

Note:  
This summary was last updated on  
February 2, 2025  
For current information, follow this  
[PSC Case 9782](#)

# Maryland Blue Crab Solar & Storage Project Intersection of Red Hill and Linkwood Road Linkwood, Dorchester County, Maryland 21835

[PSC Case 9782](#)

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  
February 21, April 21 and June 30,  
September 2, October 10, 2025,  
which are subject to change and  
have not yet been fully reviewed by  
PPRP.

## CPCN Timeline

**CPCN Application filed on January 23, 2025**  
**Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: January 23, 2026**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing (Virtual): February 18, 2026**  
**Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: July 1, 2026**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing: Week of August 31, 2026**  
**Status Update: September 18, 2026**  
**PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): September 30, 2026**

## Project Location:

The Maryland Blue Crab Solar & Storage Project (Project) will consist of a 100 MW AC solar power-generating facility with an associated 25 MW AC Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The Project also includes construction of the MD Blue Crab Substation (Project Substation), Delmarva Power and Light Company (DPL) Utility Substation, a 69 kV underground generation transmission tie-in line, a 69 kV overhead direct tap to the existing 69 kV Airey to Vienna Line, and an O&M Facility. The solar generating facility and BESS will be located on an approximate 820-acre tract of leased land in Linkwood, Dorchester County, Maryland (Figure 1) [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Solar Generation area and BESS will be 503.7 acres.

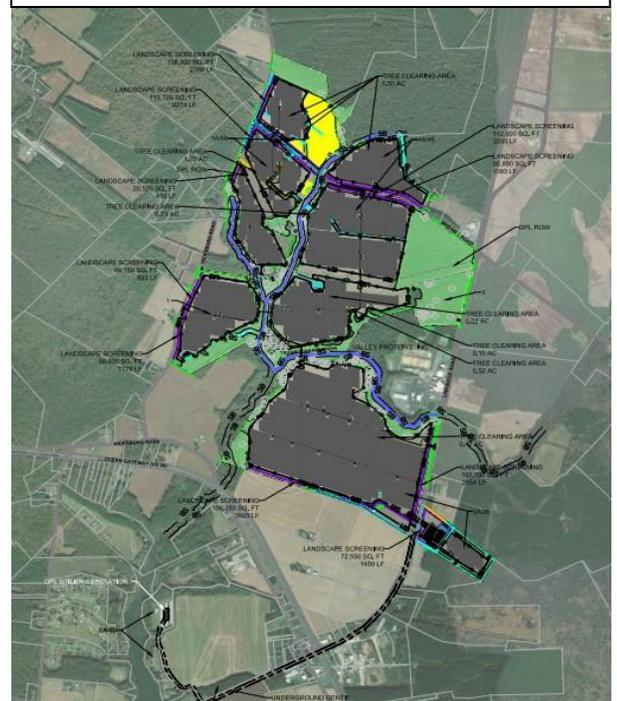
## Project Overview:

Maryland Blue Crab Solar & Storage, (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct 100 MW AC solar array facility and 25 MW BESS in Dorchester County.

Project components include:

- 212,901 monocrystalline photovoltaic (PV) solar modules with horizontal single-axis trackers on a terrain-following adaptive tracking racking system;
- 26 inverters with up to 8 backups for a total of up to 34 inverters
- BESS: 27 battery modules, with a total 25 MW interconnection capacity and 12 inverters
- O&M Facility located on same parcel as PV arrays, a 2,797 square foot (ft<sup>2</sup>) single story building with office and storage areas
- Gen-Tie Line: An underground 69 kV Gen-Tie Line extending 1.7 miles south within the embargoed railroad ROW along Linkwood Road/ Linkwood Drive from the MD Blue Crab Substation to the DPL Utility Substation
- MD Blue Crab Substation: a single 34.5 to 69 kV MPT transformer with protective breakers and disconnect switches
- DPL Utility Substation: Located approximately 1.7 miles south of the MD Blue Crab Substation on the Webster Parcel along Linkwood Road/ Linkwood Drive. The substation is situated on a former chicken house agricultural production area north of Linkwood Drive
- Project Substation to be built by MD Blue Crab and owned and operated by DPL

Figure 1. Project Location



Source: Maryland Blue Crab Solar and Storage CPCN Application

- Connection to the existing 69 kV Vienna to Airey overhead transmission line via direct tap. The length of the tie in line will be approximately 500-foot-long underground before rising at a single steel overhead transmission monopole.

## Site Description

The parcels comprising the Project consist of existing agricultural fields, undeveloped forested lands and one residential dwelling with several farm outbuildings. The Applicants' Revised Environmental Review Document (ERD) states the proposed Project is zoned as Agricultural Conservation in Dorchester County. According to the Applicant, proposed changes in land use will be coordinated with the Dorchester County Planning & Zoning Department prior to construction.

The Project will interconnect into the DPL transmission system via an overhead direct tap to the 69 kV Vienna to Airey transmission line. MD Blue Crab applied for interconnection with PJM for the solar and BESS components of the Project in 2020 with queue positions AF2-358 (PV) and AG1-450 (BESS). MD Blue Crab is in negotiations with PJM regarding the interconnection agreement (LGIA) for the Project.

## Impact Assessment Highlights

### Biological

- The Applicant's Wetland Delineation Report Revision 1, dated June 27, 2025, indicates that the Project parcels contain nine streams, including the Transquaking River, and 19 wetlands. The Applicant indicates that it will buffer the streams by 50 feet and the wetlands by 25 feet.
- MD Blue Crab expects to submit a Maryland Joint Permit Application (JPA) in Q3 2025 for temporary and permanent impacts associated with the Project, along with wetland and waterway information collected during field delineations.
- The Applicant's ERD states the Project is not located within a Tier II catchment, a Wild or Scenic River watershed, or the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area.
- The Applicant's November 18, 2024, letter from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) determined there are records of one state-listed rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species, the Delmarva fox squirrel, with In Need of Conservation status, within the Project Area, as well as potential FIDs habitat. DNR-WHS provided guidelines for conservation of the Delmarva fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger cinereus*).
- The Applicant's November 4, 2024, letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identified one endangered species, the Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), and one candidate species, the Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*), as having the potential to occur within the Project area. Email correspondence from USFWS, dated December 27, 2024, states, "This project as proposed is 'not likely to adversely affect' the tricolored bat."
- The Applicant states there will be approximately 1.0 percent (approximately 8.18 acres) of impervious surface added from the Project. Impervious areas include area access, array BESS and substation entrance driveways, equipment pads, BESS, substations, an O&M building, and racking posts.
- The Applicant proposes 4.4 acres of forest clearing on the 820-acre Generation Area; no forest clearing is anticipated for the Gen-Tie Line or DPL Utility Substation.

### Noise Impacts

- The Applicants' Revised ERD states that noise assessment results demonstrate that the Project can be operated in compliance with COMAR 26.02.03.02 noise limits with the implementation of noise mitigation measures. The Applicant recommends noise mitigation requirements be reassessed after confirming equipment noise emission levels with the manufacturers and finalizing the site layout.

### Visual Impacts

- The Applicant states that the Project's aboveground facilities (solar array, BESS, and substations) will be surrounded by a 7-ft chain-link fence with barbed wire.
- The Applicant intends to use existing vegetated areas and/or vegetative screening buffers on all sides of the Project. Additionally, the Applicant has developed two modules of vegetation screening for the project to be used.
- The Project is located within 10 miles of the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center helipad, the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport, Barren Creek Airport, Horn Point Airport, Hidden Hills Airport, and Magennis Airport. The Applicant consulted the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Notice Criteria Tool which confirmed that this project would not Exceed notice criteria. The Applicant utilized the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) Tall Structures map to determine if the Project is located within an Airport Zoning District or Airport Obstruction Zone.

The Tall Structures tool confirmed that the Project is located outside of Noise Zones, and the Airport Zoning Buffer, and that no further action is required.

#### *Cultural Resource Impacts*

- There are multiple identified archeological sites within 1 mile of the site and multiple previously unrecorded archeological sites were identified within the Project Study Area. No architectural resources on historic properties were located within the Project boundaries but multiple architectural resources are located within 1 mile of the Project Study Area. The Applicant has corresponded with the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) and the review of any potential mitigative measures necessary for the Project is currently being evaluated by MHT.

#### *Public Safety and Transportation*

- The Applicant states access to the Project may require temporary road closures and the Conceptual Site Plans indicate access to the generating station, BESS, and substations will be via Linkwood Road, Linkwood Drive, Hicksburg Road and Red Hill Road. There will be no Gen-Tie Line impacts to roadways since the transmission line will be underground. The Project will provide proper access for emergency and fire equipment, including access lanes to inverters, transformers, switchgear, and the optional BESS, with widths to accommodate emergency vehicles consistent with State Fire Marshal and local emergency access standards. A fire protection plan, including identification of key Project elements, will be prepared in coordination with local emergency responders regarding the various design elements.
- The Applicants' ERD indicates that during construction activities, material and equipment would be delivered by tractor-trailers and offloaded by construction vehicles. Daily construction-related traffic would include cars, pickup trucks, and other personnel vehicles. During operation, traffic will mostly be limited to maintenance crews for seasonal mowing and vegetation maintenance, as well as electrical inspections and maintenance for any operational issues.

#### *Economic and Fiscal*

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will create approximately 46 direct jobs and 32 indirect and induced jobs during the construction period. Following construction, the Project anticipates 5 direct and 2 indirect jobs during the operational phase.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project represents a capital investment of approximately \$211 million.

#### *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided*

- The Applicant indicates that the Project would reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in Maryland by approximately 6,790 tons per year.