

Note:
This summary was last updated on
Nov. 30, 2022.
For current information, follow this link:
[PSC Docket Case #9684](#)

ROSEHIP SOLAR

Near the intersection of Petes Hill Road and W. Post Office Road (Somerset County)

[PSC Case #9684](#)

PPRP Case Manager: Christopher Aadland

Note:
This summary is based on
information provided in the CPCN
Application filed with the PSC on
October 26, 2022, which is subject
to change and has not yet been fully
reviewed by PPRP

CPCN Timeline
CPCN Application filed on **October 26, 2022**
Pre-Hearing Conference: **TBD**

Project Location:

The Rosehip Solar Project (Project) will be located on a 20-acre parcel in Somerset County, Maryland (Figure 1). [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 18 acres.

Project Overview:

Flonium Power, LLC (Applicant) has filed for a [CPCN](#) to construct a 4 MW AC solar array in Somerset County, as well as an optional 8 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS).

Project components include:

- Approximately 12,000 photovoltaic (PV) modules mounted on a fixed-tilt racking system;
- Interconnection equipment;
- 32 inverters;
- Up to 4 pad-mounted containerized units to house the BESS. These units are each expected to be 40-feet long, 8 feet wide, and 8.5-9.5 feet tall.

Site Description

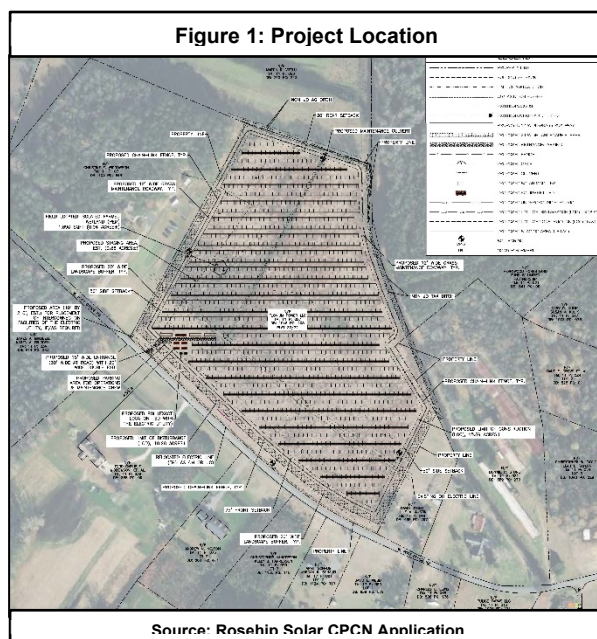
The Applicant has purchased the parcel on which the Project will be located. The parcel is zoned Agricultural-Residential ("AR"). Utility scale solar is permitted within this zone by Special Exception. The Applicant began the Special Exception process in January 2019, but withdrew the application due to procedural issues. Somerset County also has an 1,800-acre limit for utility-scale solar installations and has informed the Applicant that the Project would comply with this limit. Current land use of the site is agricultural and there are no buildings onsite. Approximately 27% of the land within the Project's LOD is considered Prime Farmland. Surrounding land uses include forested areas, agriculture, and residential uses.

The Project will interconnect at the distribution level via a 3-phase tap on an existing 25kV distribution feeder of Choptank Electric Cooperative (CEC) behind the distribution transformer at CEC's Princess Anne substation (approximately 6 miles away from CEC's distribution transformer).

Impact Assessment Highlights

Biological

- There are no streams present on the Project site.
- The Project will include grading of a 1,690 square foot Palustrine Emergent (PEM) wetland area. The Applicant intends to apply for a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from MDE for this work.
- The Project will also include filling and installation of a culvert within an existing agricultural ditch that runs perpendicular to West Post Office Road. MDE had identified this ditch as non-jurisdictional.



- The Project will include a 20-foot setback from the “Tax Ditch”, which is a non-jurisdictional feature, and will include a 15-foot setback from another agricultural ditch that will remain along the north side of the property. Both of these features were confirmed by MDE during a site visit on 8 March 2022.
- The Project does not include any forest clearing, although some tree-clearing in the non-jurisdictional agricultural ditch along the northern property boundary may be needed to improve local drainage.
- The Applicant calculates that the Project will require 2.74 acres of afforestation. The Applicant plans to meet this requirement through payment to the Somerset County Forest Conservation Fund or through purchase of off-site wooded land which will be placed under a long-term easement.
- The Project is not located within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area.
- The Project is located within a Tier II Catchment area. The Applicant completed a Tier II Exemption Determination request to MDE. Upon review of this request, MDE determined the Applicant would only need to complete the Tier II Antidegradation Checklist during the Notice of Intent (NOI) process. The nearest Tier II stream to the Project is 1.5 miles away.
- The Applicant estimates that the Project will add approximately 0.15 acres of impervious surface.
- The Applicant has consulted with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the US Fish & Wildlife Service; both agencies determined that there are no official records of listed plant or animal species or critical habitats within the Project area.

Visual Impacts

- The Applicant indicates that the Project will include a landscape buffer along the front of the Project (along West Post Office Road) and along portions of the sides of the Project.
- The closest airport to the Project is the Salisbury Regional Airport, located approximately 9 miles northeast of the Project site. The Crisfield-Somerset County Airport is located about 18 miles southwest of the Project. The Applicant has consulted with the Federal Aviation Administration and Maryland Aviation Administration, both have determined that the Project is not an obstruction or hazard to air navigation.

Public Safety and Transportation

- During construction, equipment will be delivered by tractor-trailers and offloaded by construction vehicles. The Applicant has stated it will adopt appropriate safety standards during construction and will consider school bus pickup/drop-off times when scheduling deliveries. After construction, traffic will mostly be limited to maintenance crews for seasonal mowing and vegetation maintenance as well as quarterly to yearly maintenance of the solar array components.
- The existing CEC distribution line passes through the Project site and has a 10-foot easement on either side of the centerline of the feeder line. Additional easements exist along West Post Office Road for the road itself and other utilities. There are no other easements that affect the Project site.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will create approximately 40 to 60 design, management, and construction jobs at the height of construction. The Applicant indicates that the Project represents a capital investment of approximately \$7 million without the BESS and a capital investment of \$9 million with the BESS.

Cultural & Aesthetic

- Three historic properties on the Maryland Register of Historic Properties are located within approximately 1 mile of the Project. The Maryland Historic Trust has determined that none of these properties are within the Project’s Area of Potential Effect.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided

- The Applicant reviewed the Project’s impact to greenhouse gas emissions using the AVOIDed Emissions and generation Tool (AVERT) model. The Applicant’s model results indicate that the Project would reduce CO₂ emissions in Maryland by 430 tons per year and reduce CO₂ emissions across the PJM area by 168 tons per year.