Note:
This summary was last updated on ***January 22***
For current information, follow this link:
PSC Docket Case #9817

Herman Highway Solar Project
Augustine Herman Highway, Kennedyville, Maryland 21645 (Kent County)
PSC Case #9817

Note:
This summary is based on information provided in the CPCN Application filed with the PSC on ***September 30, 2025*** *and the Response to PPRP Deficiency Notice filed on* ***November 24, 2025*** *which are subject to change and has not yet been fully reviewed by PPRP.*

CPCN Timeline

CPCN Application filed on September 30, 2025
Informational Public Meeting: to be held before March 13, 2026
Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony: April 7, 2026
Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: October 8, 2026
Public Hearing: Week of October 12, 2026
Status Update: November 17, 2026
PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if no contested issues): December 1, 2026

Project Location:

The Herman Highway Solar 3.0 MW AC Solar Project (Project) will be located on an 85-acre parcel in Kennedyville, Maryland (Figure 1). Google Map Link. Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 29 acres.

Figure 1. Project Location

Source: Herman Highway Solar CPCN Application

Project Overview:

Herman Highway Solar 1, LLC (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 3.0 MW AC solar array in Kent County.

Project components include:

- 7,618 photovoltaic (PV) modules ground-mounted on a single-axis tracking racking system;
- Interconnection to the electric distribution grid via an existing aboveground 24.9 kV feeder.
- 12 inverters;
- One transformer; and
- One equipment pad, which will support the transformer and inverters.

Site Description

The land on which the Project site is located consists of open agricultural fields. The entire Project LOD (84.99 acres) is considered prime farmland. The Project property also includes a wetland and an intermittent stream that are outside of the LOD. The Project property is bordered by agricultural and residential properties. The parcel in which the Project is located is split-zoned Agricultural Zoning District (AZD) and Village (V). The solar array will be located entirely within the AZD zone. Kent County permits community solar projects within the AZD by special exception with certain restrictions, including a size limitation of 5 acres.

The Project is a Community Solar Energy Generating System and will deliver all of its output to subscribers via the Delmarva Power and Light (DPL) electric distribution grid. The Applicant has completed an application for an interconnection agreement with DPL The Applicant has received Subscriber Organization Number 24A3140720007777 for the Project.

Impact Assessment Highlights

Biological

- The Project property is located within the Middle Chester River watershed.
- The property includes 1 intermittent stream and 1 wetland. The stream is located outside of the Project's LOD. The Project design includes a 25-foot buffer around the wetland. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has confirmed that a Letter of Authorization will not be required to construct the Project.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- The Project is not located within a Tier II watershed.
- The Project is not located within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, or in the vicinity of a Maryland Wild and Scenic River.
- Two forest stands are located at the north and west edges of the Project property, but outside the Project LOD. No tree clearing is proposed for the Project.
- The Applicant consulted with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service (DNR-WHS) which found "no official records for State or Federal listed, candidate, proposed or rare plant or animal species within the Project area."
- The Applicant also consulted the US Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) which identified the possible presence of two Rare, Threatened, or Endangered (RTE) species in the Project vicinity, One of the two species does not have critical habitat within the proposed Project site and the other species received a "no effect" determination from the USFWS.
- The Applicant intends to apply for the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Designation and does not propose the use of agrivoltaics.
- The ERD states that the Project will include 0.47 acres of impervious areas for access roads and equipment pads.

Noise Impacts

- The Applicant's ERD states that the closest residential dwelling is approximately 563 feet away from a proposed equipment pad.

Visual Impacts

- The Applicant proposes to enclose the Project with a 7-foot-tall fence.
- The Applicant is proposing a 35-foot-wide landscape buffer along the southeastern side of the Project (which fronts Augustine Herman Highway). A 25-foot buffer is proposed around the remainder 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 construction traffic will access the Project site by a service entrance along Augustine Herman Highway.
- The Applicant's ERD states that during construction, major material and equipment will be delivered by tractor-trailers and offloaded by construction vehicles (lulls, tracked vehicles, and front-loading equipment) and that daily construction traffic following MD-213 route and entering from the northern/southern direction will include cars, pickup trucks, and other personnel vehicles.
- The Applicant's ERD states that during operation traffic to the Project site is expected to be limited to monthly vegetative maintenance visits during the growing season and quarterly to yearly maintenance visits for solar array components.
- The Applicant states that the nearest airport is a small, private airport located approximately 3 miles away. The Applicant utilized the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Notice Criteria Tool and the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) Project Locator to determine that the Project does not exceed notice criteria, it is not within an Airport Zoning District, and no further action is required.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will create approximately 27 direct and indirect jobs during construction and approximately one to two operation and maintenance jobs post-construction.
- The Applicant estimates that the Project will generate average annual tax revenues of approximately $53,560 to Kent County and $3,500 to the State.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided

- The Applicant indicates that the Project will displace approximately 3,820 tons of CO_2 emissions in the Mid-Atlantic Region.