

Hemlock Ridge Solar, LLC

Orleans County, New York

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION REQUEST

This notice announces that, on August 22, 2024, Hemlock Ridge Solar, LLC, (“the Applicant”) filed a Joint Application for Wetlands Permit under Nationwide Permit 51 which included a request for a Water Quality Certification (WQC), with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (collectively the “Joint Application”). The Joint Application will be filed with the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) on or about September 6. The Joint Application relates to electric utility lines and access roads associated with its proposed 200 megawatt (MW) solar powered electric generation project, to be located in the Towns of Barre and Shelby, Orleans County, known as the Hemlock Ridge Solar Project (“the Project”).

On September 22, 2022, the Applicant was issued a Siting Permit under Section 94-c of the New York Executive Law from ORES (Matter No. 21-00748). The Joint Application that is the subject of this notice covers the permits/approvals required to construct and/or operate the Project under the Clean Water Act 404 and for WQC from ORES under Clean Water Act 401 and 6 NYCRR Part 608. No public comment period is required for the Joint Application at this time.

The Joint Application includes, among other things: a description of the Project, including details on Project components, Project design, Project construction, and related information; an analysis of the environmental setting of the Project; results from analyses conducted to assess potential impacts to aquatic resources, streams and jurisdictional waters from construction and operation of the Project; proposed measures to minimize environmental impacts; and reasonable alternatives. The pending USACE application also addresses compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the Historic Preservation Act.

The Applicant is seeking coverage pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act under Nationwide Permit 51 for limited impacts to federally jurisdictional wetlands and streams. The Project will have the following environmental impacts relevant to the request for Water Quality Certification and USACE Application under review. Construction of the Facility is not anticipated to have any impact on state regulated streams, wetlands, or 100-foot wetland adjacent areas. Construction of the Project will result in approximately 10 linear feet (less than 0.01 acre) of temporary impacts to federally regulated streams associated with underground electric collection lines, and approximately 144 linear feet (less than 0.01 acre) of permanent impacts to federally regulated streams associated with access roads. Construction of the Project will result in approximately 0.16 acre of temporary impacts in federally regulated wetlands associated with PV panel areas, and 0.01 acre of temporary impacts to federally regulated wetlands associated with an underground collection line. Any necessary wetland mitigation related to potential Project impacts will be determined by the USACE.

Pursuant to the ORES regulations, this notice is being provided in accordance with 16 NYCRR § 1100-1.4(b)(1) and § 1.6(c) and will be published at least three (3) days prior to the filing of the Water Quality Certification request with ORES. A copy of the Water Quality Certification request will be served on the Chief Executive Officer of each municipality in which any portion of the Project is located, as well as those persons and agencies enumerated in 16 NYCRR § 1100-1.6(a).

This request, when filed with ORES, will be available on the project’s dedicated website ([Hemlock Ridge Solar | AES](#)) or on the ORES website at (<https://ores.ny.gov/permit-applications>) under Matter No. 21-00748. Documents may also be viewed at the following public repositories: Barre Town Hall, 14317 West Barre Road, Albion, NY 14411, Shelby Town Hall, 4062 Salt Works Road, Medina, NY 14103, Hoag Town Library, 134 South Main Street, Albion, NY 14411, and Lee-Whedon Memorial Library, 620 West Ave, Medina, NY 14103. Libraries often have free internet access.

Contact Information

To obtain information regarding the Project, please contact:

Hemlock Ridge Solar, LLC
c/o AES Clean Energy, LLC
292 Madison Avenue, 15th Floor
(866)-757-7697
New York, NY 10017

Jack Donelan
Development Manager
Jack.Donelan@aes.com

File a Request for Notices

Any interested member of the public may file a request with ORES to receive copies of all notices concerning the Project. Written requests should be sent to general@ores.ny.gov or sent by mail to the following address: Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES), c/o: OGS Mailroom, Empire State Plaza, 240 State Street, P-1 South, J Dock, Albany, NY 12242.