

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

**Environmental Notification Form**

*For Office Use Only*

EEA#: \_\_\_\_\_

MEPA Analyst: \_\_\_\_\_

*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: <b>Braley Hill North Solar</b>										
Street Address: <b>0 Braley Hill Road</b>										
Municipality: <b>Rochester</b>	Watershed: <b>Buzzards Bay</b>									
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: <b>341906.33E 4626701.11N 19T</b>	Latitude: <b>41°46'32.26" N</b> Longitude: <b>70°54'04.28" W</b>									
Estimated commencement date: <b>Early-2022</b>	Estimated completion date: <b>Late-2022</b>									
Project Type: <b>Large-scale Ground-mounted Solar Array</b>	Status of project design: <b>90% complete</b>									
Proponent: <b>Braley Hill North Solar, LLC</b>										
Street Address: <b>PO Box 1320</b>										
Municipality: <b>Portsmouth</b>	State: <b>NH</b>	Zip Code: <b>03802</b>								
Name of Contact Person: <b>Eric J. Las</b>										
Firm/Agency: <b>Beals and Thomas, Inc.</b>	Street Address: <b>144 Turnpike Road</b>									
Municipality: <b>Southborough</b>	State: <b>MA</b>	Zip Code: <b>01772-2104</b>								
Phone: <b>508-366-0560</b>	Fax: <b>508-366-4391</b>	E-mail: <b>elas@bealsandthomas.com</b>								
<p>Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>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:</p> <table style="width:100%;"><tr><td>a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</td></tr><tr><td>a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</td></tr><tr><td>a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</td></tr><tr><td>a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</td></tr></table> <p>(Note: Greenhouse Gas Emissions analysis must be included in the Expanded ENF.)</p> <p>Which MEPA review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03)? <b>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"</b></p> <p><b>301 CMR 11.03 (2)(b)2., "Greater than two acres of disturbance of designated priority habitat...that result in a take of state-listed endangered or threatened species or species of special concern."</b></p>			a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No									
a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No									
a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No									
a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No									

Which State Agency Permits will the project require?

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Conservation and Management Permit**

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: **None**

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
<b>LAND</b>			
Total site acreage	±100 acres		
New acres of land altered		±40 acres	
Acres of impervious area	0	±3,300 sf (0.08 ac)	±3,300 sf (0.08 ac)
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		N/A	
<b>STRUCTURES</b>			
Gross square footage	0	0	0
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (feet)	0	0	N/A – no change from existing
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Vehicle trips per day	<1	<1	N/A – no change from existing
Parking spaces	N/A – no change from existing	0	N/A – no change from existing
<b>WASTEWATER</b>			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	N/A – no change from existing	0	N/A – no change from existing
Water withdrawal (GPD)	N/A – no change from existing	0	N/A – no change from existing
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	N/A – no change from existing	0	N/A – no change from existing
Length of water mains (miles)	N/A – no change from existing	0	N/A – no change from existing
Length of sewer mains (miles)	N/A – no change from existing	0	N/A – no change from existing
Has this project been filed with MEPA before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA #_____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA #_____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

## **GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section**

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

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

The Property is comprised of approximately 100-acres of undeveloped land that is located to the east of Braley Hill Road. Traditional uses of the Property have been for timber harvesting and forestry. The Property abuts single-family residences on the southwest side and undeveloped land to the north and east. The east side of the Property contains a large Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF/ Zone A). The location and classification of the on-site wetlands have been verified through an Order of Resource Area Delineation (ORAD) issued by the Rochester Conservation Commission (DEP File No. 272-0574). This ORAD confirmed the presence of BVW, Buffer Zone and BLSF within the easterly portion of the subject Property. No work is proposed within jurisdictional wetland resource areas on-site.

The entire site is located within the Mattapoisett River Valley Water Supply Aquifer. The Project has been reviewed by the Mattapoisett River Valley Watershed Supply Protection Advisory Committee (MRVWSPAC) and has been found to have no effect on the corresponding aquifer. The northern parcel is owned by Lisa Holden, Trustee of the Rochester Realty Trust and the southern parcel is owned by Leslie Boness and can be identified by the Rochester Assessors as Parcel ID 048.0-0032 and 048.0-0036.

An approximately 90.5-acre portion of the Property is mapped by Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) for Priority Habitat of Rare Species (PH 521) and Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife. The Proponent has been involved in extensive discussions NHESP regarding the Project and anticipates obtaining a Conservation Management Permit (CMP) for the Project.

Refer to the Figures and Plans in Section 4.0 and Section 2.0 of the enclosed Project Narrative for additional information regarding existing conditions.

#### **Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:**

The Project consists of the proposed construction of a  $\pm 9.5$  MW DC ground-mounted solar photovoltaic array located at 0 Braley Hill Road in Rochester, Massachusetts. Access is proposed via a gravel access road off the east side of Braley Hill Road and around the perimeter of the array for emergency response access. The physical construction of the array includes the installation of racking and solar panels, transformer/inverter pads, perimeter security fence with wildlife gap, and interconnection to the electrical grid. Electric utilities are proposed to be underground throughout the site, except at the point of interconnection on Braley Hill Road.

Impervious surfaces on-site are limited to only concrete equipment pads proposed in the western portion of the array. Areas of minor grading in and beyond the array are necessary for stormwater conveyance and infiltration. The proposed stormwater management system has been designed to mitigate runoff rates and volumes in accordance with Town of Rochester regulations and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Standards. The stormwater management system includes three proposed basins designed to detain and infiltrate runoff to the extent practical. Please refer to and the Stormwater Management Section below that discusses compliance with the MassDEP Stormwater Management Standards.

The Project will limit the amount of earthwork and grading to the extent practical with a goal of generally balancing earth cut and fill volumes. The Project is not anticipated to result in earth removal from the site. Upon completion of grading activities, the array area will be revegetated with appropriate seed mixes that may include pollinator-friendly planting zones upon completion of construction. The Project has been designed to limit site disturbance by incorporating zones of selective clearing beyond the proposed perimeter fence.

The enclosed plans include a variety of measures to avoid and minimize soil erosion and sediment transport during- and post-construction of the Project. Robust temporary sediment control barriers (SCB) will be placed throughout the Property where necessary, prior to construction. Refer to Section 2.0 for the enclosed Project Narrative.

**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.**

**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:**

Refer to the enclosed Project Narrative Section 2.3 for a detailed alternative analysis.

**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.**

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

A ±72-acre permanent Conservation Restriction is proposed and is being coordinated through the MESA review process with NHESP. Furthermore, the Proponent has committed to contribute the estimated timber value of \$23,000 to the Town of Rochester, for the installation of trees throughout the Town. Refer to Section 2.7 of the enclosed narrative for details regarding the proposed mitigation measures.

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

The Project is not proposed to be constructed in phases.

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:**

Is the project within or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern? ☐ Yes ☒ 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.

**RARE SPECIES:**

Does the project site include Estimated and/or Priority Habitat of State-Listed Rare Species? (see [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhESP/regulatory\\_review/priority\\_habitat/priority\\_habitat\\_home.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhESP/regulatory_review/priority_habitat/priority_habitat_home.htm))  
☒ Yes (Specify: **PH 521 EH 452**) ☐ No

**HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:**

Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?  
☐ Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_) ☒ No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic