Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office

Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
EEA#: 15994
MEPA Analyst: Alex Strysky

The information requested on this form must be completed in order to submit a document electronically for review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: **Otis Stage Road Solar Photovoltaic Project**		
Street Address: **Otis Stage Road / State Route 23**		
Municipality: **Blandford**	Watershed: **Connecticut**	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: **WGS 1984 UTM Zone 19N Meters Easting: 167522.975; Northing: 4676644.818**	**Latitude: 42°10'16.549"N; Longitude: 73°1'30.253"W**	
Estimated commencement date: **Q2 2019**	Estimated completion date: **End of Q4 2019**	
Project Type: **Renewable Energy**	Status of project design: **90%**	
Proponent: **Blandford Sun, LLC**		
Street Address: **700 Universe Boulevard**		
Municipality: **Juno Beach**	State: **FL**	Zip Code: **33408**
Name of Contact Person: **David C. Klinch, PWS, PMP**		
Firm/Agency: **Epsilon Associates, Inc.**	Street Address: **3 Mill & Main Place, Suite 250**	
Municipality: **Maynard**	State: **MA**	Zip Code: **01754**
Phone: **978-793-2539**	Fax: **978-897-0099**	E-mail: **dklinch@epsilonassociates.com**

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)? Yes **No**

If this is an Expanded Environmental Notification Form (ENF) (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) or a Notice of Project Change (NPC), are you requesting:

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	No
a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)	No
a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	No
a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	No

(Note: Greenhouse Gas Emissions analysis must be included in the Expanded ENF.)

Which MEPA review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03)?

- **301 CMR 11.03(1)(b)1.: Direct alteration of 25 or more acres of land, unless the Project is consistent with an approved conservation farm plan or forest cutting plan or other similar generally accepted agricultural or forestry practices.**

Which State Agency Permits will the project require?

Massachusetts Department of Transportation: State Highway Access Permit (MGL c.81 § 21/MGL c.85 § 2)

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an Agency of the Commonwealth, including the Agency name and the amount of funding or land area in acres: **Not Applicable. The Project does not require any financial assistance or land transfer from any Agency of the Commonwealth.**

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	187 acres		
New acres of land altered		32.94 +/- acres	
Acres of impervious area	0	0.98	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW) alteration		1,245 s.f. (permanent) [1] 4,853 s.f. (temporary)[2]	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration – Riverfront Area (RFA), Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF), Isolated Vegetated Wetlands (IVW)		0	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	0	Pads: 3,712 s.f. Panels: 378,374 s.f. Total: 382,086 s.f. (8.77 acres)[3]	Pads: 3,712 s.f. Panels: 378,374 s.f. Total: 382,086 s.f. (8.77 acres)
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (feet)	0	≈ 8 feet (PV panel)[4] 7 feet (chain link fence) 34 feet (utility pole)	≈ 8 feet (PV panel) 7 feet (chain link fence) 34 feet (utility pole)
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	0	<5	<5
Parking spaces	0	0	0
WASTEWATER			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	0	0	0
Water withdrawal (GPD)	0	0	0

[1] The northern point of the proposed access road involves a BVW crossing that will result in approximately 1,245 square feet of fill in two discrete locations (see Attachment B – Project Plan Set).

[2] BVW alterations associated with the gravel access road construction include necessary line-of-sight improvements required by the MassDOT Highway Division along Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 east of the gravel access road entrance. This work will result in approximately 4,853 s.f. of temporary alteration through vegetation clearing. No grading is proposed, and brush, limbs, and cleared trees will be chipped and removed off-site. This clearing is necessary to ensure safe travel along Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 and for traffic entering and leaving the Project site. Clearing within BVW in this location is proposed to be done from the roadside with tree clearing equipment (e.g. swing-boom feller buncher) or using hand equipment to avoid bringing equipment into the BVW located within the Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 layout and Project site, thereby avoiding physical alteration or disturbance of the ground surface.

[3] Gross square footage includes the area encompassed by solar PV modules and inverter/transformer pads.

[4] The solar panel racking system will extend approximately 8 feet above the existing ground surface at their maximum height based on a tilt angle of 20 degrees.

Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	0	0	0
Length of water mains (miles)	0	0	0
Length of sewer mains (miles)	0	0	0
Has this project been filed with MEPA before? Yes (EEA #_____) No			
Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before? Yes (EEA #) No			

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Overview:

Blandford Sun, LLC ("Blandford Sun"), proposes to install an approximate 4.7 megawatt ("MW") AC ("MWac"), 7.0 MW DC ("MWdc"), ground mounted solar photovoltaic ("PV") electric generating facility in the Town of Blandford, Hampden County, Massachusetts. The Project will be located on a 32.94 acre site within an approximately 187-acre parcel of Property (Blandford Assessor Map Parcel 402-0-43) south of Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 (see Attachment A - Figures 1 and 2 – USGS Site Locus Map and Aerial Locus Map). The Project includes solar PV modules and inverter/transformer pads (the "Facility"), an access road, an electrical interconnect, and two stormwater infiltration basins (see Attachment B - Project Plan Set). Of the 187-acre parcel, the Project site consists of approximately 32.94 acres. Within the 32.94 acre Project site, the solar PV modules, inverter/transformer pads, stormwater management BMPs, and the access road will occupy approximately 25.45 acres. The Project also involves approximately 7.49 acres of tree clearing to reduce shading and for construction of the wetland mitigation area.

Describe the existing conditions and land uses on the project site:

The 32.94 acre Project site is part of a larger 187-acre parcel of Property (Blandford Assessor Map Parcel 402-0-43) located south of Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 (see Attachment A - Figures 1 and 2 – USGS Site Locus Map and Aerial Locus Map). The larger 187-acre parcel of Property and the 32.94 acre Project site consist primarily of forested land. The Project site is located within the northwest part of the larger 187-acre parcel of Property. The western property boundary shares the municipal and county boundary with the Town of Otis and Berkshire County. Surrounding land uses include residential and forested land.

The topography of the Project site varies, with a downhill slope present from the middle of the site towards the western edge of the Project site.

A large mixed coniferous and deciduous forested wetland (Bordering Vegetated Wetland ["BVW"]) was identified and delineated east and southeast of the Project site. Wetland resource areas and associated 100-foot Buffer Zones are depicted on the Project Plan Set in Attachment B. The Wetland and Waterbody Mapping Memorandum prepared by TRC in Attachment C provides a narrative description of resource areas.

Soils mapped within the facility area are primarily classified as Peru-Marlow association, 3 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony. Based on the geotechnical investigation activities performed, existing soils are primarily D type soils having a Soil Conservation Service ("SCS") curve number[5] of approximately 77 and depth to groundwater ranges from 3 to 8 feet below ground surface.

[5] The SCS Runoff Curve Number method is developed by the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") SCS and is a method of estimating the approximate amount of runoff from a rainfall event in a particular area.

According to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program ("NHESP") (Natural Heritage Atlas, 2017), there are no mapped Priority or Estimated Habitats within the Project site, nor any certified or potential vernal pools (see Attachment A, Figure 3 – Environmental Resources).

The currently effective Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") Flood Insurance Rate Map ("FIRM") Community Panel Number 25013C0120E, dated July 16, 2013 for the Town of Blandford shows that there are areas of 100-year floodplain, Zone A (no base flood elevation determined) located to the south and east of the Project site (see Attachment A, Figure 3 – Environmental Resources). No Project activities are located within this resource area (Bordering Land Subject to Flooding ["BLSF"]).

No Zone I areas of a public water supply well or wellfield, Zone II wellhead protection areas, Interim Wellhead Protection Areas ("IWPA"), or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("USEPA") Designated Sole Source Aquifers are located on the Project site.

Three public water supply watersheds (Outstanding Resource Waters) associated with the Westfield Basin are located on the eastern side of the Project site (Cobble Mountain Reservoir; source id 1281000-02S, Sedimentation Basin; source id 1281000-05S, and Intake Reservoir; source id 1281000-07S). These water supply watersheds overlap the southeastern most area of the Project site (see Attachment A, Figure 3 – Environmental Resources). No structures or grading are proposed within these watersheds.

The most common land uses adjacent to the Project site include low density residential and forest including the Tolland State Forest to the southeast (see Attachment A, Figure 4 - Land Use and Figure 2 - Aerial Locus Map, respectively). The Gibbs Road Conservation Area is located north of the Project site off of Gibbs Road.

Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:

The Facility will consist of three blocks of solar PV modules, encompassing 17,767 solar PV modules and 3 inverter/transformer pads with a total rated nameplate AC generating capacity of 4.7 MWac. The total Facility system size is 7.0 MWdc. The solar PV modules will be installed on steel piles driven directly into the ground. The solar panel racking system will extend approximately 8 feet above the existing ground surface at their maximum height based on a tilt angle of 20 degrees. The Facility will be completely surrounded by an approximate 7 foot high chain link fence and a 24 foot wide double swing fence gate will be installed at the northern tip of the Facility to allow for access.

A new approximately 16-foot wide access road will be constructed south of Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 and will run south along the western perimeter of the Project site (see Attachment B - Project Plan Set). The approximately 16-foot wide access road will consist of approximately 12 inches of compacted subgrade overlaid by geotextile / geogrid with an approximate 6-inch aggregate base topped with gravel.

The electrical interconnect will be buried along the western side of the PV array, within the access road layout. At a point approximately 150 feet south of Otis Stage Road / State Route 23, the electrical interconnect will be brought onto a series of five (5) utility poles that will be installed along the western side of the access road to its intersection with electrical distribution lines (3-phase) within the Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 street layout (see Attachment B - Project Plan Set). The power will be fed from the inverters to transformers which will step up the voltage, and the power will be routed to conductors, where it will connect to the existing electrical utility distribution system.

A laydown area within the Project site off of the existing access road will be used during construction for equipment staging, laydown, and parking (see Attachment B - Project Plan Set).

The Project will involve clearing approximately 32.94 acres of predominantly forested land. Of the 32.94 acres to be cleared, approximately 25.45 acres will be for the solar PV modules, inverter/transformer pads, stormwater management BMPs, and access road, and 7.49 acres will be cleared for shading and wetland mitigation area construction. The temporary equipment staging, laydown, and parking area is included within the lands that will be cleared for shading.

Once clearing activities have been completed, the minimum grading required to promote effective drainage and to accommodate the Facility, access road, and electrical interconnection will be performed.

One bordering vegetated wetland is located east / southeast and southwest of the Project site. A portion of the proposed access road work will result in unavoidable impacts to BVW. There will also be tree clearing and land disturbance within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to minimize the effects of shading on the proposed solar arrays, and to install stormwater management facilities. All of the proposed solar PV modules and the electrical interconnect work will occur outside of jurisdictional wetland resource areas (BVW) and the 100-foot Buffer Zone.

The access road will be constructed south of Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 and will run south along the western perimeter of the Project site (see Attachment B – Project Plan Set, Sheet C-201). The northern point of the proposed access road involves a BVW crossing that will result in approximately 1,245 square feet ("s.f.") of fill in two discrete locations (see Attachment B – Project Plan Set). A 15-inch diameter culvert will be installed beneath the access road to maintain hydraulic connectivity and preserve flows through the BVW. To cross the wetland and allow access for road construction, wetland topsoil will be removed to a minimum depth of 2 feet below grade and backfilled with the materials noted above. The excavated wetland topsoil will be segregated from any excavated subsoil and will be stockpiled and covered for reuse in the wetland replication area that is proposed to be constructed in the eastern portion of the Project site (see Attachment B – Project Plan Set, Sheet C-301). This stockpile will be surrounded with a sedimentation and erosion control barrier such as silt fence or mulch fiber logs and preserved for construction of the on-site wetland mitigation area.

Additional BVW alterations associated with the gravel access road construction include necessary line-of-sight improvements required by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation ("MassDOT") Highway Division along Otis Stage Road / State Route 23, east of the gravel access road entrance. This work will result in approximately 4,853 s.f. of BVW alteration associated with tree removal within the state roadway layout south of Otis Stage Road. No grading is proposed in this area, shrubs and understory vegetation will not be removed, and brush, limbs, and cleared trees will be chipped and disposed of outside of the wetland and associated buffer zone. This clearing is necessary to ensure safe travel along Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 and for traffic entering and leaving the Project site. Clearing within BVW in this location is proposed to be done from the roadside with tree clearing equipment (e.g. swing-boom feller buncher) or using hand equipment to avoid bringing equipment into the BVW located within the Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 layout and Project site, thereby avoiding physical alteration or disturbance of the ground surface. Wetlands subject to tree removal will be allowed to re-vegetate naturally and enhanced via installation of native wetland shrubs and saplings.

A Notice of Intent ("NOI") has been filed (February 26, 2019) with the Blandford Conservation Commission in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act (MGL c.131 s.40) and implementing Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) (the "Act"). Blandford Sun will fully mitigate for alterations to BVW, and a conceptual wetland replication area design and restoration details are included in the NOI filed with the Blandford Conservation Commission. The details and final design for the wetland replication area will be filed with the Blandford Conservation Commission prior to the start of construction.

The Project will result in additional, new impervious surface by constructing the gravel access road, concrete equipment pads, metal racking posts, and chain link fence posts over existing pervious forested land. Stormwater runoff generated by these new impervious surfaces will be collected and treated via two stormwater basins constructed in the northeast and southwest corners of the Project site, respectively. These basins will be located partially in the 100-foot Buffer Zone to BVW. They will consist of 6-inch drain tile overlaid by a biofiltration trench consisting of washed rock, perforated drain tile, and sand (see Attachment B – Project Plan Set, Sheet C-603). The stormwater filtration basins are proposed to enable the Project site to match pre-development peak discharge rates after construction is complete.

The Project will not require the installation of any sanitary or water services, does not require potable water, sanitary or storm sewer service, will not generate solid waste during operations, and will not otherwise impact municipal infrastructure. Once constructed, the Facility will be unstaffed. During operation, vehicle trips will be limited to that required for routine inspection and maintenance. Access to the Facility will be via the new gravel access road off Otis Stage Road / State Route 23.

NOTE: The project description should summarize both the project's direct and indirect impacts (including construction period impacts) in terms of their magnitude, geographic extent, duration and frequency, and reversibility, as applicable. It should also discuss the infrastructure requirements of the project and the capacity of the municipal and/or regional infrastructure to sustain these requirements into the future.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Describe the on-site project alternatives (and alternative off-site locations, if applicable), considered by the proponent, including at least one feasible alternative that is allowed under current zoning, and the reasons(s) that they were not selected as the preferred alternative:

NOTE: The purpose of the alternatives analysis is to consider what effect changing the parameters and/or siting of a project, or components thereof, will have on the environment, keeping in mind that the objective of the MEPA review process is to avoid or minimize damage to the environment to the greatest extent feasible. Examples of alternative projects include alternative site locations, alternative site uses, and alternative site configurations.

Pursuant to the MEPA requirement to describe the feasible project alternatives, this section summarizes the alternatives to the proposed Project considered by Blandford Sun.

The alternatives analysis included consideration of a no-action alternative, several on-site project alternatives, and known available alternative off-site locations. Section 8.2.2 of the Town of Blandford zoning by-law expressly requires that "[a]ll Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations shall require a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval issued by the Planning Board in accordance with this section [8] and Section [9]." As a consequence, there is no project alternative that is allowed by right under current zoning within the Town of Blandford; any such project proposed in the Town of Blandford would require special permit relief from the Planning Board.

The proposed Project represents a renewable energy generation project that is incentivized by the Commonwealth through the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target ("SMART") Program among other programs that recognize the importance of renewable distributed generation sources. Construction of such projects reduces energy demand on the electric grid, provides power during peak need periods, and displaces generation-related emissions associated with fossil fuel combustion. It is part of the solution to meeting the Commonwealth's Global Warming Solution Act goals of reducing carbon emissions by 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. The no-action alternative would not provide any of these important benefits, and was therefore not considered further.

Blandford Sun considered several of on-site alternatives prior to proposing the Project design described in this ENF filing. This included smaller and larger solar PV arrays on the Project site, an array extending further east along Otis Stage Road / State Route 23, and various configuration alternatives for a large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic project. Upon analysis, it was determined that a smaller solar PV array would not be financially viable for Blandford Sun and would not deliver comparable renewable energy benefits to the Commonwealth and was not considered further. A larger solar PV array or an array that extended further east along Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 would not be able to be constructed without impacting a significantly larger area of wetland and forested upland than the current proposal includes. The current Project does not propose any direct wetland impact to construct the solar PV array or supporting equipment; only the access roadway requires a wetland fill, and no other means of accessing the site would allow for a smaller wetland impact. A larger PV array or use of the Site further east along Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 would require greater wetland filling, greater tree clearing, and would likely require work within the watershed of an Outstanding Resource Water. Consequently, a smaller PV array, a larger PV array, and an extension of the Project footprint to the east was not considered further.

With regard to geographic alternatives for the Project, it should be noted that Blandford Sun obtained the Project as part of a portfolio of solar projects obtained from another developer, and the previous developer/site owner completed the site selection process to identify and obtain the most appropriate site available. The proposed Project site is in a low residential density area, is currently underutilized and undeveloped, and is owned by Blandford Sun. Looking at the region, the predominant land uses within approximately 10 miles of the site are forested land with similar species assemblage as the Project site, and to a lesser extent, agricultural land and open water. No brownfield sites or opportunities for redevelopment of previously developed sites were found to exist in the Project vicinity or any closer to the Project site than Westfield to the east or Great Barrington/Sheffield to the west, and accordingly, the proposed Project site is considered to represent the most appropriate location for a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic electric generating facility of the size and type proposed in the region.

RESTORATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Summarize the mitigation measures proposed to offset the impacts of the preferred alternative:

As part of construction activities, temporary impacts (e.g., construction stormwater runoff, fugitive dust, wetland resource area alterations, construction noise, construction traffic, etc.) will likely occur. Once constructed, the Project will have no ongoing environmental impacts. As described below, mitigation measures and best management practices ("BMPs") will be implemented to avoid, minimize and mitigate where appropriate, for potential environmental impacts.

Wetlands

The Project will result in approximately 1,245 s.f. of permanent impact to BVW as a result of the construction of the new access road. The Project will also result in an additional approximately 4,853 s.f. of alteration to BVW associated with tree clearing for line-of-site improvements required by MassDOT Highway Division along Otis Stage Road / State Route 23, east of the gravel access road entrance.

Permanent impacts to bordering vegetated wetlands will be offset through provision of an on-site wetland replication area with a 1.5:1 or greater ratio of wetland created to wetland filled by the gravel access road. Additionally, to offset permanent loss of BVW associated with access road construction, restoration and enhancement of the wetlands south of Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 is proposed in the location where tree clearing is required. This restoration will entail removal of any roadside trash or debris and, following a post-tree removal inspection by a qualified wetland scientist, up to 25 woody shrubs will be installed in locations identified by the wetland scientist where remaining wetland shrubs and saplings is not as dense as adjacent, undisturbed wetlands. Species to be planted will be similar to those installed in the wetland replication area and may also include a wetland seed mix if bare ground areas that were previously canopy-covered are observed.

Components of the Project will be located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to BVW, including: approximately 3 acres of tree clearing to minimize the amount of shading on the solar arrays and portions of the two stormwater detention basins. Clearing within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of BVW to the east and southwest of the solar array will preserve a minimum 50-foot undisturbed buffer to the BVW boundary. Clearing will be done without stump removal or grubbing, and herbicide treatments will not be applied to prevent stump sprouting and regrowth.

No impacts to water bodies are anticipated as a result of the construction, operation or maintenance of the Project.

To address the potential for erosion and sedimentation within wetland resource areas, the Project's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP") will include the erosion and sedimentation control measures to be implemented during construction to protect wetland resources. At a minimum, silt fence or equivalent will be placed around the perimeter of the site and around the preserved wetland topsoil, the wetland mitigation area, stockpiles of any granular fill material, and in locations of observed concentrated stormwater flows.

During construction, certain heavy construction equipment will be fueled and lubricated as necessary. These activities will be completed outside of wetland resource areas and 100-foot Buffer Zone to the extent practical; if moving the equipment would have a greater impact to the environment, then refueling in place shall be completed under the supervision of qualified personnel. Spill containment gear and absorption materials will be maintained on-site for immediate use in the event of an inadvertent spill or leak.

Traffic

Traffic impacts associated with the Project will be temporary in nature and confined to the period necessary to construct the Project including the new access road off Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 and line-of-site improvements east of the gravel access road entrance. During construction, Blandford Sun or the Construction Contractor will coordinate with local and MassDOT authorities to ensure appropriate measures are undertaken to minimize the potential for construction related traffic impacts.

The largest volume of construction traffic is expected to be associated with tree clearing activities and delivery of PV modules and other equipment to the Project site. Trees will be removed from the Project site and delivered to an off-site location where they will be sold as merchantable timber. Tree clearing and site preparation (*e.g.* grading) is expected to take approximately 6 - 12 weeks. Following tree clearing and site preparation, construction activities are expected to take an additional 10 – 14 weeks.

Once constructed, the Facility will be unstaffed. During operation, vehicle trips will be limited to that required for routine inspection and maintenance. Access to the Facility will be via the new gravel access road off Otis Stage Road / State Route 23.

Noise

Noise impacts from construction of the Project will be temporary in nature. Construction noise will be generated by tree clearing activities, preparation of work areas, delivery of materials, grading, and installation of the racking systems. In order to reduce potential noise impacts during construction where appropriate, construction methods that reduce construction noise will be implemented. This includes using construction equipment of the latest design, which generally has equipment to minimize engine noise, as well as working with the community to establish acceptable work days and work hours.

Construction will comply with state law (M.G.L. Chapter 90, Section 16A) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("MassDEP") regulations (310 CMR 7.11(1)(b)), which limit vehicle idling to no more than five minutes with permissible exceptions for vehicles being serviced, vehicles making deliveries that need to keep their engines running and vehicles that need to run their engines to operate accessories. Only necessary equipment will run during construction to minimize engine noise.

The potential for noise impacts from construction is a function of the specific receptors near the Project site as well as the equipment used and hours of operation. The closest noise-sensitive receptors include residences along Otis Stage Road / State Route 23, Gibbs Road, and Algerie Road, the Tolland State Forest and Gibbs Road Conservation Area.

Construction is anticipated to occur during typical work hours and will take place over an approximate 6 – 8 month construction period. As such, potential noise impacts during construction are considered low.

The solar PV panels do not make any noise. The inverters are the only equipment that will generate noise during operation of the Facility. Based on the Project's location and distance to the nearest sensitive receptors, forested buffer areas that would remain on the 187-acre parcel, and noise generated by traffic along existing area roadways, the Project would not result in any significant impacts to surrounding land uses.

Stormwater Runoff and Dewatering

A SWPPP will be developed for the Project to comply with the USEPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities (also known as the Construction General Permit). The SWPPP will include a construction personnel contact list, a description of proposed work, stormwater controls and spill prevention measures, and inspection practices to be implemented for the management of construction-related stormwater discharges from the Project including any necessary dewatering activities. Implementation of the SWPPP will incorporate sedimentation and erosion control measures and other BMPs. The SWPPP will identify the areas where erosion and sediment controls are required and the types of erosion and sediment controls to be used (e.g. silt fence, haybales, straw wattles, construction entrance/exit, silt sack) to reduce the potential for offsite erosion.

The Project will add impervious surface by constructing the gravel access road and concrete inverter/transformer pads over existing pervious forested land. The Project additionally will add impervious solar modules. Stormwater runoff generated by these new impervious surfaces will be collected and treated via two stormwater basins constructed in the northeast and southwest corners of the Project site. The stormwater basins have been designed with sufficient volume storage and configuration of rip rap spillways such that they reduce the rate of runoff to match pre-development peak discharge rates after construction is complete. These basins will be located partially in the 100-foot Buffer Zone to BVW. They will consist of 6-inch drain tile overlaid by a biofiltration trench consisting of washed rock, perforated drain tile, and sand (see Attachment B – Project Plan Set, Sheet C-603).

Air Quality Impacts During Construction

The main sources of potential construction-related air quality impacts are emissions from construction equipment, motor vehicles and fugitive dust emissions from disturbed soil surface areas. Construction contractors will be contractually required to adhere to all applicable regulations regarding control of dust and emissions.

All diesel-powered non-road construction equipment with engine horsepower ratings of 50 and above to be used for 30 or more days over the course of Project construction will have USEPA verified (or equivalent) emission control devices, such as oxidation catalysts or other comparable technologies (to the extent that they are commercially available) installed on the exhaust system side of the diesel combustion engine. In addition, vehicle idling will be minimized in accordance with Massachusetts' Anti-idling law, G.L. c. 90, § 16A, G.L. c. 111, §§ 142A – 142M, and 310 C.M.R. 7.11.

Dust generated earthwork and other construction activities will be controlled as needed by spraying with water. If necessary, other dust suppression methods will be implemented to ensure minimization of the off-site transport of dust. Any additives to dust-suppression water would be discussed with the Blandford Conservation Commission prior to use. There also will be regular sweeping of the pavement of adjacent roadway surfaces (Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 during the construction period to minimize the potential for vehicular traffic to produce dust and particulate matter. A sediment tracking pad and gravel construction entrance will be installed at the entrance/exit to Otis Stage Road / State Route 23 to minimize dust generated by construction traffic entering and exiting the Project site.

If the project is proposed to be constructed in phases, please describe each phase:

Not Applicable. The Project will be constructed in a single phase.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:

Is the project within or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

☐ Yes (Specify_____)

☒ No

If yes, does the ACEC have an approved Resource Management Plan? ___ Yes ___ No;

If yes, describe how the project complies with this plan:

_____

Will there be stormwater runoff or discharge to the designated ACEC? ___ Yes ___ No;

If yes, describe and assess the potential impacts of such stormwater runoff/discharge to the designated ACEC:

_____