

Candlewood Solar – Project Overview and Key Elements

The Candlewood Solar project was developed by the petitioner in response to the Tri-State Clean Energy RFP (the “RFP”) issued by the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island in October 2015. The RFP was a cooperative effort of all three states and the investor-owned utilities within them to procure clean energy for input into the NE-ISO grid, thereby decreasing dependence on non-renewable sources of electric power within the region. In October of 2016, Ameresco’s Candlewood Solar project was one of six bidders selected by the RFP selection committee to move ahead with 20-year power purchase agreement (“PPA”) negotiation. Currently, PPA negotiations have completed and the PPA has been executed between the petitioner and the participating utilities – Eversource Energy, National Grid, and Utili. Community outreach, coordination with local government officials and departments, and associated development activities including interconnection studies have proceeded in parallel with PPA negotiations. The Candlewood Solar project is located less than one mile from the rocky river substation, which is a PTF node on the NE-ISO grid system. The facility will interconnect at the Rocky River substation on Route 7 in New Milford.

The overall project schedule calls for completion of development and permitting by Fall of 2017, and construction from late Fall 2017 through Spring of 2018, with anticipated commencement of operations in mid-2018. The facility will provide up to 20 MW of AC power directly to the grid via an interconnection at the Rocky River substation on Route 7 in New

Milford, CT. The project is located on Candlewood Mountain on a combination of open field and wooded areas.

The Petitioner is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ameresco. Ameresco specializes in the development of projects with utility, commercial, federal, and municipal customers across the United States, with a strong focus on the New England region. Ameresco has built over 100 MW of solar pv projects in the United States, with another 150 MW awarded or in the construction phase. Ameresco's portfolio of projects includes an 18.6 MW ground mount solar system for the United States Army, and multiple projects between 2 MW and 6 MW in New England for municipal and utility customers. On all of our solar pv projects, Ameresco acts as the lead project developer responsible for: providing construction financing, in-house engineering, local distribution company interconnection agreement(s), equipment procurement, construction management and oversight, system commissioning, and operations and maintenance.

Ameresco, as sole owner of Candlewood Solar LLC, has the capital and bank credit lines to immediately start construction upon completion of permitting using our in-place construction financing facilities. Ameresco has extensive experience financing projects through the PPA structure. Over the last thirteen years, Ameresco has entered into more than forty PPAs for various renewable energy projects throughout the United States and Canada, including 19 solar PPAs in new england. Ameresco has sourced and raised more than \$1.5 billion of project financing over the past 14 years, from various lending sources including John Hancock, Bayerische Landesbank, Bank of America, Capital One, Chase Bank, Crews and Associates, Union Bank and several other financial institutions. Using existing cash resources, cash flows

from Ameresco's operating activities, and access to credit through multiple lending relationships, Ameresco has the resources necessary to develop, implement, and finance this project.

Key Project Elements

The Project, which includes the solar array (the Facility), and the medium voltage conductors from the Facility to the interconnection point on Route 7, is located on the following three parcels in New Milford, CT: parcel 26/67.1, parcel 34/31.1, and 9/6, which together constitute the Site. The portions of the Site occupied by the facility and the interconnection infrastructure constitute the Project Area, which is depicted in the Overall Site Plan. The Facility is located entirely on parcel 26/67.1. The medium voltage conductors for interconnection run towards the east from the Facility across parcel 26/67.1, then across portions of parcels 34/31.1 and 9/6. The Facility parcel has a total area of 163 acres, and the facility will use approximately 80 acres of that parcel. The Facility is located on the southern flank of Candlewood Mountain, and is located northwest of Candlewood lake, northeast of Candlewood Mountain Road, and southwest of Route 7. The Site is adjacent to an old mine, which is located on a parcel immediately to the east and north. The Site itself is partially wooded, with approximately 16 acres of hay field/horse pasture on parcel 26/67.1. The installation of the solar array will occur on the flat areas of parcel 26/67.1 and will require the clearing of approximately 68 acres of wooded area on that parcel. The wooded area consists of regrowth from when the entire side of the mountain was cleared several decades ago. There is no prime farmland identified on the site. There are two areas on parcel 26/67.1 that are identified in available state of Connecticut GIS database information as locally important farmland soils. These areas do not correspond to the location of the hay fields, and are currently wooded.

The interconnection route to the Rocky River substation is proposed to traverse across the eastern portion of parcel 26/67.1, and then across the parcels (34/31/1 and 9/6) owned by Firstlight Hydropower (FirstLight) to the point of interconnection to the Eversource Energy distribution system on Route 7 across from the substation. The conductors will be run overhead on poles for the entire route. A portion of the interconnection route will run through wooded areas as it traverses from west to east and to the north of the dam on Firstlight property, with a 30 foot wide cleared path created for the lines. The route will then run along an existing paved access road for approximately 1/2 mile, then make a turn to the east to run along an existing, already cleared access way for an existing fiber optic line owned by Firstlight. The lines will then connect to Eversource lines at Route 7.

The Project Area is mostly upland, but there is a wetland area outside the area of the solar array on the eastern edge of parcel 26/67.1 which also contains a vernal pool. There are also identified wetlands near the interconnection route in multiple locations. No disturbance of any wetland area next to the solar array is planned, and less than 2,500 sf of wetland area will be cleared adjacent to the interconnection route. The project has filed an NDDB request with deep and a reply is pending from deep. The State Historic Preservation Office (“SHPO”) has also been contacted for their input on the project. SHPO’s response will be provided to the Council when it is received.

The Facility will consist of approximately 75,000 solar photovoltaic panels and eight (8) inverters, each with an output of 2.5 MW AC. The total system size is 26.5 MW DC, with a total rated nameplate AC generating capacity of 20 MW (see Detailed Site Plan – Solar Array). The Facility will occupy approximately 73 acres of the total 163 acre site. The solar panels will be

installed on a screwed-in mounting system manufactured by Terrasmart and will be at a 15 degree tilt facing directly south. The screw post mounting system is being used because it is more effective in environments with shallow rock. At the Site, there are many areas where rock is visible at the surface - particularl on parcel 26/67.1, and therefore shallow rock is expected to be encountered.

The solar panels are wired in strings of 18 or 19 panels each and wired to the inverters. The inverters will consist of 8 pad mounted 2.5 MW inverters which will convert the DC power generated by the panels to AC power that can be fed to the grid. The power will be fed from the inverters to transformers, which will step up the voltage from 1500 Volts to 13,800 Volts, upon which the power will be routed through two (2) 13.8 kV conductors across the site to the east. The conductors will run to Route 7, whereupon they will connected with Eversource Energy conductors on route 7 and run to the Rocky River substation. The interconnection route is shown in more detail in the Detailed Site Plan – Interconnection Route.

The Project Area will be accessed via an existing dirt road off of Candlewood Mountain Road. This access road will be improved for use during construction and operation by installation of 12 inches of graded gravel. The road does not cross any wetlands or wetland buffer zones. The facility will be completely surrounded by a 7 foot high chain link fence, as required by code.

The Project Area, at its closest, is located approximately ½ mile from the Candlelight Farms Airport. The Petitioner has submitted a 7460 Notification of Proposed Construction to FAA, which includes a glare analysis using the Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Tool (“SGHAT”) developed by the Sandia National Labratory. The glare analysis shows minimal to no adverse glare impacts.

During operation, the Facility will generate no emissions or noise, will not have any adverse glare impacts, and will be configured to minimize impacts from storm water runoff. The entire area of the solar array will remain grassed, and the Petitioner will mow the grass a minimum of twice per growing season. The Facility will not generate any hazardous or radioactive materials or electromagnetic interference. Visually, the Facility will be surrounded by a significant tree buffer and largely invisible to nearby residences and roadways.