

Rock District Solar Project

Schoharie County, New York

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF 94-c TRANSFER APPLICATION

Rock District Solar, LLC (“Applicant”) is transferring its application for the Rock District Solar Project, a proposed 20 megawatt (MW) solar electric generating facility (the “Rock District Project” or “Project”). The Project will be transferring from an alternative permitting proceeding, involving review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and applicable local laws and processes in the Towns of Seward and Carlisle, Schoharie County, New York, to the permitting process set forth under Section 94-c of the New York State Executive Law (the “94-c Process”) before the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (“ORES”). This notice announces that on or about April 3, 2023, the Applicant will file a Transfer Application pursuant to 19 NYCRR § 900-3.1, seeking a Permit from the Office authorizing the construction and operation of the Rock District Project.

The 94-c Process replaces the Article 10 process for the permitting and siting of renewable energy facilities with a nameplate generating capacity of 25 megawatts (MW) or more. Renewable energy facilities with a nameplate capacity between 20 and 25 MW may also opt into the 94-c Process. The Section 94-c Process is implemented by ORES and establishes an review process with uniform standards and conditions for all projects. The Project is proposed to be constructed on approximately 125 acres of land located at Rock District Road with Brown Road intersecting the central portion of the site.

The Project will include both fixed tilt and tracking pole-mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar module panels with an average maximum height of 12 feet; direct current (DC) and communications cables connecting to multiple decentralized inverters located adjacent to the PV solar panels; inverters, with their support platforms, control electronics, and step-up transformers; buried alternating current (AC) medium voltage collector circuits; fencing and gates around each array of panels; access roads; temporary laydown/construction support areas; a medium voltage-to-transmission voltage collection substation, with associated equipment and fenced areas; and a point of interconnection (POI) switchyard with associated equipment and fenced area.

The Project is a zero-emission solar energy facility that will assist the State in meeting the goals of the Climate Leadership and Protection Act (CLCPA) and State Energy Plan, which includes obtaining 70% of energy generation from renewable sources and significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, among other things. Other positive impacts of the Project include the diversification of energy supplies, new employment opportunities (both temporary construction employment and full-time jobs), and increased revenues to the Towns of Seward and Carlisle, Schoharie County, and relevant school district, indirect revenues for the local hospitality industry, and the purchase of local supplies and goods. In addition, the Applicant has attempted to minimize impacts to land associated with the Project by limiting the disturbance to forested lands and wetlands to the maximum extent practicable. The Applicant’s submission will include the extensive studies that have been conducted to-date, which have assessed the potential environmental impacts associated with the Project and have identified methods which have been agreed to be implemented to avoid, minimize and mitigate potential impacts, and will also include the Negative Declaration issued by the Town of Carlisle Planning Board, as lead agency under SEQRA.

In accordance with 19 NYCRR § 900-1.6(c), this notice is being published in local newspapers and provided to those persons enumerated in 19 NYCRR § 900-1.6(c) at least three (3) days prior to the filing of the Transfer Application. In addition, a copy of the Transfer Application will be served on the Chief Executive Officer of each municipality in which any portion of the Facility is located, as well as those persons and agencies enumerated in 19 NYCRR § 900-1.6(a).

Upon filing the Transfer Application, the Applicant will provide funding to be disbursed by ORES to local agencies and potential community intervenors to help pay expenses, including attorneys and consultants, associated with participating in the 94-c Process. Within thirty (30) days of the date of the filing of the Transfer Application, any local agency or potential community intervenor seeking funding from the local agency account must submit a request for initial funding to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting at 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12231, Attention: Request for Local Agency Account Funding.

This notice and the Transfer Application will be available on the Applicant’s Project website: <https://ccrenew.com/rock-district/>. Applicant contact information: Cypress Creek Renewables, 4th Street, Troy, NY 12180, or contact Emily|Proutey: emily.proutey@ccrenew.com, or Barclay Damon LLP, Jeff Davis: jdavis@barclaydamon.com