

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: Snipatuit Road Solar										
Street Address: 0 Snipatuit Road										
Municipality: Rochester	Watershed: Taunton and Buzzards Bay									
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 343654.77E 4625724.30N Z19	Latitude: 41°46'02.27" N Longitude: 70°52'47.72" W									
Estimated commencement date: Early 2022	Estimated completion date: Late 2022									
Project Type: Large-scale Ground-mounted Solar Array	Status of project design: 90% complete									
Proponent: Snipatuit Road Solar, LLC										
Street Address: PO Box 1320										
Municipality: Portsmouth	State: New Hampshire	Zip Code: 03802								
Name of Contact Person: Eric J. Las										
Firm/Agency: Beals and Thomas, Inc.	Street Address: 144 Turnpike Road									
Municipality: Southborough	State: MA	Zip Code: 01772-2104								
Phone: 508-366-0560	Fax: 508-366-4391	E-mail: elas@bealsandthomas.com								
<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 301 CMR 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)?</p> <p>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."</p>			a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 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 301 CMR 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
LAND			
Total site acreage	±124 acres		
New acres of land altered		±23 acres	
Acres of impervious area ¹	N/A single-family dwelling – un-associated with the Project	±0.029 acres	±0.029 acres
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		± 2,500 SF permanent ±70 SF temporary	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		N/A	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	N/A single-family dwelling – un-associated with the Project	0	N/A – No change from existing
Number of housing units	N/A single-family dwelling – un-associated with the Project	0	N/A – No change from existing
Maximum height (feet)	N/A single-family dwelling – un-associated with the Project	0	N/A – no change from existing
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	<1	±20 – during construction only	N/A – no permanent change from existing
Parking spaces	N/A – no change from existing	N/A – no change from existing	N/A – no change from existing
WASTEWATER			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	N/A – no change from existing	N/A – no change from existing	N/A – no change from existing
Water withdrawal (GPD)	N/A – no change from existing	N/A – no change from existing	N/A – no change from existing
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	N/A – no change from existing	N/A – no change from existing	N/A – no change from existing
Length of water mains (miles)	N/A – no change from existing	N/A – no change from existing	N/A – no change from existing

Length of sewer mains (miles)	N/A – no change from existing	N/A – no change from existing	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:

According to the Rochester Assessors Office, the Property can be identified as parcel ID 047.0-0009 and 047.0-0009A owned by Kevin J. and Cassandra A. Cassidy and parcels 047.0-0004, 047.0-0001, 046.0-0026, and 046.0-0027 owned by Lisa Holden, the Trustee of the Rochester Realty Trust and the Aquidneck Nominee Trust. The Property is located off the west side of Snipatuit Road and bounded by residential development to the east and generally undeveloped land to the south and west.

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 impact on the aquifer.

The Property is mapped by Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) as Priority Habitat of Rare Species (PH 521) and Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife. The Proponent has been involved in extensive discussions NHESP regarding the provision of adequate mitigation to achieve a net benefit and anticipates obtaining a Conservation Management Permit (CMP) for the Project.

Refer to Figure 2, Aerial Exhibit and Section 2.2.1 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 a proposed ± 4.8 MW DC ground-mounted solar photovoltaic array, an access road, security fencing, and associated stormwater management and grading on an approximately 120-acre parcel located at 0 Snipatuit Road in Rochester, Massachusetts (the Property). The construction of the array includes the installation of racking and solar panels, transformer/inverter pads, timber bridge stream crossing, perimeter security fence with wildlife gap, and interconnection to the electrical grid. Electric utilities are proposed to be underground until the point of interconnection on Snipatuit Road.

Impervious surfaces on-site are limited to concrete equipment pads proposed to the west 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. 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 Section 2.3 of the enclosed Project Narrative.

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 ±42-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 \$13,000 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)

☒ Yes (Specify: **PH 521, EH 452**) ☐ No