Note: This summary was last updated on March 7, 2025 For current information, follow this PSC Case 9771

Wicomico Wilbur Solar Projects 335 Hampshire Road Wicomico County, Maryland 21801

PSC Case 9771
PPRP Case Manager: Mark Mank

Note:
This summary is based on information provided in the CPCN Application and supplemental information filed with the PSC on December 23, 2024, January 23, 2025, and January 30, 2025, which are subject to change and have not yet been fully reviewed by PPRP.

CPCN Timeline

CPCN Application filed on December 23, 2024
Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: April 25, 2025
1st Public Hearing (Virtual): May 5, 2025
Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: August 5, 2025
2nd Public Hearing: August 13, 2025

Settlement Status Update: September 4, 2025

PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): September 11, 2025

Project Location:

The Wicomico Wilbur Solar Projects (Projects) will consist of three co-located 5 MW AC community solar power arrays. The Projects will be located on three unincorporated parcels totaling 125.9 acres in Wicomico County, Maryland (Figure 1). Google Map Link Per the Applicants, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Projects will be 78 acres.

Project Overview:

Wicomico Wilbur 1, LLC, Wicomico Wilbur 2, LLC, Wicomico Wilbur 3, LLC (Applicants) have applied for a CPCN to construct three 5 MW AC solar arrays in Wicomico County.

Projects components include:

- 31,472 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 the utility substation with 25.0 kV circuits along Hampshire Road;
- 102 string inverters; and
- Three power centers containing a medium voltage transformer and string inverter station.

Site Description

The parcels comprising the Projects consist of existing agricultural fields, undeveloped forested lands and one residential dwelling with several outbuildings. The Applicants' Environmental Review Document (ERD) states the proposed Projects are in the Industrial Zoning District of Wicomico County where solar is a permitted use by right. The Public Utility Article § 7-306.2(d)(13) prohibition that Community Solar Energy Generating Systems (CSEGS) are not to exceed 5 MW on the same or adjacent parcel of land does not apply to projects constructed in areas zoned for industrial use.

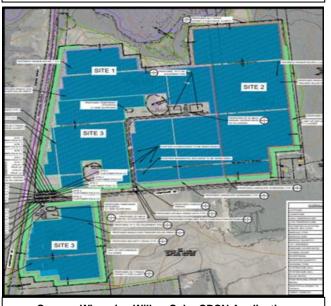
The Projects are co-located CSEGS and will deliver all output to subscribers via the Delmarva Power & Light Company (DPL) electric distribution grid. The Applicants applied to the PSC for authorization to participate in Maryland's Community Solar Program and were assigned Subscriber Organization Identification Numbers 24A309020007097, 24A3090220007098, and 24A310780007284. The Applicants have submitted an interconnection application to DPL which is currently in the technical review phase.

Impact Assessment Highlights

Biological

• The Applicants' ERD indicates that the parcels contain one stream and six wetlands. The Applicants indicate that they will buffer the stream by 50 feet and the wetlands by 25 feet.

Figure 1. Project Location



Source: Wicomico Wilbur Solar CPCN Application

MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

- 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 November 26, 2024.
- The Applicants' ERD states the Projects are not located within a Tier II catchment or Critical Area.
- The Applicants' September 18, 2024, letter from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Heritage Service (WHS) determined that there are no official records for State or Federal listed, candidate, proposed, or rare plant or animal species within the Projects' area.
- The Applicants' July 18, 2024, letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS states that the "Proposed Action will have no effect" on the endangered Indiana bat or the endangered northern long-eared bat.
- The Applicant states that impervious areas will be limited to the associated access driveway and equipment pad for mechanical and electrical equipment.
- The Applicants indicate that a limited amount of tree clearing is proposed for the project.

Noise Impacts

• The Applicants' ERD states that the nearest off-site residence is greater than 245 feet from the Project.

Additionally, the Applicants indicate that the closest non-participating residential reception areas to the equipment pad is approximately 675 feet away.

Visual Impacts

- The Projects will be enclosed by a 7-foot-tall security fence.
- The Applicants intend to use existing vegetated areas and/or vegetative screening buffers on all sides of the Project.
- The Applicants utilized the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Notice Criteria Tool and determined the Projects' location does not exceed notice criteria and no further coordination is required. The Projects are located within 3 miles of Bennet Airport and the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) determined the Projects are not an obstruction or hazard to air navigation.

Cultural Resource Impacts

 The Applicants have corresponded with the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT), which has determined that the Projects would have no adverse effect on historic properties.

Public Safety and Transportation

- The Applicants state that access to the Projects site will be via an existing entrance along Hampshire Road. The
 Projects will also include a perimeter road for emergency vehicle access, or other access lanes as approved by
 the State and/or County Fire Marshal.
- The Applicants' ERD indicates that large materials and equipment will be transported by tractor-trailers and
 unloaded by construction vehicles during the construction phase. However, the Applicants anticipate 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 Applicants plan to coordinate with the State/County Fire Marshal for site access by emergency vehicles.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Applicants estimate that the Projects will create approximately 90-150 construction jobs during the construction period. Following construction, the Project will generate 6-18 direct jobs.
- The Applicants indicate that the Projects represents a capital investment of approximately \$45 million.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided

• The Applicants indicate that the Projects would reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in Maryland by approximately 20,274 tons per year.

