# County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency Report of the Public Hearing Regarding Delaware River Solar Mooers IV Project September 20, 2017

The public hearing was called to order by Melissa McManus, Executive Director of the County of Clinton IDA at 2:00 p.m. at the Mooers Town Hall Meeting Room, 2508 Route 11, Mooers, NY 12958

Present: Melissa McManus, Executive Director County of Clinton IDA

Barbara Shute, Recording Secretary Gerald LaValley, Town of Mooers

My name is Melissa McManus, and I am the Executive Director of the County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency").

Today I am holding this Public Hearing to allow citizens to make a statement, for the record, relating to the sponsorship and involvement of the Agency with a project (the "Proposed Project") for the benefit of NY Mooers IV, LLC, a New York limited liability company (the "Company").

The Project consisting of the following: (A) (1) the acquisition of an interest in an approximately 11 acre portion of an approximately 207.7 acre parcel of land located on 297 Boas Road (being a portion of Tax Map No. 58.-1-9) in the Hamlet of Mooers Forks in the Town of Mooers, Clinton County, New York (the "Land"), (2) the construction on the Land of a 2MW AC community solar photovoltaic facility to include an interconnection line (collectively, the "Facility") and (3) the acquisition and installation therein and thereon of related fixtures, machinery, equipment and other tangible personal property (collectively, the "Equipment") (the Land, the Facility, and the Equipment hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Project Facility"), all of the foregoing to constitute a solar farm and other directly and indirectly related activities; (B) the granting of certain "financial assistance" (within the meaning of Section 854(14) of the Act) with respect to the foregoing, including potential exemptions from certain sales and use taxes, real property taxes, real estate transfer taxes and mortgage recording taxes (collectively, the "Financial Assistance"); and (C) the lease (with an obligation to purchase) or sale of the Project Facility to the Company or such other person as may be designated by the Company and agreed upon by the Agency.

I intend to provide general information on the Agency's general authority and public purpose to provide assistance to this Proposed Project. I will then open the comment period to receive comments from all present who wish to comment on either the Proposed Project or the Financial Assistance contemplated by the Agency with respect to the Proposed Project.

### Legal Authorization and Powers of the Agency

The provisions of Chapter 1030 of Laws of 1969 of New York, constituting Title I of Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law, Chapter 24 of the Consolidated Laws of New York as amended, and Chapter 225 of the 1971 Laws of the State of New York, as amended, codified as Section 895-f of said General Municipal Law (collectively, the "Act"), authorize the Agency to promote, develop, encourage and assist in the acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and equipping and furnishing of industrial, manufacturing, warehousing, commercial, research and recreation facilities, among others.

### Purpose of this Public Hearing

Pursuant to Section 859-a(2) of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York (the "Act"), prior to the Agency providing any "financial assistance" (as defined in the Act) of more than \$100,000 to any project, the Agency, among other things, must hold a public hearing pursuant to Section 859-a of the Act with respect to said project. Since the proposed "financial assistance" to be provided by the Agency with respect to the Proposed Project may exceed \$100,000, then prior to providing any "financial assistance" (as defined in the Act) of more than \$100,000 to the Proposed Project, the Agency must hold a public hearing on the nature and location of the Project Facility and the proposed "financial assistance" to be provided by the Agency with respect to the Proposed Project.

After consideration of the Application received from the Company, the members of the Agency adopted a resolution on August 14, 2017 (the "Public Hearing Resolution") authorizing, among other things, the Executive Director of the Agency to conduct this Public Hearing with respect to the Proposed Project pursuant to Section 859-a(2) of the Act.

The Executive Director of the Agency caused notice of this Public Hearing to be (A) mailed on August 24, 2017 to the chief executive officers of Clinton County, Town of Mooers, and the Northeastern Clinton County Central School District and (B) published on August 31, 2017 in <u>The Press Republican</u>, a newspaper of general circulation available to the residents of Clinton County, New York. In addition, the Executive Director of the Agency caused notice of this Public Hearing to be posted on August 24, 2017 on the Agency's website and also on a public bulletin board located at the Mooers Town Hall in the Town of Mooers, Clinton County, New York on August 24, 2017.

Copies of the notice of this Public Hearing are available on the table.

Now, unless there is any objection, I am going to suggest waiving the full reading of the notice of this Public Hearing, and instead request that the full text of the notice of this Public Hearing be inserted into the record of this Public Hearing.

#### **Public Hearing Notice**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing pursuant to Section 859-a(2) of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York (the "Act") will be held by County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") on the 20th day of September, 2017 at 2:00 o'clock p.m., local time, at the Mooers Town Hall Meeting Room, located at 2508 Route 11 in the Town of Mooers, Clinton County, New York in connection with the following matters:

NY Mooers IV, LLC, a New York limited liability company (the "Company"), has presented an application (the "Application") to the Agency, a copy of which Application is on file at the office of the Agency, requesting that the Agency consider undertaking a project (the "Project") for the benefit of the Company, said Project consisting of the following: (A) (1) the acquisition of an interest in an approximately 11 acre portion of an approximately 207.7 acre parcel of land located on 297 Boas Road (being a portion of Tax Map No. 58.-1-9) in the Hamlet of Mooers Forks in the Town of Mooers, Clinton County, New York (the "Land"), (2) the construction on the Land of a 2MW AC community solar photovoltaic facility to include an interconnection line (collectively, the "Facility") and (3) the acquisition and installation therein and thereon of related fixtures, machinery, equipment and other tangible personal property (collectively, the "Equipment") (the Land, the Facility, and the Equipment hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Project Facility"), all of the foregoing to constitute a solar farm and other directly and indirectly related activities;

(B) the granting of certain "financial assistance" (within the meaning of Section 854(14) of the Act) with respect to the foregoing, including potential exemptions from certain sales and use taxes, real property taxes, real estate transfer taxes and mortgage recording taxes (collectively, the "Financial Assistance"); and (C) the lease (with an obligation to purchase) or sale of the Project Facility to the Company or such other person as may be designated by the Company and agreed upon by the Agency.

The Agency is considering whether (A) to undertake the Project, and (B) to provide certain exemptions from taxation with respect to the Project, including (1) exemption from mortgage recording taxes with respect to any documents, if any, recorded by the Agency with respect to the Project in the office of the County Clerk of Clinton County, New York or elsewhere, (2) exemption from deed transfer taxes on any real estate transfers, if any, with respect to the Project, (3) exemption from sales taxes relating to the acquisition, construction, renovation and installation of the Project Facility, and (4) in the event that the Project Facility would be subject to real property taxation if owned by the Company but shall be deemed exempt from real property taxation due to the involvement of the Agency therewith, exemption from real property taxes (but not including special assessments and special ad valorem levies), if any, with respect to the Project Facility, subject to the obligation of the Company to make payments in lieu of taxes with respect to the Project Facility. If any portion of the Financial Assistance to be granted by the Agency will follow the procedures for deviation from such policy set forth in Section 874(4) of the Act prior to granting such portion of the Financial Assistance.

If the Agency determines to proceed with the Project, the Project Facility will be acquired, constructed, reconstructed and installed by the Agency and will be leased (with an obligation to purchase) or sold by the Agency to the Company or its designee pursuant to a project agreement (the "Agreement") requiring that the Company or its designee make certain payments to the Agency.

Pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, Chapter 43-B of the Consolidated Laws of New York, as amended (the "SEQR Act") and the regulations (the "Regulations") adopted pursuant thereto by the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York (collectively with the SEQR Act, "SEQRA"), by resolution adopted by the members of the Agency on August 14, 2017 (the "SEQR Resolution"), the Agency (A) concurred in the determination that the Town of Mooers (the "Town") is the "lead agency" with respect to SEQRA and (B) acknowledged receipt of a negative declaration from the Town dated April 17, 2017 (the "Negative Declaration"), in which the Town determined that the Project to be an "unlisted action" and will not have a "significant environmental impact on the environment" and accordingly, that an environmental impact statement is not required to be prepared with respect to the Project (as such quoted terms are defined in SEQRA).

The Agency will at said time and place hear all persons with views on either the location and nature of the proposed Project, or the Financial Assistance being contemplated by the Agency in connection with the proposed Project. A copy of the Application filed by the Company with the Agency with respect to the Project, including an analysis of the costs and benefits of the Project, is available for public inspection during business hours at the offices of the Agency. A transcript or summary report of the hearing will be made available to the members of the Agency.

Additional information can be obtained from, and written comments may be addressed to: Melissa McManus, Executive Director, County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency, 190 Banker Road, Suite 500, Plattsburgh, New York 12901; Telephone: 518-563-3100.

Dated: August 24, 2017.

CCIDA
Delaware River Solar – Mooers IV Project
September 20, 2017

The comments received today at this Public Hearing will be presented to the members of the Agency at or prior to the meeting at which the members of the Agency will consider whether to approve the undertaking of the Project by the Agency, the granting by the Agency of any "financial assistance" in excess of \$100,000 with respect to the Project.

#### **Written Comments**

The notice of this Public Hearing indicated that written comments could be addressed to: Melissa McManus, the Executive Director of the Agency. No written comments have been received by the Agency prior to this Public Hearing.

### Open Public Hearing to the Floor for Comments

I will now open this Public Hearing for public comment at 2:07 o'clock, p.m.

By way of operating rules, if you wish to make a public comment, please raise your hand, and I will call on you. Please wait to be recognized, once recognized, please stand and state your name and address for the record.

When everyone has had the opportunity to speak, I will conclude this Public Hearing. As indicated above, a record of this Public Hearing will be prepared and reviewed by the members of the Agency in connection with the Agency's consideration of the Proposed Project

Again, the purpose of this Public Hearing is to solicit public comment. We are not here to answer questions. However, we will in the course of this Public Hearing consider questions if we have the information to answer the questions and there is sufficient time to consider such questions.

I will now ask if there is anyone in attendance who wishes to comment on either on the nature and location of the Project Facility or the proposed Financial Assistance being contemplated by the Agency with respect to the Proposed Project. For the record, please state your name and indicate your comments on either the Proposed Project or the Financial Assistance contemplated by the Agency with respect to the Proposed Project.

Mr. LaValley asked the following questions:

Do the proposed project benefits cover the cost of decommissioning?

M. McManus stated that the proposed benefits do not cover decommissioning. The CCIDA's understanding is that there is or will be a separate decommissioning agreement that will be put in place with the Town of Mooers as part of the host community agreement for the project. Our understanding is that this agreement will hold the company legally responsible for the cost of and carrying out decommissioning of the equipment. If the company defaults, the responsibility of decommissioning would fall to the land owner and subsequently the Town, so under the terms of the host community agreement, the company will be required to place the funds necessary to carry out the decommissioning into an account with the Town. M. McManus will verify this information and also determine if there will be one decommissioning fund for each project or one general fund for all projects.

How much money will the Town receive from the project?

CCIDA Delaware River Solar – Mooers IV Project September 20, 2017

M. McManus stated that, if the Agency approves the proposed PILOT, the Town, County and the school will each receive approximately \$6,400 annually in the form of a Host Community Agreement payment for the Mooers IV project.

## Formal closure of the public hearing

So, if there are no further comments, I will now close this Public Hearing at 2: 18 o'clock, p.m.

Thank you all for attending.

Barbara Shute, Recording Secretary

Backara Ship