

Note:  
This summary was last updated on  
**October 3, 2024**  
For current information, follow this  
link: [PSC Docket Case #97147](#)

# Cape Horn Solar

## Intersection of Cape Horn Rd and Hampstead Mexico Rd Hampstead, Maryland 21074 (Carroll County)

**PSC Case #9747**

PPRP Case Manager: Ginny Rogers

Note:  
This summary is based on  
information provided in the CPCN.  
Applicant filed the CPCN with the  
PSC on **July 9, 2024**, which is  
subject to change and have not yet  
been fully reviewed by PPRP.

### CPCN Timeline

- CPCN Application filed on July 9, 2024
- Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: November 5, 2024
- 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing: November 12, 2024
- Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: February 25, 2025
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing: Week of March 3, 2025
- Settlement Status Update: March 10, 2025
- PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): March 18, 2025

### Project Location:

The Cape Horn Solar Project (Project) will be located on a 35.44-acre parcel in Hampstead, Maryland (Figure 1) in Carroll County. [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 16.25 acres.

### Project Overview:

Elk Development LLC (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 2.125 MW AC solar array in Carroll County.

Project components include:

- Approximately 4,700 TALESUN BIPRO TD7G72M-545 panels on a pile-driven single-axis tracking rack system.
- 17 string inverters;
- Three power centers, each containing a medium voltage transformer and central inverter.

### Site Description

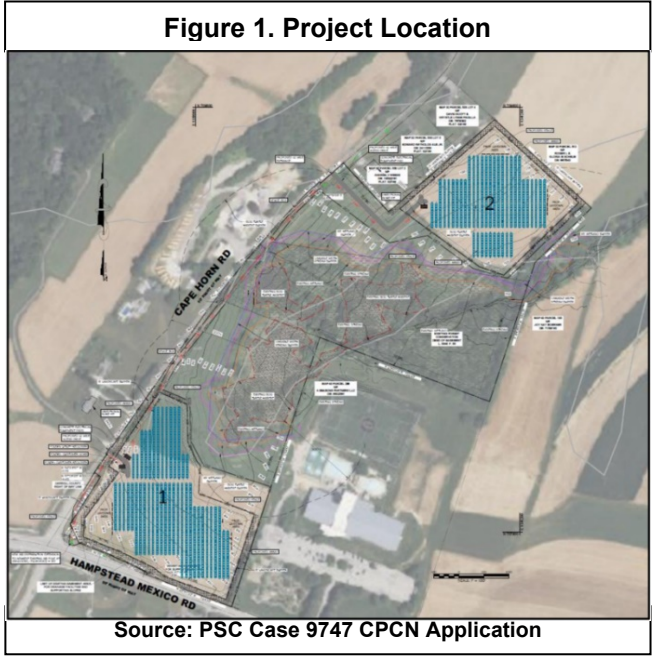
The Project LOD includes two (2) separate array areas with a Limit of Construction ("LOC") of approximately 11.70 acres. The Project site mainly consists of undeveloped agricultural land within the Agricultural Zoning District. The Applicant's Environmental Review Document (ERD) notes that Carroll County currently does not permit community solar projects on agriculturally zoned land. Land uses adjacent to the site are residential, forest, agriculture fields, and commercial uses. The commercial uses include a mulch business and school bus facility on Cape Horn Road, and an athletic complex on Hampstead Mexico Road. The Project will interconnect at 2700 Cape Horn Rd, by extending feeder 33921 originating from Westminster Master Substation. Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) is expected to extend the feeder to the site.

The Project is a Community Solar Energy Generating System (CSEGS) and will deliver all of its output to subscribers via the Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) electric distribution grid. At the time of its CPCN Application submittal the Applicant was approved as a subscriber organization by the PSC and BGE conditionally approved the Applicant's interconnection application.

### Impact Assessment Highlights

#### Biological

- A stream and associated wetlands bisect the two arrays.
- Non-rooftop disconnection credits and level spreaders will be used to satisfy MDE stormwater management requirements.
- MDE confirmed that no authorization is required from the Nontidal Wetland Division and Waterway Construction Division in a letter dated January 12, 2024.



- The Project is located in a Tier II Catchment Area with no remaining assimilative capacity; MDE confirmed in a letter dated May 3, 2024, that no additional Antidegradation Review is required
- DNR determined the Project is within an area known to support a state and federally-listed threatened species, and requested a Phase I survey should be conducted.
- The Applicant states that less than two percent (2%) of the Project will be impervious surface.
- No tree clearing is proposed for the project, with the potential exception of a few disconnected trees on the border of the LOD.
- The Project will impact approximately eleven acres of prime farmland.

#### *Noise Impacts*

- The Applicant's ERD states that the Project is designed to have over 220 feet of distance from the closest residence.

#### *Visual Impacts*

- The Project will be enclosed by an 8-foot security fence.
- The Applicant has proposed a 35-foot-wide landscape buffer to provide vegetative screening for areas surrounding the arrays that are not currently provided natural screening by existing trees.

#### *Cultural Resource Impacts*

- The Applicant has corresponded with the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT), which has determined that the Project would have no adverse effect on historic properties and that there are no historic properties within the Project's area of potential effect.

#### *Public Safety and Transportation*

- The Applicant states that no public or private airports are located within 3 miles of the Project. The Applicant utilized the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)'s Notice Criteria Tool and the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA)'s Airport Zoning Permit Web Map to determine that both FAA notification and MAA notification were not required for the Project.
- The Project will include a perimeter road for emergency vehicle access or other access lanes as approved by the State Fire Marshall. Access will be provided from an existing entrance along Hampstead Mexico Road and a new entrance along Cape Horn Road. While the Project will be secured with a chain-link fence, entry will be provided for emergency vehicle access. An access permit from SHA will be acquired for the new entrance on Cape Horn Road during the site plan process.
- During construction, large materials and equipment will be transported to staging areas on tractor-trailers and offloaded by construction vehicles. During operation, traffic will mostly be limited to maintenance crews for seasonal mowing and vegetation maintenance as well as maintenance for any operational issues.

#### *Economic and Fiscal*

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will create 50 design, management, and construction jobs during the construction period.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project represents a capital investment of approximately \$6.74 million.

#### *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided*

- The Applicant indicates that the Project will displace 2,710 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions over the course of its useful life.
- AVERT estimated that the addition of a 2.125 MW community solar PV project in Maryland would result in a reduction of approximately 140 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Maryland per year. A reduction of approximately 80.50 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the PJM area per year.