

Regulatory Process for Utility-Scale Solar in Wisconsin

Langdon Mills Solar is a proposed solar renewable energy project in Columbia County, Wisconsin, near the Village of Cambria. Langdon Mills Solar will provide an additional source of economic development for the community, with new sources of revenue for schools and government services. The project will generate economic opportunities by creating both short-term (construction) and long-term (maintenance and operations) jobs in the local area, as well as other job opportunities supported through spending by these workers at local businesses, shops, restaurants, and hotels.

The project is in the early stages of development - conducting field surveys such as Wetland Delineation Reports, Geotechnical Evaluation Reports, Glare Hazard Analysis, and Threatened and Endangered Species Studies, just to name a few. These studies are all part of the due diligence work the project commits to while developing a large-scale (100 megawatts or greater) solar project within Wisconsin.

Wisconsin has a very thorough, objective process run by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) to review applications for large-scale solar photovoltaic projects. During this process, the project will submit a formal application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) from the PSCW; this is commonly referred to as the project's 'permit' or 'permit application'. The project will be assigned a unique docket number within the PSCW record system. The permitting process is similar to a judicial hearing, where evidence is entered into record, and three impartial commissioners at the PSCW review the application for compliance with all Wisconsin laws. The process typically takes 360 days from start to finish. Interested community members and stakeholders are encouraged to follow the permit application through the review process and will be provided an opportunity to enter public comment for the commissioners' consideration during the process. The project will be applying for a CPCN later this year.

Simultaneously, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will be actively reviewing the CPCN. The WDNR will review the project studies and application to ensure that any necessary impacts to wildlife, water, and the environment are minimized, and that all required environmental permits are sought and reviewed.

Although permitted by the PSCW, the project looks forward to working with local municipalities to execute a Joint Development Agreement which will address additional commitments of the project and host communities for the joint benefit of the host county and townships.

TIMELINE:



Apply for state permits: 2022



Receive State
Permit Approvals:
2023



Begin Construction: 2023



Site Operational: 2024

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OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. • Thursday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. or by appointment