

Note:  
This summary was last updated on  
**March 22, 2024**  
For current information, follow this link:  
[PSC Docket Case #9714](#)

**Snow 4.0 MW AC Solar Project**  
**6217 Timmons Road,**  
**Snow Hill, MD 21863 (Worcester County)**  
[PSC Case #9714](#)  
PPRP Case Manager: Mark Mank

Note:  
This summary is based on  
information provided in the CPCN  
Application filed with the PSC on  
**Sept 28, 2023**, the Data Request  
response on **March 8, 2024**, and the  
Status Updates filed on **Nov. 9, 2023**,  
**Dec. 15, 2023**, **Jan. 12, 2024**, and  
**Jan 26, 2024**, all of which are  
subject to change and have not yet  
been fully reviewed by PPRP.

**CPCN Timeline**  
**CPCN Application filed on September 28, 2023**  
**Applicant's Filed Direct Testimony Due: April 24, 2024**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing (Virtual): Week of April 29, 2024**  
**Intervenors' Direct Testimony Due: August 2, 2024**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing: Week of August 19, 2024**  
**Settlement Status Update: August 26, 2024**  
**PSC Evidentiary Hearing (if settlement is reached): September 3, 2024**

**Project Location:**

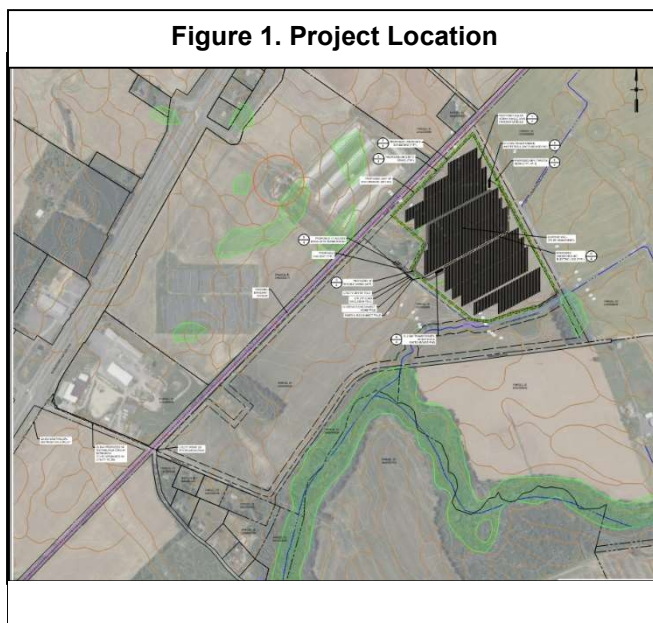
The Snow 4.0 MW AC Solar Project (Project) will be located on a 103.82 acre parcel in Snow Hill, Maryland (Figure 1) in Worcester County. [Google Map Link](#). Per the Applicant, the approximate limit of disturbance (LOD) for the Project will be 29 acres.

**Project Overview:**

Chaberton Solar Snow LLC (Applicant) has applied for a CPCN to construct a 4.0 MW AC solar array in Worcester County.

Project components include:

- 13,959 photovoltaic (PV) modules ground-mounted on a single-axis tracking rack system;
- Interconnection equipment: connection to existing 24.9 kV Feeder line to Kenney Substation, (Applicant is responsible for construction);
- 50 string inverters; and
- Two power centers, each containing a central inverter station and medium voltage transformer.



**Site Description**

The parcel that comprises the Project site consists of undeveloped agricultural land and a standalone residential dwelling. Approximately 58.8 percent of the parcel is considered prime farmland. Post construction of the Project, the landowner will continue agricultural production on the remaining 41 acres of tillable land within the parcel. Surrounding land uses include residential, undeveloped forest land, wetlands, and additional agricultural lands. The Project parcel is located within an Agricultural Zoning District. The proposed solar facility is permitted in the agricultural zone as an established utility scale solar energy system when in compliance with applicable Worcester County Zoning Ordinance requirements for solar energy power systems.

The Project is a Community Solar Energy Generating System and will deliver all of its output to subscribers via the Delmarva Power electric distribution grid. Applicant is approved as a subscriber organization by the PSC for 4MW AC at the site, and at the time of filing, the Delmarva Power interconnection application is formally in the technical review phase.

**Impact Assessment Highlights**

*Biological*

- The Applicant's ERD states the site contains a wetland area and several intermittent streams that are unnamed tributaries to Campground Branch, which flows into the Pocomoke River watershed. The Applicant states that the LOD avoids these features.
- The Applicant's ERD mentions that there are significant wetlands in need of protection that border the Project site; The Applicant states that the delineated wetlands will be buffered at a minimum of 25 feet and that a sediment and erosion control plan will be utilized throughout construction.

- The Applicant states that streams will be buffered 50 feet on each side for a combined total buffer of 100 feet.
- According to the Applicant's ERD, a Preliminary Forest Stand Delineation was completed and determined that there were no specimen trees or forests located in the Project area. The Applicant's ERD states that no forest clearing is proposed.
- The Applicant consulted with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service (DNR-WHS), and DNR-WHS determined that this Project site falls within the drainage to a portion of the Pocomoke River, which is known to support rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) aquatic species. DNR-WHS proposed protection measures for aquatic habitats supporting RTE species as part of their response. The Applicant states that protective measures for aquatic habitats have been incorporated into the stormwater management for the Project, by promoting the use of nonstructural best management practices (BMPs).
- The Applicant's ERD indicates U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has determined there are no critical habitats within the Project area.
- The Applicant intends to apply for the Pollinator-Friendly Solar Designation.
- The ERD states that the Project impervious areas will be limited to those associated with equipment pads for mechanical and electrical equipment.

#### *Noise Impacts*

- The Applicant's ERD states that the proposed DC to AC inverters have the most potential for noise production during solar facility operation. The noise from the additional equipment and the remaining electrical components can be considered negligible. The Applicant's ERD states that the closest residential dwelling is more than 800 feet away from a proposed equipment pad containing inverters.

#### *Visual Impacts*

- The Applicant proposes to enclose the Project with a 7-foot-tall, galvanized mesh security fence.
- The Applicant has proposed a landscape buffer to provide vegetative screening for areas surrounding the array that are not currently provided natural screening by existing trees. The proposed landscape buffer would be at least 6-feet-wide and utilize either a single row or double rows of plantings, consisting of a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees.
- The Applicant states that no public or private airports are located within 3 miles of the Project. The Applicant utilized Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Notice Criteria Tool and Maryland Aviation Administration's (MAA) Airport Zoning Permit Web Map to determine that both FAA notification and MAA notification were not required for the Project.

#### *Cultural Resource Impacts*

- The Applicant has corresponded with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) which has determined that the Project is unlikely to have an effect on significant archeological resources and no additional archeological investigations are recommended. MHT also determined that the Project would have no effect on historic properties.

#### *Public Safety and Transportation*

- The Applicant states that the entrance to the Project site will be accessible via Blake Road, located off of Timmons Road. To the extent possible, construction traffic will minimize land disturbance within the LOC, existing roadway disturbance will be avoided, and applicable permits and coordination will be obtained.
- The Applicant's ERD states during construction, large materials and equipment will be transported to staging areas tractor-trailers and offloaded by construction vehicles. However, the Applicant anticipates that personnel vehicles will comprise most daily construction traffic. During operation, traffic will mostly be limited to maintenance crews for seasonal mowing and vegetation maintenance as well as maintenance for any operational issues.
- The Applicant does not anticipate any impact to fire safety and emergency vehicle traffic. The Applicant plans to coordinate emergency vehicle access to the Project site with the State Fire Marshal.

#### *Economic and Fiscal*

- The Applicant estimates that the Project will create 80 design, management, and construction jobs during the construction period and 3-5 operation and maintenance jobs post-construction.
- The Applicant indicates that the Project represents a capital investment of approximately \$15 million.

#### *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided*

- The Applicant indicates that the Project would reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in Maryland by approximately 7,807 tons per year.