

Note:  
This summary was last updated on  
**January 8, 2025**  
For current information, follow this  
link: [PSC Case #9753](#)

**Deal Island Solar Project**  
**29715-29899 Deal Island Road**  
**Princess Anne, Maryland 21853 (Somerset County)**  
**PSC Case #9753**  
**PPRP Case Manager: Mark Mank**

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

**CPCN Timeline**

**CPCN Application filed on September 9, 2024**  
**Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: February 7, 2025**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing: February 18, 2025**  
**Intervenor's Direct Testimony Due: May 9, 2025**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing: May 15, 2025**  
**Settlement Status Update: June 2, 2025**  
**PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): June 25, 2025**

**Project Location:**

The Deal Island Solar Project (Project) will be located on a portion of a larger property totaling 60 acres in Princess Anne, Maryland (Figure 1). [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 11 acres.

**Project Overview:**

Econox Renewables, Inc. (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 2.04 MW AC solar array in Somerset County.

Project components include:

- 4,992 polycrystalline photovoltaic (PV) solar modules ground-mounted on a pile-driven single-axis tracking rack system;
- Interconnection equipment: attachment facilities as necessary to connect to existing 25.0 kV direct feeder line to the DPL Kings Creek Substation;
- 34 string inverters; and
- One power center containing a medium voltage transformer and central inverter.

**Site Description**

The parcel that comprises the Project mainly consists of existing forest, which will be cleared. Surrounding land uses include residential structures, forest, and agricultural lands. The Applicant's Environmental Review Document (ERD) states that the proposed Project is located within the Medium Density Residential Zoning District and notes that Somerset County currently does not permit solar projects within this zoning district.

The Project is a Community Solar Energy Generating System (CSEGS) and will deliver all of its output to subscribers via the Delmarva Power & Light Company (DPL) electric distribution grid. At the time of its CPCN Application submittal, the Applicant was approved as a subscriber organization by the PSC and had formally submitted its interconnection application to DPL.

**Impact Assessment Highlights**

*Biological*

- Several drainage features, and a linear wetland, drain to the nearby Manokin River.
- The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) confirmed that no authorization is required from the MDE Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Division in a letter dated February 9, 2024.
- The Project is not located in a Tier II watershed.

**Figure 1. Project Location**



Source: Econox Deal Island Solar CPCN Application

- The Applicant's October 21, 2023, letter from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Heritage Service (WHS) determined that they have no official records for State or Federal listed, candidate, proposed, or rare plant or animal species within the Project area.
- The Applicant's August 1, 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." Habitat for the candidate Monarch Butterfly is also present.
- The Applicant states that about 0.24 acres of the Project will be impervious surface.
- 11 acres of tree clearing is proposed for the project. The Applicant states that per the Somerset County Forest Conservation Worksheet, the Project does not require afforestation or reforestation and therefore satisfies the Somerset County Forest Conservation Ordinance requirements.

#### *Noise Impacts*

- The Applicant's ERD states that the nearest off-site residence is greater than 500 feet from the Project. The maximum allowable construction noise level of 90 dB is expected to be achieved at a distance of 50 feet from the activity (pile-driving) with the most potential to generate noise.

#### *Visual Impacts*

- The Project will be enclosed by a 7-foot-tall security fence.
- The Applicant intends to use existing wooded areas as a vegetative buffer on all sides of the project. If necessary, additional evergreen plants will be installed to supplement the existing wooded areas serving as a 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 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 access to the Project site will be via an existing entrance along Deal Island Road. The Project will also include a perimeter road for emergency vehicle access, or other access lanes as approved by the State Fire Marshal.
- 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.
- 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 30 design, management, and construction jobs during the construction period. Following construction, the project will generate one direct job.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project represents a capital investment of approximately \$7 million.

#### *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided*

- The Applicant indicates that the Project would reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in Maryland by approximately 3,047 tons per year.