches the end of its operational life. Sugar Maple Solar, LLC (the Applicant) will be responsible for the decommissioning of the Facility.

The cost of decommissioning will be estimated by a third party engineer and the estimated net cost amount, plus 15%, is placed as security which towns have access to in the event it is needed. Towns will be consulted on the cost estimate for decommissioning.

The Applicant will provide notice by mail to landowners and the Towns of Croghan and Wilna prior to commencing decommissioning work.

As part of the decommissioning process, the facility site will be restored to pre-construction conditions, including disassembly and removal of above ground structures, removal of subsurface structures to a minimum depth of 36 inches below grade in non-agricultural land and 48 inches below grade in agricultural land.

The Applicant shall consult with National Grid to complete the de-energization efforts and ensure there is no disruption to the electric grid.



Battery storage safety

A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a critical technology in decarbonizing the economy and provides resilience and reliability to the power grid.

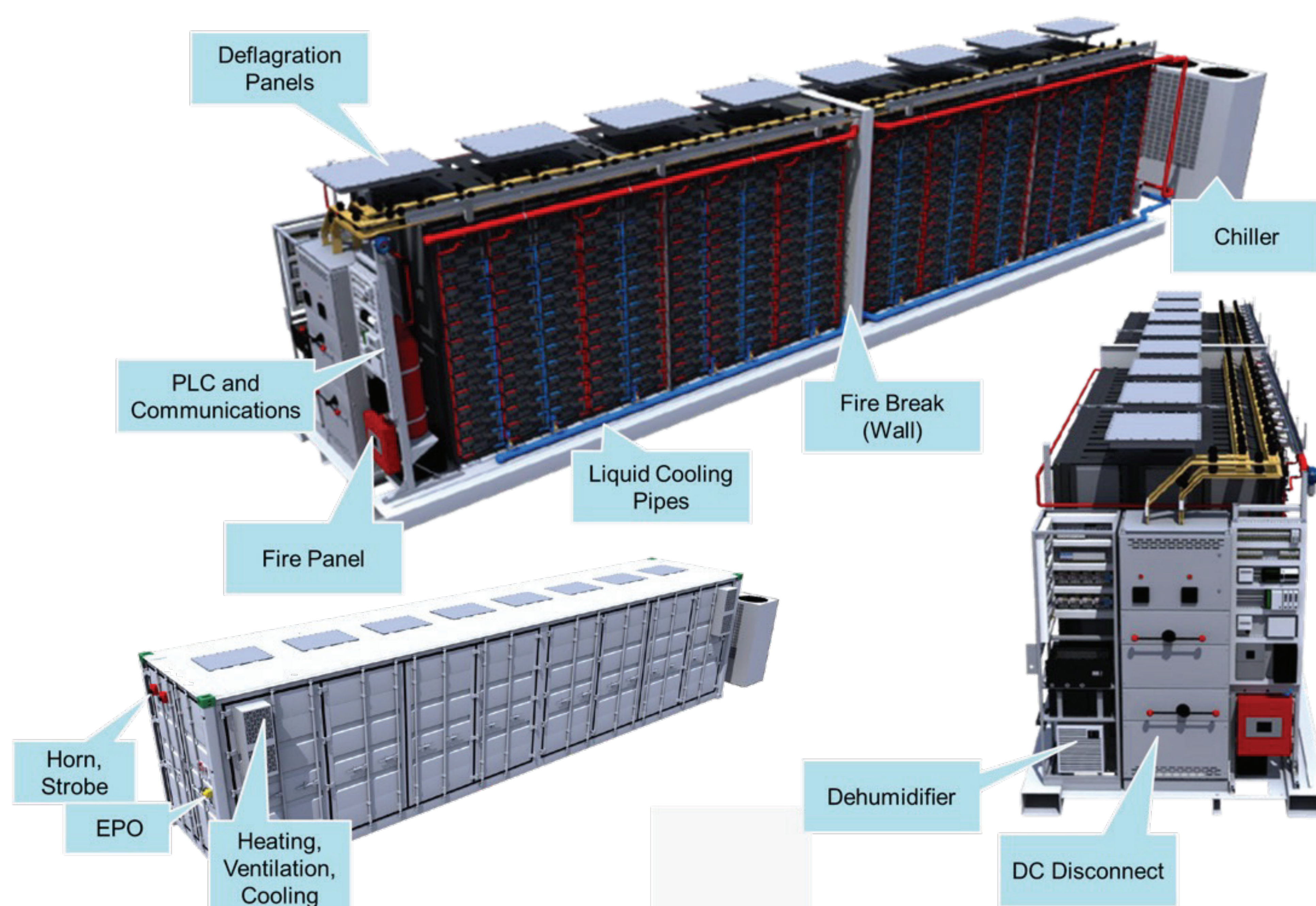
At AES, safety is our highest priority, and we are committed to supporting a safe and reliable clean energy transition by accelerating the deployment of thoughtfully and responsibly designed energy storage systems. All of our BESS systems are designed in compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standards.

The BESS **safety processes** that will be employed include:

- Hazard Mitigation Analysis (HMA), First Responder Training, Emergency Response Plan, and Site Safety Plan in accordance with the requirements of the NFPA and NY Fire Code, and in coordination with the local Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and Fire Departments.
- 24/7 Monitoring by Trained Personnel

The safety features that are **integrated in the BESS system design**:

- Battery Management Systems
- Emergency Shutdown
- Flammable Gas Detection
- Fire Detection and Alarm
- Direct Injection Fire Suppressant
- Exhaust Ventilation
- Deflagration Venting
- Fire Wall

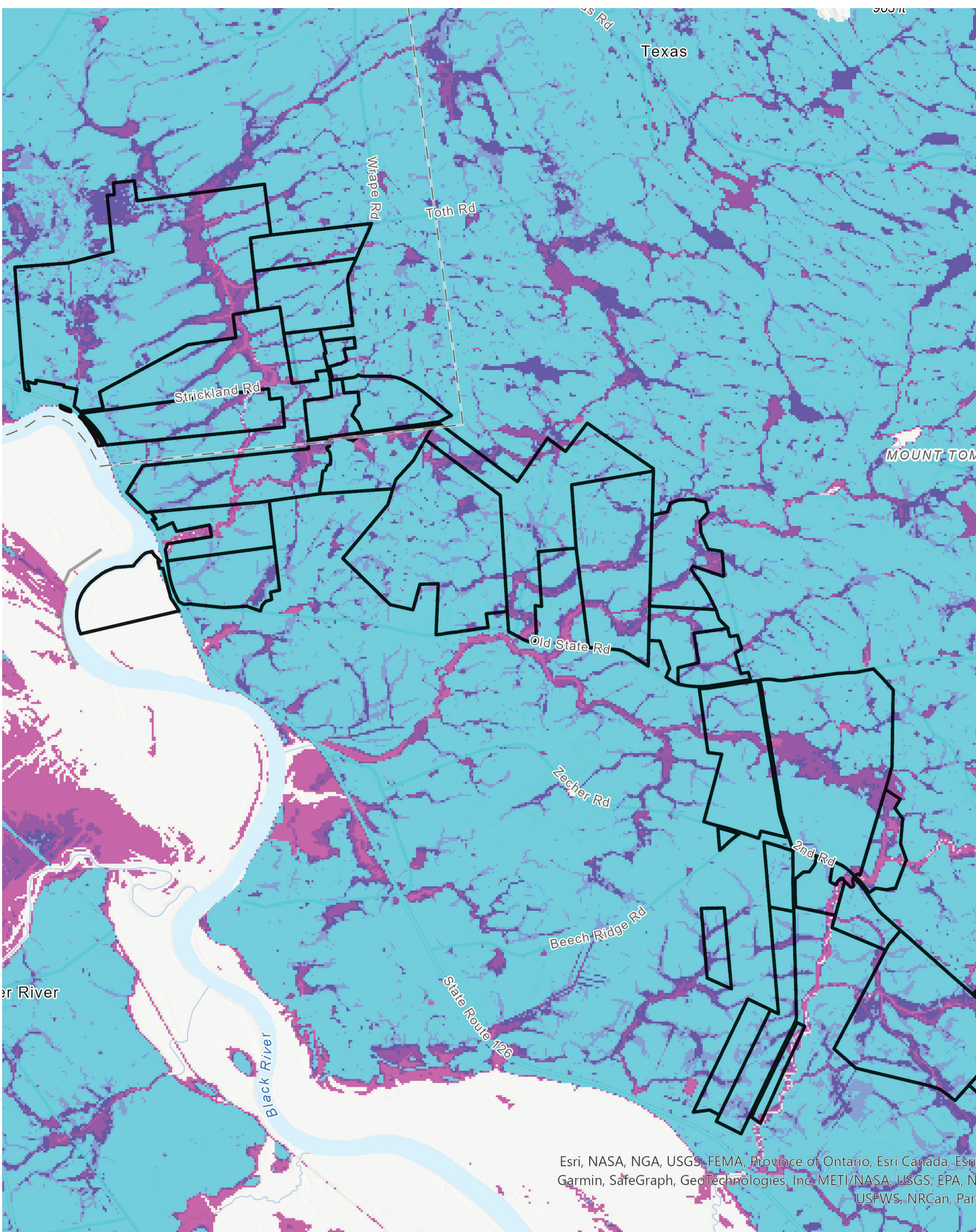


Engineering studies



Geotechnical investigation

Several rounds of geotechnical investigation have been completed since 2021 to gain a detailed understanding of soil and subsurface characteristics.



Civil engineering layout

Sugar Maple Solar has undergone multiple engineering layouts which have yielded different results to total project size.

Hydrology and hydrologic analysis

A thorough hydrologic analysis has been completed to understand how water moves through the area, including where floodplains exist and where they may develop in the future.

Article VIII

siting application exhibits

1. General requirements
2. Overview and public involvement
3. Location of facilities and surrounding land use
4. Real property
5. Design drawings
6. Public health, safety and security
7. Noise and vibration
8. Visual impacts
9. Cultural resources
10. Geology, seismology and soils
11. Terrestrial ecology
12. NYS threatened or endangered species
13. Water resources and aquatic ecology
14. Wetlands
15. Agricultural resources
16. Effect on transportation
17. Consistency with energy planning objectives
18. Socioeconomic effects
19. Environmental justice
20. Effect on communications
21. Electric system effects and interconnection
22. Electric and magnetic fields
23. Site restoration and decommissioning
24. Local laws and ordinances
25. Other permits and approvals

Environmental studies



Wetlands and streams

Biologists have conducted surveys on-site over several years to document the extents and characteristics of wetlands and streams. The Project will avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and streams to the maximum extent practicable.

AES is coordinating with ORES (Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission) regarding jurisdiction, permitting, and potential mitigation.



Listed species and habitat

Avian surveys were conducted on-site for grassland breeding birds and wintering raptors.

AES will continue to coordinate with ORES and NYSDEC regarding habitat occupied by listed species. The Project is being designed to avoid and minimize impacts; if unavoidable, mitigation in the form of a Net Conservation Benefit Plan will be required.



Cultural resources

AES has conducted thorough evaluations (both desktop and in the field) to evaluate the extents of culturally significant resources on-site and will implement avoidance measures as necessary.

AES is coordinating with the Oneida Nation and NYS Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Article VIII permitting highlights

Prior to submitting an Article VIII permit application, Applicants are required to consult with the local agencies and stakeholders of the community(ies) in which the proposed project will be located.

ORES requires that state agencies (e.g. NYSDEC) are consulted on wetland and stream delineations, threatened and endangered species, and archaeological and cultural resources, if appropriate.

From the date of its receipt of a permit application, ORES (Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission) has 60 days to make a completeness determination. After a completeness determination, draft permit conditions will be issued by ORES for public comment. Within the comment period, the host municipalities must submit a statement indicating whether the proposed renewable energy facility complies with applicable local laws. ORES must issue a final decision on the siting permit within one year of the date on which the application is deemed complete.

Prior to application submittal, applicants must hold at least one meeting for community members and one Agency consultation with impacted agencies.



Article VIII (formerly 94-c)

Effective April 20, 2024, the Renewable Action through Project Interconnection and Deployment (RAPID) Act repealed Executive Law § 94-c, repealed the current Public Service Law Article VIII, and enacted a new Public Service Law article VIII entitled “Siting of Renewable Energy and Electric Transmission” (Article VIII).

The RAPID Act also transferred the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) from the Department of State to the Department of Public Service, continuing all existing functions, powers, duties, and obligations of ORES under the former Executive Law § 94-c. In addition, ORES’ existing regulations remain in full force and effect.

Projects such as Sugar Maple, that would have previously proceeded under § 94-c will now proceed under Article VIII.

The RAPID Act further builds upon the existing State permitting regulations, consolidating the environmental review, permitting, and siting of both major renewable energy facilities and major electric transmission facilities under the purview of ORES.



Environmental studies



Visual resources

- The Application will include a viewshed analysis showing proposed visibility of the Project.
- Photosimulations, including existing and proposed conditions, will be developed for the Application and will include any proposed landscaping.
- The Applicant will work with the Towns to select viewpoints for the visual simulations to be submitted in the application.
- Methodology and results of the visual analysis will be included as part of a formal Visual Impact Assessment (VIA).

Noise analysis

- A Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) will be prepared to compare proposed sound conditions to existing conditions at the Facility Site and surrounding properties.
- Modeling will be based on existing sound levels from data collected at the Facility Site.

Local Agency Account Funding

Article VIII requires that Applicant submit a fee to be deposited in a local agency account in an amount equal to \$1,000 for each MW of capacity for a total of \$125,000.

Funds can be requested to complete the project record, and for local agencies this includes using the funds to determine if the proposed facility complies with local laws and requirements.

At least seventy-five (75) percent of the local agency account funds for each project are reserved for potential awards to local agencies (host municipalities).

Any local agency or potential community intervenor can submit a request for initial funding within thirty (30) days of the date of application filing and that such request may be made by mail to the:

Office of Renewable Energy Siting
Attention: Local Agency Account Funding Request, c/o OGS Mailroom
Empire State Plaza, 240 State Street
P-1 South, J Dock
Albany, NY 12242

or by email to hearings@ores.ny.gov
Subject line "Local Agency Account Funding Request."