

Note:

This summary was last updated on **January 30, 2026**

For current information, follow this link: [PSC Docket Case #9805](#)

**Solar Star Allegany South Solar
11515 Cash Valley Road
Cumberland, MD 21502 (Allegany County)
PSC Case #9805
PPRP Case Manager: Chris Aadland**

Note:

This summary is based on information provided in the CPCN Application filed with the PSC on **July 28, 2025**, which is subject to change and has not yet been fully reviewed by PPRP.

CPCN Timeline

CPCN Application filed on July 28, 2025
Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony: January 16, 2026
1st Public Hearing (Virtual): January 28, 2026
Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: May 22, 2026
2nd Public Hearing: May 28, 2026
PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): July 14, 2026

Project Location:

The Solar Star Allegany South Solar Project (Project) will be located on a 124 acre parcel within the limits of the City of Cumberland, Maryland (Figure 1). [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 22 acres.

Project Overview:

Solar Star South LLC (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 4.95 MW AC solar array in Allegany County.

Project components include:

- 9,120 (estimated) photovoltaic (PV) modules ground-mounted on a fixed tilt rack system;
- Interconnection equipment: connection to existing Corriganville-Cumberland CV1 34.5 kV line;
- 35 string inverters; and
- Two transformers.

Site Description

The Project site is characterized as an active agricultural (hay) site surrounded by undeveloped forest, agricultural land with the owner's residences to the south, and residences to the east and northeast of the Project site. The Western Maryland Railway and Western Maryland Rail Trail (WMRT) circles around the western and southern portion of the Project site. The project will affect 2.9 acres of prime farmland and is bisected by an existing Columbia Gas natural gas pipeline. The Project is in the County's Agricultural, Forestry, and Mining (A) Zoning District.

The Project is a Community Solar Energy Generating System and plans to interconnect to the Potomac Edison electric distribution grid. At the time of its CPCN application submittal, the Applicant was approved as a subscriber organization by the PSC for 4.95 MW AC and had received conditional approval for its interconnection application from Potomac Edison.

Impact Assessment Highlights

Biological

- The Applicant's ERD states there are no jurisdictional waters of the U.S. or waters of the State within the Project site, although a perennial stream (Jennings Run) does intersect the eastern edge of the LOD.
- The Applicant states there are no Protected Lands, Critical Areas, or DNR Focal Areas at the property per Maryland's Environmental Resource & Land Information Network (MERLIN) and there are no potential habitats for Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS).
- The Applicant's Wetland Delineation Study (Appendix P of the Applicant's ERD) states "no wetlands or waterbodies were identified on the site however a perennial stream (Jennings Run) does intersect the eastern edge of the LOD.



- The Applicant included a Simplified Forest Stand Delineation (FSD) Plan which states that there are three forest stands totaling 5.28 acres identified on the Site. No forest clearing is proposed for this Project.
- The Applicant indicates that the subject property is not in a Tier II High Quality Waters Catchment.
- The Applicant consulted with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and DNR determined that there are no official records for State or Federal listed candidate, proposed, or rare plant or animal species within the project area.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) resource list identifies the proposed federally endangered species tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), and one proposed federally threatened species, the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), and certain migratory birds as species that could potentially be present. The applicant states that the project will not involve tree clearing, so a no effect determination is appropriate.
- A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was performed for the property, and no Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) were identified.
- The ERD states that the total impervious area for this Project will be limited to the piles supporting the panels, two concrete equipment pads, and the aggregate access road.

Noise Impacts

- The Applicant's ERD states that the maximum noise is expected to be produced during times when the pile driver is used. Post construction, most noise generated from the electrical equipment on the project site will be from the transformer and inverters. The closest off-site residential property is approximately 170 feet from Pad location 01 and 570 feet from Pad location 02. Operational noise level at the closest residence to Pad 1 will be 49 dBA and operational noise level at the closest residence will be 35 dBA. The standards allow for daytime maximum noise levels for operational noise of 75 A-weighted decibels (dBA) for industrial land use.

Visual Impacts

- The Project will be enclosed and protected by a seven (7) foot tall security fence.
- The Applicant is not planning to alter any existing tree cover that already exists as natural screening. Additionally, the Applicant is proposing a 35-foot-wide landscape buffer in areas without existing trees.
- The Applicant conducted a desktop glare analysis and identified fourteen stationary locations to serve as representative viewpoints. Five of the locations will receive green and or yellow glare including the Great Allegany Passage Trail with a daily maximum of 40 minutes or less.
- Two airports occur within the 10-mile radius of the Project Site. The Greater Cumberland Regional Airport (approximately 4.7 miles south of the site), the Mexico Farms Airport (approximately 5.8 miles south of the site). The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Notice Criteria Tool was used to evaluate potential impacts to navigation resources. According to the output, the Project does not exceed Notice Criteria. In addition, The Maryland Aviation Administration Airspace Analysis screening tool was also utilized and the output determined that the Project Site is not within an Airport Zoning District, and no further action is required.

Cultural Resource Impacts

- The Applicant's ERD states that there are no recorded architectural resources within the Project site. Applicant is waiting for a formal response from the Maryland Historical Trust.

Public Safety and Transportation

- During construction, major material and equipment will be delivered by tractor-trailers and offloaded by construction vehicles. The Applicant would schedule deliveries during appropriate times and would consult with Allegany County Public Schools to address potential concerns about the school bus stop on Cash Valley Road.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Applicant states that during construction, the Project will create approximately twenty (20) construction jobs (direct jobs). Following construction, the Project will create approximately 1.2 annual direct jobs and .3 annual indirect jobs.
- The Applicant indicates that The Project is projected to generate more than \$2.2M in property tax revenue for Allegany County over the life of the Project.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided

- Based on the EPA calculator, the project will offset approximately 6,310 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. This will decrease slightly due to degradation of the project components but equates to approximately 189,300 metric tons over the Project's anticipated 30-year life cycle.