

Note:
This summary was last updated on
February 11, 2025
For current information, follow this link:
[PSC Docket Case #9764](#)

Ruthsburg Road Solar Project
Ruthsburg Road,
Centreville, MD 21617
(Queen Ann’s County)
[PSC Case #9764](#)

PPRP Case Manager: Barbara Brocks

Note:
This summary is based on
information provided in the CPCN
Application filed with the PSC on
November 21, 2024 and the
supplemental filing on December
19, 2024, all of which are subject to
change and has not yet been fully
reviewed by PPRP.

CPCN Timeline

- CPCN Application filed on November 21, 2024**
- Applicant’s Filed Direct Testimony Due: March 21, 2025**
- 1st Public Hearing (Virtual): March 25, 2025**
- Intervenors’ Direct Testimony Due: July 15, 2025**
- 2nd Public Hearing: July 16, 2025**
- Settlement Status Update: July 29, 2025**
- PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): July 31, 2025**

Project Location:

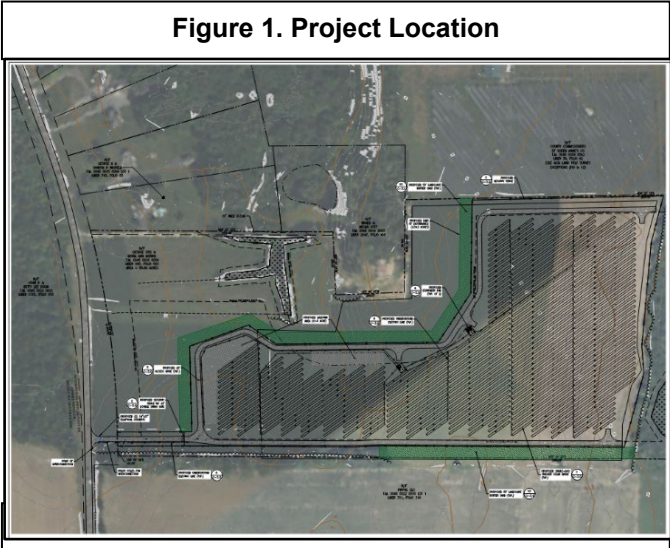
Ruthsburg Road Solar (Project) will be located on a portion of a larger property totaling approximately 88.89 acres in Centreville, Maryland (Figure 1). [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 31 acres.

Project Overview:

Ruthsburg Rd Solar 1, LLC (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 5.0 MW AC solar array in Queen Anne’s County.

Project components include:

- Approximately 12,123 photovoltaic (PV) solar modules ground-mounted on single-axis tracking rack systems.
- Interconnection equipment: connection to an existing 24.7kV line (MD2292) located along Ruthsburg Road;
- 20 string inverters; and
- 3 power centers, each containing a central inverter station and a medium voltage transformer, mounted on a concrete pad.



Site Description

The parcel that comprises the Project site mainly consists of existing farmland and woodlands. 96.5% of the LOD is considered prime farmland. Surrounding land uses include residential structures, forest, wetlands, additional agricultural lands, solar, and industrial. Adjacent to the site is the Queen Anne’s County Department of Emergency Service, which also has a solar facility. The Project parcel is located within the Agricultural Zoning District and is located within the utility scale solar array (USSA) Overlay District per Queen Anne’s County Code. The proposed solar facility may be permitted under a Conditional Use Permit in the Agricultural Zoning District as it is located within the USSA Overlay District.

The Project is a Community Solar Energy Generating System and will deliver all its output to Maryland residents via the Delmarva Power and Light Company (DPL) 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 23A3042430006307. The project has received conditional interconnection approval from DPL.

Impact Assessment Highlights

Biological

- The Applicant's Aquatic Resource Investigation states that the property contains four (4) intermittent streams which are unnamed tributaries to Three Bridges Branch. The Applicant's ERD states the 4 intermittent streams are not located in the LOD for the Project
- The Applicant's ERD indicates that four (4) non-tidal wetland areas were found on the larger property. An August 14, 2024, letter from MDE concurs that there are no nontidal wetlands or associated buffer that would be required by the project plans provided today.
- The Applicant's December 28, 2023, letter from the Wildlife and Heritage Service determined that this Project site "falls within the headwaters of Three Bridges Branch which is known to be one of the few remaining stream systems in Maryland to support a population of the state and federally listed endangered Dwarf Wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*)."
- The Applicant states that the Project will apply for the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Facility Designation.
- 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, in a July 19, 2024, letter that the "project does not require additional Tier II Antidegradation Review."
- No tree clearing is proposed for the Project.
- The Applicant states that about 2.55 acres of the Project will be impervious surface.

Noise Impacts

- The Applicant's ERD states that the nearest off-site residence is located more 500 feet away from the equipment pads and 350 feet away from the inverters, which are anticipated to receive less than 90 decibels (dB) of noise during construction and 65 dB of noise during operation.

Visual Impacts

- The Applicant proposes to enclose the Project with an 8-foot tall fence.
- The Applicant intends to plant a 50-foot wide vegetative buffer along the 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.
- The Applicant consulted the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) who determine that the Project location is not within an Airport Zoning District and no further action is required.

Cultural Resource Impacts

- The Applicant has corresponded with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), which has determined that there are no historic properties in the area of potential effect and thus 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 from Ruthsburg 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 include an access road for emergency vehicle access or other access lanes as approved by the State and/or County Fire Marshal.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will require approximately 59 direct and indirect jobs during construction. Following construction, the Project will generate 2.5 direct and 1 indirect job over the first five years following the completion of construction.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project represents a capital investment of approximately \$15 million.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided

- The Applicant indicates that the Project would reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in Maryland by approximately 6,803 tons per year.