NEW YORK STATE | Department of Public Service
Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

RORY M. CHRISTIAN
Chief Executive Officer

ZERYAI HAGOS
ORES Executive Director

February 27, 2026

Hemlock Ridge Solar LLC
Attn: James Muscato, Esq.
Young/Sommer LLC
500 Federal Street, 5th Floor
Troy, NY 12180
jmuscato@youngsommer.com

RE: NOTICE TO PROCEED - PHASE 1, TREE FELLING
ORES DMM Matter No. 21-00748– Application of Hemlock Ridge Solar LLC for a Major Renewable Energy Facility Siting Permit Pursuant to Article VIII of the New York State Public Service Law to Develop, Design, Construct, Operate, Maintain, and Decommission a 200 Megawatt (MW) Solar Energy Facility located in the Towns of Barre and Shelby, Orleans County, New York.

Dear James Muscato,

In accordance with the requirements of Article VIII and its implementing regulations (title 16 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York [16 NYCRR] part 1100), the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (Office or ORES) issued the above-captioned Major Renewable Energy Facility Siting Permit (Permit) to Hemlock Ridge Solar LLC (Permittee) for a 200 MW Solar Facility on September 22, 2022.[1]

In accordance with 16 NYCRR § 1100-10.2 and Subparts 5.1(g) and 6(e) of the Permit, on November 14, 2025 (DMM Item No. 91) and November 26, 2025 (DMM Item No. 92) the Permittee submitted pre-construction compliance filings to support a limited "Notice to Proceed" (NTP) with construction of Phase 1 of its overall phasing plan, which involves tree

[1] Effective April 20, 2024, the Renewable Action through Project Interconnection and Deployment (RAPID) Act (L 2024, ch 58, part O) repealed Executive Law § 94-c, repealed the current Public Service Law (PSL) Article VIII, and enacted a new PSL Article VIII entitled "Siting of Renewable Energy and Electric Transmission" (see RAPID Act §§ 2, 11). The RAPID Act also retitled the Office as the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission; transferred the Office from the Department of State to the Department of Public Service; and continued all existing functions, powers, duties, and obligations of the Office under former Executive Law § 94-c. (see id. §§ 3, 4). With respect to ORES's regulations at 19 NYCRR part 900 (Part 900), the RAPID Act transferred part 900 to 16 NYCRR chapter XI, and continued Part 900 in full force and effect subject to conforming changes, which were filed with the Secretary of State and became effective July 17, 2024. All applications pending before the Office on the effective date of the Act are considered and treated as applications filed pursuant to the RAPID Act as of the date of application filing (see id. § 4). Accordingly, this Notice to Proceed references PSL Article VIII (rather than former Executive Law § 94-c) and regulations at 16 NYCRR chapter XI (rather than the numbering of former Part 900).

felling activities using hand operated machinery and low ground pressure equipment. The Office provided comments on January 13, 2026 (DMM Item No. 95). The Permittee submitted its response to the Office's comments on January 29, 2026 (DMM Item No. 98). The final approved compliance filings necessary for construction of Phase 1 are listed in **Attachment A**.

ORES hereby issues this Notice to Proceed with construction for the scope of activities as described in the Permittee's request and in accordance with the documents listed in **Attachment A**.

The Permittee is required to conduct all construction activities in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Permit. Without limitation, this NTP does not provide authorizations for any necessary federal or federally-delegated permits. It is the Permittee's responsibility to ensure it has received all necessary federal or federally-delegated permits before proceeding with construction as defined and authorized in this NTP.

If you have any questions, please contact Jasmine Matley at jasmine.matley@dps.ny.gov or Andrew Fecco at andrew.fecco@dps.ny.gov or (315) 200-0162.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Sara Koch
Sara Koch, Esq.
Associate Counsel
New York State Department of Public Service, Office of General Counsel
On behalf of

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING
AND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

ATTACHMENT A
COMPLIANCE FILINGS

Pursuant to 16 NYCRR § 1100-10.1, applicable pre-construction compliance filings provided by the Permittee in support of its Notice to Proceed with Phase 1 Construction have been received and/or approved, as necessary.

1. Permit subparts 6(a)(1) and 7.1(c) – Appendix A. Plans, Profiles, and Detail Drawings for Tree Felling Rev 1 Parts 1 and 2 (DMM Item No. 98) filed on January 29, 2026, are hereby approved for this phase.

2. Permit subpart 7.1(e)(2) – Appendix B. Tree Felling Operations Plan (DMM Item No. 91) filed on November 17, 2025, and approved for this phase on January 13, 2026 (DMM Item No. 95).

3. Permit subpart 7.1(e)(5) – Appendix C. Facility Communications Plan (DMM Item No. 91) filed on November 17, 2025, and approved for this phase on January 13, 2026 (DMM Item No. 95).

4. Permit subpart 7.1(e)(6) – Appendix D. Environmental Monitoring Plan Rev 1 (DMM Item No. 98) filed on January 29, 2026, is hereby approved for all phases.

5. Permit subpart 7.1(e)(7) – Appendix E. Complaint Management Plan Rev 1 (DMM Item No. 98) filed on January 29, 2026, is hereby approved for all phases.

6. Permit subpart 7.1(f)(4) – Appendix F. Invasive Species Control and Management Plan (DMM Item No. 91) filed on November 17, 2025, is hereby approved for all phases.

7. Permit subpart 7.1(g) – Appendix G. CRAMMP for Tree Felling Rev 3 (DMM Item No. 102) filed on February 26, 2026, is hereby approved for this phase.

8. Permit subpart 7.1(h) – Appendix H. Real Property Rights Rev 1 (DMM Item No. 98) filed on January 29, 2026, is hereby approved for all phases.

9. Permit subpart 7.1(j) – The Office acknowledges receipt of Appendix I. Host Community Agreements (DMM Item No. 91) filed on November 17, 2025, as supplemented by Appendix J. Project Agreement with Orleans County IDA (DMM Item No. 98) filed on January 29, 2026, as well as the revised Appendix I. Documentation of Host Community Benefits which included educational contribution agreements with the Albion Central School District, Oakfield Alabama Central School District, and Medina Central School District (DMM Item No. 99) filed on February 18, 2026).