

# Empire Solar Project

*Town of Westfield  
Chautauqua County, New York*



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# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM PLAN

## EMPIRE SOLAR PROJECT

Town of Westfield  
Chautauqua County, New York

**Case No.: 20-F-\_\_\_\_\_**

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**List of Acronyms**

ACENY	Alliance for Clean Energy New York, Inc.
ACS	American Community Survey
CES	Clean Energy Standard
CLCPA	Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act
DOE	Department of Energy
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
GIS	Geographic Information System
HCA	Host Community Agreement
IPP	Independent Power Producers
kV	kilovolt
LFIP	Large Facility Interconnection Procedures
MW	megawatt
NYCRR	New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations
NYISO	New York Independent System Operator
NYPA	New York Power Authority
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDPS	New York State Department of Public Service
NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
OATT	Open Access Transmission Tariff
OPRHP	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
PILOT	payment in lieu of taxes
PIP Plan	Public Involvement Program Plan
POC	point of contact
Project	Empire Solar, LLC Project
Project Area	locations being evaluated for placement of permanent Project facilities, including the proposed collection substation and interconnection facilities
PSL	Public Service Law
PSS	Preliminary Scoping Statement
PV	photovoltaic
RTE	rare, threatened, or endangered
SEP	2015 New York State Energy Plan
SRIS	System Reliability Impact Study
Siting Board	New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment
Study Area	all areas within two miles of the Project Area property boundaries
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Empire Solar, LLC (Empire Solar or the Applicant), a subsidiary of Geronimo Energy, LLC, A National Grid Company (Geronimo), proposes the construction of an approximately 125-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generation facility (Facility) called “Empire Solar” in the Town of Westfield, Chautauqua County, New York. Empire Solar submits this Public Involvement Program (PIP) Plan to the New York State Department of Public Service (NYSDPS) under Article 10 of the Public Service Law (PSL) and Part 1000 of the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment’s (Siting Board’s) rules.

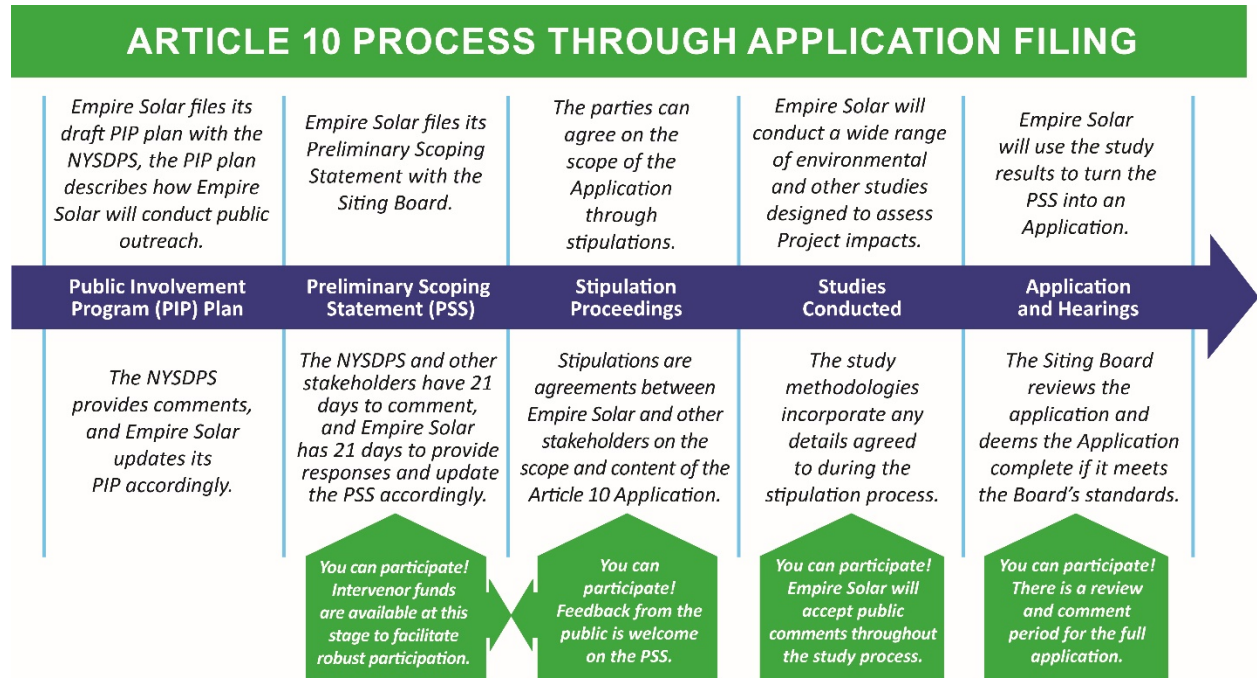
Article 10 of the PSL and its associated regulations govern the process for developers to apply for siting review by the Siting Board. The Article 10 process enables developers to permit a major electric generation facility in a single unified proceeding at the state level. Creation and submission of the PIP Plan is the first formal step toward Certification under Article 10, with submission required at least 150 days prior to Empire Solar filing a Preliminary Scoping Statement (PSS). The Article 10 regulations (16 New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations [NYCRR] § 1000.4 (c)) require a PIP plan to include:

- consultation with the affected agencies and other stakeholders;
- pre-application activities to encourage stakeholders to participate at the earliest opportunity;
- activities designed to educate the public as to the specific proposal and the Article 10 review process, including the availability of funding for municipal and local parties;
- the establishment of a website to disseminate information to the public;
- notifications; and
- activities designed to encourage participation by stakeholders in the certification and compliance process.

Geronimo values its relationships with local stakeholders, and, before undertaking necessary approval processes for and development of any project, Geronimo conducts public outreach to educate interested parties on aspects of a proposed solar project. The purpose of this PIP Plan is to introduce Empire Solar to the public; identify state and local stakeholders and engage them, other interested parties, and the general public in the Article 10 process; and explain how the Applicant’s efforts will satisfy New York legal and regulatory requirements. As with all Article 10 PIP plans, the results of Empire Solar’s outreach efforts described herein will inform Empire

Solar's PSS and Application. Through this process, stakeholder concerns can be evaluated, addressed, and considered by the Siting Board.

In accordance with the Siting Board's rules and 16 NYCRR § 1000.4, the Applicant respectfully submits this PIP Plan to the NYSDPS for review and comment. The phase diagram below identifies an overview of the Article 10 process, starting with the PIP Plan.

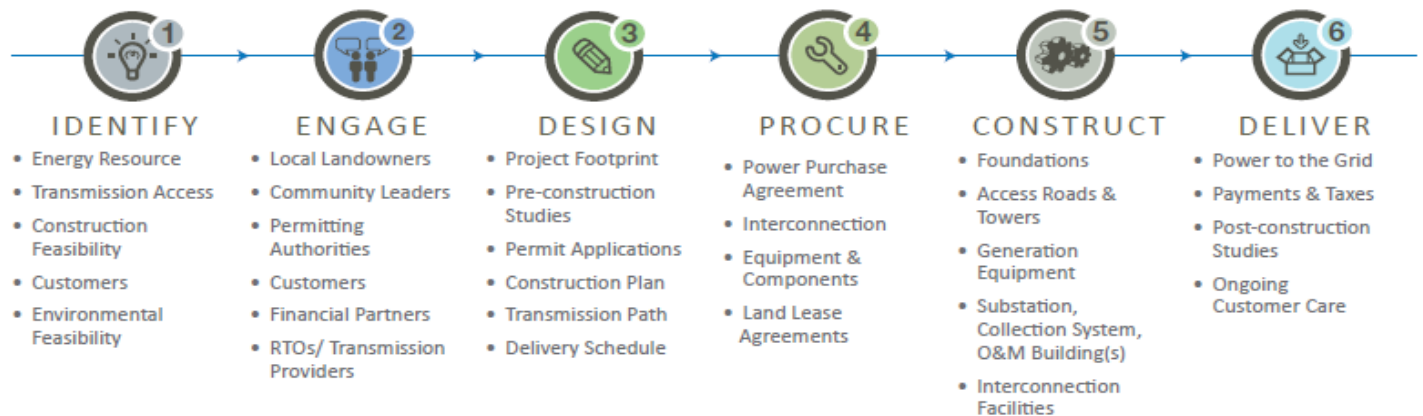


## 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF GERONIMO AND THE EMPIRE SOLAR FACILITY

### 2.1 Company Profile

Empire Solar is a wholly owned subsidiary of Geronimo. Geronimo is a leading independent North American renewable energy development company based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Geronimo provides renewable electric energy development solutions for utilities, Independent Power Producers (IPPs), corporations, and public entities looking to harness renewable energy for business growth. With deep and comprehensive expertise in wind and solar energy development, Geronimo's resume boasts over 2,400 megawatts of U.S. wind and solar energy projects that are either operational or under construction. Geronimo has a multi-gigawatt near-term development pipeline of additional clean energy.



Before developing any project, Geronimo engages in stakeholder outreach to fulfill Geronimo's core mission of leaving the world a better place than it was before we touched it in the following ways:

- environmentally, through the deployment of clean and renewable energy;
- in our communities, through economic development;
- for our employees, through personal improvement and pride in what we do; and
- for our shareholders, through profitable operations.

Keeping in line with its rural focus and farmer-friendly practices, Geronimo develops its projects with integrity, transparency, and honesty.

## 2.2 Project Summary

The Empire Solar Project (the Project) will have a nameplate capacity of approximately 125 MW, estimated to generate enough renewable green energy to power approximately 20,800 New York households<sup>1</sup>. The Project's size, location, and interconnection make it an economical resource, allowing Empire Solar to provide New York State with affordable renewable energy. Specifically, the Project would be compatible with New York State policies mandating the generation of electricity from renewable energy, including the 2015 New York State Energy Plan (SEP), the Clean Energy Standard (CES), and the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) of 2019, which proposes that 70 percent of the State's electricity will be generated by renewables by 2030 (superseding the 50 by 30 goal), and that energy production will be 100 percent renewable by 2040.

The Project will achieve maximum energy output during hot summer afternoons when air-conditioner usage is at its highest. Increased levels of solar energy production during peak energy usage decrease the need for fossil-fuel-fired energy production, reducing air pollution and power prices during periods of peak energy demand. The Project will also provide economic development benefits to host and adjacent communities and neighbors.

The Project Area currently consists of approximately 4,237 acres as shown on Figure 2. It is anticipated that the actual Project will require only approximately 1,500 acres of land for siting of Project components within the Project Area. Project components will be sited on leased, private land owned by a number of participating landowners. With extensive experience developing solar projects such as this one in agricultural areas and adjacent to communities, Geronimo carefully considers the size, location, and environmental impact of each project, as well as local politics, landscapes, and land uses.

Similar to other projects developed by Geronimo, the Applicant anticipates that the Project will have minimal impact on its neighbors, nearby communities, and surrounding landscapes. The proposed Project will be relatively low in height, will not emit air or water pollution, will have no odors, and will produce minimal noise. Empire Solar will also use a variety of fencing, screening,

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<sup>1</sup> Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) <https://www.seia.org/initiatives/whats-megawatt>



setback, and landscaping strategies in an effort to preserve existing viewsheds and maintain the rural character of the surrounding area.

As stated above, the Project is located in the Town of Westfield in Chautauqua County, which is located in western New York, approximately 3 miles east of Lake Erie. The Project Area is situated directly east of the Town of Ripley, approximately 2.3 miles southwest of the Village of Westfield, and 3.3 miles west of the Village of Mayville.

The Project will have significant positive impacts for the region, including economic benefits for the local communities, County, and State in the form of clean renewable energy generation and economic development through construction, operation, and maintenance jobs, expenditures for supplies and materials, lease payments to participating landowners, and tax payments to local communities. Empire Solar anticipates that it will contribute millions of dollars to the Town, County, and school districts in the form of a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement and/or host community agreement (HCA).

The Applicant will conduct various surveys and studies throughout the Article 10 process to assess and measure environmental and community impacts, as well as potential opportunities for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation. Through careful site selection and siting of project components, Geronimo's solar projects positively impact the environment in many ways by providing natural vegetation that can serve as wildlife habitat and improve water quality by reducing stormwater runoff. As required by Article 10, the Project will have a decommissioning plan that includes a financial security to ensure that the Applicant can cover the cost of removing the facility's infrastructure at the end of the Project's life. The Project can therefore be viewed as temporary in nature, and the Project Area will have multiple use options at the end of the Project lifespan. The Project may be repowered if financially feasible or could be restored to farmland or repurposed for another use.

The Project will consist of PV panels installed on low-profile racking systems mounted on poles driven directly into the ground. Inverters, which collect the electricity by the panels and convert it from direct current to alternating current, are spaced throughout the Project. The substation will take the power from the inverters and step it up to match the voltage of the electrical grid. A protective fence will surround the Project. Temporary laydown and staging areas will be used during construction to store and position vehicles and equipment.

Empire Solar will interconnect to the power grid via a line tap to the existing National Grid South Ripley-Dunkirk 230-kV line (see Figure 3). The Project applied for interconnection on December 5, 2019 in accordance with the specifications laid out by Attachment X of the New York Independent System Operator's (NYISO) Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT), which details the Standard Large Facility Interconnection Procedures (LFIP) for facilities 20 MW or larger in size. Empire Solar had scoping meetings with staff from NYISO and National Grid to review the feasibility of the Project interconnection and is in the process of finalizing the scope for the Project's System Reliability Impact Study (SRIS). Empire Solar anticipates that the SRIS will be completed on time for the Project to enter the NYISO Class Year study process in 2020. For reference, Empire Solar is number 954 in the NYISO interconnection queue.

### **2.3 Project Area and Study Area**

Figures 1, 2, and 3 show the regional Project location, the Project Area, and the preliminary Study Area to be used for analysis in the Article 10 Application, respectively.

The Project Area consists of the locations being evaluated for placement of permanent Project facilities (see Figure 2). The Project Area is described in Section 2.2 above and consists of approximately 4,237 acres; however, only a portion of this area will be required for development of the Project. Additional land area beyond what is required for the Project is included in the Project Area in order to provide setbacks from neighboring land uses and to minimize or mitigate potential impacts to environmental resources. The Project Area consists of active agricultural land, along with smaller portions of successional old fields, northern hardwood forests, along with both Chautauqua Gorge and Chautauqua Creek to the east of the Project Area. The majority of the Project Area is within Chautauqua County Agricultural District 1. All parcels within the Project Area have a zoning designation of R-A Residential-Agricultural by the Town of Westfield.

The area around the Project primarily consists of agricultural land, forests, wetlands, rivers, the Village of Westfield, the Village of Mayville (within the Town of Chautauqua), and the Hamlet of Forsyth (within the Town of Ripley). The Applicant identified the Project Area for potential development of a solar project due to access to transmission capacity, relatively few anticipated environmental impacts, available land, and willing participant landowners.

For the purpose of the PIP Plan, Empire Solar has conservatively designated a two-mile radius around the Project Area boundary in all directions as the Study Area. The Study Area currently consists of approximately 26,176 acres of land, including the Towns of Westfield, Ripley, and

Chautauqua, as depicted in Figure 3. Based on the New York State Department of Conservation (NYSDEC) Ecozones Data, the Project Area is located in the Appalachian Plateau within the Cattaraugus Highlands. Elevations within this region start at 1,000 feet above sea level except in valleys along the Great Lake Plain boundary. Because of the Project's low profile, visibility of the Project components will be largely limited to the immediate vicinity of the Project and within the two-mile buffer. A more in-depth description of the Study Area will be included in the PSS and Application.

## **3.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

### **3.1 PIP Plan Goals**

Empire Solar has developed this PIP Plan (Plan) in order to identify stakeholders including groups and individuals with a potential interest in the proposed Project. Consultation with stakeholders through the PIP process provides a platform of open dialogue to distribute general Project information, discuss potential avoidance and minimization measures, and solicit local input, such as the identification of potential impacts. This PIP Plan discusses public involvement activities that will be utilized to achieve these various PIP goals, including encouraging stakeholder engagement and providing awareness and understanding of the proposed Project and Article 10 process. Information gleaned from stakeholders through their participation in various public involvement activities will aid in the development of studies to be further discussed in the PSS and Article 10 Application.

### **3.2 PIP Plan Schedule**

Empire Solar has already begun initial outreach activities within the local communities to introduce the Project and provide updates and will continue conducting public involvement activities during all phases of the Project, including operation and decommissioning/restoration. Empire Solar will continue these activities throughout the Article 10 process. During and after construction of the Project, public involvement will continue pursuant to the dispute resolution plan. These specific activities are discussed below in Section 5.0. Additional outreach to host landowners and municipal officials will take place during decommissioning activities, which will be further discussed in the PSS.

## **4.0 STAKEHOLDERS**

### **4.1 Identification of Stakeholders**

Empire Solar is committed to identifying and involving all applicable stakeholders during development. Proper stakeholder identification helps ensure that the Project has community support and is integrated well into its host community. Empire Solar seeks to evaluate stakeholders that may be impacted by construction and operation of the proposed Project. To ensure successful identification of relevant stakeholders for the PIP, the Applicant has reviewed the following resources, including stakeholders below based on the definitions of “local party” (as defined in (16 NYCRR §1000.2[s]) and “affected agencies” (16 NYCRR §1000 et seq.) described in the Siting Board’s rules:

- Land use plans;
- County websites;
- Town websites;
- Tax records;
- Geographic Information System (GIS) resources; and
- Other independent research.

The Applicant has developed a list of potentially interested parties from these resources, comprising the categories identified and discussed in Sections 4.2 through 4.15 of this Plan.

Empire Solar plans to update the Master Stakeholder List (included as Appendix A to this document) as it identifies potentially interested parties. The Applicant will develop a mailing list based on the stakeholders listed below, addresses provided at public meetings, and those obtained from contacts generated through the Project website. The Applicant anticipates that the mailing list will be updated as necessary based on information received during PIP Plan activities, and these updates will be provided to NYSDPS along with the PIP Plan tracking submissions. Materials distributed for public outreach will include information detailing how individuals and groups can be added to the Master Stakeholder List. Individuals will have various opportunities to be added to the Master Stakeholder List, including mailing a letter to a Project representative through the Project website, via email, Project-specific toll-free phone number (see Section 5.4.1), or requesting to be added to the Master Stakeholder List at an open house event.



## **4.2 Host Community**

The host community is defined as the municipality within which the Project Area and the anticipated Project components are located. The Town Board and Planning Board representing the host community, as applicable, are considered stakeholders and have been identified through publicly available information located on Town and County websites.

## **4.3 County Agencies**

County agencies representing areas with the potential to be affected by the Project have been identified by review of the county websites and/or county GIS data and thereby identified as stakeholders. Additionally, emergency responders such as the County Emergency Services Coordinator and Sheriff have been identified as stakeholders and will be consulted throughout the Article 10 process where applicable.

## **4.4 State Agencies**

State agencies specifically identified in 16 NYCRR §§ 1000.5 and 1000.6 have been listed as stakeholders. Additionally, departments of New York State governments were identified using Geronimo's experience in developing utility projects in the State.

## **4.5 Federal Agencies**

Agencies of the U.S. government were identified using Geronimo's experience in developing projects in the United States, review of previous PIP plan submittals, and NYSDPS guidance.

## **4.6 Legislative Representatives**

Offices of the New York State Legislature, the U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, and Chautauqua County Legislators representing the Project Area and Study Area were identified by review of publicly available information and have been added to the stakeholder list.

## **4.7 Highway Departments**

County and town departments responsible for managing roads in the Study Area were identified by review of town and county boundary maps, and online research.

#### **4.8 Schools**

School districts serving municipalities identified as stakeholders within the Study Area and school districts adjacent to these districts were identified by review of county tax maps and desktop analysis of publicly available data.

#### **4.9 Emergency Responders**

Emergency responders including fire departments, emergency medical services, and police or sheriff departments serving parcels in the Study Area were identified by review of county tax maps and online research.

#### **4.10 Adjacent Municipalities**

Towns, villages, or other municipalities that are not host communities but are in the Study Area have been identified as stakeholders and added to the stakeholder list by review of municipal boundary maps and GIS mapping.

#### **4.11 Utilities**

Companies that own gas, water, sewer, electric, or communications infrastructure in the Project Area were identified through available local and state geographic information databases, online research, and previous PIP plan submittals. Utility companies will be contacted concerning the location of facilities, design, and safety standards for construction near existing infrastructure.

#### **4.12 Public Interest Groups**

Organizations that serve interests of the public including county and town historians, and business, conservation, outdoor recreation, or environmental organizations have been identified as stakeholders. These groups have been identified through online research.

#### **4.13 Airports and Heliports**

The Article 10 regulations require an applicant to consult with airport or heliport operators if the Project triggers the requirement that a Notice of Proposed Construction be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Project will not have any facilities that extend more than 200 feet above ground level, nor does the Project meet any of the other requirements triggering notice in the FAA's regulations. Consequently, the filing of a notice with the FAA will not

be required for the Project. However, Empire Solar has included the Dart Airport and the Westfield Memorial Hospital Heliport as stakeholders and will consult with airport administrators as part of the Article 10 process, as necessary.

#### **4.14 Host and Adjacent Landowners**

Host landowners are those with whom the Applicant has entered (or will enter) into a lease, purchase, or easement agreement for the purpose of installing Project facilities on their land. Adjacent landowners are those with property located within 2,500 feet of a Project solar array, substation or within 500 feet of other Project components (e.g. collector lines, operations and maintenance [O&M] facility, etc.). As Project components are not yet sited within the Project Area, adjacent landowners will be defined as landowners who are 2,500 feet from the boundary of the anticipated Project Area. The Applicant anticipates that the development of a Project layout will be substantially complete and available for discussion prior to the submittal of the Application. As noted herein, public notices of events such as information sessions will be provided to a broader audience than adjacent landowners.

As the Project layout evolves, some stakeholders identified as adjacent landowners may be removed while others may be added in response to changes in land acquisition and facilities siting. Since Empire Solar plans to use stakeholder input to further refine the list of host and adjacent landowners, a list of these landowners is not included herein. However, for privacy purposes, the stakeholder list may include addresses or parcel numbers rather than landowner identification. Empire Solar also has broad additional outreach planned, such as mailings and in-person gatherings to facilitate the development of this list. Empire Solar will keep NYSDPS apprised of additional outreach by filing revised versions of Appendix C. Empire Solar also plans to keep the Project website updated with Project development information as necessary throughout the Article 10 process.

#### **4.15 Area Residents**

Residents of the Study Area who are not participating landowners or adjacent owners are included in the stakeholder list as one group. Empire Solar plans to notify these residents of the Project individually by mailing an informational flyer announcing the open house and providing general Project information to all unique addresses in the tax assessment rolls for the Study Area, and at the identified document repositories (to the extent the repositories have a sign board) (see Section 5.9). At the open house (discussed further in Section 5.3.2), attendees will be encouraged to join

the stakeholder list if they wish to continue to receive notice of future Project milestones, such as availability of the PSS, public statement hearings, and filing of the Application. Besides the open house notification, Empire Solar does not plan additional broad mailings to area residents that do not register as stakeholders. However, these residents can still learn more about the Project through public outreach activities, notices in area newspapers, and updates on the Project website.

Empire Solar will keep NYSDPS informed of additional stakeholders identified, if any, through filing revised versions of Appendix A and/or through the PSS and Article 10 Application.

## **5.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM ELEMENTS**

Pursuant to the Article 10 regulations requiring an applicant to “encourage stakeholders to participate at the earliest opportunity,” Empire Solar has begun initial outreach to identify interested parties and will continue to do so throughout the Article 10 process. Empire Solar plans to adapt stakeholder and outreach activities to best encourage local input and participation as the Article 10 process proceeds.

### **5.1 Initial Outreach and Consultation**

The Article 10 regulations require an applicant to undergo both general and specific consultations with agencies and municipalities the applicant has identified as potentially affected by a project (see the Stakeholder Consultation Goals and Schedule provided as Appendix B). The purpose of consultation is to provide information about the Project, the Article 10 process, and unique aspects of the site and local community; receive and discuss stakeholder interests and issues regarding the same; and schedule follow-up consultations if appropriate. Empire Solar’s communications to identified parties will include (at a minimum) the following:

- A description of the Project and Project location;
- An explanation of the Article 10 process, including opportunities for participation by interested parties at each step;
- A description of the intervenor process and explanation on how to qualify for and obtain intervenor funding; and
- A request for input on the potential impacts and benefits of the Project.

As identified above, Empire Solar plans to consult a broad number of stakeholders and interested parties regarding the Project. Going forward, Empire Solar plans to utilize the following tools to engage identified parties, as applicable.

As an opportunity for education beyond the specifics of this Project, Empire Solar intends to provide information at public meetings and the Project open house (see Section 5.3.2) so as to educate the public on renewable energy as a technology and New York’s unique history of renewable energy policy and regulation. At said events, Empire Solar will have information available on the Article 10 process and timelines, as well as the intervenor fund (including how to participate) and opportunities for public comment. This will be discussed in further detail in the following sections.



Empire Solar plans to carefully track and document all above described activities and will file these logs as part of its revised Appendix C filings.

#### **5.1.1 Stakeholder Notifications**

The Siting Board's rules establish the notification requirements for serving documents. In accordance with 16 NYCRR § 1000.7 and 16 NYCRR § 1000.5, which details the requirements for noticing the filing of the Preliminary Scoping Statement (PSS), Empire Solar will publish all required notices in The Westfield Republican; The Dunkirk, Fredonia, Westfield Pennysaver; and the Town of Westfield website (see Section 5.7). The notices will be placed in a prominent location in the newspaper rather than the "legal notice" section in order to ensure visibility by the largest number of stakeholders. Specific requirements for notifications regarding the PSS will be completed by Geronimo in accordance with 16 NYCRR §1000.5.

As noted in Section 4.15, Empire Solar intends to notify residents within the Study Area individually by mailing an informational flyer. The flyer will provide general Project information and announce the open house to all unique addresses in the tax assessment rolls for the Study Area. Additional information on this notification is provided in Section 5.7.

Empire Solar will publish a notice of the PSS and the Application filings in the newspapers listed above no fewer than three days before filing. Additionally, Empire Solar will serve notifications on each member of the State Legislature whose district lies within any portion of the proposed Project Area; provide written notice to those persons who have filed a statement with the Secretary within the past 12 months that wish to receive such notices; and provide mail notification to all parties on the Master Stakeholder List. Additionally, the Applicant will publish notices on the Project website.

The Applicant will publish any other required notices in the manner prescribed by the Presiding Examiner or under the procedures contained in Article 10.

#### **5.1.2 Collection of Stakeholder Input**

For stakeholder groups, Empire Solar will identify and contact the group's point of contact (POC) to introduce the Project and offer to meet with the stakeholder group or POC. At stakeholder meetings Empire Solar will introduce Empire Solar representatives and inform attendees about the Project and the overall Article 10 review process. In addition, Empire Solar will request feedback on issues that stakeholders want to have considered in the Project design or review. This

feedback will be tracked in the PIP Plan Tracking Report, which is further discussed in sections below.

Individual stakeholders will be notified of several opportunities to learn about the Project and submit input, including on the Project website.

## **5.2 Distribution of PSS and Application Documents to Stakeholders**

Stakeholders will be made aware via mail of PSS and Application availability on the Project website, the NYSDPS website, and at various public document repositories. At this time, Empire Solar does not intend to provide individual hard copies of these documents to stakeholders, except as required under 16 NYCRR §§ 1000.5 and 1000.6.

## **5.3 Pre-Application Activities to Encourage Stakeholders to Participate**

### **5.3.1 Town Board Meetings**

Empire Solar will offer to present at scheduled Town Board meetings of the Town of Westfield during the pre-Application phase. As part of the presentation, Empire Solar representatives will discuss the Project, the Article 10 process, and respond to questions and receive input from the Town Board regarding the Project. The meetings described above as well as any future attendance at Town Board meetings will be documented in the PIP Plan Meeting Log (see Appendix C).

### **5.3.2 Open House Events**

Empire Solar will host one open house-style public meeting prior to the filing of the PSS. The Applicant will strive to hold the open house at a location that maximizes accessibility for the largest number of residents. Additionally, the Applicant will hold the open house after normal working hours to allow opportunities for broad attendance. Empire Solar will provide notice to NYSDPS Staff of the pending open house via email. Empire Solar's representatives will be present at the open house and will provide poster displays on the Project, solar energy, and the Article 10 review process, which will include information regarding intervenor funding availability and the application process. One-on-one and small group informational discussions may take place throughout the duration of the open house, providing opportunities for attendees to gain information on the Project, have their questions addressed, and provide input to Empire Solar representatives. Empire Solar representatives will emphasize the role of stakeholders and encourage interested area residents to join the stakeholder list as part of the open house.

## **5.4 Project Contact Information**

For the duration of the Article 10 process, the Project Representative will be available to receive and address public questions and concerns at:

Brett Hastings  
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd, Suite 1200  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
[empire@geronimoenergy.com](mailto:empire@geronimoenergy.com)

Empire Solar continues to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a Project office in the vicinity of the Facility Site. Whether or not a local office is ultimately established, Empire Solar will continue to seek public involvement throughout the Article 10 process. It is Empire Solar's intent to facilitate communication with interested or affected stakeholders, and to encourage engagement in the public process. Project materials and presentations will be posted on the Project website as they become available and will be available locally if the Project establishes a local office.

### **5.4.1 Project Contact Information (Toll-Free Telephone Number and Email Address)**

Empire Solar will maintain a toll-free telephone number that includes a connection to an automated voicemail as well as a Project-specific email address. The phone number and email address will be advertised on the Project website and in outreach materials and will be monitored for questions on the Project. Empire Solar will endeavor to respond to questions within 2-5 business days.

- The toll-free phone number is: (877) 618-1851.
- The Project-specific email address is: [empire@geronimoenergy.com](mailto:empire@geronimoenergy.com).

## **5.5 Activities Designed to Educate the Public on the Proposal, the Article 10 Review Process, and Funding**

Town Board meetings and the open house (as described above) provide multiple opportunities for Empire Solar to disseminate information to the public concerning Project specifics, the Article 10 process, and the availability of funding for municipal and local parties, as well as to receive information from the public. Educational materials will be available at all meetings, including handouts on Project specifics and the public's role in the Article 10 process, intervenor funding, Project contact information, an invitation to join the stakeholder list, and the location of document repositories. All public meetings and written educational materials will also encourage interested parties to visit the Project website (described below) for information and updates. As mentioned

previously, Project materials and presentations will be posted on the Project website as they become available and will be available locally if the Project establishes a local office.

At the open house, Empire Solar plans to have poster-board displays covering topics such as:

- How photovoltaic solar energy works;
- Overview of the proposed Empire Solar Project;
- Typical construction process for a solar energy facility;
- Project schedule;
- Intervenor funding and Article 10 process (including Pre-Application stakeholder involvement and scoping process);
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs);
- Information about Geronimo;
- Studies expected to be required for permitting of the Project;
- Viewsheds (to the extent available); and
- Economic benefits of the Project to the local economy.

The above subjects will be elaborated further in materials that Empire Solar will prepare to present and distribute using information from its knowledge of the Article 10 process, and industry sources such as New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) NY-Sun Program, the Alliance for Clean Energy New York, Inc. (ACENY), and the Department of Energy (DOE). Versions of these materials will also be made available on the Project website as they become available and will be made available locally if the Project establishes a local office.

### **5.6 Website**

Empire Solar is creating a user-friendly website in plain English that describes the proposed Project. The website also includes information about Article 10 and related Project status and provides notice of opportunities for public participation. As the Project develops further, Empire Solar will update the website with maps, educational materials, Project milestones, etc. to keep the public informed during the development process. The website will also provide further opportunities for submitting questions and concerns directly to the Applicant, the content of which will be documented by the Applicant.

The Project website URL is: [www.geronimoenergy.com/empire](http://www.geronimoenergy.com/empire). The Applicant anticipates that the website will include the following, as each item is completed or becomes available:

- Facility description;
- Facility benefits and need;
- Summary of permitting requirements;
- Links to the Siting Board Article 10 Public Information Coordinator, the Siting Board home page, and case-specific documents;
- Information on the Article 10 process;
- Summary of the Intervenor Funding process and how to apply;
- Facility layout figures and photo simulations/renderings;
- Facility contact information, including email address and toll-free telephone number;
- Copies of Article 10 and related licensing documents;
- Addresses of local document repositories;
- A schedule that lists dates/times/locations for outreach events and key milestone dates, such as when the Application will be filed; and
- Tracking Reports summarizing the Project's PIP activities to date, including summaries of stakeholder interactions, comments, and questions.

As indicated above, the website will include Project contact information (email address and toll-free telephone number). The Applicant intends to respond directly to all substantive inquiries and comments submitted to the Project contact and will document all such correspondence throughout the Application process. Email and postal addresses collected through the website will be added to the Master Stakeholder List.

## **5.7 Notifications**

Empire Solar intends to mail informational flyers to individual residents to notify them of the proposed Project, providing general Project information and announcing the open house(s) to all unique addresses in the tax assessment rolls for the Project Area. In addition to mailings, the open house(s) will be advertised via emails to stakeholders identified in sections above, on the Project website, and in the newspapers listed below. The Applicant will use postal mail and/or email to ensure those stakeholders without an email address on file receive the notification. The open house will be advertised at least two weeks prior to the event(s).



Instructions on how stakeholders can contact Empire Solar throughout the Application and construction process will be included with mailings announcing open house information. Procedures for submitting concerns, questions, and complaints will also be detailed in the Complaint Resolution Plan to be included in the Article 10 Application.

Empire Solar will publish notices of the open house as well as the PSS and Application filings as required by the Article 10 regulations. This information will be published on the Project website and in the following news sources:

- The Dunkirk, Fredonia, Westfield Pennysaver, a free weekly print and online newspaper in Chautauqua County. <https://dfwpennysaver.com/>
- Town of Westfield website, a free online resource where the town publishes public notices. <https://westfieldny.com/posts>
- The Westfield Republican, a weekly print and online subscription newspaper. <http://www.westfieldrepublican.com/>

Additionally, the stakeholder list will be notified via mail when the PSS and Application filings will be available for review. The Applicant will include an updated stakeholder list with these filings, including individuals and parties identified through the Applicant's outreach efforts, as well as proof that a mailing has occurred. Copies of the PSS and Application will be distributed to the local repositories listed below in addition to being posted on the Project website.

## **5.8 Activities Designed to Encourage Stakeholder Participation**

All of the activities described above, including the open house (see Section 5.3.2) and various forms of stakeholder outreach (see Section 5.1), have been designed to provide opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the Article 10 certification and compliance process. Consultations will be considered successful if information about the Project and the Article 10 process (including PSS and Application submittal milestones and document availability) was provided to stakeholders in an appropriate and timely manner (as described above), any relevant information provided to the Applicant was utilized to help advance the PIP Plan process and the preparation, submittal, and review of the Application, and follow-up meetings or consultations were scheduled or undertaken, if necessary.

## **5.9 Document Repositories**

While all information pertaining to the Project will be updated via the Project website as appropriate, Empire Solar proposes to maintain hard copies of the PIP Plan, the PSS, and the Article 10 Application (and any updated subsequent versions of these documents), subject to host ability or capacity, at the following locations for those stakeholders who may not have access to the website, or prefer to review hard copies:

- Patterson Library, 40 South Portage Street, Westfield, NY 14787
- Westfield Town Hall, 23 Elm Street, Westfield, NY 14787

Stakeholder participation will be documented by Empire Solar through the following activity:

PIP Plan Meeting Log: The log will document the event date, location, attendees (or category thereof), summary of topics discussed, and any follow-up steps to be taken following the event (see Appendix C). The PIP Plan tracking report will be filed with the Secretary to the Board and posted to the Project website on approximately a quarterly basis.

## 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AREAS

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regulations describe the process for an Article 10 applicant to determine whether a proposed project is likely to impact an environmental justice area, defined as “a minority or low-income community that may bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations” (6 NYCRR § 487.3(l)).

The NYSDEC’s Environmental Justice Policy (CP-29) further provides criteria for an environmental justice area as follows:

- At least 51.1% of the population in an urban area reported themselves to be members of minority groups; or
- At least 33.8% of the population in a rural area reported themselves to be members of minority groups; or
- At least 23.59% of the population in an urban or rural area had household incomes below the federal poverty level.

CP-29 has limited applicability, applying only to applications for major projects and major modifications for permits relating to water pollution, air pollution, solid and hazardous waste management, and siting of industrial hazardous waste facilities. The Project will not require any such permits. Accordingly, CP-29 is not applicable to the Project. Although CP-29 is not applicable, the Applicant has considered whether the Project could have negative impacts on nearby environmental justice areas. Based on the EPA’s Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN), the Project Area is entirely within census block group 2. Approximately 31% of the population in census block group 2 within the Town of Westfield is considered to be low-income, indicating the potential for an environmental justice area (Figure 4). While the Applicant does not expect that the Project will have impacts on any environmental justice areas, the Applicant will voluntarily provide additional information about potential impacts to environmental justice areas in the PSS for the Project, and to comply with the Siting Board’s environmental justice regulations throughout the entire Article 10 proceeding for the Project. Because the Town of Westfield is the host community and already included in the Master Stakeholder List (see Appendix A), Empire Solar will continue to engage the Town of Westfield as the Article 10 process proceeds.

## 7.0 LANGUAGE ACCESS

The Article 10 regulations require an applicant to identify in its PIP (1) any language other than English spoken according to United States Census data by 5,000 or more persons residing in any 5-digit zip code postal zone in which any portion of such zone is located within the Study Area for the facility; and (2) any language other than English spoken by a significant population of persons residing in close proximity to the proposed facility, alternative locations, or interconnections.

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, a total of 9,742 people within all of Chautauqua County speak a language other than English at home. The Study Area falls within the three different zip code tabulation areas within the Towns of Westfield, Chautauqua, and Ripley as shown in Table 1 below. No language other than English is spoken by more than 5,000 people residing in any zip code within the Study Area (again, see Table 1 below). As there do not appear to be more than 5,000 persons within the Project's zip code speaking a non-English language, the Applicant does not propose any non-English public outreach for this Project.

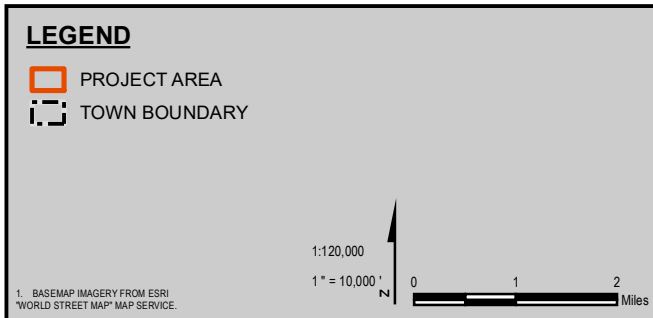
<b>Table 1. Number of Residents of Study Area</b> <b>Zip Codes who speak a Language Other than English</b>						
Zip Code	Post Office	Total Population (5 years and older)	Speak Only English	Percentage of Population that speaks only English	Most Prevalent Non- English Language Spoken	
					Language	Number of People
14787	Westfield	4,607	4,314	93.6	Spanish	114
14722	Chautauqua	269	232	86.2	Indo-European	11
14775	Ripley	2,400	2,321	96.7	Spanish	63
Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate, Table ID S1601: Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over						



## FIGURES

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane New York West FIPS 3103 Feet (Foot US) Map Resolution: 0



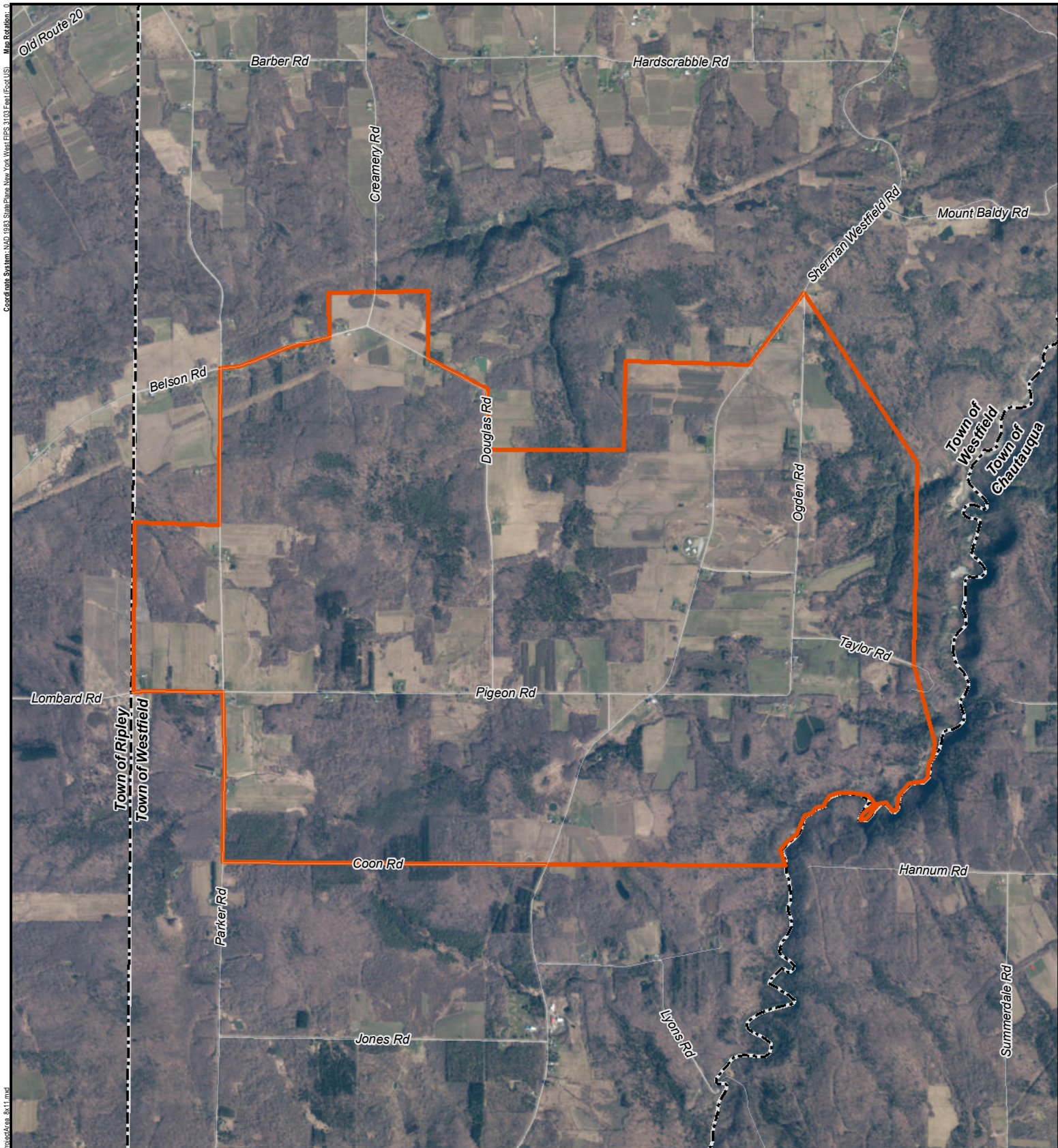
Regional Project Location 8x11.mxd



PROJECT: EMPIRE SOLAR LLC TOWN OF WESTFIELD CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY, NY	
TITLE: REGIONAL PROJECT LOCATION	
DRAWN BY: A. KAILAS	PROJECT NO.: 373222
CHECKED BY: A. HESSLER	FIGURE 1
APPROVED BY: R. SILVA	
DATE: FEBRUARY 2020	
 215 GREENFIELD PKWY, STE 102 LIVERPOOL, NY 13088	
 a nationalgrid company	



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane New York West Field 3103 Feet (Foot US) Map Resolution: 0



Path: S:\PROJECTS\Geronimo\373222\Empire Solar\Empire PIP Figure2 Proposed Area Bx11.mxd



**LEGEND**

- PRELIMINARY PROJECT AREA
- TOWN BOUNDARY

Note: No public lands, nor land without private agreement and approval will be used for this project.

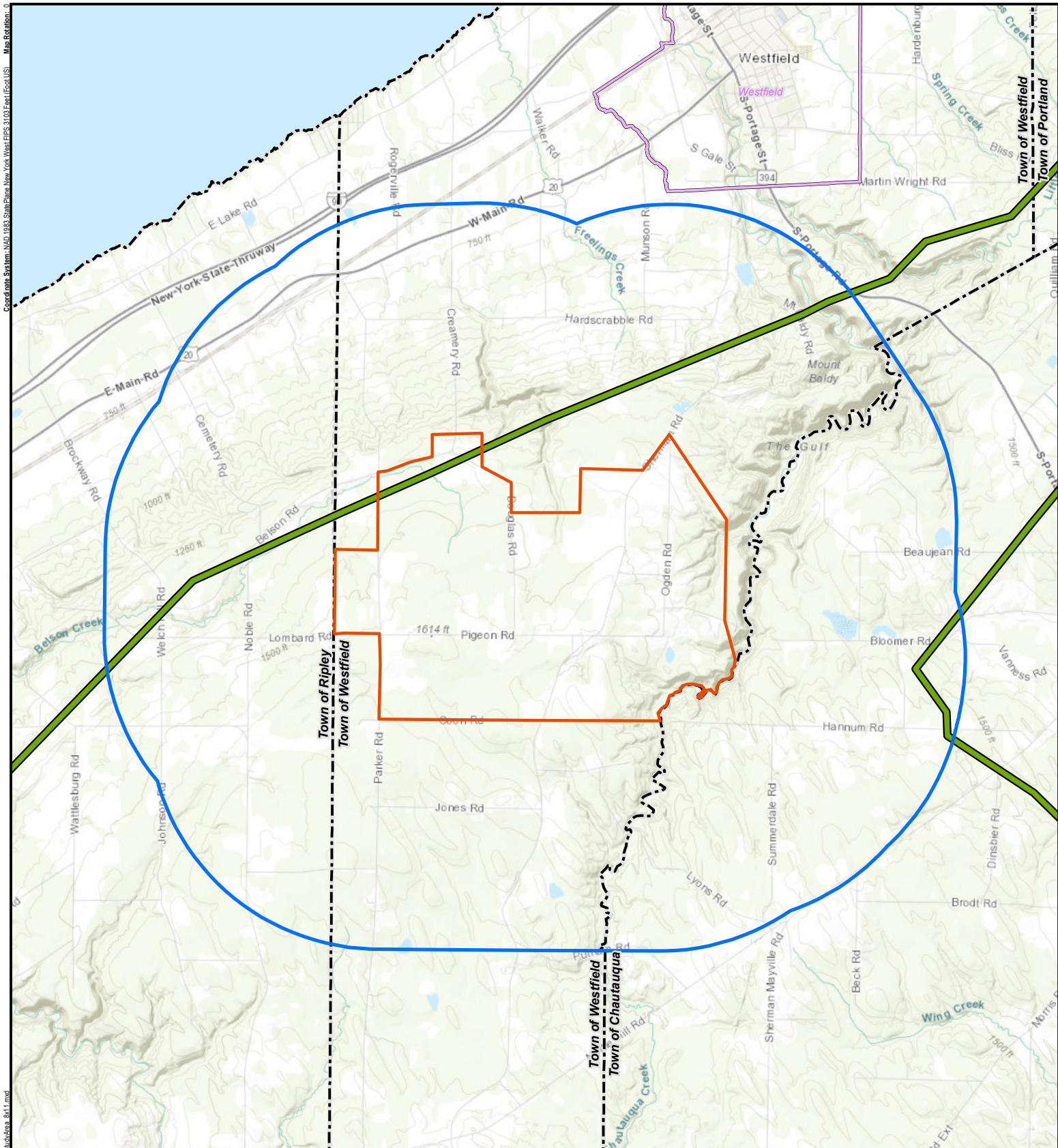
1:36,000  
1" = 3,000'

0 1,500 3,000 Feet

1. BASEMAP IMAGERY FROM ESRI  
"WORLD IMAGERY" MAP SERVICE.

PROJECT: EMPIRE SOLAR LLC TOWN OF WESTFIELD CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY, NY	
TITLE: PRELIMINARY PROJECT AREA	
DRAWN BY: A. KAILAS	PROJECT NO.: 373222
CHECKED BY: A. HESSLER	
APPROVED BY: R. SILVA	
DATE: FEBRUARY 2020	
 215 GREENFIELD PKWY, STE 102 LIVERPOOL, NY 13088	 a nationalgrid company





**LEGEND**

- PROJECT AREA
- TWO-MILE STUDY AREA
- VILLAGE BOUNDARY
- TOWN BOUNDARY
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE

Note: No public lands, nor land without private agreement and approval will be used for this project.

1:72,000  
1" = 6,000'

0 0.5 1 Miles

1. BASEMAP IMAGERY FROM ESRI  
\*WORLD TOPOGRAPHIC MAP\* MAP SERVICE.

PROJECT: EMPIRE SOLAR LLC TOWN OF WESTFIELD CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY, NY	
TITLE: STUDY AREA	
DRAWN BY: A. KAILAS	PROJECT NO.: 373222
CHECKED BY: A. HESSLER	
APPROVED BY: R. SILVA	
DATE: FEBRUARY 2020	
 215 GREENFIELD PKWY, STE 102 LIVERPOOL, NY 13088	 a nationalgrid company





## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A. Master Stakeholder List**

**HOST COMMUNITIES & REPRESENTATIVES**

Town of Westfield  
Andrea L. Babcock, Town Clerk  
23 Elm Street  
Eason Hall  
Westfield, NY 14787

Westfield Planning Board  
Phil Riedesel, Chairman  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Town of Westfield  
Bonnie Rae Strickland, Town Code  
Enforcement Officer  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Westfield Planning Board  
John Hemmer, Board Member  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Town of Westfield  
Martha R. Bills, Town Supervisor  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Westfield Planning Board  
Diana Hamann, Board Member  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Town of Westfield  
Dr. David S. Brown, Deputy Supervisor/  
Councilman  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Westfield Planning Board  
Chris Reese, Board Member  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Town of Westfield  
David Spann, Town Councilman  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Westfield Planning Board  
Tom Tarpley, Board Member  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Town of Westfield  
James Herbert, Town Councilman  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Westfield Planning Board  
Chad Schofield, Board Member  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Town of Westfield  
Will Northrop, Town Councilman  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Westfield-Barcelona Community Chamber  
of Commerce  
Sue Poster, Chamber Coordinator  
33 East Main Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

**COUNTY AGENCIES AND REPRESENTATIVES**

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce  
Todd Trantum, President and CEO  
300 North Main Street  
P.O. Box 27  
Jamestown, NY 14701

Chautauqua County Department of  
Planning & Economic Development  
Mark Odell, Chairman  
3 N. Erie Street  
Mayville, NY 14757

Chautauqua County District Attorney  
Patrick Swanson, County District Attorney  
1 N. Erie Street  
Mayville, NY 14757

Chautauqua County  
Paul Wendel, County Executive  
3 N. Erie Street  
Gerace Office Building  
Mayville, NY 14757

Chautauqua County  
Larry L. Barmore, County Clerk  
1 N. Erie Street  
County Courthouse  
Mayville, NY 14757

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau  
Richard Kimball, President, District 1  
Director  
159 Wolf Road  
PO Box 5330  
Albany, NY 12205

Chautauqua County Legislature  
Kathy Tampio, Clerk of the Legislature  
3 N. Erie Street  
Mayville, NY 14757

Chautauqua County Legislature  
Olivia Ames, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
3 N. Erie Street  
Mayville, NY 14757

Chautauqua County Legislature  
John Hemmer, District 19 Representative  
3 N. Erie Street  
Mayville, NY 14757

Chautauqua County Legislature  
Pierre Chagnon, Chairman, Board of  
Legislators  
3 N. Erie Street  
Mayville, NY 14757

Chautauqua County Real Property Tax  
Services  
Jim Caflisch, Director  
3 N. Erie Street  
Gerace Office Building  
Mayville, NY 14757

Chautauqua County Attorney  
Stephen M. Abdella, County Attorney  
3 N. Erie Street  
Gerace Office Building  
Mayville, NY 14757

Chautauqua County Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
David Spann, District Field Manager  
220 Fluvanna Avenue  
Suite 600  
Jamestown, NY 14701

**STATE AGENCIES**

Empire State Development Corporation  
Eric Gertler, Acting Commissioner  
633 Third Avenue  
Floor 37  
New York, NY 10017

Empire State Development Corporation  
Amanda Mays, Western New York Regional  
Director  
95 Perry Street, Suite 500  
Buffalo, NY 14203

New York State Attorney General  
Letitia James,  
Office of the Attorney General  
Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

New York State Department of Agriculture  
and Markets  
Richard Ball, Commissioner  
10B Airline Drive  
Albany, NY 12235

New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
Basil Seggos, Commissioner  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233

New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
Abby Snyder, Region 9 Regional Director  
182 E. Union Street, Suite 3  
Allegany, NY 14706

New York State Department of Health  
Howard Zucker, Commissioner  
Corning Tower  
Albany, NY 12233

New York State Department of Public  
Service  
James Denn, Public Information Officer  
Agency Building 3  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

New York State Department of Public  
Service  
Lorna Gillings, Outreach Contact  
Agency Building 3  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

New York State Department of Public  
Service  
Noreena Chaudari, Assistant Counsel  
Agency Building 3  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

New York State Department of Public  
Service  
David Solimeno, Excelsior Fellow, Office of  
General Counsel  
Agency Building 3  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

New York State Department of Public  
Service  
Andrew Davis, Office of Electric, Gas, and  
Water  
Agency Building 3  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

New York State Department of Public  
Service  
Acting Secretary  
Agency Building 3  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

New York State Department of State  
Rossana Rosado, Secretary of State  
One Commerce Plaza  
99 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12231

New York State Department of  
Transportation  
Francis Cirillo, Region 5 Regional Director  
100 Seneca Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

New York State Department of  
Transportation  
Matthew Driscoll, Commissioner  
50 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12232

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation,  
and Historic Preservation  
Facilities Management Bureau  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233

New York State Division of Homeland  
Security and Emergency Services  
John Mellville, Commissioner  
State Campus, Building 7A  
Suite 710  
Albany, NY 12242

New York State Siting Board  
John Rhodes, Chair  
Agency Building 3  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

New York State Energy Research and  
Development Authority  
Alicia Barton, President and CEO  
17 Columbia Circle  
Albany, NY 12203

New York State Energy Research and  
Development Authority  
Richard Kaufmann, Board Chairman  
17 Columbia Circle  
Albany, NY 12203

New York State Energy Research and  
Development Authority  
Kelly Tyler, Director of Communities and  
Community Outreach  
17 Columbia Circle  
Albany, NY 12203

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation,  
and Historic Preservation  
Region 2 Allegany  
2373 ASP Route #1  
Suite 3  
Salamanca, NY 14779

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation,  
and Historic Preservation  
Ruth Pierpont, Deputy Commissioner  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233

**FEDERAL AGENCIES**

Federal Aviation Administration  
Carmine Gallo, Administrator  
1 Aviation Plaza  
Jamaica, NY 11434

National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration  
Karl Nebbia, Office of Spectrum  
Management  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

US Department of Defense, Defense Siting  
Clearinghouse  
Steven Sample, Mission Evaluation Branch  
3400 Defense Pentagon  
Room 5C646  
Washington, DC 20341

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Steven Metivier, Chief, New York  
Application Evaluation Section  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207

US Department of Agriculture Farm Service  
Agency  
Public Affairs Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
STOP 0506  
Washington, DC 20250

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
David Stilwell, Field Supervisor  
3817 Luker Road  
Cortland, NY 13045

**LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES**

Governor of New York State  
Andrew Cuomo, Governor  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

State Assembly  
Andy Goodell, District 150  
2 E. 2nd Street, Suite 320  
Fenton Building  
Jamestown, NY 14701

State Senate  
George Borrello, District 57  
2-6 E. Second Street, Suite 302  
Fenton Building  
Jamestown, NY 14701

US House of Representatives  
Tom Reed, Representative, 23rd  
Congressional District  
2 E. 2nd Street, Suite 208  
Jamestown, NY 14701

US Senate  
Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator  
100 South Clinton Street  
Room 1470  
Syracuse, NY 13261

US Senate  
Charles Schumer, Senator  
100 South Clinton Street  
Room 841  
Syracuse, NY 13261

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENTS**

Town of Ripley Highway Department  
James Spacht, Highway Superintendent  
50 Ross Street  
P.O. Box  
Ripley, NY 14775

Town of Westfield Highway Department  
David Babcock, Highway Superintendent  
Chestnut Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Chautauqua County Department of Public  
Facilities  
Brad Bentley, Director  
454 N. Work St.  
Falconer, NY 14733



**SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Westfield Central School District  
Michael Cipolla, Superintendent  
203 East Main Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Sherman Central School District  
Michael Ginestre, Superintendent  
127 Park Street  
P.O. Box 950  
Sherman, NY 14781

Ripley Central School District  
William Caldwell, Superintendent  
12 North State Street  
P.O. Box 688  
Ripley, NY 14775

Chautauqua Lake Central School District  
Benjamin Spitzer, Superintendent  
100 North Erie Street  
Mayville, NY 14757

**EMERGENCY RESPONDERS**

Ripley Fire Hall  
Mark Smith, Fire Chief  
12 South State Street  
P.O. Box 342  
Ripley, NY 14775

South Ripley Fire Hall  
Mark Smith, Fire Chief  
10268 NE-Sherman Road  
Ripley, NY 14775

Westfield Fire Department  
Jerry Ruch, Fire Chief  
20 Clinton Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Chautauqua County Fire Department  
Jessie Briggs, Fire Chief  
2 Royal Way  
P.O. Box F  
Chautauqua, NY 14722

Westfield Police Department  
Robert Genthner, Chief of Police  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Chautauqua Police Department  
7 Massey Avenue  
Chautauqua, NY 14722

Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department  
James Quattrone, Sheriff  
15 E. Chautauqua Street  
Mayville, NY 14757

Chautauqua County Emergency  
Management  
John Griffith, Director of Emergency  
Services  
2 Academy Street  
Suite A, Room 106  
Mayville, NY 14757

State Police Troop A Headquarters  
4525 West Saile Drive  
Batavia, NY 14020

**ADJACENT MUNICIPALITIES**

Town of Chautauqua  
Donald Emhardt, Supervisor  
2 Academy Street  
Mayville, NY 14757

Town of Ripley  
Douglas Bowen, Town Supervisor  
14 North State Street  
P.O. Box 352  
Ripley, NY 14775

**UTILITIES**

National Grid  
P.O. Box 11742  
Newark, NJ 07101-4791

New York State Independent System  
Operator  
10 Krey Boulevard  
Rensselaer, NY 12144

National Fuel Gas Company  
Corporate Headquarters  
6363 Main Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221

Westfield Electric Department (IEEP)  
Tye Flurie, Working Foreman  
42 English Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

New York Power Authority (NYPA)  
Corporate Communications  
123 Mail Street  
Mail Stop 10 B  
White Plains, NY 10601

**ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS**

Chautauqua County Farm Service Agency  
Loraine Post, County Executive Director  
220 Fluvanna Avenue  
Suite 600  
Jamestown, NY 14701

Chautauqua County Historical Society  
Cristie Herbst, President  
Moore Park/NYS Rts 394 & 20  
P.O. Box 7  
Westfield, NY 14787

Cornell Cooperative Extension,  
Chautauqua County  
Emily Reynolds, Executive Director  
3542 Turner Road  
Jamestown, NY 14701

NRCS Local Conservation Work Group -  
Chautauqua County  
Bryan Nothdurft, Soil Conservationist  
220 Fluvanna Avenue  
Suite 600  
Jamestown, NY 14701

**PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS**

Jamestown Audubon Society  
Leigh Rovegno, Executive Director  
1600 Riverside Road  
Jamestown, NY 14701

Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy  
John Jablonski, Executive Director  
413 north Main Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701

Southern Tier West Regional Planning &  
Development Board  
Richard Sink, Executive Director  
4039 Route 219  
Suite 200  
Salamanca, NY 14779

Chautauqua Lake & Watershed  
Management Alliance  
Randall Perry, Alliance Project Manager  
210 West 3rd Street  
Suite 115  
Jamestown, NY 14701

The Nature Conservancy  
David Klein, Senior Field Representative  
4245 North Fairfax Drive  
Suite 100  
Arlington, VA 22203

Town of Westfield  
Marybelle Beigh, Westfield Town and  
Village Historian  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

**AIRPORTS AND HELIPORTS**

Dart Airport  
Gregory Dart, Owner & Manager  
6167 Plank Road  
P.O. Box 211  
Mayville, NY 14757

Westfield Memorial Hospital Heliport  
Cindy Harper, Manager  
189 East Main Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

**PARTICIPATING LANDOWNERS**

*To be identified at a later date*

**ADJACENT LANDOWNERS**

*To be identified at a later date*

**LOCAL DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES**

Patterson Library  
Tom Vitale, Director  
40 South Portage Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

Westfield Town Hall  
23 Elm Street  
Westfield, NY 14787

**Appendix B. Stakeholder Consultation Goals and Schedule**

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
<b>Federal Agencies / Representatives</b>		
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Identify any concerns related to Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act	Consultation letter prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process
US Army Corps of Engineers	Clarify jurisdiction and requirements under Section 404 and Clean Water Act	Initiate prior to submittal of Article 10 application and ongoing throughout Article 10 process
US Department of Defense	Discuss any navigational issues of concern to military aircraft	Consultation letter prior to submittal of Article 10 application and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Federal Aviation Administration	Discuss any navigational issues of concern to glint/glare	Consultation letter prior to submittal of Article 10 application and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
US Senator Charles E. Schumer	Notification as required by Article 10	Prior to submittal of Article 10 application and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
US Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand	Notification as required by Article 10	Prior to submittal of Article 10 application and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
US Congressman Tom Reed (District 23)	Notification as required by Article 10	Prior to submittal of Article 10 application and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
National Telecommunications and Information Administration	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS; additional consultation anticipated to occur throughout the Article 10 process (as necessary)
<b>New York State Agencies / Representatives</b>		
Members of NYS Assembly (Andy Goodell – 150 <sup>th</sup> District) and NYS Senate (George Borrello – 57 <sup>th</sup> District)	Introduce Project, Article 10 process, and provide contact information	Introductory letter to be sent prior to PSS
	Notification as required by Article 10	Prior to submittal of the PSS
	Respond to specific inquiries or comments	As requested by the Stakeholder
NYS Department of Public Service	Introduce the Project and coordinate Article 10 process	Introductory meeting to be held prior to submittal of PSS, to be followed by others as needed. Correspondence anticipated to occur throughout Article 10 process
NYSDEC, Main Headquarters and Region 9 Staff.	Introduce Project and provide contact information; identify agency concerns related to rare, threatened, or endangered (RTE) species, wetlands, and streams	Introductory meeting to be requested prior to submittal of PSS, to be followed by others as needed. Correspondence anticipated to occur throughout Article 10 process
	Additional input of survey plans; feedback on study results	

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	Coordinate consultation in accordance with Section 14.09 of the New York State Parks, Historic Preservation Law, and/or Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act, as required	Correspondence and meetings to be requested prior to the Article 10 Application submittal to inform of work plans and contents of cultural studies; ongoing interaction to review findings as necessary throughout Article 10 process
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), Thousand Islands Regional Commission	Coordinate consultation in accordance with Section 14.09 of the New York State Parks, Historic Preservation Law, and/or Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act, as required	Correspondence and meetings to be requested prior to the submittal of the Article 10 Application to inform work plans and contents of cultural studies; ongoing interaction to review findings as necessary throughout Article 10 process
NYS Department of Health	Notification as required by Article 10	Prior to submittal of the Article 10 Application and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
NYS Department of Transportation	Notification as required by Article 10	Prior to submittal of the Article 10 application and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
NYS Energy Research and Development Authority	Notification as required by Article 10	Prior to submittal of the Article 10 Application and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services	Notification as required by Article 10	Prior to submittal of the Article 10 application and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
NYS Department of State	Notification as required by Article 10	Prior to submittal of the Article 10 Application and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
NYS Department of Ag & Markets	Notification as required by Article 10; Introduce Project including contact information; discuss areas of interest and identify agency concerns	Introductory meeting to be requested prior to submittal of PSS; consultation anticipated to occur throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
NYS Attorney General	Notification as required by Article 10	Prior to submittal of the Article 10 Application
New York Independent System Operator	Participation in interconnection process	Interconnection filings to be submitted prior to submittal of the Article 10 Application.
New York State Thruway Authority	Notification as required by Article 10	Prior to submittal of the Article 10 application
Empire State Development Corporation	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
<b>Host County</b>		
Chautauqua County Executive (Paul Wendel)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS; additional consultation anticipated to occur throughout the Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua County Legislative Clerk (Cathy Tampio)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS; additional consultation anticipated to occur throughout the Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua County Board of Legislators (Chairman, Pierre Chagnon)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS; additional consultation anticipated to occur throughout the Article 10 process (as necessary)
David Spann District Field Manager Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS; additional consultation anticipated to occur throughout the Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua County Dept. of Planning and Economic Development (Mark Odell, Chairman)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS; additional consultation anticipated to occur throughout the Article 10 process (as necessary)



Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
Chautauqua Department of Public Facilities (Brad Bentley, Director)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS; additional consultation anticipated to occur throughout the Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua County Real Property and Tax Services (Jim Caflisch, Director)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS; additional consultation anticipated to occur throughout the Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua County Farm Bureau	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS; additional consultation anticipated to occur throughout the Article 10 process (as necessary)
<b>Host Municipalities</b>		
<b>Town of Westfield</b>		
Town Supervisor (Martha R. Bills)	Introduce Empire Solar and the Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information; Discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Introductory meeting to be requested prior to submittal of PSS and throughout the Article 10 process (as necessary)
Town Clerk (Andrea L. Babcock)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
Town Code Enforcement Officer (Bonnie Rae Strickland)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Town Highway Department Superintendent (David Babcock)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Airports		
Dart Airport	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Westfield Memorial Hospital Heliport	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
<b>School Districts</b>		
Westfield Central School District	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern, if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Ripley Central School District	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern, if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Sherman Central School District	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern, if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua Lake Central School District	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern, if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
<b>Chambers of Commerce</b>		
Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce (Todd Trantum, CEO and President)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
Westfield-Barcelona Community Chamber of Commerce (Sue Poster, Chamber Coordinator)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
<b>Emergency Responders</b>		
Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern, if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Westfield Fire Department	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua County Fire Department	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern, if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Ripley Fire Hall	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern, if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
South Ripley Fire Hall	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern, if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Westfield Police Department	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern, if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua Police Department	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern, if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua County Emergency Management	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
New York State Police, Troop A	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
<b>Adjacent Municipalities</b>		
Town of Chautauqua	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Town of Ripley	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
<b>Additional Stakeholders</b>		
Participating Landowners	Landowner agreements	Correspondence by phone, mail or in-person meeting per Article 10 regulations and as needed
Adjacent Landowners	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
Area Residents	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to PSS submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua County Historical Society	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Westfield Village and Town Historian	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua County USDA Farm Service Agency	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
Cornell Cooperative Extension, Chautauqua County	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
NRCS Local Conservation Group – Chautauqua County	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
National Grid	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
New York Power Authority	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout NYISO interconnection process.



Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
New York State Independent System Operator	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Westfield Electric Department (IEEP)	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
National Fuel Gas Company	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Jamestown Audubon Society	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
The Nature Conservancy	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)

Name	Goals of Consultation	Schedule
Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Alliance	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)
Patterson Library	Notification to introduce Project, Article 10 process, intervenor funding and provide contact information. Follow-up to discuss Project related areas of interest or concern, if requested	Notification prior to submittal of the PSS and ongoing throughout Article 10 process (as necessary)

**Appendix C.**  
**Empire Solar Project PIP Plan Meeting Log**

Date	Location of Meeting/Method of Communication	Meeting Attendees/Communication Participants	Purpose of Meeting/Communication and Comments	Follow Up Action Items

**Appendix D**  
**Empire Solar Preliminary Project Schedule**

*\*Please note – all dates are estimated and subject to change; notification of major project milestones and public participation opportunities will be provided as information is available*

**February 2020** – File Preliminary Public Involvement Program Plan with NYSDPS

**April 2020** – File Final Public Involvement Program Plan with NYSDPS

**Spring 2020** – Public Open House Informational Meeting; Public to be notified of specific date/location prior to meeting

**Summer 2020** – File Preliminary Scoping Statement

**Fall 2020** – File Article 10 Application

**Winter 2021** – Siting Board Decision on Issuance of Article 10 Certificate

**Fall 2023** – Commercial Operation Date



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