QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How do you plan to care for soil for 40 years to return it to its natural state?

EDF Renewables works closely with stakeholders including the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) to minimize impacts to agricultural land during the various project phases. We are required to follow NYSDAM guidelines when siting our projects and ensure compliance by hiring an independent agricultural and environmental monitor during project construction. To minimize the impacts associated with digging, grading, or construction of roads, concrete pads, or underground lines, we will separate the topsoil from subsoil, avoid mixing it, and return the topsoil to the surface of the land. On farmland outside of the solar panel areas, cables will be buried underground to a depth of four feet. Those cables buried to a depth of 4 or more feet on farmland can remain in place after decommissioning to avoid further soil disturbance. Here is a link to the 2019 Department of Agriculture and Markets Solar Guidelines: https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2019/10/solar_energy_guidelines.pdf

How can farmers access the fenced portion of the solar array? Do they have a key?

The need to access the fenced area is unique to each project. In some cases, farmers would contact the site manager to gain access to the fenced area. Where more frequent access is needed, other arrangements may be made.

When EDF sells Ridge View when will the town and residents be notified?

If EDF Renewables were to sell the project to another company, the Town of Hartland would be notified as required in the Host Community Agreement that will be negotiated as part of the project.

In WNY how efficient are your solar panels? Studies show here about 48% a year.

Solar projects can only make electricity when the sun is up, including when it is behind clouds. When behind clouds, the amount of electricity generated is reduced, depending on the thickness of the clouds. While it is true that a solar facility in New York may not produce energy as efficiently as a solar facility in the Southern United States, solar panels are much more efficient and much less costly than they once were, making solar electricity production in New York State feasible when compared to other forms of electricity generation. Additionally, as energy storage is deployed across New York State, the electricity generated during the day can be stored and produced onto the grid when needed.

Are these panels made in China? Are they made with crystalline silicon? OSHA lists it as toxic.

Most solar panels, including those being proposed for Ridge View Solar, are classified as non-toxic waste and accepted at landfills. Solar panels undergo a “toxic characteristic leaching procedure” test mandated by the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to determine if they are toxic. Click here to learn more https://nccleantech.ncsu.edu/.../Health-and-Safety...

While OSHA lists crystalline silica as a toxic or hazardous material, the solar panels proposed for this site use crystalline silicon which is not a toxic or hazardous material: https://www.osha.gov/chemical-hazards.

These safe and non-toxic modules are comprised of silicon, copper, and aluminum, sandwiched between glass and a plastic encapsulant with an aluminum frame. They do not contain or leach toxic materials and are the same type of solar panel commonly installed on rooftops and schools.

The source country for the solar panels is still unknown at this point, as the panels will likely not be purchased until 2024. Efforts are currently ongoing to expand solar supply chains within the United States.

Where is the removed topsoil going to be stored? If the lines are 4 feet underground, that will disturb drain tiles, and why would we leave all those wires underground when decommissioning? I am concerned about leaving the lines in our farmland.

EDF Renewables follows the Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) guidelines, which allows for buried lines to remain in place when a project is decommissioned, if they are installed at least 4’ below surface to avoid impacting farming activities. By keeping the lines in place, we can avoid additional soil disturbance that would occur during removal.

The topsoil that is displaced during construction and decommissioning is typically spread around the area where it is removed. If topsoil is removed because of a road or concrete pad, it will be spread around those areas. As part of decommissioning, the roads and concrete pads would be removed and the topsoil around the area would be spread back over the area where the roads and concrete pads existed.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

You keep referring to Morris Ridge stating that home values won't change. You base resident opinions on the impact of Morris Ridge-Morris Ridge isn't even built yet.

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) concludes that large-scale solar arrays often have no measurable impact on the value of adjacent properties, and in some cases may even have positive effects https://www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-property-value.

Ridge View Solar will be designed with appropriate setbacks and visual buffering to help reduce the impacts of the solar project upon neighboring homes. The project will also contribute significant new revenues to the local economy, which will help maintain or improve services and infrastructure, and perhaps even lower taxes. These are characteristics that can help improve the value of homes in the area.

The project was originally 1,500 acres now it's over 3,000 acres. Is this phase 1 and are we going to have another project down the road?

EDF Renewable is currently planning only one phase of development for Ridge View Solar. We are currently estimating a solar panel footprint of about 1,500 acres and an overall 2,000-acre project footprint.

We are at the beginning of the design process, and the field studies that are currently being conducted and will occur in the future determine where we can and cannot put solar panels. We are going to be working on a design over the fall and winter, and plan to share those results with the community in the spring.

To date we have signed approximately 3,700 acres of land, but after we consider constraints, setbacks, and other considerations, we are left with roughly 1,800 acres of land that we can build on.

Are solar panels toxic and could they possibly contaminate soil and water?

The crystalline silicon solar panels proposed for this project are not toxic and will not contaminate soil and water.

The project will use crystalline silicon panels that are manufactured using safe and non-toxic materials. These modules are comprised of silicon, copper, and aluminum, sandwiched between glass and a plastic encapsulant with an aluminum frame. These types of solar modules do not contain or leach toxic materials and are the same type of panels that are commonly installed on rooftops and schools.

A paper from the University of North Carolina exploring the toxicity of silicon-based PV panels concludes that "silicon-based PV panels do not pose a material threat to public health and safety. The only aspect of the panels with potential toxicity concerns is the very small amount of lead in some panels. However, any lead in a panel is well sealed from environmental exposure for the operating lifetime of the solar panel and thus not at risk of release into the environment." On the topic of lead, the paper mentions "recent advances in lead-free solders have spurred a trend among PV panel manufacturers to reduce or remove the lead in their panels."

What kind of notices will I receive?

The state regulations governing the permitting of solar projects require us to notify the public by sending notices by mail to all persons residing within 1 mile of the project and placing ads in local newspapers for the following activities:

- Pre-application Community Meeting, which will be held at least 60 days prior to filing the Section 94-c permit application,
- 60 days prior to the filing of the Section 94-c permit application with the Office of Renewable Energy Siting,
- 21 days prior to the Public Comment Hearing on the Draft Permit. The Draft Permit will be issued by the Office of Renewable Energy Siting 60 days after the permit application is deemed complete by ORES
- 14 business days prior to the commencement of construction, and
- Prior to the completion of construction, a notice with contact information for the operations manager, map of facility, brief description of facility, procedure and contact information for registering a complaint.

Can you provide specific examples/ locations of sites returned to agricultural use after decommissioning?

We are not aware of any solar projects that have been decommissioned and the site returned to agricultural use after decommissioning. However, we do have sites where farming is occurring during site operation.

The solar guidelines developed by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets were developed to ensure that sites can return to agricultural use after decommissioning. Ridge View Solar will follow these guidelines.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can you provide a list of companies and sites that currently recycle solar panels? Current costs?

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) established a national recycling program connecting US-based recyclers with businesses that have solar panels to recycle. Many components of crystalline silicon panels can be reused and recycled, namely the metal, glass, and wiring components, as well as the silicon cells. Click here for more information www.seia.org/initiatives/seia-national-pv-recycling-program. We are aware of two companies near the project area that recycle solar panels. One is Cascade Eco Minerals (https://www.cascadeecominerals.com) and the other is WeRecycleSolar. (https://werecyclesolar.com/)

It is generally more expensive to recycle solar panels than to send them to landfill. EDFR will dispose or recycle solar panels in accordance with regulations and laws in effect at the time.

Substations near powerlines? Only 2 parcels connect.

Ridge View Solar is connecting to one of the 345 kV transmission lines coming from the former Somerset Coal facility and running north/south through the Town of Hartland. The project substation (where all the electricity will flow and interconnect to the existing transmission line) will be located on a property adjacent to the transmission line. At the moment, this can be one of two locations that have signed agreements with us—either north of Ridge Road or south of Town Line Road.

Can moving sheep from site to site for vegetation cause cross-contamination?

While a larger project like Ridge View solar might have a number of different flocks grazing the entire project, an individual flock would typically be used for grazing the same properties. That would avoid cross contamination between different flocks of sheep on the same parcel of land.

Is EDF Renewables going bankrupt because of the French Government owning the entire company?

EDF Renewables is not going bankrupt.

On July 6th, the French Prime Minister announced that the French State will assume 100% ownership of the EDF Group. Currently, the state owns 84%, with the remaining 16% owned by minority stakeholders.

This news was expected and welcomed by EDF management as it is a necessary step to improve the group's financial position. The group's financial rating has been downgraded over the past year due mostly to losses on the nuclear side of the business and was expected to continue to degrade without such action.

While EDF Renewables is owned by the French Government and always has been in some capacity since its inception, the Ridge View Solar project development team has always been in North America, with most of our team working and residing in New York State.

The company remains very committed to renewable energy and this restructuring does not directly impact Ridge View Solar in any way.

Prime Farmland was to be protected at all costs, what happened?

EDF Renewable values the contributions of farming and farmers to the broader community both in Hartland and in New York State. We consider ourselves to be stewards of the environment and are committed to working with farmers, landowners, and host communities to maximize benefits while minimizing adverse impacts. We comply with existing regulations and policies such as the NYSDAM guidelines, implement best practices, and work with local representatives to understand site-specific priorities.

New York State has a mandate to build solar facilities. When looking across the state at available land, agricultural land is one of the viable places to site these facilities. Brownfields and big landfills are not abundant and typically cannot accommodate a project of this scale. In order for New York State to meet its targets, we must use all the available grid space, including the 345 kV electric transmission line that goes through Hartland.

Even if there were 20,000 MW of solar projects sited on farmland throughout all of New York State, those projects would occupy about 2% of the farmland while providing electricity for 5 million homes. Our project is 350 MW; a large project by local standards, but one that we are siting in a smart and efficient way to reduce impacts.

We encourage you to explore the Morris Ridge Agrivoltaic Study (https://townofmtmorris.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/MountMorris-AgrivoltaicReport2021-WEB.pdf) to see how we work with farmers to maintain and augment their existing practices. They can work around our facility, pursue solar grazing, or consider growing crops under the panels, making solar a win-win in your community.

Sheep do not eat all weeds, how are they managed?

Solar sites are considered to be an excellent habitat for sheep, mostly because of the abundance of shade

generated by the solar panels. Usually, water consumption for the sheep on a solar field is less than half of that on open pastures because the sheep typically spend most of the day under the panels in the shade.

Sheep within solar facilities have fewer issues with predators, due to the quality of fences installed around the solar panels. Generally, these fences are more than adequate to keep out coyotes, which are the biggest predator on these sites. Sheep are the preferred animal on a solar facility because they are easy to manage and do a good job at maintaining vegetation.

Sheep can be very efficient at eating vegetation, including weeds. One way to effectively manage this is to rotationally graze the sheep on smaller pieces of land and move them to a new piece of land every few days. Getting on the site earlier in the season is also important, while some of the thistles and other species of weeds are still tender.

What is the emergency management plan if there is a fire at storage or panels?

The chance of a fire occurring at either the storage panels or the energy storage system is extremely low. To prepare for the unlikely event of a fire, EDF Renewables will develop an emergency response plan in coordination with local first responders, and will conduct training both prior to project construction and operation, and on an annual basis for the life of the project.

Solar panels rarely catch fire and are not combustible. In the event of a fire within a solar panel, the fire would smolder and be unlikely to spread.

Energy storage systems are also unlikely to catch fire and are safely integrated into many communities. According to a study 'Quantitative Risk Analysis for Battery Energy Storage Sites' published by DNV-GL— experts in the study testing of energy storage systems— the probability of failure is less than once in 100,000 years when proper safeguards are in place. These storage systems use the same type of batteries as those safely used for years in mobile phones and electric cars.

EDF Renewables places safety at the forefront of all our efforts. To address the low risk of fire at either the panels or energy storage systems, we comply with applicable codes and regulations, develop and adhere to stakeholder-driven Health and Safety Plans, and conduct thorough training of our on-site and remote teams.

1. **Compliance with applicable codes and regulations**: EDF Renewables complies with all regulatory requirements to ensure that energy storage systems are appropriately designed, safely installed, and safely operated. In New York State, we comply with the New York State's Uniform Fire Prevention and Building code, which was updated in 2019 to establish additional provisions that must be followed when energy storage systems are installed.
2. **Health and Safety planning**: All EDFR projects are monitored by our NERC-certified operation control center located in San Diego California, and our redundant control center located in Arizona 24 hours a day / 365 days a year, enabling us to detect and/or dispatch the team to proactively address potential incidents. Additionally, in accordance with New York State requirements, EDFR will prepare a site-specific Health and Safety Plan, Operations and Maintenance Plan, and Emergency Response Plan. These plans will be prepared in coordination with local first responders and will be submitted to the New York State Department of Public Service and other agencies for review prior to construction.
3. **Training**: With adequate and regular training, incidents related to our solar panels or energy systems can be addressed by local emergency response personnel. EDFR will provide training for first responders prior to operation of the project and on an annual basis.

Design of the Ridge View project is evolving and may or may not include energy storage systems. We will continue to inform the community about our project design and layout during the siting and permitting process and beyond.

Contracts signed in 2019 and 2020 stated clearly that there will be no discharge of guns within 1,000 feet of solar field, substation, and transmission lines. Is there going to be revised contracts?

The contracts signed in 2019 and 2020 do not address the discharge of guns within 1,000 feet of solar field, substation and transmission lines, and thus do not need to be revised.

There will not be any setbacks for hunting around the facilities, provided that hunters have the proper permission from the landowners.

What happens if the raw materials are not available to complete the project? What happens to the lease? It will never be completed.

We are obligated to reach commercial operation by the end of 2026. EDF Renewables has strong relationships with suppliers around the world. We are going to do everything we can to obtain materials within the timeframe necessary to reach commercial operation within our contracted timeline.

Have you completed all the studies? What studies have you done?

We have not completed all the studies. We have completed winter raptor surveys and breeding bird surveys; the results are currently being compiled. All the data that our scientists collected in the field is put together into a report that will be submitted to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting. Wetland delineations and archaeological investigations are in progress.

Please explain which wetland delineation process you will follow for the project.

The standard methodology we follow for wetland delineations is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That is the standard for the state. Per the Army Corp methodology, we identify vegetation and hydrology in a certain area, characterize what is wetland and what is not a wetland, and draw the line following that methodology. We then submit the delineation report to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting, who reviews and accompanies us into the field to verify our work.

Postcards look like junk mail. There should not be an envelope and it should say it is from EDF Renewables.

Thanks for your feedback. In the future, we will send out postcards that are not in an envelope. EDF Renewables values public meetings and goes through significant effort to make sure that we have a diverse team of experts on hand to answer questions that come up. Our intent is always to have the greatest participation possible from the community at our public meetings.