



Powell Creek
SOLAR PLANT

Powell Creek Solar

Amendment Exhibit B

Public Interaction Update

Case No. 22-0915-EL-BGA

Public Interaction Update

Since the issuance of the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need by the Ohio Power Siting Board in July 2021, Powell Creek Solar has continued to engage with officials and residents of the local community. The primary topic of interest typically has been the timing for the commencement of construction, but discussions have also included many other areas, such as setbacks (along roads, homes, and farmland), fencing, field tiles, decommissioning, screening, and permitting.

The following list provides a summary of meetings that have taken place from January through August 2022. In addition to the meetings summarized on the list, Powell Creek Solar representatives have met at least a couple times each week with residents in the local area, at church, local restaurants, the YMCA, or local sporting events.

January 2022

- Council Meeting, with Miller City Mayor and Council Members
- Miller City Council Members
- Liberty Township Trustees
- Palmer Township Trustees
- Miller City Schools
- Putnam County Engineer
- Project Landowners, with Miller City Mayor and Council Members
- Ohio Department of Transportation¹

February 2022

- Miller City Schools

March 2022

- Liberty Township Trustees
- Palmer Township Trustees
- Project Landowners, Miller City Mayor, and Council Members

May 2022

- Local State Representative

June 2022

- Council Meeting, with Miller City Mayor and Council Members

July 2022

- Liberty Township Trustees
- Palmer Township Trustees
- Putnam County Commissioners

¹ The January 2022 meeting with the Ohio Department of Transportation was for the specific purpose of discussing the accident rates and setbacks at the intersection of SR 613 and SR 108.

August 2022

- Liberty Township Trustees
- Palmer Township Trustees
- Miller City Schools
- Putnam County Engineer (several times)
- Local State Representative
- Project Landowners, Miller City Mayor, and Miller City Council Members

Other than providing information on additional public interaction that has taken place, this update does not change the Public Interaction Plan as originally filed with the Certificate Application. The Plan as originally filed is attached, for reference.

Public Interaction

Representatives of the Applicant have conducted meetings with local government and the general public to gather support for the Project and assure that, to the extent possible, their comments and suggestions have been incorporated into the construction and design of the Project.

The Project is currently located within Liberty and Palmer Townships of Putnam County. However, as discussed below, the Village of Miller City may annex the Project, with agreement by the Townships and County, in order for tax revenue from the Project to fund infrastructure improvements for Miller City.

Interaction with Local Officials and Community Organizations

The Project has been under development since 2017. Since that time, Project representatives have met with and built relationships with the following local officials and community organizations:

- Putnam County Commissioners;
- Putnam County Prosecutor;
- Putnam County Engineer;
- Palmer Township Board of Trustees;
- Liberty Township Board of Trustees;
- Village Council of Miller City;
- Miller City New Cleveland School District;
- Ottawa Glandorf School District;
- Putnam County Community Corporation;
- Putnam County Extension Office

Interaction with Landowners and Surrounding Community

Throughout the development process, the Applicant has met with multiple landowners, including holding over a half dozen meetings and dinners where participating landowners and stakeholders could learn about the Project.

In addition to meeting with leasing landowners, the Applicant has been in communication with several adjacent homeowners to inform them about the Project, gain feedback, and offer a Good Neighbor Agreement to that adjacent homeowner. Interactions with adjacent homeowners have helped inform (from a homeowner concern perspective the Applicant's siting criteria for the Project. Good Neighbor Agreements signings have occurred, and the Applicant plans to continue this outreach both during and after the permitting review process.

Moreover, the Applicant has made itself available to the local media, such as the *Putnam Sentinel* and the *Lima News*, to provide information about the project well in advance of submitting this application.¹

PILOT Payments and Additional Contributions for County Capital Improvements

Notably, since 2018, the Applicant has had over a half-dozen in-person meetings with the Putnam County Commissioners to address questions about the Project and negotiate the associated tax abatement.

On March 12, 2020, the Putnam County Commissioners passed a resolution approving a real and personal property tax abatement for the Project and adopting a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT). Through the PILOT, the Applicant will make payments of \$7,500 per MW years 1-5 of commercial operation, \$8,000 per MW years 6-10 of commercial operation, \$8,500 per MW years 11-15 of commercial operation, and \$9,000 per MW years 16 and after of commercial operation. The PILOT will result in over \$38 million in payments to Putnam County and other local taxing units. The Miller City New Cleveland School District's annual income from this Project will be more than \$500,000 and the Ottawa Glandorf School District's annual income from the Project will be more than \$20,000.

In addition, the PILOT payments, the Applicant entered into a voluntary Capital Improvements Agreement with Putnam County. Under the agreement, the Applicant will make additional contributions to the County totaling more than \$3.5 million over the life of the Project. The agreement requires that these funds are used "for the purposes of improving public infrastructure and helping the local economy."

A New Waste-water Treatment Facility for the Village of Miller City

Immediately adjacent to the Project area is the Village of Miller City. Currently, the Village of Miller City has been unable to grow due to the need for a new waste-water treatment system. But without additional growth, the Miller City has been unable to finance this needed infrastructure, which will cost approximately \$3.14 million. Miller City has been in this financial difficulty for over a decade.

For nearly two years prior to the submission of this Application, the Applicant has worked closely with the Putnam County Commissioners, the Village of Miller City, the Palmer Board of Trustees, and the Miller City New Cleveland School District to identify how the Project may be able to benefit the Village of Miller City. As an illustration of this stakeholder engagement, Project representatives attended fifteen meetings with the Miller City Council and its Development

¹ See, "Solar Farm Negotiations Center on Costs, Community Needs," Putnam Sentinel (July 19, 2019), available at: <https://putnamsentinel.com/Content/Social/Social/Article/Solar-farm-negotiations-center-on-costs-community-needs/-2/-2/29518>; "Land Found for Solar Farm Substation in Putnam County," Lima News (July 16, 2019), available at: <https://www.limaohio.com/news/365188/land-found-for-solar-farm-substation-in-putnam-county>; "Putnam Commissioners Hear Miller City Solar Farm Proposal Update," Lima News (November 8, 2019), available at: <https://www.limaohio.com/news/382518/putnam-commissioners-hear-miller-city-solar-farm-proposal-update>.

Committee; eight meetings with the Miller City New Cleveland School District; and sixteen meetings with Palmer and Liberty Townships.

As a result of this intensive community engagement – led by the Applicant – the stakeholders identified a solution to enable the Village to finance and construct a new waste-water treatment system. Specifically, Miller City, Palmer and Liberty Townships are entering into an annexation agreement whereby property within Palmer and Liberty Townships that will be part of the Project will be annexed to become part of Miller City.

The result of the annexation will enable a portion of the annual PILOT payments, described above, to be distributed to Miller City. This distribution will total more than \$2 million over the life of the Project.

Entirely separate from the PILOT or the Capital Improvements Contribution Agreement, both described above, the Applicant will contribute an additional estimated \$540,000 to a fund supporting Miller City's financing of a new waste-water treatment facility.

By working for nearly two years with local governments and other community stakeholders, the Applicant was able to identify how to maximize the economic benefit of the Project and solve a long-term challenge for Miller City.

Public Interaction During Construction

During the construction period, the Applicant's contractor will provide the construction manager's phone number to receive emergency and complaint notices. During operations, site staff will be qualified to attend to requests and complaints with the necessary corporate support. Surrounding landowners will be provided with contact information for site staff. Additionally, emergency contact numbers will be on posted placards at project entrances that will allow anyone from the public to contact operations staff. The Applicant has also developed a Complaint Resolution Procedure Plan to address how complaints will be handled and potential mitigation techniques to be implemented for the Project.

No less than seven days prior to commencing construction, the Applicant will distribute this Complaint Resolution Plan to the affected property owner and tenants via first class mail. A copy of the preliminary Complaint Resolution Plan is included in Exhibit O. The final Complaint Resolution Plan will be distributed to affected property owners and tenants.

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Summary: Amended Application Exhibit B - Public Interaction Update electronically
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