*Note:*
*This summary was last updated on* ***July 17, 2026***
*For current information, follow this link:*
PSC Docket Case #9821

# Eckard Road Solar Project
## (previously Red Barn Solar Project)
## 1765 Eckard Road
## Westminster, MD 21157
## (Carroll County)
PSC Case #9821

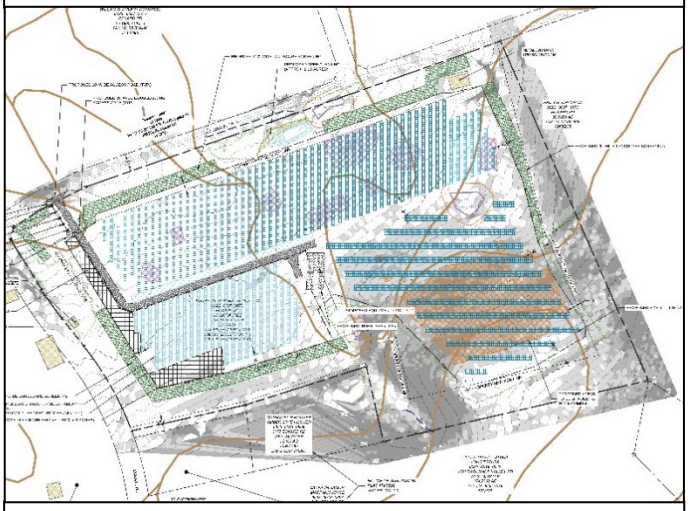
*Note:*
*This summary is based on information provided in the CPCN Application filed with the PSC on* ***October 15, 2025 and the supplemental filings on December 17, 2025 and May 26, 2026*** *all of which are subject to change and has not yet been fully reviewed by PPRP.*

**CPCN Timeline**
**CPCN Application filed on October 15, 2025**
**Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: May 26, 2026**
**Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: December 3, 2026**
**In-Person Public Comment Hearing (Evening): Week December 7, 2026**
**Settlement Status Update: January 12, 2027**
**PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): January 27, 2027**

### Project Location:

Eckard Road Solar, previously Red Barn Solar, (Project) will encompass the majority of a larger property totaling approximately 28.298 acres in Westminster, Maryland (Figure 1). Google Map Link. Per the Applicant, the Project's limit of construction ("LOC") is approximately 25.6 acres.

**Figure 1. Project Location**



**Source: Eckard Road Solar, LLC CPCN Application**

### Project Overview:

Eckard Road Solar, LLC (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 3.0 MW AC solar array in Carroll County.

Project components include:

- Approximately 3,920 photovoltaic (PV) solar modules ground-mounted on single-axis tracking rack systems and
- Approximately 2,184 PV solar modules ground-mounted on fixed tilt rack systems.
- Interconnection equipment: connection to an existing 33kV feeder originating from Westminster Substation along Eckard Road;
- 20 string inverters; and
- one equipment pad.

### Site Description

The parcel that comprises the Project site mainly consists of agricultural land, wooded areas, and existing wetlands. The parcel is located in the Rural-Agricultural zoning district of Carroll County, and approximately 49.8% of the LOC is considered prime farmland. Surrounding land uses include residential properties, agricultural fields, and wooded lands.

The Project is a Community Solar Energy Generating System and will deliver all its output to Maryland residents via the Baltimore Gas Electric (BGE) 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 23A3059760006572. The project has received conditional interconnection approval from BGE under the co-developer Queen City Solar, LLC as discussed in the Applicant's Environmental Review Document ("ERD").

### Impact Assessment Highlights

*Biological*

- The Applicant's Revised ERD states the Project is not located within a Tier II catchment.
- The Applicant's Revised ERD identified a unnamed tributary of Big Pipe Creek approximately 0.2 miles north of the Project parcel, and the Project is located within the Monocacy Basin and Double Pipe Creek watershed.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- The Applicant's Revised ERD indicates that three non-tidal wetlands, and two drainage ditches, are located on the Project parcel. The Applicant indicated the Project would avoid wetland disturbance.
- The Applicant contacted U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in January 2025, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) in November 2025, regarding rare, threatened and endangered species. USFWS and WHS listed three (3) threatened, endangered, or candidate species as potentially having habitat in the area of the Project, including the endangered Indiana Bat (myotis sodalist) and the proposed threatened Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).
- The Applicant's Revised ERD indicates that approximately 0.05 acres of tree clearing is anticipated within the Project's limit of construction.
- The Applicant intends to apply for the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Facility Designation.
- Based on the CPCN application, approximately 0.02 acres of the Project will be impervious surface.

*Noise Impacts*

- The Applicant's Revised ERD states the nearest off-site residence is approximately 180 from the solar array. It is anticipated to receive less than 90 decibels (dB) of noise during construction and 45 dB of noise during operation.

*Visual Impacts*

- The Applicant proposes to enclose the Project site with a 7-foot tall security fence.
- The landscape buffer for the Project will consist of existing trees and new plantings. The Applicant currently proposes planting a 20-foot-wide landscape buffer along the west, southwest and eastern borders of the Project. Existing vegetation will be utilized to screen the Project along the north and southeast boundaries.
- The Applicant's Revised ERD states there are no airports within 1 mile of the Project.
- The Applicant consulted the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) criteria tool which confirmed this Project would not exceed the notice criteria.
- The Applicant consulted the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) criteria tool and determined the Project location is not within an Airport Zoning District, and no further action is required.

*Cultural Resource Impacts*

- The Applicant's Revised ERD states that there are no Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties or National Register of Historic Places listed for the Project parcel. The Applicant has corresponded with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), which determined that the Project will have no effect on historic properties.

*Public Safety and Transportation*

- The Applicant states that the entrance to the Project site will be from Solomon Lane.
- The Applicant's Revised ERD indicates that major materials and equipment will be transported by tractor-trailers and construction vehicles during the construction phase. However, the Applicant anticipates that most daily construction traffic will consist of cars, pickup trucks, and other vehicles used by personnel. During operation, traffic will be minimal and involve maintenance crews responsible for mowing and vegetation control.
- The Applicant plans to consult with the local Fire Marshal to ensure safety requirements are met, and the Project design will include an access road for emergency vehicle and maintenance vehicles which meets state and local standards.

*Economic and Fiscal*

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will require approximately 12 direct and indirect jobs during construction. Following construction, the Project will generate 1 direct and 1 indirect job over the first five years following the completion of construction.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project represents a capital investment of approximately $8 million.

*Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided*

- The Applicant indicates that the Project would reduce carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions in Maryland by approximately 200 tons per year.