

Note:
This summary was last updated on
March 19, 2025
For current information, follow this
link: [PSC Docket Case #9763](#)

Brown Road Solar

Intersection of Brown Road and Francis Scott Key Highway Taneytown, Maryland 21074 (Carroll County)

[PSC Case #9763](#)

Note:
This summary is based on
information provided in the CPCN.
Applicant filed the CPCN with the
PSC on **November 6, 2024**, which
is subject to change and have not
yet been fully reviewed by PPRP.

CPCN Timeline
CPCN Application filed on November 6, 2024
Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: March 7, 2025
1st Public Hearing: March 19, 2025
PPRP's Filed Direct Testimony: June 20, 2025
2nd Public Hearing: Week of June 23rd, 2025
PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): July 16, 2025

Project Location:

The Brown Road Solar Project (Project) will be located on a portion of a 41.6-acre parcel north of Taneytown, Maryland (Figure 1) in Carroll County. [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 19.77 acres.

Project Overview:

Elk Development LLC (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 2.5 MW AC solar array in Carroll County.

Project components include:

- Approximately 5,940 TALESUN BIPRO TD7G72M-545 panels on a pile-driven single-axis tracking rack system;
- Interconnection equipment: to Potomac Edison's Taneytown No. 1 substation with 3V0 protection;
- 20 string inverters; and
- Two inverter pads, each containing a liquid ac transformer and inverter.

Site Description

The Project LOD includes two (2) separate array areas with a Limit of Construction ("LOC") of approximately 14.76 acres. The Project site mainly consists of agricultural land and forests within the Agricultural Zoning District. The entirety of the LOD is considered prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance. Surrounding land uses include residential structures, forest, wetlands, and additional agricultural lands. The Project parcel is located 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 as of a 2023 revision to the Carroll County zoning ordinance.

The Project is a Community Solar Energy Generating System (CSEGS) and will deliver all of its output to subscribers via the Potomac Edison/First Energy 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 23A3055950006510. The Project has received conditional interconnection approval from Potomac Edison/FirstEnergy.

Impact Assessment Highlights

Biological

- The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) determined that "no authorization is required from the Nontidal Wetland Division and Waterway Construction Division," in a June 28, 2024 letter.
- Intermittent and perennial streams bisect the two arrays, with two wetlands located in the southern portion of the property. A portion of the parcel is also located within the 100 -year floodplain.
- The Applicant's December 7, 2023 letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) verifies that the Project "is not likely to adversely affect" the endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Habitat for the endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalists*), and the candidate monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is within the project site.



- The Applicant's July 23, 2021 letter from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (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 delineated area shown on the map provided."
- The Applicant states that the Project will not obtain the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Facility Designation but will incorporate pollinator-friendly seed mixes.
- The Applicant states that approximately 2.3% of the Project will be impervious surface.
- The Applicant's ERD states the Project is not located within a Tier II catchment.
- The Carroll County Monocacy River Board stated that the Project "will have no effect on the scenic impact to the river," in a September 19, 2024 letter.
- The Applicant states that no tree clearing is proposed for the Project, with the potential exception of a few disconnected trees on the fringe/border of the LOD.
- A Forest Conservation easement is located between Array 1 and Array 2.

Noise Impacts

- The Applicant's ERD states that the nearest residence is located 155 feet from the onsite electrical equipment.

Visual Impacts

- The Project will be enclosed by an 8-foot security fence.
- The Applicant has proposed a 15-foot-wide landscape buffer to provide vegetative screening for areas surrounding the arrays that are not currently provided natural screening by existing trees.
- The Applicant consulted the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which confirmed that this project has No Hazard to Air Navigation.
- The Applicant consulted the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) which confirmed that the Project is not an obstruction or hazard to air navigation.

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.

Public Safety and Transportation

- The Applicant states that the entrance to the Project site will be from Francis Scott Key Highway/194 for section 1 and from Brown Road for section 2.
- 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 with the State Fire Marshal to ensure that health and safety requirements are met.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will create 40 design, management, and construction jobs during the construction period. Following construction, the Project will generate four direct jobs and one indirect job.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project represents a capital investment of approximately \$6.9 million.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided

- The Applicant indicates that the Project will displace 3,400 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions over the course of its useful life.