
Crossvine Solar + Storage Frequently Asked Questions

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Project Updates

How can I stay updated on the project and be informed on project design changes?

- As the project continues to advance, we will keep the community informed through regular newsletters and encourage you to visit aes.com/crossvine-solar-project for the most current information.

Health and Safety

Will the site be fenced in? What security measures will be in place?

- The site will be fenced in and security control systems will be in place to ensure the highest safety standards are maintained. The site will only be accessible to approved personnel.

What safety measures are in place in case of a fire? Is there an emergency response plan?

- AES will work with emergency response agencies in the responding area to provide emergency response training. Training materials will align with the proposed equipment specifications and adhere to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) safety standards. These trainings also include a comprehensive training manual and video modules, and will be delivered in two phases:
 - Pre-construction: Training for local fire professionals prior to project completion.
 - Operational readiness: Additional training once the site becomes fully operational.
- Local fire and EMS organizations will receive detailed information on all access points and site logistics. Turnaround radii will be evaluated to ensure compatibility with local emergency vehicles. The project site will be fully fenced and secured, with access restricted to authorized personnel only.

Are solar panels safe?

- No reports provide evidence that there are any health issues caused by solar panels. All solar panels used by AES pass the EPA's Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test and are classified as non-hazardous and non-toxic materials.

Is there a concern for thermal runaway with the battery technology? What safety measures are in place?

- AES is a global leader in energy storage and has been operating a fleet of battery energy storage systems for over 15 years. Today, AES has storage systems operating in multiple countries, uses, and environments. When it comes to mitigating risk, the first

step is always to prevent the hazard, which is done with a multitude of risks management layers: the battery management system maintains nominal operations and separates a battery string from hazards when necessary; site SCADA systems identify hazardous conditions and can automatically stop the system and alert response personnel; and non-battery fires that may result in a battery fire are dealt with by the same measures as non-battery sites (defensive posturing and material-specific suppression). If a thermal runaway event or battery fire were to take place, the enclosures planned for this site would release fire suppressant in large concentrations directly into the initiating cell, removing heat and preventing thermal runaway throughout the enclosure. The AES energy storage solution integrates the battery modules inside steel containers with fire-rated insulation and several redundant layers of hazard controls including passive and active measures that both inhibit and (when necessary) suppress hazardous conditions. The UL 9540 certification addresses safety and requires UL 9540a test results to be available for review. The 9540a tests of this system indicate adequate prevention of thermal runaway. The AES energy storage system will achieve UL 9540 certification prior to site commercial operation.

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. AES utilizes panels from vendors that use a thick tempered front-side glass, greatly increasing the module strength.
- Crossvine Solar has a design basis to withstand wind speeds up to 115mph and severe hail.

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

- Crystalline-silicon solar modules are largely made of glass, aluminum, copper, 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. The project will be constructed with Tier I panels. Tier I panels are high quality, and rigorously tested for predictable performance, durability, and content. All solar panels used by AES pass the EPA’s Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test and are classified as non-hazardous and not regulated as toxic materials.

Will the project emit concerning EMFs?

- PV systems do not emit any material during their operation. Electromagnetic fields (EMFs), often referred to as non-ionizing radiation, meaning the radiation does not have enough energy to damage DNA. Studies prove modern humans are all exposed to EMFs throughout our daily lives, including wall-sockets, mobile phones and computers, without negative health impact. Someone outside of the fenced perimeter of a solar facility is not exposed to significant EMF level from the solar facility. There is no concern or negative health impact from EMFs produced in a solar farm.

Community Experience

Will the project generate tax revenue?

- The project will generate significant property tax revenue for the County throughout the life of the project without creating additional demand on public services such as water, sewer, fire, police, or education. This revenue is supplemental and unencumbered, providing a meaningful boost to the County's resources while maintaining existing service levels.

What is the economic impact of this project?

- This project will generate about 300-500 employment opportunities during peak construction and create long-term operational roles once the site is active. Construction activities will also bring added economic benefits through local spending on lodging, goods, and dining at area businesses. In addition, local contractors will be engaged to manage vegetation at the site over the long term, supporting ongoing economic participation within the community.

As the developer and long-term owner and operator, who is AES Indiana?

- AES Indiana, an AES Company, provides retail electric service to more than 530,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Indianapolis, as well as portions of other Central Indiana communities surrounding Marion County. During its long history, AES Indiana has supplied its customers with some of the lowest-cost, most reliable power in the country. For more information about the company, please Connect with AES Indiana on [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#). For more information about how AES Indiana is accelerating the future of energy, visit aesindiana.com.

Will the project be noisy once operational?

- The project will be a quiet neighbor. During operations, the cooling fans on the inverters are the only pieces of equipment that make any sound. Tech Environmental, Inc. conducted an Acoustic Study which analyzed noise produced from similar utility-scale solar sites. Based on this report, noise levels approached typical background noise levels within 150 feet from inverter locations. All proposed inverters for the project will be located well over 150 feet from any site boundaries and neighboring parcels.

How long will construction take? Will there be noise and disruption during construction?

- The entire construction period for the project is expected to last approximately 12-16 months. 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, 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.

Will the project produce any light pollution at night?

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- There will be standard, motion-censored security lighting on the project. This lighting will be pointed downward and away from any surrounding neighboring properties. There will be no consistent nighttime lighting.

Will the project produce any glare or reflection?

- Solar panels are intended to capture the most light possible, and specifically designed to reduce reflection and glare. Modern solar panels reduce reflection by using anti-reflection 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 residential home windows and bodies of 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.

Will the project affect property values of adjacent and nearby residences?

- Studies from organizations like the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and several universities have found no consistent evidence that utility-scale solar projects lower nearby property values. In many cases, values remain stable or even increase slightly, especially when projects are well-designed and include landscaping or natural screening. Local tax revenue, school funding, and land lease payments to farmers also provide benefits that strengthen the community overall.

Project Design and Site Operations

How will landscaping and vegetation be managed?

- The vegetation throughout the array must be properly managed to minimize any shading on the panels from tall grass. As part of the project's maintenance plan, the ground cover will likely be managed through seasonal mowing, if necessary.

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

- No, the solar project will not increase storm water 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.

Will the project impact local roads?

- The public may see or hear some construction vehicles transporting material to the site during construction. Once construction is complete, there will be minimal vehicles accessing the site. We will coordinate closely with local and state transportation authorities before, during, and after construction to ensure local roads are cared for and any necessary road improvement or use permits are obtained.

What type of fencing will be used?

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- The project is expected to use chain-link fence for the enclosure to preserve the rural character of the existing community. We continue to explore best practices and options for project fencing that allow access for small critters and wildlife.

What is the setback of the project?

- Setbacks are measured from property lines, roads, and adjacent residential dwellings and are regulated by Dubois County and City of Huntingburg. In general, a minimum setback of 50 ft is required from the edge of the panels to adjacent non-participating property lines, and a minimum setback of 250 ft is required from non-participating occupied dwellings. AES also implements voluntary setbacks of 25-50 ft from environmentally sensitive features such as streams and wetlands. .

What is the decommissioning plan for the project's end of life? Will the solar panels be recycled?

- When a solar project reaches the end of its project life, the project owner is responsible for executing the approved Decommissioning Plan, including abiding by all local and state decommissioning requirements. This includes the removal, recycling, and disposal of all solar panels, racking, equipment and other structures associated with the project, as applicable. The land surface within the project area will be sensitively restored to pre-project conditions to allow a return to agricultural use or other uses consistent with the land-use policies at the time. Through our supply chain process, we identify and prioritize equipment manufacturers that align with our environmental, safety and human rights commitments. Some of these commitments include buying equipment from manufacturers whose supply chains and suppliers comply with a national recycling program. We also seek to buy high-efficiency products, which reduce the total volume of raw materials and parts required for each project.

Why is the project located here?

- The location for this project was selected based on an assessment, including a review of transmission network and available substation capacity along with interest from landowners that own land suitable for siting the project.

Where will the power produced by the project go?

- AES Indiana owes and maintains generation assets throughout Indiana. This asset will become a part of AES Indiana's generation portfolio and will help deliver reliable energy to the grid, which in turn is used to power all of AES Indiana's service territory.

What environmental studies have been conducted?

- As part of the development process, we conduct thorough studies to identify sensitive features and resources of our proposed project site. By identifying these resources at the front end, we can design our facility in a way that avoids and minimizes impact. The current site design minimizes impact to local wildlife habitat, avoids sensitive cultural resources, and minimizes effects to existing hydrology.

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- The environmental and technical studies completed for this project include:
 - A delineation of any wetlands and streams
 - A search for any hazardous materials on site
 - An assessment of the cultural resources on site (archaeological and architectural)
 - An identification of any threatened and endangered wildlife habitat on site
 - An assessment of potential transportation and traffic impacts
 - An assessment of potential visual impacts
 - An assessment of potential environmental impacts
 - An assessment of local floodplains and hydrology
 - An assessment of soils and geology - including on-site geotechnical and pile load testing studies
 - A survey of terrain, boundary, and real estate encumbrances
 - Infiltration testing to understand soil drainage rate

Will this project affect the local ecosystem of plants and animals?

- AES routinely conducts a series of studies that ensure our projects are thoughtfully and responsibly designed to suit the existing ecosystem. The most recent project design avoids impact to listed State and Federal wildlife habitats.