



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE REGULATORY PROCESS THAT ELK CREEK SOLAR MUST GO THROUGH TO RECEIVE APPROVAL TO BUILD THE PROJECT?

A: Wisconsin has a very thorough, objective process run by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) to review applications for large solar photovoltaic projects. Simultaneously, the WDNR reviews the project to ensure that any necessary impacts to wildlife, water, and the environment are minimized, and that all required environmental permits are sought and issued. The permitting process is similar to a judicial hearing, where evidence is entered into a record, and three impartial commissioners at the PSCW review the application for compliance with all Wisconsin laws. The process typically takes about a year from start to finish. More information on the process – and how to get involved – can be found at the PSCW website, here:

<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ForConsumers/ConstructionAndEnvironmentalInformation.aspx>

HOW WILL THE PROJECT IMPACT FARMLAND AND LOCAL AGRICULTURE?

A: Solar development and traditional agriculture can co-exist side-by-side, and increasingly are found together. Responsible solar development provides benefits to both agriculture and ecosystems by improving soil health, retaining water, nurturing native species, and supporting native pollinators which improves local food production. In addition, solar farms help farmers and landowners diversify their income by providing a reliable, drought-resistant revenue stream. This steady income means that farmers are less vulnerable to fluctuations in market prices on their products, uncertain trade regimes, and volatile annual weather, thus helping farmers stay in business. Additionally, at the end of its useful life, the project will be decommissioned, and the land will be available for all future potential uses, including traditional agriculture.

IS THERE A FIRE RISK ASSOCIATED WITH UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR POWER GENERATION FACILITIES?

A: There is a very low risk of fire at large-scale solar facilities. The equipment at Elk Creek Solar will be monitored 24/7 electronically, and physically throughout a standard work week. It is the Project's number one priority to ensure the safe operation of the Project facility and the safety of nearby residents and landowners. As Elk Creek Solar is being developed, the Project team will work with local fire departments regarding all necessary procedures for the safe handling of fires within the facility. While this is prudent planning, fires within the Project are highly unlikely to occur.

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ARE PROPERTY VALUES IMPACTED BY THIS FACILITY?

A: Industry studies show that large-scale solar power facilities economically benefit the community and do not decrease residential property resale values. The increase in state revenues generated by the facility typically leads to more funding for local services like schools, roads and emergency services.

Additionally, homeowners may view the solar facility as a safe, quiet neighbor.

HOW IS THE SOLAR PROJECT TAXED?

A: Under the Wisconsin revenue sharing formula currently in place, a qualifying solar farm (such as ours) will result in a payment to local governments of \$5,000 per megawatt (MW) per year, for a total of \$1.6 million annually for the life of the Project. Additional state monies may also be available to the host communities.

WHERE WILL THE POWER GENERATED FROM THE PROJECT GO?

A: The power from Elk Creek Solar will be delivered into the local Wisconsin electric grid, helping to diversify the state's energy portfolio. Power generated by the Project will be used both locally and transmitted to where it is needed based on demand.

ARE SOLAR PANELS TOXIC?

A: No. Elk Creek Solar will utilize monocrystalline silicon photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, which account for over 90% of solar PV panels installed today. These panels use a crystalline lattice of silicon atoms to convert sunlight into electricity. Silicon is the second-most abundant material on Earth (after oxygen) and the most common semiconductor material used in computer chips. It is nontoxic and does not pose a risk to public health or safety. When a project is decommissioned, panels can be recycled.

WHAT WILL THIS DO TO LOCAL WILDLIFE?

A: Impacts to local wildlife are expected to be minimal. Project environmental experts have been assessing the Project footprint by conducting site-specific studies to understand and mitigate potential impacts on wildlife. The Project will comply with all state and federal wildlife regulations, including requirements of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Small local wildlife will be able to come and go through wildlife friendly fencing, including rabbits and other small mammals as well as turtles and other small reptiles. The Project fencing will be set back from public roadways, and larger animals, such as deer, will be able to safely traverse around the Project area.

WHAT HAPPENS TO SOLAR PANELS AT THE END OF THEIR LIFE?

A: As part of the permitting process, Elk Creek Solar will provide a detailed decommissioning plan and a commitment to implement the same. At the end of the Project's useful life (35-40 years on average), panels can be removed and recycled. Up to 90% of the materials used in panels, much of which is glass and aluminum, are recyclable.

**FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION
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