

News Release

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New Renewable Siting Process Will Govern Shepherd's Run Solar Project Application

**-- Comprehensive process provides forum to ensure review of
environmental, economic and community impacts --**

Copake, NY—[April 15, 2021] – Hecate Energy, developer of the proposed 60-megawatt Shepherd's Run Solar Farm in Columbia County, announced today the transfer of the Project to the state's new siting process for renewable energy projects. The new process, known as "94-c" for the section of state Executive Law that established the new system, sets the standards and conditions for siting, design, construction, operation and permitting that Shepherd's Run will be required to follow.

New York State's Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit was enacted April 3, 2020. It is intended to enhance the siting and construction of large-scale renewable energy projects that are environmentally responsible, cost-effective and delivered in a timely manner with input from local communities.

The new law established the state Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) to consolidate review and permitting of major renewable energy facilities in a single forum. ORES will take into consideration applicable and substantive local laws, public health and safety, environmental, and socioeconomic factors during the permit process. In working with ORES, Hecate's application will not be deemed complete without proof of consultation with the Copake community.

"The transfer to the state's new comprehensive siting and permitting process ensures a rigorous and responsible environmental review process. It will also help provide real benefits and safeguard input opportunities for the local community," said Alex Campbell, Project Developer for Hecate Energy.

As a condition for approval, all renewable power project permits will include host community benefits. Hecate will be discussing host community benefits with relevant local agencies to decide the form of the benefits. Local government agencies and community intervenors may apply for funds (\$1,000/MW) administered by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to defray the costs of participating in the proceeding.

"Working closely with local officials and the community is crucial in creating the best possible project. We are committed to Shepherd's Run Solar Farm being a good neighbor," Campbell said. "We look forward to continuing our active engagement with Copake in the new process and in delivering a project that benefits the community, boosts the economy and protects the environment."

The Shepherd's Run application was initiated in January 2020 under New York State's longtime siting process, Article 10. That process, originally designed with mainly major fossil-fuel power plants in mind, was determined by the state Legislature to be ill-equipped to address the siting of solar and other renewable energy facilities. While under Article 10, Hecate Energy engaged the community and completed the robust pre-application procedures that were required.

Enactment of the new law, with a new renewable power project siting process, is a key element of New York's effort to transition to clean energy and create jobs as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. New York's clean energy goals include achieving 70% renewable energy generation by 2030 and a zero-carbon emissions electricity sector by 2040.

Hecate Energy will be hosting its third virtual Zoom Informational Open House and Meeting on April 28th from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. to answer questions, provide updates and for general discussion of the Project. This open house will have an additional focus surrounding visual improvements. A meeting invitation and presentation slides can be found at www.ShepherdsRunSolar.com/open-house.

Andrew Pezzullo, Member of New Yorkers for Clean Power said, "The Shepherd's Run Solar Project is the type of renewable project we are proud to support. Hecate Energy has gone above and beyond to work with the local community on the Project size and scope, while still generating enough electricity to meet the yearly needs of 15,000 Columbia County households and helping contribute to the state's nation-leading climate agenda.

Dan Haas, Co-Chair of Friends of Columbia Solar (FOCS) said, "Solar power will be crucial in transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy and meeting New York's aggressive CLCPA mandate of 70% renewable electricity by 2030. FOCS is excited to support this solar project in Copake. Hecate Energy has worked extensively to accommodate the needs of the community while still delivering on the clean energy we need to avoid a climate catastrophe."

Chris Layman, Co-Owner of Fox Run Apiary said, "Our precious bees and pollinators are losing their habitat at an alarming rate. Habitat preservation and creation are crucial to their future and ours. Solar farms like Shepherd's Run are a positive way to preserve and protect the remaining habitat. Our soils need to heal and our pollinators need to flourish. Solar farms can make a huge contribution to our pollinators and our local economy, simply by providing the space for more biodiversity and beautifying the surrounding area."

Christian Stovall, Owner of Hidden Mountain Farm said, "We are excited to be working with Hecate Energy on exploring the Agrivoltaics opportunity of co-locating our sheep in a field of their solar panels at the Shepherd's Run Solar Farm in Columbia County. There aren't a lot of developers knocking on, my door, asking me to be a part of something like this. I think it speaks to the vision and care Hecate is taking in trying to make their solar project something special for the people of the Copake."

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[About Hecate Energy](#)

Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, Hecate Energy is a developer of solar farms, wind farms, and energy storage projects. Founded in 2012 by a team of energy industry veterans who have worked together for more than 25 years, Hecate Energy has developed thousands of megawatts of clean energy projects across North America.