CALCASIEU PARISH PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE APPLICATION FOR ZONING CHANGES / AMENDMENTS VARIANCES OR EXCEPTIONS



CASE NUMBER

EX-0721-0118

DATE RECEIVED

6/30/21

FEE ___\$1000.00

APPLICANT IN	FORMATION			
NAME: Sweetlake Land and Oil Co., Inc., et al	Representative: Aurora So	olar, LLC : Avang	rid Rene	wables, LLC
ADDRESS: 7777 Nelson Road	c/o Andrew Makee			
Lake Charles, LA 70605	1125 NW Couch Str	eet, Suite 700		
PHONE NUMBER: (Home)	Portland, OR 97209	(Work) 82	8-712-5	5060
(Work) 337-439-4041 (Cell)	Email: andrew.make	e@avangrid.co	m	
PROPERTY IN	FORMATION			
LOCATION: 5400 Block of Highway 14 East AM	OUNT OF LAND:	x =	2,400	acres
IDENTIFYING LANDMARK: Vacant				
PRESENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION: Agricultural (A-1) and	General Commercial (C	(-2)		
METRO. PLANNING BOUNDARY IN OUT				
REZONING	Ε	X EXCEPTION		
] ZONING VARIANCE ZONING REQUES] EXTENSION		☐ SUBDIVISIO ☐ REVISION	N VARI	ANCE
		ADMINISTR.	ATIVE I	REVIEW
ZONING CHANGE: FROMTO				
PURPOSE OF REQUEST: To allow industrial development	(solar project).			-
	1			
I DO FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT NO PETITION FOR A CHANGE IN THE CLASS SIGNED AND ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE OWNERS OF AUTHORIZED AGENTS (OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTY (50) PE	RCENT OF THE ARE	A OF LAN	ID FOR
WHICH A CHANGE OF CLASSIFICATION IS REQUESTED PROVIDED HOWEVER IN DIVISION, ALL CO-OWNERS MUST SIGN THE PETITION FOR THAT LOT TO	R, THAT WHERE ANY LOT LOCATE	ED IN THE AFORES	AID AREA	IS OWNED
PARISH ZONING ORDINANCE, NUMBER 1927, AS AMENDED AND REENACT			JN, A3 31	AILD IN THE
FURTHER, I DO CERTIFY THAT THE PROPERTY FOR WHICH THE ABOVE REQU	JEST IS BEING MADE DOES NOT	HOLD ANY RESTRIC	CTIONS O	R
COVENANTS THAT WOULD BE IN CONFLICT WITH SAID REQUEST.				
FURTHERMORE, I, THE APPLICANT AGREE TO DISPOSE OF THE ZONING SIGN	N(S) PLACED ON MY PROPERTY A	AFTER THE PUBLIC	HEARING	
APPLICANT SIGNATURE Application submitted online DATE 6/30/21				
REVIEW INFORMATION (FOR	STAFF INFORMATION ONI	LY)		
1a. IS SITE LOCATED WITHIN AN ACTIVE PARISH WATER DISTRI	ICT?	YES	NO	NI/A
b. IF NOT, ARE PRESENT FACILITIES ADEQUATE FOR FUTURE I		YES	NO	<u>N/A</u> N/A
2a. HAS THE METHOD OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL BEEN APPROVED PARISH HEALTH UNIT?	BY THE CALCASIEU	VEC	NO	AL/A
b. WHAT TYPE OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM WILL BE USED	OXIDATION POND	YES	<u>NO</u>	N/A
SEPTIC TANK MUNICIPAL SEWAGE DISTRICT M OTHER	ECHANICAL PLANT			
3. ARE THE EXISTING NATURAL & / OR MAN-MADE DRAINAG	E FACILITIES ADEQUATE FOR			
EXPECTED SURFACE WATER RUN -OFF?	INDING ADEA DECAUGE OF	YES	NO	N/A
 WILL THE PROPOSED USE BE A NUISANCE TO THE SURROU ODORS, VIBRATIONS, UNSIGHTLY AREAS OR OTHER UNWA 		YES	NO	N/A
5. IS THE CAPACITY OF THE ROAD AND OFF-STREET PARKING	FACILITIES ADEQUATE	7		
FOR USE BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT? 6. WILL THE LOCATION BE SERVED BY A FIRE PROTECTION?		YES YES	<u>NO</u> <u>NO</u>	<u>N/A</u> N/A
7. CAN THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BE EXPECTED TO ADV	ERSELY EFFECT THE			
CHARACTER / AESTHETICS OF THE AREA INVOLVED? 8. IS PROPERTY WITHIN A DESIGNATED FLOOD HAZARD AREA	\ ?	YES YES	NO NO	<u>N/A</u> N/A
flood zone classification <u>X, X (Shaded)</u> bfe	FT.			
STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the request	be granted. See application	on summary fo	or cond	itions.

Application Summary						
Applicant	Sweetlake Land and Oil Co., Inc., et al		Submittal Date		6/30/2021	
Case Number	EX-0721-0118		Site Area		2,400 Acres	
Location	5400 Block of Highway 14 East	Police Jury District		10- Tony Stelly		
P&Z Meeting Date	August 17, 2021	PJ Meeting Date N/A		Λ		

Request(s)

To allow industrial development (solar project).

Site Characteristics						
Present Zoning Classification	Agricultural (A-1) and General Commercial (C-2)					
Identifying Landmark	Vacant					
Urban Service Area	Out	Flood Zone	X, X (Sha	ded)		
Area Characteristics						
Surrounding Zoning	Agricultural (A-1), Single Family Residential (R-1), Planned Unit Development (PUD), Light Commercial (C-1), General Commercial (C-2), Light Industrial (I-1), Heavy Industrial (I-2)					
Surrounding Uses	Residential, Commercial					
Zoning History						
Original Zoning	Agricultural (A	A-1)	Date	1983		

Recent Zoning Requests in Immediate Area

In the past five years, there have been six zoning requests within the immediate area.

- In 2019, the Planning and Zoning Board granted a request by Jacob Miller, et ux for an exception to allow commercial development (reception facility) at 7200 Daughenbaugh Road.
- In 2018, the Planning and Zoning Board and the Police Jury **granted** a request by Brent Sonnier, et ux to rezone Agricultural (A-1) to Light Industrial (I-1) to allow industrial development (boat repair and welding shop) at 7793 Highway 27.
- In 2017, the Planning and Zoning Board **granted** a request by Frances Devall, et al for an exception to allow a borrow pit (77.8 acres) in the 6000 Block of Ward Line Road.
- In 2016, the Planning and Zoning Board and the Police Jury **granted** a request by Oak Grove Development, LLC to rezone from Agricultural (A-1) to Single Family Residential (R-1) to allow residential development (future phases of Oak Grove and Highland Hills) at the North End of Kings Canyon Road and Highland Hills Boulevard.
- In 2016, the Planning and Zoning Board granted a request by Oak Grove Development, LLC for a variance to decrease the lot size requirement (required 7,500 sq. ft.; requesting 5,500 sq. ft.), to decrease the public road frontage requirement (required 60 ft.; requesting 41 ft.), and to decrease the front yard setback requirement (required 30 ft.; requesting 20 ft.) at the North End of Kings Canyon road and Highland Hills Boulevard.
- In 2016, the Planning and Zoning Board **granted** a request by Oak Grove Development, LLC for a variance to increase the maximum height of on-premises signs (allowed 10 ft.; requesting 12.5 ft.) in the 4800 and 4900 Blocks of Highway 14 East.

Zoning Requests along Highway 14 East.

Prior to 2016, there have been four zoning requests within the immediate area.

• In 2010, the Planning and Zoning Board and the Police Jury granted a request by the Division of Planning and Development to reclassifying certain tracts of land near the intersection of Ward Line Road, Highway 397, and Highway 14 from Agricultural (A-1) and Single Family Residential (R-1) to Light Commercial (C-1).

- In 2011 the Planning and Zoning Board and the Police Jury granted a request by Arrozal, LLC and Lacassane Co. to rezone from Agricultural (A-1) and Light Commercial (C-1) to Planned Unit Development (PUD), Single Family Residential (R-1), Light Commercial (C-1) to allow a planned unit development on the northwest corner of Highway 14 and Highway 397.
- In 2006, the Planning and Zoning Board **granted** a request by William J. Daughenbaugh for a zoning exception to allow an off premise outdoor advertising sign (4 ft. x 8 ft.) on Highway 14 East.
- In 2000, the Planning and Zoning Board **granted** a request by Norbert Leonards for a zoning exception to allow a communications tower (180 feet) on Hwy 14 East.

Recommendation

Because the applicant has demonstrated sufficient mitigation of impacts, such as visual, drainage, and traffic concerns, the staff recommends that the request be granted with the following conditions:

- 1) that the development adhere to the site plan on file with the Division of Planning and Development, provided that the Director, or designee, may authorize adjustments to the site plans in light of technical or engineering considerations discovered during development;
- 2) that all exterior lighting must be oriented inward toward the development or structures to minimize intrusion onto surrounding properties;
- 3) that screening must be provided, as shown on site plan and the revised project conditions submitted on August 16, 2021, in accordance with Sec. 26-50 of the Parish Code of Ordinances prior to final electrical approval;
- 4) that a Runoff Management Plan (RMP) will be required unless appropriate waiver is granted by the Division of Engineering;
- 5) that permitting is subject to approval of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development; and
- 6) that the development adhere to the revised project conditions dated August 16, 2021 filed with the Division of Planning and Development.

PROJECT CONDITIONS

Definitions

Company: Aurora Solar, LLC

Commercial Operation Date (COD): the date that the Project transmits electricity for the purpose of selling power.

Non-participating Property Line: property lines of parcels that are not under solar lease or other agreement with the Applicant.

Non-participating Structure: residential, church, school and commercial / office structures that are occupied (e.g., not abandoned), and located on a Non-participating Parcel.

Operations & Maintenance Building: Facility to support the ongoing operation duties that include monitoring and control of the PV Plant, as well as repairs, replacement of parts and components, and other activities needed to preserve the PV Plant so that it continues to provide services and achieve its expected life.

Parish Road: Any road maintained by Calcasieu Parish, typical ROW of 60 feet.

Point of Interconnection Substation: High Voltage (HV) Electric Facility serves as a mediator between the generation and transmission, with the main purpose of supplying the generated energy from the Project Substation at the particular voltage level, to Entergy's transmission line.

Project: Chalkley Solar Project, wholly owned by Company.

Property: Parcels included in the zoning exception application

Project Construction: the period beginning with breaking of ground or land disturbance; *i.e.* earth moving, expressly for the installation of Solar Array and concluding upon COD.

Project Substation: High Voltage (HV) Electrical Facility where the generated energy from the Solar Array is sent to stepped up the voltage level from 34.5kV to 230kV using main power Transformers, so that the energy can be transmitted at the appropriate voltage level to the Point of Interconnection Substation.

Solar Array: also known as modules, photovoltaic solar panels capable of converting the voltage differential created by solar energy into electricity.

State Highway: Any road maintained by the State of Louisiana, typical ROW of 100 feet.

Transformer: electrical equipment that increases or decreases the operating voltage of an electrical current.

Internal Use



Setbacks

The Project shall be designed to include the following setbacks. Above and below ground electric lines, fencing, roads and vegetative screening shall expressly be allowed within these setbacks.

- a. Non-participating Property Line:
 - i. Solar Array shall be set back 100 feet.
- b. Non-participating Structure, measured from the nearest point of such Structure:
 - i. Solar Array shall be set back 200 feet.ii. Transformer shall be set back 500 feet.
- c. Public Rights of Way:
 - i. Parish Road: 65 feet from the edge of the ROW.
 - ii. State Highway: 65 feet from the edge of the ROW.

Vegetation

Vegetative screening will be installed in areas depicted on the project maps attached to the application (highlighted in pink hashing) to mitigate the visual impact of the Solar Array. Exact design (e.g. planting type and configuration) to be approved by planning administration prior to Project Construction. The vegetative screening plantings will be a minimum depth of 25 feet using and combinations of regionally native evergreen, deciduous, coniferous shrubs and grasses. The plant material must be spaced sufficiently to create a visual screen on a year-round basis within three (3) years of planting. At least one species will be planted at a height of 8ft to 10ft and the other shrubs must be a minimum of four (4) feet at the time of planting. The grasses must be a minimum of three (3) gallon. In vegetative screening areas (as depicted in project maps), existing vegetation will be left at a depth of at least 100 feet (to the extent it does not impede on energy production of project) to satisfy the installed vegetation screening requirement. If existing vegetation is not at a depth of 100 feet, vegetative screening plantings will be used to supplement. After COD, Company shall conduct periodic inspections and maintenance (including replanting of dead planted vegetation), at Company's expense, of such installed vegetative screening.

Road Use Agreement

Prior to commencement of Project Construction, Company will enter into a road maintenance agreement with Calcasieu Parish setting forth obligations to repair damage to Parish Roads caused by Company or its contractors during Project Construction. An existing conditions road survey will be conducted by the Company and submitted to the Calcasieu Parish prior to commencement of Project Construction.

Gravity Drainage Access Agreement

Prior to commencement of Project Construction, Company will enter into an access agreement with Calcasieu Parish requiring it to show all access points and appropriate setbacks for continued Gravity Drainage maintenance.

Height

The Solar Array will have a maximum height of 10 feet.

Internal Use

Decommissioning/Restoration

Within Ten (10) years after the Project Commercial Operation Date, Company or its successors and assigns shall obtain and deliver to Calcasieu Parish a parent guarantee, letter of credit, surety bond, or other similar financial assurance securing Company's obligation to decommission and remove the Project from the Property (the "Removal Bond"). The amount of such Removal Bond shall be equal to one hundred and twenty five percent (125%) of the estimated amount, if any, by which the costs of decommissioning or removal exceeds the net of salvage value of the Project (the "Bond Calculation"), as estimated by an independent qualified engineer. Every five (5) years after Company's initial posting of a Removal Bond, Company shall reevaluate the need for the Removal Bond and, if such reevaluation results in a Bond Calculation amount in excess of 10% of the then current Removal Bond, Company shall post a replacement Removal Bond for the new amount with Calcasieu Parish.

Additional Permits

Company shall provide all necessary state and federal permits to Calcasieu Parish prior to Project Construction.

Solar Array Technology

Project will not install thin-film photovoltaic solar panel technology. Project will not install solar thermal technology.

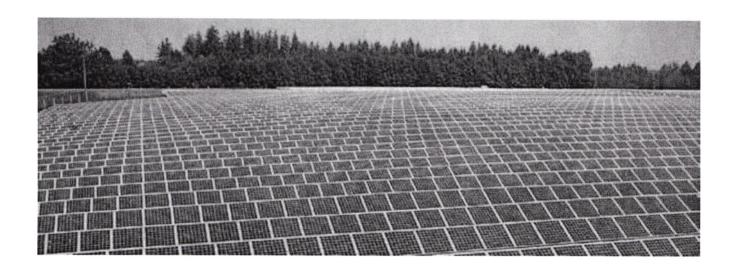
Lighting

Lighting upon COD shall be located around the Operations & Maintenance Building, Project Substation and Point of Interconnection Substation. Lighting will be kept to a minimum, will be directed downward to minimize the effects of light pollution, and will use the lowest intensity required to assure safety and security. Additionally, lighting will be operated with motion or heat sensors and switches to keep lights off when not required, and the use of high-intensity light, steady-burning, or bright lights such as sodium vapor, quartz, halogen, or other bright spotlights will be minimized. For areas requiring fixed lighting, full cut-off, down-cast lights with shields/hoods will be used and directed to minimize horizontal and skyward illumination.

Noise

Prior to start of Project Construction, the Company will submit an acoustical analysis documenting that the final equipment selection and layout conforms with a sound level of 45 dBA L_{eq} attributable to the Project at adjacent Non-participating Property Lines. The acoustical analysis shall be prepared by a qualified acoustical professional who is either a Registered Professional Acoustical Engineer or Board Certified by the Institute of Noise Control Engineering. In response to a complaint from an adjacent non-participating property owner, a qualified acoustical professional shall be retained and paid for by the Company to assess the Project's compliance with 45 dBA L_{eq,1hr}. Measurement equipment shall comply with the ANSI S1.4 standard for Type 1, precision and have been calibrated by an accredited calibration lab within the past 12 months.

Zoning Exception Application for the 300 MW to 400 MW Chalkley Solar Project



Applicant:

Aurora Solar, LLC, a wholly owned subsdiary of Avangrid Renewables, LLC.

June 30, 2021

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1. Purpose of Request

Aurora Solar, LLC (Aurora), a wholly owned subsidiary of Avangrid Renewables, LLC, is submitting this Zoning Exception application to Calcasieu Parish to allow for the development, construction and operation of the Chalkley Solar Project (the Project), a 300 to 400 megawatt (MW) Solar Photovoltaic (PV) project southeast of Lake Charles, Louisiana. The property is zoned Agricultural Use. The Project requires a zoning exception.

Aurora has leased approximately 3,400 acres from Sweetlake Land & Oil Company for the development, installation and operation of the project. Aurora has also entered into a Servitude Agreement and Option to Purchase Agreement with the Reina Family that provides the Project with land access to the SolactoChalkley Bulk 230KV Entergy Louisiana (Entergy) transmission line. This point on the line will be the point-of-interconnection (the POI) for the Chalkley Solar Project

Aurora estimates its solar array (aka solar modules or modules) will occupy approximately 2,400 acres. The Project circuits will route power from the solar array to an onsite substation where the voltage will be stepped up to 230 kilovolts (KV). An above ground 230 KV line will then carry the power 3.5 miles along Louisiana State Highway 14 (HWY 14) to a point one quarter mile west of Daughenbaugh Road, where the line will interconnect with a new Entergy interconnection substation. Entergy will own and operate the interconnecting station.

Advantages and Benefits of the Project to the Community

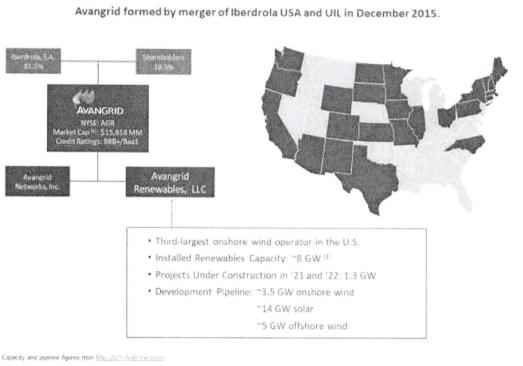
- · Increase the tax base.
- · Generation of clean, sustainable, price-stable electricity.
- Minimal water needs.
- Negligible traffic impact during operations.
- · Diversifies farming income and thereby supports a strong farming economy
- · Located on lower-value pastureland
- Comprehensively addresses onsite drainage issues.
- Provides well-paid, long-term employment opportunities.

Economic Impact

Aurora expects to invest between \$250M and \$325M in connection with the Project. The Project will generate \$4.5M to \$6M in sales and use taxes. With the approval of the current ITEP application, the Project will also generate \$30M to \$40M in personal property taxes over 30 years. Aurora expects to employ between 300 to 500 workers during construction, 3 to 4 full-time long-term employees to operate the facility, and contractors for the general maintenance of the Project. The services required from Calcasieu Parish are limited. Construction of the Project is planned to begin in late 2023 and reach completion in 12 to 18 months.

2. Company Background

Corporate Overview







Proprietary & Confidential 2

The sole member and manager of Aurora is Avangrid Renewables, LLC (AR), one of the largest providers of clean, renewable wind power in the United States (U.S.), operating 7.5 gigawatts (GW) of generation capacity of owned and controlled wind and solar generation, in more than 20 states. AR is headquartered in Portland, Oregon.

AR is a subsidiary of AVANGRID, Inc. (NYSE: AGR), and part of the IBERDROLA Group. IBERDROLA, S.A. is an energy pioneer with the largest renewable asset base of any company in the world, with approximately 35,000 MW of renewable energy spread across a dozen countries. IBERDROLA S.A. has a 170-year history. It is headquartered in Spain, employs more than 37,000 staff in nearly 40 countries, and has placed the environment and sustainable development at the center of its global strategy. Additional information about the company can be found at: www.avangridrenewables.com.

3. Description of Project

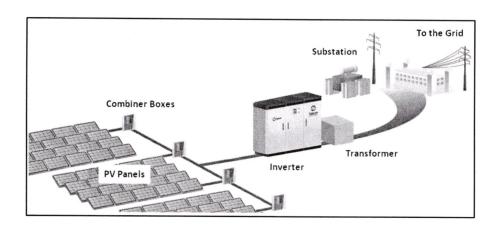
The Project site is located north of Natali Road, on both sides of Old Camp Road, South of HWY 14, West of HWY 27, East of Ward Line Road. The POI with a to be built Entergy substation is on HWY 14, a quarter mile west of Daughenbaugh Road.

The proposed Project will include:

- PV panels mounted on north-south orientated tracking systems
- Multiple pad-mounted or platform-mounted inverters and transformers.
- A Project Substation that will house up to three step-up transformers, and associated electrical equipment, planned to be in the central portion of the site, more than 500 feet north of Old Camp Road.
- A single-story operations and maintenance (O & M) building of up to 2,400 square-foot with required parking will be built on HWY 14. The total finished graded area associated with the O & M building, including parking and storage, will be approximately one acre.
- A to-be-built Entergy interconnecting POI station.
- A 3.5 mile, 230 KV aboveground electrical generation tie (gen-tie) line, that will transmit electricity from the Project Substation to the to-be-built Entergy interconnecting station.
- Pole or ground mounted weather stations.
- · Chain-link perimeter fencing.
- · Culverts for drainage, as required
- Vegetative screening described below

Solar panels will be mounted on power-driven, single-axis tracking technology, in which arrays of PV modules follow the path of the sun throughout the day. Each array, or "solar tracking unit," will support the PV modules (solar panels) on a north-south aligned rack.

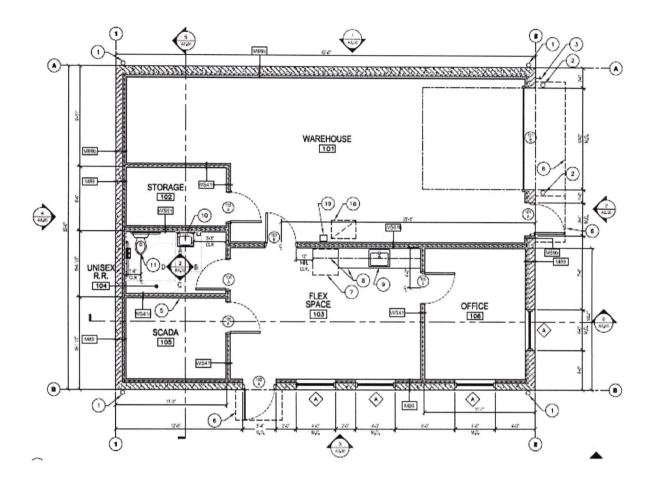




4. Operations and Maintenance Facility

The approach road, driveway and parking spaces for the O&M facility will be graveled. In addition to storage space for equipment and parts, the O&M facility will include office space, a conference room, the control system, a kitchenette and bathroom. A diagram of a typical O&M building is shown below. A further detailed site plan is included with the application. The O&M building will have electric utility service. Fiber optic cabling will be installed to provide a Local Area Network (LAN) to interface with the existing telecommunications system. Sanitary waste will be disposed of through a septic system unless sewer is available. Water will be obtained from an underground well unless city or parish water is available.

All lighting used for the external illumination of buildings, parking and outdoor uses shall be directed down and away from adjacent properties and shall be designed to minimize glare. Outdoor lighting fixtures shall be arranged and shielded so that lighting will not shine or reflect directly onto adjacent residential property.



5. Tracker Design and Wind Mitigation

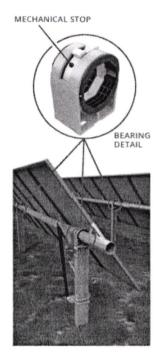
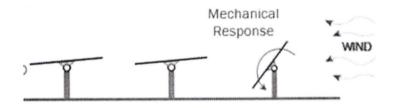


Figure 3: Mechanical stops at all foundations for wind load distribution

The Project racking system has been designed to withstand some of the harshest conditions. It uses a fully integrated, fully mechanical, passive wind-load mitigation system without the need for complex communication system, batteries, or power. This means that when severe weather hits, the passive wind feature automatically rotates modules to the safest position for high winds, locking vulnerable modules in the full-tilt angle. The passive response wind mitigation strategy, developed and patented by Array Technologies, meets the 123 mph design wind speed specification of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE-7) for all tracker angles at the Chalkley Site. Tracker foundations and module mounting brackets are designed to the site's maximum wind load requirements at a full tilt angle of 52°. A torsional limiter is contained in every row's gearbox to ensure an independent, automatic response of each row if the wind pressure creates sufficient torque to move a given row. If sufficiently strong winds present, a row rotates to a 52° position and is supported by mechanical stops built into every bearing and center structure. This autonomous response, in which only triggered rows respond, is a completely passive response to the wind pressure exerted on a given row. The passive response is mechanical and does not require any additional components such as sensors, electronics, or power.

Additionally, plant operators can proactively pre-tilt a passive response tracker to full tilt in advance of a severe thunderstorm to mitigate both wind and hail damage.



6. Drainage

A Hydrology Study and Stormwater Management Plan will be submitted showing no increased water flow impact on adjacent properties.

7. Fences, Walls and Screening.

Avangrid proposes to install a 6 to 8-foot chain link fence along the exterior of the site perimeter access road for added security and visibility.

Vegetative screening will be installed in areas depicted on the attached map packet. Existing vegetation will be left where appropriate to enhance the visual screening of the Project.

8. Timing of Development (Phasing Schedule)

Construction, testing and commissioning activities are expected to require a total of 12 to 18 months.

The power plant construction steps, in sequence of activities, include the following:

- **Site Preparation:** Includes preliminary activities such as surveys, contractor mobilization, clearing and grubbing (removal of site vegetation), grading, and drainage.
- Foundations: Includes solar array posts, PCS foundations, and excavation for all foundations.
- **Underground Utilities:** Includes installation of electrical cables (both low and medium voltage) and control wiring.
- Major Equipment Installation: Includes installation of major equipment such as PV arrays (including tracker systems if applicable), PCS equipment and shades/enclosures, and buildings on completed foundations.
- Balance of Plant Equipment Installation: Includes installation of electrical/controls equipment and cable (including substation), meteorological station, combiner boxes, and other smaller components such as instruments.
- Testing and Commissioning: After the equipment is connected, electrical service will be verified, motors/hydraulics will be checked, and control logic will be verified. All systems will be commissioned and tested as they are brought online. Once all of the individual systems have been tested, the overall plant will be tested under fully integrated conditions. The contractor(s) will demobilize at the end of commissioning and assign responsibility for the power plant to Avangrid Renewables' operations and maintenance personnel.

