

Note:  
This summary was last updated on  
**June 14, 2024**  
For current information, follow this link:  
[PSC Docket Case #9731](#)

# Dry Ridge Road Solar 13615 Dry Ridge Road, Flintstone, MD (Allegany County)

[PSC Case #9731](#)

PPRP Case Manager: Shawn Seaman

Note:  
This summary is based on  
information provided in the CPCN  
Application filed with the PSC on  
**April 8, 2024**, which is subject to  
change and has not yet been fully  
reviewed by PPRP.

## CPCN Timeline

**CPCN Application filed on April 8, 2024**

**Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: August 8, 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing (Virtual): Week of August 19, 2024**

**Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: November 25, 2024**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing: Week of December 2, 2024**

**Settlement Status Update: December 9, 2024**

**PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): December 16, 2024**

## Project Location:

The Dry Ridge Road Solar Project (Project) will be located on a 141.84 acre parcel in Flintstone, Maryland (Figure 1). [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 31 acres.

## Project Overview:

Dry Ridge Road Solar 1, LLC (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 5.0 MW AC solar array in Allegany County.

Project components include:

- 12,516 photovoltaic (PV) modules ground-mounted on a fixed-tilt rack system;
- Interconnection equipment: connection via an extension of the 12.47 kV Feeder line to Potomac Edison's Flintstone Utility Substation;
- String inverters; and
- Three power centers, each containing a medium voltage transformer and a central inverter station (where the string inverters will be aggregated).

## Site Description

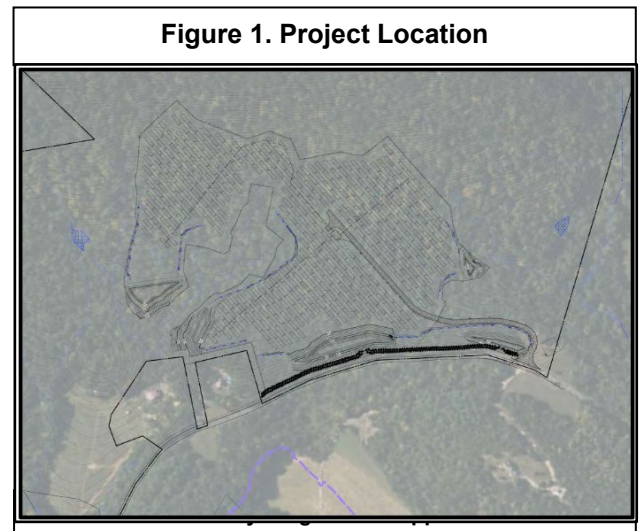
The parcel that comprises the Project site consists of mainly undeveloped, forested land and does not contain residential dwellings or outbuildings. Approximately 2.2 percent of the property is considered prime farmland, but the Limits of Construction (LOC) for the Project do not contain any prime farmland. The Property is primarily surrounded by forest cover and some undeveloped meadowland. There are some residences nearby, but most are beyond view due to topography and/or natural vegetation. The proposed solar array is located within the Agricultural District of the Allegany County zoning ordinance and is permitted as a primary use by special exception when in compliance with applicable zoning requirements.

The Project is a Community Solar Energy Generating System and will deliver all of its output to subscribers via the Potomac Edison electric distribution grid. At the time of its CPCN Application submittal, the Applicant has received its PSC subscriber organization identification number and conditional approval from Potomac Edison.

## Impact Assessment Highlights

### *Biological*

- According to the Applicant's ERD, they plan to clear approximately 30.5 acres of trees and additional trees may be cleared to reduce the effects of shading on the PV modules.
- The Applicant coordinated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) which has determined there will be "no effect" to the Northern Long-eared Bat and the Indiana Bat, and that there are no critical habitats within the Project area.



- The Applicant coordinated with Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife & Heritage Service (DNR WHS) who determined that the project is located within the drainage to a portion of Town Creek which is known to support occurrences of the Yellow Lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*) and the Creeper (*Strophitus undulatus*), two species of freshwater mussels. DNR WHS provided protection guidelines that could be incorporated, as applicable, into any plans for the project site.
- The Applicant intends to apply for the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Designation.
- The Project does not contain a Tier II water body but is located within a Tier II catchment area.
- The Applicant states that the site is entirely located within a DNR Focal Area.
- The ERD states that the Project impervious areas will be limited to the gravel access driveway and equipment pad for mechanical and electrical equipment.
- The Applicant states that the property contains one named stream, Amorine Branch, and several unnamed intermittent, intermittent/ephemeral, and ephemeral streams which are unnamed tributaries to Amorine Branch and Town Creek. These streams are located outside of the Project area and streams are buffered from Project development by a minimum of 50 feet.
- The Applicant states that 3 wetland areas and 17 streams were identified near the vicinity of the Project. These features will be avoided, and delineated wetlands were buffered a minimum 25 feet from the Project.

#### *Noise Impacts*

- The Applicant's ERD states that the highest potential for noise impacts during construction conditions may occur while equipment, specifically pile-driving, is in operation near to an adjacent landowner's property lines for solar array racking installations.
- The Applicant's ERD states that the proposed DC to AC inverters have the most potential for noise production during solar facility operation. The Applicant's ERD states that the closest participating and non-participating residential reception areas to the equipment pad, which contains the inverters, is approximately 850 feet and 1,100 feet away.

#### *Visual Impacts*

- The Applicant proposes to enclose the Project with a 7-foot-tall security fence.
- The Applicant states additional screening buffers, as required, will be implemented around portions of the solar array, ingress and egress areas, and all adjacent roadways and residential properties that do not have natural tree lines or vegetation screening from the subject parcel.
- The Applicant states that the Project is not located near any major airports. The Applicant utilized the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) 2013 Policy Adherence component (FAA Notice Criteria Tool) and the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) Project Locator to determine that the Project location does not exceed notice criteria, is not within an Airport Zoning District, and no further action is required.

#### *Cultural Resource Impacts*

- The Applicant has corresponded with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) which has determined that the Project will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

#### *Public Safety and Transportation*

- The Applicant states that to the extent possible, construction traffic will minimize land disturbance within the LOC, and existing roadway disturbance and damage will be avoided.
- The Applicant's ERD states during construction, large materials and equipment will be transported to staging areas by tractor-trailers and offloaded by construction vehicles. During operation, traffic will mostly be limited to crews for seasonal mowing and vegetation maintenance as well as maintenance for any operational issues.

#### *Economic and Fiscal*

- The Applicant anticipates that approximately 30-50 temporary construction jobs will be created and approximately 2-6 long-term general site maintenance jobs will be created.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project includes a capital cost of approximately up to \$15 million.

#### *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided*

- The Applicant indicates that the Project will displace approximately 6,803 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.