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Janelle Kaiser  
Town of Holland Clerk  
W3005 County Rd G  
Cedar Grove, WI 53013

Re: Proposed Solar Development in the Town of Holland

Dear Janelle,

I am writing to share important information with you about a project designed to create low-cost, predictably priced solar energy in Wisconsin.

Ranger Power is proposing Onion River Solar in the Town of Holland in Sheboygan County to meet demand for solar energy from Wisconsin utilities. The project also can help the environment, both locally and regionally, while creating a significant source of new Town and County tax revenues.

With recent technological and economic advances, it is now feasible to replace some of Wisconsin's aging fleet of coal-fired generation with rows of rotating solar panels that collect the sun's energy and turn it into electricity. Increased efficiency of the panels and equipment allows the facility to generate more energy on less than one percent of Sheboygan County's farmland than is used by the City of Sheboygan Falls in a year. The economics also allows money to be set aside for eventual decommissioning and restoration of the land.

Rows of photovoltaic panels, surrounded by prairie grasses and pollinators compatible with grazing and beekeeping, would be located on the open and sunny portions of the land of private landowners who have chosen to participate in the project. Panels are advanced models of those that have been used for years on houses and commercial buildings and would be arranged on racks that rotate to track the sun. The facility will be designed to prevent glare and to minimize noise. Panels would be kept a minimum of at least 150 feet or more from neighboring houses. The electricity generated would be transmitted to a Wisconsin-based electric utility using an existing electric transmission substation on Risseeuw Road.

Onion River Solar would generate significant local economic benefits, including \$600,000 per year in new local tax revenues. Based on Wisconsin's Utility Shared Revenue program, the project would bring \$250,000 dollars per year to the Town of Holland and \$350,000 per year to Sheboygan County.

**COVID-19 Update**  
Like you, we have been watching and adjusting our plans and actions as the COVID-19 situation changes. We are committed to your safety and well-being and we have implemented plans to ensure that our teams are working safely. Essential environmental work will continue, while others of us stay "Safer at Home" and face-to-face meetings are postponed. Although we have a reduced presence in the area, we remain available by phone and email. We've made information available in this package and online at [www.OnionRiverSolar.com](http://www.OnionRiverSolar.com). Please contact us with any questions.  
We wish you good health especially in these trying times



# ONION RIVER SOLAR: OVERVIEW

Ranger Power is working with area farmers and landowners to develop Onion River Solar, a 150-megawatt photovoltaic solar facility in the Town of Holland in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin.

- The project will produce enough clean, low-cost energy to power tens of thousands of homes and will help Wisconsin meet its goals for in-state renewable energy.
- The Onion River site is located close to existing electrical infrastructure, which minimizes the project's footprint and avoids the need for long transmission lines.
- Onion River Solar will create hundreds of jobs during the construction phase and 1-2 full-time jobs once operational.
- The project is a new private investment in Sheboygan County and will be a major source of new revenue through the Wisconsin Shared Revenue Program.



## SOLAR FACTS

- PV solar projects are quiet, safe and generate electricity without any emissions.
- Unlike other generation resources, solar provides low-cost, stably priced electricity.
- Onion River will require little maintenance and will not strain local services.
- Onion River's solar panels will rotate to follow the sun, reaching a maximum height of between 10 and 12 feet.
- The project will maintain significant open space between the panels; use of suitable pollinator habitat is being investigated.
- Ranger Power conducts rigorous studies to ensure that our projects will not adversely impact the local environment or the community.
- After its useful life, the project will be decommissioned and land returned to a state suitable for agricultural use.



*Onion River will use a panel design similar to the image above*

*Below are some of the common questions we've been asked about the project. These and other questions are also available on our website at [www.OnionRiverSolar.com](http://www.OnionRiverSolar.com). If you have a question you don't see addressed below, please give us a call at (888) 898-8878 or send us a note at [info-wisconsin@RangerPower.com](mailto:info-wisconsin@RangerPower.com) and we'll be happy to answer.*

## **Overview**

### **Why is solar energy being pursued as a source of utility power in Wisconsin?**

The cost of utility-scale solar has dropped by 90% in the last decade, making it competitive with other sources of generation, even with Wisconsin weather. State utilities see solar as an important and economical way to reduce pollution associated with electric generation. Siting generation locally brings revenue into the state and avoids the need for additional transmission lines.

### **Is this solar generating facility eligible for federal tax subsidies?**

Yes. Although the investment is private, utility-scale solar investments are eligible for a declining tax credit: 26% for projects starting construction in 2020; 22% in 2021, and 10% after.

## **Land**

### **How much land will the solar farm use?**

The project will use 1,000 - 1,200 acres, or about 0.5% of the county's farmland. Panels and equipment will use about a third of that total. Much of the project area, including areas under the panels, will be planted in grasses, and the use of pollinator habitat will be pursued as well.

### **Is the conversion of agricultural land to solar generation permanent?**

No. Solar panels mounted on steel posts will be removed when no longer needed. In addition, grasses will grow under and around the rows of panels providing soil and water quality improvement benefits, similar to those experienced for land enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program. Removing the solar generating equipment and restoring the land is required by land contracts and is anticipated to be part of any permit as well.

### **If you already have contracts with landowners, is this a done deal?**

No. The contracts are in the form of option agreements that have no impact on land use unless the project is approved. In the coming months, we expect to put forward a formal proposal and application, which will kick-off a review period expected to last about a year or so. The review will include public input sessions, with formal hearings along with detailed technical analysis by the Public Service Commission and the Department of Natural Resources, among others. Meanwhile, feedback from the community helps to shape the proposal we are putting together.

### **Are the locations shown on the map final?**

No, the map is preliminary. Current panel locations reflect known environmental constraints, but further analysis may reveal more areas incompatible with panels. In addition, consistent with state permit application requirements, the map includes at least 25% more land than we will need. Permitting and design processes may also result in additional changes.

## **Facility Questions**

### **Will the solar panels produce glare?**

No. Solar PV modules are made to absorb sunlight, not to reflect it and are covered with anti-reflective coatings. In addition, the tracking is designed to avoid situations that can cause glare. As a

