Sylvan Frequently Asked Questions – Last Updated July 2025

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Environmental Concerns

General Environmental Impact

Will the project disrupt ecosystems such as wetlands, forests, etc.? Will the project affect endangered or protected species in the area?

The project studies that we have conducted and will conduct all inform the design of the project. The design of the project is intended to create the least amount of disruption to neighboring ecosystems.

A certified consultant conducted a field survey to identify the locations and extent of potential suitable habitat for federal and state-listed threatened and endangered (T&E) species, and the project layout was designed to avoid impacts to these areas. AES will comply with applicable state and federal requirements regarding listed T&E species.

Measures that solar projects can implement to limit the impact on ecosystems include, but are not limited to:

- Avoiding tree clearing in forested areas and disturbance within wetlands to the extent possible,
- Maintaining unfenced connections between forested areas,
- Keeping the project set back from existing linear features such as waterbodies and roadways,
- Using down-lit lighting and wildlife-friendly erosion control measures,
- Complying with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which specifies time-of-year restrictions for tree clearing to avoid impacts to nesting migratory birds.

Additional details of Sylvan Solar's proposed measures to minimize impacts to the environment will be included in the local permit applications, which are anticipated to be filed in summer 2025.

How do we deal with topography?

We carefully consider topography to optimize energy production and minimize environmental impact. Complex terrain can affect sunlight exposure, shading, and the efficiency of solar panels. Engineers use advanced modeling to determine the best locations for panels, ensuring they receive maximum sunlight throughout the year. Additionally, topography influences the design of access roads, drainage systems, and the placement of electrical infrastructure. By accounting for these factors, our projects can effectively harness solar energy while preserving the natural landscape.

Will sheep be used on this project or pollinator plants to provide additional benefits?

Sheep grazing to assist with vegetation management is an option we will pursue as we get closer to construction. There will be vegetation under and around panels which may include pollinator species that are adapted to this area. Additional details will be provided in the Sylvan Solar Vegetation Management Plan that will be submitted as part of the local permit applications, which are anticipated to be filed in the summer of 2025.

Can the soil temperature rise around the solar farm causing a "heat island" effect?

The "heat island" effect typically refers to temperature increases in cities due to heat-absorbing surfaces like asphalt and concrete. Research shows that utility-scale solar farms do not significantly raise temperatures in surrounding areas. Any minor increase—usually less than 5°F—is typically limited to the center of the solar array and dissipates quickly with distance. Our project designs help minimize even these small changes. We use low-impact development strategies like maintaining vegetation under and around panels, allowing airflow between rows, and selecting layouts that promote natural cooling. In fact, solar farms can sometimes lower ground temperatures beneath the panels, especially when vegetation or native ground cover is used. In short, the solar farm won't make your property or the neighborhood any hotter, and we're happy to share research or design details if you'd like to learn more.

Agriculture

Will the project impact the topsoil? Will this land be farmable in the future?

Maintaining the project site's topsoil health is a primary concern throughout the project timeline. It is key to establishing a safe and healthy ground surface to both construct and operate upon. With proper soil conservation practices, topsoil impacts such as erosion, compaction, and loss of organic matter can be mitigated or minimized. These soil conservation practices include vegetation stabilization before construction, topsoil segregation during earth moving activities, and erosion control measures. Additionally, the land is allowed to rest during the project life which enhances the soil health, and it's return to agricultural or previous use after decommissioning.

How does this affect the food supply? What agricultural land will this displace?

AES uses industry leading technology to design the solar panel layouts optimally to ensure we use the least amount of land. The current Sylvan Solar design utilizes only 1.3% of the farmland in Newaygo County.

The land-use needs for solar power does not pose a threat to United States food security. Since the middle of the 20th century, the total land used for crops and livestock has decreased; however, total farm outputs have significantly increased due to efficiency and technological advancements. An estimated 90 million acres of U.S. farmland is producing corn where nearly 45% of that corn is being used for ethanol, a form of energy production[1]. Solar panels produce 14 to 17 times more gross energy per acre than corn production for ethanol[2].

Solar projects are a long term, though temporary, use of agricultural land that enables landowners to diversify their land assets, creating an alternative income stream and financial stability allowing property to remain in families for future generations.

Vegetation Management

How will vegetation be managed on site (under panels) and in the buffers?

AES developed a Vegetation Management Plan that will be filed with the permit applications in the summer of 2025. The plan will include proposed seed mixes designed for the local soil types, adaptive vegetation management, weed control measures, and information about vegetative screening that will be implemented and maintained during construction and operation of the Project.

Does the project spray any chemicals on site as part of the weed control plans?

To prevent the spread of noxious weed seeds and reduce the population of undesirable species, Sylvan Solar will use herbicide treatments to control prohibited, restricted, and noxious weeds and woody species which mowing does not effectively control alone. Sylvan Solar will preferentially use the most selective herbicide (formulated for specific plant groups) with spot applications (applying directly to the foliage of target plants), limit the application to the

[1] Corn and Other Feed Grains - Feed Grains Sector at a Glance, U.S. DEP'T OF AGRICULTURE, https://perma.cc/RR6A-HZKY

[2] PAUL MATHEWSON & NICHOLAS BOSCH, CORN ETHANOL VS. SOLAR: LAND USE COMPARISON at 1 (Clean Wisconsin 2023), https://www.cleanwisconsin.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Corn-Ethanol-Vs.-Solar-Analysis-V3-9-compressed.pdf.

minimum effective area, and/or use proper timing to minimize any effects on non-target species. This will promote control of undesirable species while minimizing off-target damage to desirable species. Broadcast applications may occur if there are large areas dominated by a single noxious weed species or type (e.g., Canada thistle).

Herbicide selection and application will be completed under the guidance and oversight of a commercial applicator certified by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), and herbicide will not be applied within 50 feet of any wetlands, streams, or other surface waters. Additional information about weed control will be included in the Project's Vegetation Management Plan that will be submitted with the local permit applications.

Wildlife

If the facility is fenced in, how does wildlife move around?

The project perimeter fence will be a woven wire fence that may allow small wildlife to move throughout the site. The design also provides for unfenced passageways between sections of the Project for deer to move through. AES incorporated setbacks from forested areas and regulated wetlands, waterbodies, and drains to allow for wildlife movement and maintain connections between habitats to the extent possible.

Water

Is there any impact on the water table? Will the project increase stormwater runoff outside of the project area?

No, the solar project will not increase stormwater runoff outside of the project area and will be properly managed within the project area. Rain falls on the solar panel and runs off the edge of the panel, where it falls off the drip line to infiltrate the ground below. The area beneath the panel and between the panels consists of pervious soil and well-maintained ground cover vegetation. Natural drainage features of the land will be maintained, and the project will observe setbacks from any stormwater retention areas.

Stormwater on the Project is designed to maintain existing drainage patterns, matching or decreasing pre-development runoff rates. The drainage facilities are provided to prevent increased runoff during peak storm events. Stormwater basins designed to capture runoff from Project facilities are planned throughout the property.

The Project is designed to maintain existing and natural drainage patterns. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Newaygo County Drain Commission standards require that the project not affect off-site properties.

How much water does a solar project use?

During construction, water trucks may be used for compacting project roads to manage construction dust. This water use is approximately equivalent to the annual use of one average single-family home per day. During project operation, the project may use an amount of water per year approximately equivalent to the average single-family home. Adjacent wells will not be impacted by the project's use of water.

General Solar

What happens to the panels if they are broken or at the end of the project's life?

If any component of the project, including solar panels, is removed from operation for any reason, we will first look to resell the component to a 3rd party. If that is not possible, we will try to salvage the parts of the component for scrap. If salvaging is not possible, we will recycle the components. Solar panels are non-toxic and predominantly aluminum, glass, and plastic, all easily recyclable materials.

Are solar farms noisy? What about the associated substation?

The solar project will be a quiet neighbor. There are only a few pieces of equipment at the site that will make any sound. These are the inverters and transformers, and they are equipped with cooling fans. All project inverters will be at least 300 feet from any nonparticipating residence dwellings. We will perform a noise study as part of our permit application.

How is a solar facility able to produce any energy in colder northern climates?

The sun shines every day therefore solar facilities produce electricity every day, including days with snow and clouds. Technological improvements have allowed us to build in northern latitudes, taking advantage of even those lower radiant days. Before we go to construction, we conduct an on-site annual solar resource study and use that output to do an energy production study. The outputs from these studies will be used in the financing assumptions of the project which help us determine how feasible a solar facility would be in any geographical region.

What are solar panels made of? Are the components a health risk?

Crystalline silicon solar modules are largely made of glass, aluminum, copper, and silicon, along with other commonly used plastic and wires. The cells on solar modules that are used to capture sunlight are made of silicon, which is a naturally occurring element. Crystalline silicon solar modules are made of basic “solid state” materials, meaning there are no liquid or gaseous components. All solar panels used by AES are rigorously tested for predictable performance and pass the EPA’s Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test and are classified as non-hazardous and not regulated as toxic materials.

How does utility-scale solar impact adjacent property values?

Multiple peer-reviewed studies have shown that there is no impact on surrounding property values by commercial, utility-scale solar projects.

Do electrons from a utility-scale solar site go to the local neighbors?

The power produced by the solar panels goes into the grid. From there, energy flows with the path of least resistance. Meaning that the energy flows where the least amount of energy currently exists – where it is currently needed. However, local neighbors to a solar project will not notice this reflected in their electricity bills.

Why is solar better than traditional forms of fossil fuels?

Solar power is a renewable energy source with zero fuel costs. Solar panels produce power when it is most needed (during the day) and when power prices peak, therefore making solar a clean, reliable, and affordable source of energy. Generating solar energy does not produce greenhouse gas or air pollutants, making it better for the environment compared to other forms of energy generation, such as the burning of fossil fuels.

Project Specific

General

How did you decide to build the project here?

We studied multiple locations for the feasibility of connecting a solar project. The current project location emerged as best suited from a cost and viability perspective The core components of siting a solar project are based on a list of critical factors, including, but not limited to, access to a transmission line with available capacity to allow us to produce affordable, reliable power for consumers; suitable land, and landowners that want to participate in the project. The project team worked with interested landowners in the community who responded to initiated outreach. These landowners voluntarily chose to

participate in this project as an exercise of their personal property rights, diversify a portion of their land assets, and preserve ownership of their family property for future generations.

Are solar panels domestically manufactured?

In our current design, Sylvan Solar is using crystalline-silicon solar modules that will be manufactured in the United States.

How much of the Project will be developed? How big is the project?

Currently, AES estimates the area within the perimeter fence line, Project substation, and utility-owned switchyard will include 1,250 acres of the total leased area.

Single axis tracking solar projects, like Sylvan, typically require 6-10 acres per 1 MW of solar. We have designed Sylvan with industry-leading efficiency to ensure we use the least amount of land necessary.

Who owns the land being used for the project? What do the lease agreements look like?

Although the details of our lease agreements are confidential as they are legal documents, the duration is for the lifetime of the project, which is expected to be 35 years. After 35 years, the project will be re-evaluated to determine if renewal of the project, and thus the lease agreements, is feasible and desired by the landowners. If so, the project will once again go through the entire permitting process.

Economics

What specific economic benefits will the project bring to the community?

A study by Michigan State University's Center for Economic Analysis examined how this project may impact the local economy. The study finds that the project will bring long-term net economic gains to the southern Newaygo County economy. The O&M phase makes up the recurring and ongoing component of this project and is expected to support about ten new jobs in the region. Sylvan Solar is projected to support a net increase of $115.8 million in labor income and a net gain of $276.6 million in net economic activity in the region. This study indicates the proposed solar facility will have a net positive economic impact after taking into account the temporary conversion of land from agricultural uses.

Energy Related

How does Sylvan Solar align with Michigan's renewable energy goals? What is the purpose of the project?

This project will support Michigan's ambitious energy goals to produce 60% of the state's power from clean energy by 2030 and be carbon-neutral by 2050.

The primary purpose of Sylvan Solar is to generate 220 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. This addition of clean energy into the transmission grid directly supports a reliable, resilient, and sustainable future.

How does the project connect to the grid?

For large energy projects in Michigan to connect to the grid, they must obtain a Generator Interconnection Agreement (GIA) from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). This agreement grants the necessary permission for the project to supply energy to the regional electrical grid. Once a project is filed into MISO's interconnection queue, MISO conducts studies to determine the required Network Upgrades. These upgrades ensure the grid continues to provide reliable electricity service when the project becomes operational.

How does a corporation buy the power?

Renewable energy development companies negotiate a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with entities that are interested in purchasing power from the energy facilities. The PPA with a power purchaser allows the energy to be produced and directly sent into the grid for use by all parties. The buyer agrees to purchase a certain amount of renewable energy at a fixed price. We, the renewable energy provider, generate electricity and sell it to the grid. The buyer pays the fixed price agreed upon, and the provider pays the buyer the market price of the electricity sold into the grid. This is similar to what you might see in a futures contract in other commodities markets like corn, soybeans, other crops, or oil and gas where both the buyer and seller agree in advance to a fixed price which allows both a degree of certainty even though the product itself still gets contributed to the wholesale market's distribution infrastructure.

Will this project bring down electric rates?

As an independent power producer, in this case, AES is not a rate setting entity. We cannot control what the rate setting entities do, and there are many factors that go into setting energy rates including costs of maintaining power lines and fuel costs of other sources of energy.

That said, solar is among the lowest cost, fastest to build, and least price volatile energy sources available and in a time that has seen record high energy demand, new supply is needed to prevent prices from increasing as rapidly as they would if new energy supply continues to be constrained.

Will wires be underground or overhead?

The medium voltage wires connecting the inverters to the project substation will be buried underground. The only potential scenario where the ability to bury medium voltage wires is limited may be in road rights-of-way and near other utility lines. There will be very limited high voltage wires on this project, as the project substation is located adjacent to the point of interconnection to the electric grid. Any high voltage wires would be above ground, similar to existing high voltage transmission infrastructure. The townships would like us to co-locate on existing power lines when possible.

Will lithium-ion battery storage be used on-site?

There are currently no plans to include lithium-ion battery storage as part of the Sylvan Solar project.

Decommissioning

Who is responsible for decommissioning? What happens?

AES will be responsible financially and physically for decommissioning all project components and returning the site to its original condition after the project ceases commercial operation, including the removal of the equipment and restoration of the ground. Utility-scale solar projects typically have a lifespan of approximately 35 years. A Decommissioning Plan will be included in the project's permit application, including requirements for financial assurance.

Visual Concerns

Will there be lights on at the project site during the night?

There are only lighting requirements at the project substation. More information on the proposed lighting will be included in the local permit application.

How tall will the high voltage (HV) poles be?

There will be very limited high voltage wires on this project, as the project substation is located adjacent to the point of interconnection. Any high voltage wires would be above ground and similar to existing high voltage transmission infrastructure.

How can the visual impact be mitigated?

A vegetative buffer will be maintained between the project's fence line and adjacent properties and, where applicable, public road rights-of-way to minimize the project's visual impact.

Where there is not an existing tree line between the project and an adjacent residence, trees will be planted. AES will comply with township solar ordinance requirements for vegetative buffers.

AES is working with a consultant to complete a visual analysis, and that will include visual renderings of specific vantage points before and after project construction. The Vegetation Management Plan that is being prepared for the project will include details on proposed species to be planted for visual screening.

What are the setbacks we are working with?

Solar panels and other components will be set back from adjacent properties, residences, and public rights-of-way in compliance with Garfield Township and Fremont Community Joint Planning Commission ordinance requirements. The table below illustrates the minimum setback requirements for Sylvan Solar, which represent the more stringent setback of the two solar ordinances:

Minimum Setback Distance
• 300 feet between the perimeter fence and occupied community buildings / residential dwellings • 50 feet between the perimeter fence and nonparticipating landowners lot lines, where agriculture is the primary use • 100 feet between solar panels (and aboveground equipment) and nonparticipating landowners lot lines, where residential is the primary use • 75 feet between the perimeter fence and road rights-of-way • 75 feet between solar panels (and aboveground equipment) and regulated wetlands, streams, and Newaygo County drains

Neighboring Properties

Will someone on the edge of the project (or across the street) be able to hear noise coming from the Project?

Solar projects are quiet neighbors. There are only a few pieces of equipment at the site that will make any sound. These are the inverters and transformers that are equipped with cooling fans. Acoustic studies have analyzed noise produced from similar utility-scale solar sites, and based on this report, noise levels associated with inverters dissipate to background levels

within 150 feet of the inverters. All proposed inverters will be located at least 300 feet from any occupied community buildings / dwelling.

How will Sylvan Solar impact property values in the area?

A study done by Loyola University in December of 2024 on the property value impacts near utility-scale solar in the Midwest concluded that the effect was minimal and increased nearby property values by 0.5%-2.0%[3].

Based on the study, the criteria that typically correlate with downward adjustments on property values include noise, odor, and traffic. A solar farm does not induce such criteria during its long-term operation; thus, it is a compatible use for rural areas.

In addition, the 300-feet setbacks from dwellings and vegetative screening required by the Fremont Community Joint Planning Commission and Garfield Township ordinances are larger than the project setback requirements included in the Loyola University analysis.

Furthermore, AES contracted CohnReznick Advisory, LLC (certified general real estate appraisers) to conduct a study examining whether utility-scale solar projects had a measurable impact on adjacent property values in Michigan and other nearby states. This study concluded that "...**no consistent negative impact has occurred to adjacent property that could be attributed to proximity to the adjacent solar farm**, with regard to unit sale prices or other influential market indicators." For more information, please view the study on our webpage, www.aes.com/sylvan-solar under Open House Materials.

What effects will the Solar Farm have on a project's neighbor's day-to-day life?

During construction, intermittent noise will be emitted by the construction vehicles and equipment, including pile drivers for installation of piers. These noise impacts will be temporary, and the amount of noise will vary based on what type of construction is occurring at the Project on a given day. A few potential mitigation options include limiting the duration of pile installation within a certain distance of a residence or erecting temporary noise barriers adjacent to the installation. Construction will be limited to daytime operations as much as possible to minimize potential disturbances associated with construction equipment. Similarly, during the construction phase, there will be increased traffic at certain hours of the day as workers and equipment travel to and from the site. Sylvan Solar will continue to work with the Newaygo County Road Commission and Townships to minimize impacts from traffic to the

[3] Simeng Hao, Gilbert Michaud, Assessing property value impacts near utility-scale solar in the Midwestern United States, Solar Compass, Volume 12, 2024, 100090, ISSN 2772-9400, (https://doi.org/10.1016/j.solcom.2024.100090).

extent possible and will provide updates to the community throughout the duration of construction.

Results of a noise model indicate that the highest noise levels at the nearest non-participating property line are expected to be at the level of a bird call or library (40-44 decibels, below the most stringent Township requirement of 55 decibels at a non-participating property line). Note that the inverters only operate when the sun is shining during the day, and at night they enter a standby mode and do not generate noise. An on-site Project-specific noise study was conducted in July 2025, and the results of the study will be included in local permit applications. Throughout operations, the Project will produce traffic similar to that of a single-family home.

Visually, the Project will comply with Township ordinances that require installation of a vegetative screen between the Project and adjacent, non-participating residences and public road rights-of-way (where applicable). The proposed vegetative screening includes planting trees or shrubs between residences and the Project that range in height up to 20 feet at maturity (most of the proposed species will take 3-5 years to mature), and a tall pollinator seed mix that is on average 4 feet in height, up to a maximum height of 6 feet. The Project's Vegetation Management Plan includes details of the proposed vegetative screening.

How do I know how my property is impacted by this project? Why isn't there a more detailed map?

Development and design for the Sylvan Solar Project is a long process. While more detailed designs will be provided as the project progresses, community members are welcome to reach out to the Sylvan Solar team to learn more about the project and how it may relate to their property. You can contact the project team directly at MichiganStakeholderrelations@aes.com.

Construction Related

Will any local jobs be available during and after construction?

AES values a diverse and local workforce. Prior to construction starting, we will connect with local businesses and suppliers to inform the community of what opportunities may be available.

A Michigan State University study estimates Sylvan Solar will support 1,085 jobs during construction, and nearly $91 million in labor income supported during the construction phase alone. It is expected that 10 jobs will be generated to operate and maintain the project.

What are the impacts of traffic/roads?

AES is currently working with a consultant to prepare a Traffic Impact Study, which will analyze traffic volumes along roadways within the project area. The Traffic Impact Study will be submitted as part of the local permit application. In addition, AES has started and will continue discussions with the Newaygo County Road Commission regarding road usage and anticipated traffic during construction.

Generally, traffic during construction is anticipated to peak during the morning and early evening for daily workers commuting and deliveries to the site. Once in operation, the Project will have similar traffic to that of single-family home traffic.

Additional information about traffic during construction and operation of the project will be included in the local permit applications filed in summer 2025. AES will coordinate closely with townships, the Newaygo County Road Commission, and the Michigan Department of Transportation before, during, and after construction to ensure local roads are cared for and any necessary road improvement or use permits are obtained. AES will be responsible for the repair of any damaged roads to the proper specifications both during and after construction is complete.

Why aren't you building until 2027?

Due to current feedback from MISO, we cannot deliver energy on to the electrical grid until 2028. A construction start in 2027 allows us to complete construction of the project as near to this date as possible, so to avoid the project sitting dormant and not producing electricity. We continue to coordinate with MISO and will update if the energization schedule requirements on the project change.

When/how long will construction take? Will there be noise and disruption during construction?

Most on-site physical construction is expected to start in 2027 and take approximately 19 months to complete, with commercial operations beginning at the end of 2028. Construction will not begin until all permits are received, and any pre-construction work and standard site due diligence is completed.

During the construction period, noise is mainly limited to the pile driving that happens early in construction. A strict noise ordinance is followed to ensure that work happens during appropriate hours. Further, water trucks will be used for compacting project roads to manage construction dust and ensure there is minimal impact on the surrounding community.

How will you address concerns and complaints from neighboring residents during and after construction?

Our communication with project neighbors is crucial and remains a priority, especially during construction. We will have a grievance mechanism and process in place before the start of construction so that anyone near the project will easily be able to communicate with the project team and receive prompt responses and actions to any concerns or complaints. This grievance mechanism will remain in place for the lifetime of the project.

Who will be the designated point of contact for residents to raise concerns during construction and operation?

During construction, it is important for the team on the ground to remain focused on their task at hand to maintain safety. Thus, the Stakeholder Relations team will be the designated point of contact for residents during construction and throughout operation. This team will then connect with the right people to remedy concerns at that time. Please use the Michigan Stakeholder Relations email, phone number, or meeting scheduling platform, which can be found on the Sylvan Solar webpage, to connect with the Stakeholder Relations team.

Project Process

Project Timeline

What is the project timeline?

1. Development/Siting: 2021-2025
2. Permitting: 2025-2026
3. Construction: 2027
4. Operations: 2028

Communications

Why am I only hearing about this project now/ how does the development process work? Why has there been no public engagement until now?

The solar development process involves site selection, feasibility studies, design, permitting, financing, construction, and commissioning. Community outreach often begins later in the solar development process because the initial stages are filled with uncertainty regarding the project's feasibility and potential success. Engaging the community prematurely might lead to confusion and frustration if the project is ultimately canceled. Once the project shows more promise and has a clearer path to development, outreach efforts can be more effective and meaningful, gathering community input and addressing community questions. Continuous stakeholder engagement and community outreach remain crucial even after the project is operational to address ongoing questions, adapt to changing needs, and ensure long-term success.

How will you keep residents informed about project updates?

The Sylvan Solar team will keep residents informed about the project in multiple ways. Updates to the project webpage, and mailers to residents within a quarter mile of the project are our two main communication channels. We may also place notices in the local newspaper or request flyers to be printed and hung in both Garfield and Sheridan Charter Township offices. Further, our Michigan Stakeholder Relations email and phone number are both on the project webpage, as well as a meeting scheduling platform, to contact the project team directly.

During construction, construction updates mailers will be sent to residents within a quarter mile of the project. These mailers will be sent throughout the duration of the construction process, informing residents of what they may see or hear during that particular phase of construction including the duration and impacts to nearby traffic patterns if applicable.

How will AES ensure the website is user-friendly, regularly updated, and accessible to all residents?

AES is committed to providing transparent, accessible, and up-to-date information on all aspects of the Sylvan Solar project. In addition to in-person events, our project webpage serves as the primary information hub for the community. To ensure its effectiveness, dedicated team members from both our Stakeholder Relations and Communications teams are responsible for maintaining the site's accuracy and clarity.

AES strives to make all of our websites accessible and user friendly. Our efforts are ongoing. If you are having difficulty viewing or navigating the content on our sites, or notice any content, feature, or functionality that you believe is not fully accessible to people with disabilities, please contact us. We take your feedback seriously and will consider it as we evaluate ways to accommodate all our stakeholders and our overall accessibility policies.

If you have any additional questions or concerns not answered on the webpage, we encourage you to reach out directly by phone at (734)-545-8006 or via email at michiganstakeholderrelations@aes.com.

What is the process for handling complaints or disputes with neighbors?

Our communication with project neighbors is crucial and remains a priority. If anyone in the community has a concern, they can utilize the Michigan Stakeholder Relations email, phone number, or meeting scheduling platform, which can be found on the Sylvan Solar webpage, to connect with the Stakeholder Relations team. From there, we will do our best to mitigate these concerns in a timely manner.

Will there be a local office where neighbors can visit to ask questions?

Yes, we have a local office at The Steam in Newaygo (1 State Rd Suite 200, Newaygo, MI 49337) with operating hours by appointment as of right now.

Permitting

Who permits this project to advance forward? What is the approval process?

This project currently lies within Sheridan Charter Township and Garfield Township. In Sheridan Charter Township, the permitting decision rests with the Fremont Community Joint Planning Commission. In Garfield Township, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Township Board, which will have the final decision. Additional applicable state and local permits will be obtained prior to construction.

Once this is approved, can you build more solar arrays or do the townships and the public get to participate?

All approvals are specific to the Sylvan Solar project proposal. The project cannot be expanded or materially altered without approval of a new or amended permit.

Safety/Health Concerns

General

Are solar panels safe?

Yes. There are no peer-reviewed reports that to provide evidence that any adverse health concerns have been caused by solar panels or solar projects. All solar panels used by AES pass the EPA's Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test and are classified as non-hazardous and are not regulated as toxic materials.

Security

Who will have access to the site and how will security be managed?

Only authorized personnel will have access to the site. Emergency key boxes will be located at the entrances to allow emergency personnel access as necessary. The site is monitored 24/7, and our Operations Control team is available around the clock to respond to any emergencies and coordinate with trained local emergency and law enforcement personnel.

Will there be security fencing?

The Sylvan Solar team is working to make sure the fencing is as unobtrusive as possible while providing security commensurate with requirements for an electrical generating facility. Fencing is required around the Project substation and utility-owned switchyard to provide security and is required by the National Electrical Safety Code as an electric generating facility. The current proposed perimeter fencing around the solar arrays will be 7-foot-tall woven wire in Sheridan Charter Township, and 8-foot-tall woven wire in Garfield Township, which adheres to the Fremont Community Joint Planning Commission and Garfield Township solar ordinance requirements. The fencing will not be electrified and perimeter fencing will not be topped with barbed wire.

Fire

Does the project pose a fire hazard?

Solar facilities are governed by the same building, electrical, and fire codes that govern the construction of homes and other buildings with electrical systems. The local fire and rescue departments will be thoroughly informed about the project and all access points available to them. Project neighbors with access points near them will be informed. Turn around radius will be reviewed to ensure local equipment can operate. The project will be appropriately fenced and secured with access restricted only to approved personnel.

Will the local fire department be adequately trained to respond to any potential fire emergencies within the project area?

Yes. The project team will provide training to local fire and rescuers in order to ensure they are equipped to respond to any potential emergencies. The project will also provide funding to the local fire department through the increased tax revenue to the townships.

Weather Related

Can the solar array withstand intense storms, wind, and hail?

Solar panels are extremely durable and rigorously tested to withstand harsh weather, including strong wind and hail. Solar panel support structures are designed to various wind load ratings appropriate to the region and the implementation of tracking systems with a “stow” feature allows panels to be positioned for the least impact from high winds. The project has been designed to withstand wind speeds up to 105mph and golf ball sized hail, meaning these conditions will not damage the panels. In extreme weather conditions, surpassing the tested conditions, the solar panels will not shatter but merely crack – similar to how your car windshield reacts to a rock.

Construction

What safety protocols will protect construction workers and nearby residents during construction and operation?

At AES, safety is our top priority. The EPC will have a site-specific safety plan (SSSP) that will have all of the safety requirements for the safety of the workers while on site, thus promoting safety for nearby residents.

The goal is to mitigate risks for both construction workers and nearby residents. The bulk of the SSSP is for the site work. Items such as the engineered controls, barricading and traffic management can usually be found in the logistics section. Most EPCs generate a "driver handout" that goes to their vendors or companies that will be hauling to the site. This handout has a delivery address for the drivers. The EPC is typically advised to utilize truck stops near the highways so that the drivers don't end up parking along county roads. This also enables the EPC to set appointment times for most deliveries as well as gives them the opportunity to escort the trucks in if they choose.

How will dust and air quality impact be controlled during construction?

Water trucks will be used for compacting project roads to manage construction dust and ensure there is minimal impact on the surrounding community.

Other

Will the Project emit EMFs (Electromagnetic fields)?

On a solar farm, EMFs are highest around electrical equipment such as inverters, which are strategically located within the center of the Project. However, even when standing 1-2 meters next to the very largest inverter at a utility-scale solar farm, one’s exposure level is less than the exposure level while operating an appliance in your home, such as an electric can opener.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and various research organizations have extensively studied the effects of EMF exposure on human health. To date, there has been no consistent evidence linking EMF exposure to adverse health effects.

Do solar panels cause glare?

Solar panels are intended to capture the most light possible and are specifically designed to reduce reflection and glare. Modern solar panels reduce reflection by using antireflection coatings (ARC) and by texturing the surface. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, solar panels reflect as little as 2% of incoming sunlight and produce less glare than

standard windows and water. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) produced a final policy report that found solar projects do not create hazardous glare for aircraft in the area.

AES Specific

General

Who is AES?

The AES Corporation (AES) is a US-based, Fortune 500 global energy company with headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Founded in 1981, we provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy in 14 countries around the world. Including the US, through our diverse portfolio of energy distribution and generation businesses. Those businesses now include a variety of renewable energy solutions, such as wind, solar, and battery storage. In the US, as a leading renewable energy developer in the US, AES successfully owns and operates more than 600 renewable energy projects totaling 9.5 GW of clean energy resources and has more than 53 GW of projects under development.

We have a diverse workforce that is committed to operational excellence and meeting the world's changing energy needs. And to address the world's growing climate challenges, we are committed to accelerating the future of energy, together with our people, our communities and our customers.

What other projects does AES have in Michigan?

We have four operating projects: Cement City Solar (Jackson County), Letts Creek Solar (Jackson County), Pullman Solar (Allegan County), and Brandt Woods Solar (Calhoun County). To learn more, please visit our Michigan Clean Energy Fact Sheet located on the Sylvan Solar webpage found at www.aes.com/sylvan-solar.

Business

How does AES make money on the project?

As a developer that primarily owns and operates the projects we build, AES enters long-term contracts with our customers to sell the electricity generated by the project. These contracts then generate revenue for AES over the life of the agreement.

How are your projects funded?

Our projects, such as Sylvan Solar, are privately funded. Once the project is operational, the project may receive Investment Tax Credits (ITC) if requirements are met.

Are you the same as AES Indiana and AES Ohio?

AES Indiana and AES Ohio are both utility companies. They are separate business entities within the AES umbrella.

How many LLCs does AES have?

AES files our projects as individual LLCs for business purposes. In doing so, each project is easier to track, manage, and budget for.