Frasier Solar Project

Case 23-0796-EL-BGN

Project description

Open Road Renewables proposes to develop, construct, and operate Frasier Solar, a 120-megawatt solar facility in Clinton and Miller townships in Knox County. All documents filed in the case, including the application and the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) staff report, are available online at www.OPSB.ohio.gov in case number 23-0796-EL-BGN.

The proposed Frasier Solar facility would consist of large arrays of photovoltaic modules, commonly known as solar panels, ground-mounted on a tracking rack system. The project would occupy about 840 acres within a 1,395-acre project area. The project would include associated facilities such as transmission lines, access roads, underground and overhead electric collection lines, weather stations, inverters and transformers, and a collection substation. Seven-foot-tall perimeter fencing would secure the facility with access through gated entrances. The solar modules would be set back a minimum of 300 feet from non-participating residences, 150 feet from the edge of any road within or adjacent to the project area, 120 feet to all Category 1 and 2 wetlands, and 50 feet from all streams.

Staff report of investigation

The OPSB staff investigated the application and recommended a certificate be issued for the Frasier Solar facility. The Board is not bound by the staff report; it could approve, deny, or approve the project with conditions. Should the Board choose to issue a certificate for the proposed facility, staff recommends in its report of investigation that the solar facility be subject to 60 conditions, including:

- Limit general construction activities from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or until dusk.
- Install a perimeter fence type that is both wildlife permeable and aesthetically fitting for a rural location.
- Avoid or minimize damage to functioning field tile drainage systems and agricultural soils and promptly repair damaged field tile systems to at least original conditions or modern equivalent.
- Implement a complaint resolution process to address complaints about facility construction and operation.
- Submit an updated decommissioning plan and total decommissioning cost estimate.
- Prevent the establishment and propagation of noxious weeds.
- Follow best practices for preserving agricultural land including topsoil and grassed waterways.

Senate Bill 52

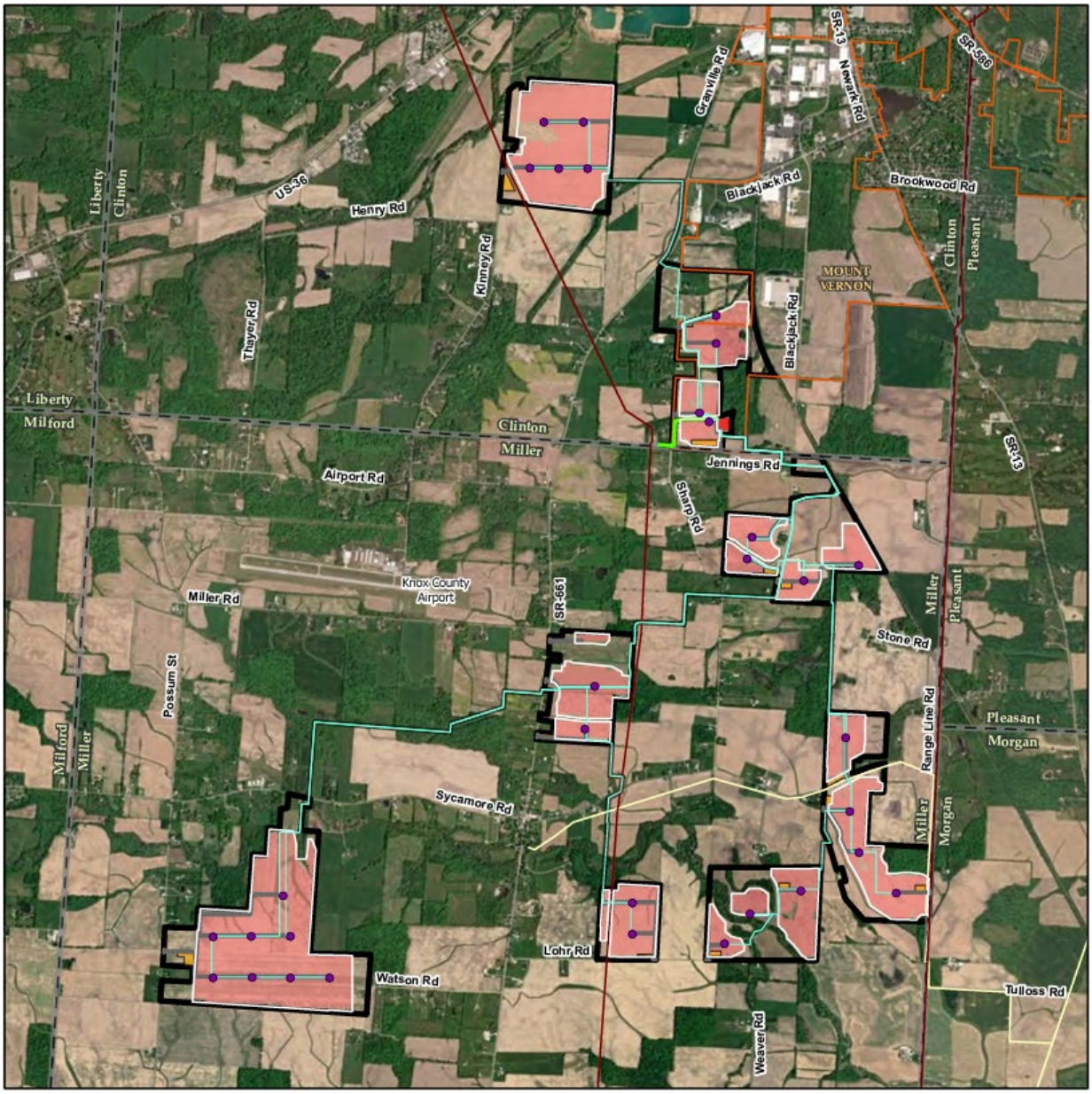
Senate Bill 52 (SB 52) provides new opportunities for county commissioners and township trustees to participate in the siting of solar projects in their community. The Frasier Solar facility is grandfathered under SB 52 except for the ad hoc board member provision. The Knox County Commissioners appointed Commissioner Bill Pursel and the boards of trustees of Clinton and Miller townships appointed Mr. Galen Smith as ad hoc board members for this project.

What's next?

An evidentiary hearing before an administrative law judge will begin on Apr. 29, 2024, at 10 a.m., at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., in Columbus. Once the evidentiary process is complete, the OPSB will schedule the project for a decision at a future monthly Board meeting.

Tonight's hearing

The public hearing allows you to provide sworn testimony that will be added to the case record. You may also submit comments in writing by contacting the OPSB at 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215, publiccomments@opsb.ohio.gov, or the online form at www.OPSB.ohio.gov. Please include case number 23-0796-EL-BGN in all correspondence.





N

0 2,000 4,000

Feet

1:44,000

NAD 83 SP Ohio North (Feet)

- Inverter
- Collection Line
- Fence Line
- Access Road
- Gen-Tie Line
- Existing Transmission Line
- Existing Natural Gas Pipeline
- Solar Panel Array
- Laydown Area
- Project Substation
- Easement Boundary
- Project Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Township Boundaires

Overview Map

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Frasier Solar

Maps are presented solely for the purpose of providing a visual representation of the project in the staff report, and are not intended to modify the project as presented by the Applicant in its certified application and supplemental materials.