

Note:
This summary was last updated on
Aug. 1, 2023
For current information, follow this link:
[PSC Docket Case #9694](#)

Citron II Solar Near Intersection of Connelly Mill Rd. and Foskey Ln., Salisbury (Wicomico County)

[PSC Case #9694](#)

PPRP Case Manager: Shawn Seaman

Note:
This summary is based on
information provided in the CPCN
Application filed with the PSC on
March 15, 2023, which is subject to
change and has not yet been fully
reviewed by PPRP.

CPCN Timeline

CPCN Application filed on March 15, 2023

1st Public Hearing: July 10, 2023

Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: July 18, 2023

Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: October 30, 2023

2nd Public Hearing: TBD (week of November 6th)

Settlement: November 10, 2023

PSC Evidentiary Hearing: November 14, 2023

Project Location:

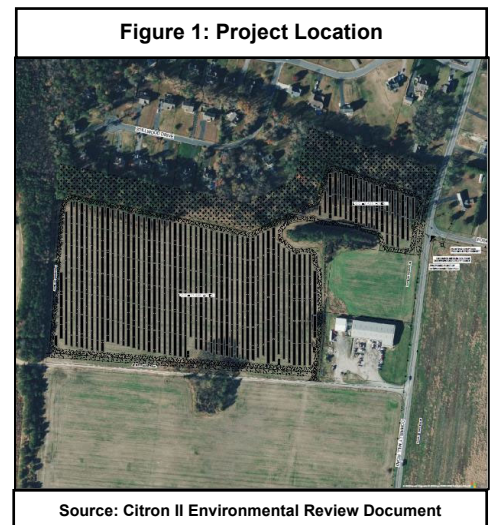
The Citron II Solar Project (Project) will be located on a 34.63-acre parcel near Salisbury, Maryland (Figure 1) in Wicomico County. [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 24.03 acres.

Project Overview:

Kumquat & Citron Cleantech, LLC (Applicant) has filed for a [CPCN](#) to construct a 7.20 MW AC solar array in Wicomico County.

Project components include:

- Approximately 17,226 photovoltaic (PV) modules mounted on a fixed-tilt racking system;
- Interconnection equipment;
- 48 power stations (string inverters);
- 2 dry-cooled transformers installed on concrete pads;
- 1 onsite substation containing switchgear.



Site Description

The parcel is zoned Heavy-Industrial ("I-2"). Wicomico County's zoning ordinance permits a "privately owned and operated utility" as a permitted use "by right" in the I-2 District, and thus, will not require a Special Exception. The Project site consists of agricultural fields with wooded areas on the west side of the parcel. Approximately 91% of the land within the Project's limit of disturbance (LOD) is considered Prime Farmland. Surrounding land uses include agriculture, residential, and commercial uses.

The Project will interconnect with the existing Choptank Electric Corporation (CEC) 12.47kV underground feeder by tapping from the existing CEC cabinet installed to accommodate the Project's interconnection. The existing feeder installed previously by CEC is connected to CEC Edgewood substation.

Impact Assessment Highlights

Biological

- The Applicant states that the site includes one drainage ditch and one wooded drainage feature, but no jurisdictional wetlands or waterways. The Applicant intends to observe a 20-foot setback from the drainage ditch. The Applicant also plans to cut the trees in the wooded drainage feature down to stumps; however, the area will not contain any solar panels.
- The Applicant's ERD states that the site includes a 10.35-acre forest stand and that approximately 4.3 acres of this stand will be cleared as part of the Project.
- The Project will obtain a Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") Notice of Intent ("NOI") Permit prior to construction. This Permit will also authorize temporary

discharge of site dewatering authorized by the MDE Groundwater Appropriation Permit exemption.

- The Applicant proposes to observe the following buffers:
 - 35-foot buffer along the fringe of the LOD at the dripline of trees.
 - 20-foot setback from the agricultural ditch.
- The Project is not located within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area or Tier II Catchments.
- The Applicant's ERD states that the Project will add approximately 0.22 acres of impervious surface.
- The Applicant consulted with DNR, and they determined there are no official records for listed plant or animal species within the Project site. The USFWS has determined there are no critical habitats, refuge lands, or fish hatcheries within the Project area.

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 model results indicate that the Project would reduce CO₂ emissions in Maryland by 530 tons per year and approximately 9,770 tons per year in the PJM area.

Public Safety and Transportation

- During construction, major material and equipment will be delivered by tractor-trailers and offloaded by construction vehicles (hulls, tracked vehicles, and front-loading equipment). 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 Project will include a perimeter road for emergency vehicle access or other access lanes as approved by the State Fire Marshal. While the Project will be secured with a chain-link fence, knox-box entry will be provided for emergency vehicle access.

Visual Impacts

- The panel arrays will be enclosed and protected using a 6-foot chain-link fence with 1-foot of 3 strand barbed wire as well as an access gate located along the northeast corner of the Property.
- The Applicant states in the ERD that the Project will maintain a 75-foot setback from the center line of named roads and a 50-foot building setback. The Applicant also proposes to include a 20-foot landscape buffer. The plan will be reviewed/approved by the Wicomico County Department of Planning, Zoning and Community Development.
- The closest airports to the Project are the South Jet Air, Bennet Airport-1N5, Spring Hill Landing Strip, Ennis Aerodrome, Bay Land Aviation Office, and Salisbury Regional Airport and air traffic control tower. The Applicant has consulted with the Federal Aviation Administration and Maryland Aviation Administration, and both have determined the Project is not an obstruction or hazard to air navigation, and there will be no glare effects to any nearby airports.

Cultural Resource Impacts

- The Applicant contacted the Maryland Historic Trust, which determined that there are no historic properties within the Projects area of potential effect.

Noise Impacts

- The Applicant's ERD states that noise during construction will be maintained below the average daily 90 dB rating at the property lines.
- The only noise generated during operation of the electrical equipment at the facility will be from the enclosed transformers and inverters. The Project anticipates a low-level noise inside the perimeter fence.
- The Applicant's ERD states that the closest residential dwelling is approximately 233.25 feet away from the closest inverter pad and the dB levels at the location will be well below 65/55 dB levels.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will create approximately thirty-two (32) design, management, and construction jobs during the construction period.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project represents a capital investment of approximately \$12.1 million.