

Note:
This summary was last updated on
April 10, 2025
For current information, follow this link:
[PSC Docket Case #9776](#)

Halo NE2 – Philipe Solar
127 Philipe Lane
North East, MD 21901 (Cecil County)
[PSC Case #9776](#)

Note:
This summary is based on
information provided in the CPCN
Application filed with the PSC on
January 27, 2025, which is subject
to change and has not yet been fully
reviewed by PPRP.

CPCN Timeline

CPCN Application filed on January 27, 2025
Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: June 10, 2025
1st Public Hearing (Virtual): June 24, 2025
Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: September 12, 2025
2nd Public Hearing: September 24 or 25 2025
Settlement Status Update: October 16, 2025
PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): October 21, 2025

Project Location:

The Philipe Solar Project (Project) will be located on a portion of a larger property totaling approximately 82 acres in North East, Maryland (Figure 1). [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 17.5 acres.

Project Overview:

Halo NE2, LLC (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 3.0 MW AC solar array in Cecil County.

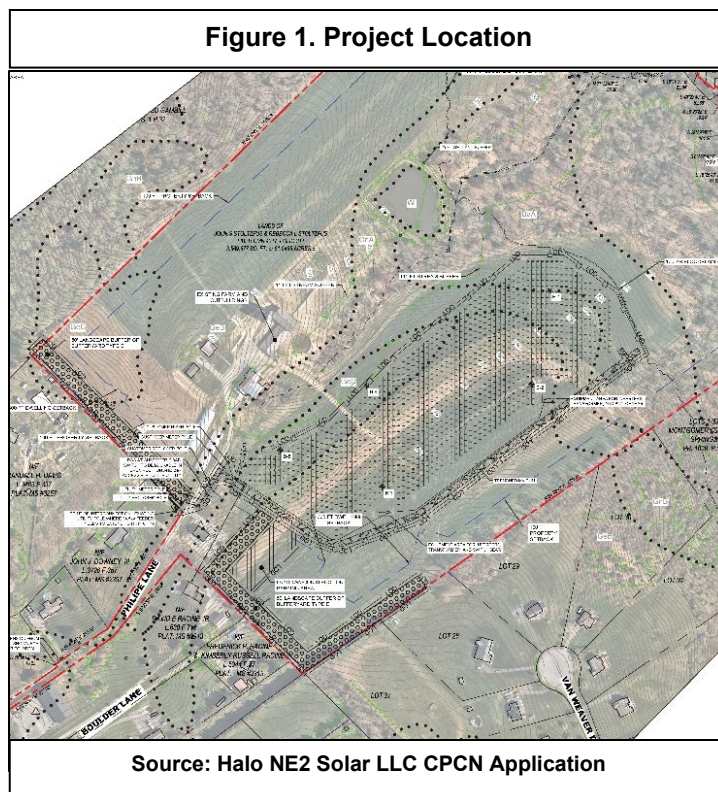
Project components include:

- Approximately 6,840 polycrystalline photovoltaic (PV) solar modules ground mounted on a single-axis tracking racking system;
- Interconnection equipment: connection to an existing utility pole on Biggs Highway via a 34.5 kV feeder line to be installed by Delmarva Power. The existing line is connected to the Crest substation.
- 20 string inverters; and
- 2 equipment pads.

Site Description

The parcel that comprises the Project site mainly consists of agricultural land. The Project parcel includes residential and agricultural buildings, an existing access road, streams, wetlands, a pond, and forested areas, which are all outside of the Project's LOD. Approximately 78% of the LOD is considered prime farmland. Surrounding land uses include residential structures, commercial land use, agricultural lands, and wooded lands. Per the local zoning regulations, a commercial solar energy system with a capacity greater than 2 MW is not a permitted use in Northern Agricultural Residential (NAR) zoned areas.

The Project is a Community Solar Energy Generating System and will deliver all its output to Maryland residents via the Delmarva Power (Delmarva) 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 24A3071780006832. The Applicant states that the engineering studies have been completed for the Project and that Delmarva Interconnection has approved the Project for interconnection pending upgrades to the distribution poles and wires.



Impact Assessment Highlights

Biological

- The Applicant's Environmental Review Document (ERD) indicates that the Project property includes three intermittent streams, a pond, and a perennial stream, as well as three wetland areas. The ERD further indicates that these features do not lie within the LOD.
- The Applicant has indicated that the project will be located 110 feet from all perennial streams, and 25-feet from intermittent streams and other wetlands.
- The Applicant's November 21, 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."
- The Applicant's July 18, 2024, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC results states the Project property could include one endangered, one threatened, and one candidate species. However, the IPaC response stated there are no existing habitats for the threatened and endangered species on site.
- The Applicant consulted with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In its August 19, 2024 response, DNR indicated the potential presence of one federal and state-listed species in the vicinity of the Project and requested additional information. The Applicant provided the additional information in March 2025, and DNR responded that the additional information indicated that there was no potential habitat for this species at the Project site.
- The Applicant states that the Project will apply for the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Facility Designation.
- The ERD states that 0.88 acres of the Project area will consist of impervious area.
- The Applicant's ERD states the Project site is not within a Tier II watershed.
- The Applicant states that they do not anticipate clearing any forested areas.

Noise Impacts

- The Applicant's ERD states that noise levels during construction will be maintained at an average of 90 decibels (dBA) and that noise levels during operation will not exceed noise levels of 65 dBA during daytime hours and 55 dBA at night.
- The Applicant's ERD states that the nearest residence to the Project is 385 feet from the proposed array.

Visual Impacts

- The Project property is bounded to the northwest and northeast by forested areas.
- Additional existing vegetation is located within the property boundary southeast and south of the Project LOD.
- The Applicant has proposed a 50-foot vegetated buffer along the west and southwest of the Project.

Cultural Resource Impacts

- The Applicant has corresponded with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), which has determined that the Project will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

Public Safety and Transportation

- The Applicant states that the entrance to the Project site will be from Philipe 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.
- The Applicant plans to coordinate with the County Fire Department to ensure that the Project is compliant with the State Fire Prevention Code.
- The Applicant consulted the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which confirmed that this Project would not exceed the notice criteria.
- The Applicant consulted the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) which determined that this Project is not an obstruction or hazard to air navigation.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will require approximately 22 direct and indirect jobs during construction. Following construction, the Project will generate two direct jobs and no indirect jobs.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project will provide \$70,000 in tax revenue during the first year of operation and an estimated \$1.3 million over the life of the Project.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided

- The Applicant indicates that the Project would reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by approximately 3,820 tons per year.