

Note:  
This summary was last updated on  
**December 10, 2024**  
For current information, follow this link:  
[PSC Docket Case #9752](#)

**Beartooth Solar**  
**1410 Old Westminster Road**  
**Westminster, MD 21157(Carroll County)**  
[PSC Case #9752](#)  
PPRP Case Manager: Christopher Aadland

Note:  
This summary is based on  
information provided in the CPCN  
Application filed with the PSC on  
**September 5, 2024**, which is subject  
to change and has not yet been fully  
reviewed by PPRP.

**CPCN Timeline**

**CPCN Application filed on September 5, 2024**  
**Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: January 3, 2025**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing (Virtual): January 14, 2025**  
**Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: April 29, 2025**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing: April 30 or May 1, 2025**  
**Settlement Status Update: May 6, 2025**  
**PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): May 13, 2025**

**Project Location:**

Project Beartooth (Project) will be located on a portion of a larger property totaling approximately 22 acres in Westminster, Maryland (Figure 1). [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 13.4 acres.

**Project Overview:**

Chaberton Solar Beartooth LLC (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 2.67 MW AC solar array in Carroll County.

Project components include:

- Approximately 6,248 polycrystalline photovoltaic (PV) solar modules ground mounted on a fixed tilt system;
- Interconnection equipment: connection to existing 3-phase 13.2 kV feeder line which connects to BGE's existing Westminster Substation;
- 22 string inverters; and
- Equipment pads.

**Site Description**

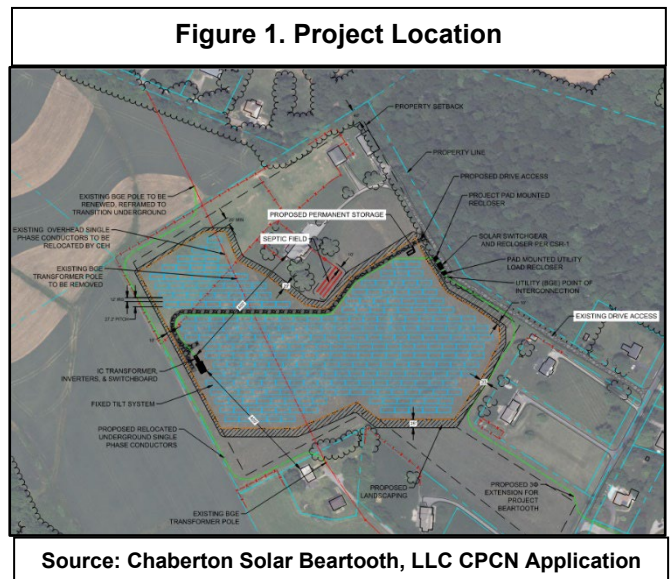
The parcel that comprises the Project site mainly consists of agricultural land and is the owner's primary residence. The entirety of the LOD is considered prime farmland. Surrounding land uses include residential structures, forest, wetlands, additional agricultural lands, and a quarry. The Project 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 22A2403360005251. The project has received conditional interconnection approval from BGE.

**Impact Assessment Highlights**

*Biological*

- The Applicant's ERD indicates that jurisdictional wetland or streams features were not observed within the study area. A December 20, 2023 letter from MDE states that "no authorization is required from the Department's Nontidal Wetlands Division and Waterway Construction Division."



- 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) resource list identifies the endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and candidate monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The Applicant’s September 26, 2023, letter from the USFWS states that construction is “not likely to result in unauthorized take of the northern long-eared bat.”
- The Applicant states that the Project will apply for the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Facility Designation.
- The ERD states that 1.2% of the Project area will consist of impervious areas.
- The Applicant’s ERD states the Project is located within a Tier II catchment The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) reviewed the project and determined that “there is no additional Tier II review required at this time.”
- The Applicant included a Forest Stand Delineation (FSD) which indicates that there is a medium to mature stand along the northeastern boundary and that impacts to this forest are not anticipated.

#### *Noise Impacts*

- The Applicant’s ERD states that the nearest off-site residence, located 130 feet from the closest solar array and 400 feet from noise-making equipment, is anticipated to receive less than 90 decibels (dB) of noise during construction and 30 dB of noise during operation.

#### *Visual Impacts*

- The Applicant proposes to enclose the Project with a fence.
- The Applicant intends to plant a vegetative buffer along the entire perimeter of the project area. This buffer consists of evergreen trees, deciduous trees and shrubs.
- The Applicant consulted the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which confirmed that this project would not exceed notice criteria.

#### *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 the entrance to the Project site will be from Old Westminster Road.
- The Applicant’s ERD indicates that large materials and equipment will be transported by tractor-trailers and unloaded by construction vehicles during the construction phase. 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 with the State Fire Marshal for access by fire tracks and other emergency vehicles.

#### *Economic and Fiscal*

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will require approximately 44 direct and indirect jobs during construction. Following construction, the Project will generate one direct job and indirect job.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project will provide \$7.5 Million dollars in financial benefits over the course of its lifetime.

#### *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided*

- The Applicant indicates that the Project would reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in Maryland by approximately 3,410 tons per year.