

### **35. How are the Intervenor funds being broken up between the two Towns and what goes to private intervenor groups?**

75% of intervenor funds are allocated for local agencies which includes boards, districts, commissions or other governing bodies including municipalities. The remaining 25% is reserved for potential community intervenors, either individuals or groups. To obtain the funds, each local agency will have to submit a form detailing the reason for the request, an explanation of the studies or review to be performed, what group will prepare the studies or reviews and the cost of each. The process also requires submission of expected expenses among other items. Additional details are located within Subpart 900-5 available via the link below:

<https://ores.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/chapter-xviii-title-19-of-nycrr-part-900-subparts-900-1-through-900-15.pdf>

For the Flat Creek solar project, up to \$300,000 in intervenor funds are available to requesting parties. The actual allocation of funds between requesting parties will be determined by an Administrative Law Judge after all requests are submitted.

### **36. Is the landowner responsible for the increase in property taxes as a result of installed project infrastructure?**

No, this is a common provision in the lease agreements we have with the project's participating landowners - the Flat Creek solar project will pay for any increase in property taxes on leased property that results from the project being installed. The Flat Creek solar project will also pay for any increase in taxes on leased property that arise from the property being reclassified as a result of the project.

### **37. Are landowners responsible for cleaning up damaged panels?**

Solar panels sustaining any damage is a rare event. In such an unlikely event, we will promptly perform any needed cleanup and/or repair (and there will be property insurance in place if there is ever any significant damage). The landowner will bear no responsibility for cleanup or cost.

### **38. How much water is used during the construction and operation of a solar project?**

Solar panels do not require water to produce electricity. The only significant water use by the project will be for dust suppression during construction, on an as-needed basis. During construction, it is anticipated that water will either be purchased from a public water supply or pumped from farm ponds located on or near the site.

Further, throughout the eastern US, the climate provides frequent and heavy enough precipitation to keep solar panels clean. This dependable weather pattern minimizes the need to wash panels on a regular basis. If washing does occur, we will use distilled water, because groundwater can leave a film or deposits on the panels.

### **39. Do solar projects make economic sense for communities and power markets?**

Absolutely. In the last decade, the cost to install solar has dropped by more than 40% and has experienced an average annual growth rate of 25%. According to Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis – Version 17.0 (2023), even without tax credits, new solar resources have a levelized cost of energy in the range of 2.9 cents/kWh – 9.2 cents/kWh for large-scale solar. Solar projects generate electricity at a lower cost per megawatt hour than other energy options. These results have been bolstered by the International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2023, which found, "Solar PV and wind are now the cheapest sources of new electricity in most markets."

Adding to their growing appeal, solar projects are uniquely able to sell their electricity output at a fixed price over the life of the project because the "fuel" is free and not subject to increases in commodity prices.