

Note:  
This summary was last updated on  
**July 11, 2024**  
For current information, follow this link:  
[PSC Docket Case #9736](#)

**Spring Valley Solar**  
**1500 Fannie Dorsey Road,**  
**Sykesville, MD 21784 (Carroll County)**  
[PSC Case #9736](#)  
PPRP Case Manager: Ginny Rogers

Note:  
This summary is based on  
information provided in the CPCN  
Application filed with the PSC on  
**April 23, 2024**, which is subject to  
change and has not yet been fully  
reviewed by PPRP.

**CPCN Timeline**

**CPCN Application filed on April 23, 2024**  
**Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: September 5, 2024**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing (Virtual): September 25, 2024**  
**Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: December 11, 2024**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing: Week of January 6, 2025**  
**Settlement Status Update: January 9, 2025**  
**PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): January 16, 2025**

**Figure 1. Project Location**



Source: Spring Valley Solar CPCN Application

**Project Location:**

The Spring Valley Solar Project (Project) will be located on a portion of a larger property totaling 79.99 acres in Sykesville, Maryland (Figure 1). [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 17.2 acres.

**Project Overview:**

Spring Valley Solar 1, LLC (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 2.25 MW AC solar array in Carroll County.

Project components include:

- Approximately 5,256 polycrystalline photovoltaic (PV) solar modules on a single-axis tracker system;
- Interconnection equipment: connection to existing 3-phase 13.2 kV feeder line which connects to BGE's existing White Rock Substation.
- 18 string inverters; and
- Two concrete equipment pads, one for the transformer and one for switchgear.

**Site Description**

The parcel that comprises the Project site mainly consists of agricultural land and has been primarily farmed in a corn and soybean rotation. Approximately 52 percent of the parcel is considered prime farmland. The Applicant states that the project minimizes the occupation of prime farmland soil areas to the maximum extent practicable, and anticipates using approximately 22 percent of the prime farmland soil areas on the parcel for the Project. Surrounding land uses include commercial and residential structures, forest, wetlands, and additional agricultural lands. The Project parcel is located within the Agricultural Zoning District. The proposed solar facility is not permitted in the Agricultural Zoning District as of a 2023 revision to the Carroll County zoning ordinance.

The Project is a Community Solar Energy Generating System and will deliver all its output to Maryland residents via the Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) electric distribution grid. The Applicant applied to the PSC for authorization to participate in Maryland's Community Solar Program and was assigned Subscriber Organization Identification Number 22A2425250005630. The project has received conditional interconnection approval from BGE.

**Impact Assessment Highlights**

*Biological*

- The Applicant's ERD indicates that there is approximately one acre of wetland bisecting the property and three streams. The Applicant states that they do not propose any trenching or excavation within the wetland areas, and that the Project was purposefully designed to avoid the wetland and stream buffers.

- The Applicant consulted with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and DNR determined that this Project site has no official records for State or Federal listed, candidate, proposed, or rare plant or animal species within the project area.
- The Applicant's August 28, 2023, letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) verifies that construction is not likely to result in unauthorized take of the northern long-eared bat and there are no critical habitats within the Project area.
- The Applicant states that the Project will obtain the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Facility Designation.
- The ERD states that the Project will add approximately 0.37 acres of impervious areas.
- The Applicant's ERD states the Project is located within a Tier II watershed. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) reviewed the project and determined that no additional Tier II antidegradation review was necessary.
- The Applicant's ERD states no trees will be removed for the construction of the solar array, but minor tree clearing may be required for the access road and parallel overhead cable. Any reforestation requirements will be met on-site and will comply with the Forest Conservation Act.

#### *Noise Impacts*

- The Applicant's ERD states that the nearest off-site residence, located 590 feet from the Project, is anticipated to receive a maximum of 63 decibels (dB) of noise during construction, which is below the maximum allowable of 90 db. During operation, the expected total sound level at the nearest property boundary (40 feet) will be 64.6 dB, and the expected total sound level at the nearest off-site residence is anticipated to be 41.2 dB.

#### *Visual Impacts*

- The Applicant proposes to enclose the Project with a game fence.
- The Applicant intends to use existing wooded areas as a vegetative buffer on the east and west sides of the project, on the north side, a single line of evergreen trees will be planted as a vegetative buffer.
- The Applicant consulted the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA), which confirmed that this project would not be a hazard to air navigation or an obstruction.

#### *Cultural Resource Impacts*

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

#### *Public Safety and Transportation*

- The Applicant states that the entrance to the Project site will be accessible through an existing driveway entrance off Fannie Dorsey Road.
- The Applicant's ERD states during construction, tractor-trailers will transport and construction vehicles will unload large materials and equipment. However, the Applicant anticipates that most daily construction traffic will consist of cars, pickup trucks, and other vehicles used by personnel. During operation, traffic will mostly be limited to maintenance crews for seasonal mowing and vegetation maintenance, as well as maintenance for any operational issues.
- The Applicant plans to coordinate compliance with health and safety requirements with the State Fire Marshal.

#### *Economic and Fiscal*

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will create 15 construction jobs (direct Jobs) and 30 indirect jobs during construction. Following construction, the Project will generate one direct job and four indirect jobs.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project represents a capital investment of approximately \$2.5 million.

#### *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided*

- The Applicant indicates that the Project would reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in Maryland by approximately 3,462 tons per year.