

Oak Run Point Solar Project

Cases 22-0549-EL-BGN and 22-0550-EL-BTX

Project description

Oak Run Solar, LLC proposes to construct an 800-megawatt (MW) solar-powered generating facility and 300 MW battery storage facility in Deercreek, Monroe, and Somerford townships in Madison County. All documents filed in the case, including the application and the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) staff report, are available online at www.OPSB.ohio.gov in case numbers 22-0549-EL-BGN (solar project) and 22-0550-EL-BTX (battery storage).

The proposed Oak Run Solar facility would consist of large arrays of photovoltaic modules, commonly known as solar panels, ground-mounted on a tracking rack system. The project would occupy about 4,400 acres within a 6,050-acre project area of land owned by the applicant. The project would include associated facilities such as transmission lines, access roads, underground and overhead electric collection lines, weather stations, inverters and transformers, a collection substation, and battery storage containers similar in size to shipping containers. Seven-foot-tall perimeter fencing would secure the facility with access through gated entrances. The solar modules would be set back a minimum of 300 feet from non-participating residences and 150 feet from adjacent roads and non-participating property boundaries. More than 44 miles of new access roads have been proposed for the facility.

Staff report of investigation

The OPSB staff investigated the application and prepared a report recommending a certificate be issued for the Oak Run Solar facility. The Board is not bound by the staff report; it could approve, deny, or approve the project with conditions. Should the Board choose to issue a certificate for the proposed facility, staff recommends in its report of investigation that the solar facility be subject to 46 conditions, including:

- Limit general construction activities from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or until dusk.
- Install a perimeter fence type that is both wildlife permeable and aesthetically fitting for a rural location.
- Avoid or minimize damage to functioning field tile drainage systems and agricultural soils and promptly repair damaged field tile systems to at least original conditions or modern equivalent.
- Implement a complaint resolution process to address complaints about facility construction and operation.
- Submit an updated decommissioning plan and total decommissioning cost estimate.
- Prevent the establishment and propagation of noxious weeds.
- Follow best practices for preserving agricultural land including topsoil and grassed waterways.
- Adhere to seasonal cutting dates of Oct. 1 through March 31 for removing trees three inches or greater in diameter to avoid impacts to listed bat species.

Senate Bill 52 (SB 52)

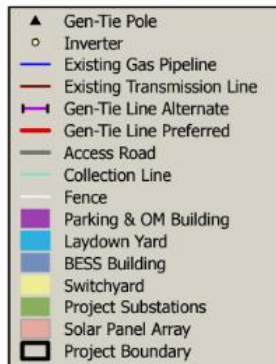
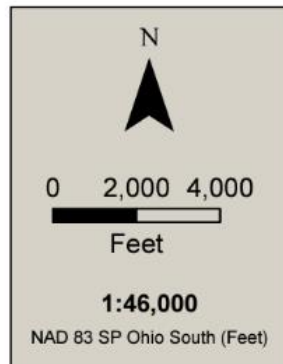
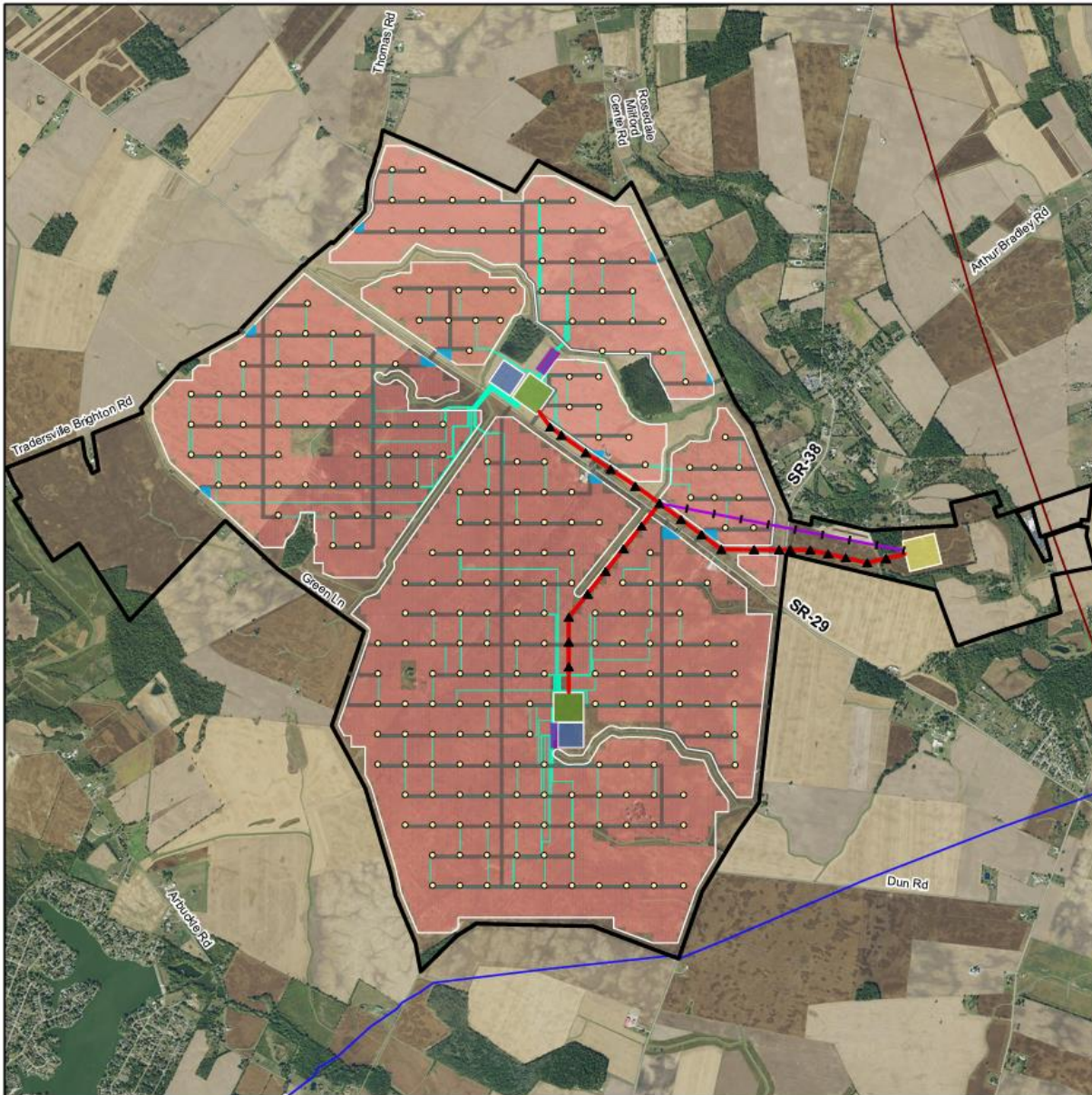
SB 52 provides new opportunities for county commissioners and township trustees to participate in the siting of solar projects in their community. The Oak Run Point Solar Facility is grandfathered under SB 52 except for the ad hoc board member provision. The Madison County Commissioners appointed Commissioner Chris Wallace and the Board of Trustees of Deercreek, Monroe, and Somerford townships appointed Somerford Township trustee Jim Moran as ad hoc board members for this project.

What's next?

An evidentiary hearing before an administrative law judge will begin on May 15, 2023, at 10 a.m., at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., in Columbus. Once the evidentiary process is complete, the OPSB will schedule the project for a decision at a future monthly Board meeting.

Tonight's hearing

The public hearing allows you to provide sworn testimony that will be added to the case record. You may also submit comments in writing by contacting the OPSB at 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215, contactOPSB@puco.ohio.gov, or the online form at www.OPSB.ohio.gov. Please include case number 22-0549-EL-BGN in all correspondence.



Overview Map

22-0549-EL-BGN
22-0550-EL-BTX

Oak Run Solar

Maps are presented solely for the purpose of providing a visual representation of the project in the staff report, and are not intended to modify the project as presented by the Applicant in its certified application and supplemental materials.

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Case No(s). 22-0549-EL-BGN, 22-0550-EL-BTX

Summary: Public Comment Response - OPSB fact sheet for Oak Run Solar Project
electronically filed by Mr. Matt Butler on behalf of Staff of OPSB.