

South Ripley Solar Project

Chautauqua County, New York

NOTICE OF RE-SUBMISSION OF WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION REQUEST

This notice announces that, on or about May 19, 2023, ConnectGen Chautauqua County, LLC (“ConnectGen” or “Applicant”) will re-file a request for a Water Quality Certificate (WQC), with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES), respectively, relating to its proposed 270 megawatt (MW-AC) solar-powered electric generation project, with a 20 MW battery storage component, to be located in the Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County, known as the South Ripley Solar Project.

On April 21, 2023, the Applicant was issued a Siting Permit under Section 94-c of the New York Executive Law from ORES (Matter # 21-00750). The Request that is the subject of this notice covers Water Quality Certification from ORES (Clean Water Act § 401 and 6 NYCRR Part 608) to construct and/or operate certain aspects of the Project. No public comment period is required for the Water Quality Certification. An Application for approval from the USACE under Clean Water Act § 404 remains pending and was part of a Joint Application previously filed with ORES and USACE by ConnectGen on or about April 3, 2022 and remained pending until the Water Quality Certification was withdrawn on April 3, 2023. This notice announces that ConnectGen anticipates re-filing the Water Quality Certification request with ORES.

Both the pending USACE application and the Water Quality Certification request provide, among other things: a description of the Project, including details on Project components, Project design, Project construction, and related information; an analysis of the environmental setting of the Project; results from analyses conducted to assess potential impacts to aquatic resources, streams and jurisdictional waters from construction and operation of the Project; proposed measures to minimize environmental impacts; and reasonable alternatives. The pending USACE application also addresses compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the Historic Preservation Act.

The Project will have the following environmental impacts relevant to the request for Water Quality Certification and USACE Application under review. Construction of the Facility access roads or electric utility lines will temporarily disturb 0.01 acre of federal wetlands in the project area, and 1.35 acres of federal wetlands will be permanently disturbed. Any necessary wetland mitigation related to potential Project impacts will be determined by the USACE.

Pursuant to the ORES regulations, this notice is being provided in accordance with 19 NYCRR § 900-1.4(b)(1) and § 1.6(c) and will be published at least three (3) days prior to the filing of the Water Quality Certification request with ORES. A copy of the Water Quality Certification request will be served on the Chief Executive Officer of each municipality in which any portion of the Project is located, as well as those persons and agencies enumerated in 19 NYCRR § 900-1.6(a).

This request, when filed with ORES, will be available on the project’s dedicated website (<https://www.southripleysolar.com/>) or on the ORES website at (<https://ores.ny.gov/permit-applications>) under Matter Number 21-00750. Documents may also be viewed at the following public repository: Ripley Library, 64 Main Street, Ripley, NY 14775. Libraries often have free internet access.

Contact Information

To obtain information regarding the Project, please contact:

ConnectGen LLC
1001 McKinney Street, Suite 700
Houston, TX 77002

Project Representative: Isaac Phillips
1-800-338-8905
info@southripleysolar.com

File a Request for Notices

Any interested member of the public may file a request with ORES to receive copies of all notices concerning the Project. Written requests should be sent to general@ores.ny.gov or sent by mail to the following address: Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES), c/o: OGS Mailroom, Empire State Plaza, 240 State Street, P-1 South, J Dock, Albany, NY 12242.