Note:
This summary was last updated on
February 17, 2025
For current information, follow this link:
PSC Docket Case #9765

Port Deposit Solar
308 Theodore Road
Port Deposit, MD 21904 (Cecil County)

PSC Case #9765

PPRP Case Manager: Zack Barthel

Note:
This summary is based on information provided in the CPCN Application filed with the PSC on **December 3, 2024,** which is subject to change and has not yet been fully reviewed by PPRP.

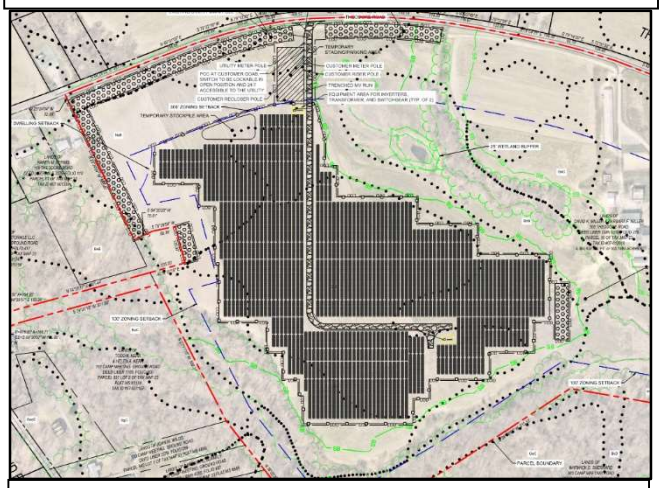
CPCN Timeline

CPCN Application filed on December 5, 2024
Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: April 2, 2025
1st Public Hearing (Virtual): April 16, 2025
Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: July 16, 2025
2nd Public Hearing: Week of July 21, 2025
Settlement Status Update: July 29, 2025
PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): August 19, 2025

Project Location:

Port Deposit Solar Project (Project) will be located on a portion of a larger property totaling approximately 115.5 acres in Port Deposit, Maryland (Figure 1). Google Map Link. Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 24.9 acres.

Figure 1. Project Location



Source: Halo Colora LLC, CPCN Application

Project Overview:

Halo Colora LLC (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 5 MW AC solar array in Cecil County.

Project components include:

- Approximately 11,640 polycrystalline photovoltaic (PV) solar modules ground mounted on a single axis tracking system;
- Interconnection equipment:
- 34 string inverters; and
- Two transformers, each located on a separate equipment pad.

Site Description

The parcel that comprises the Project site has been used for residential and agricultural purposes, which included crop production and pasture uses. The entirety of the LOD is considered prime farmland. Surrounding land uses include residential structures, forest, wetlands, and additional agricultural lands. The Project parcel is located within the Northern Agricultural Residential District, which does not permit solar generating facilities above 2MW in size.

The Project is a Community Solar Energy Generating System (CSEGS) and will deliver all its output to Maryland residents via the Delmarva Power 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 23A3060840006597. The project has received conditional approval from Delmarva Power.

Impact Assessment Highlights

Biological

- The Applicant's Wetland Report indicates that eight non-tidal wetlands and eight streams are present on the property.
- A November 25, 2024, Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Pre-Application Summary from MDE states that "the project will not affect any state-regulated environmental resources as currently proposed."
- DNR determined the Project is within an area known to support a state and federally-listed threatened species, and requested that a Phase I survey may be warranted.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- In addition to species identified by WHS, the Applicant's May 09, 2024 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC letter identifies habitat is present for the endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), the proposed endangered Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), and the candidate Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). Additionally, the Applicant's IPaC letter identifies that Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) are likely present in the project area.
- The Applicant states that the Project will apply for the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Facility Designation.
- The Applicant indicates that 0.86 acres of the Project area will consist of impervious area.
  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 an August 29, 2024, letter that the "project does not require additional Tier II Antidegradation Review."
- The Applicant states that no tree clearing is proposed for the project.

Noise Impacts

- The Applicant's ERD states that the closest noise receptor is a group of homes to the south of the Project located approximately 390 linear feet from the nearest portion of the proposed array. The transformers and inverters have been located a minimum of 200 feet from the property line. The Applicant anticipates sound levels to be significantly lower than the regulated 65 dBA.

Visual Impacts

- The Applicant proposes to enclose the Project with a 6-foot security fence.
- The Applicant intends to plant a 50-foot wide landscape buffer along the project fence line to the north and west. 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) which determined that this project is not an obstruction or hazard to air navigation.

Cultural Resource Impacts

- The Applicant has corresponded with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), which has determined that 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 Theodore 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 County Fire Department to ensure that the Project is compliant with the State Fire Prevention Code.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will require approximately 102 direct and indirect jobs during construction. Following construction, the Project will generate 27 direct and indirect jobs.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project will provide $1.5 million annual project tax revenue.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided

- The Applicant indicates that the Project would reduce carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions in Maryland by approximately 6,370 tons per year.