

ATTACHMENT R  
VEGETATION MAINTENANCE PLAN



# New York Community Solar Vegetation Maintenance 3.3 MW Dryden Road Solar project

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Prepared For:

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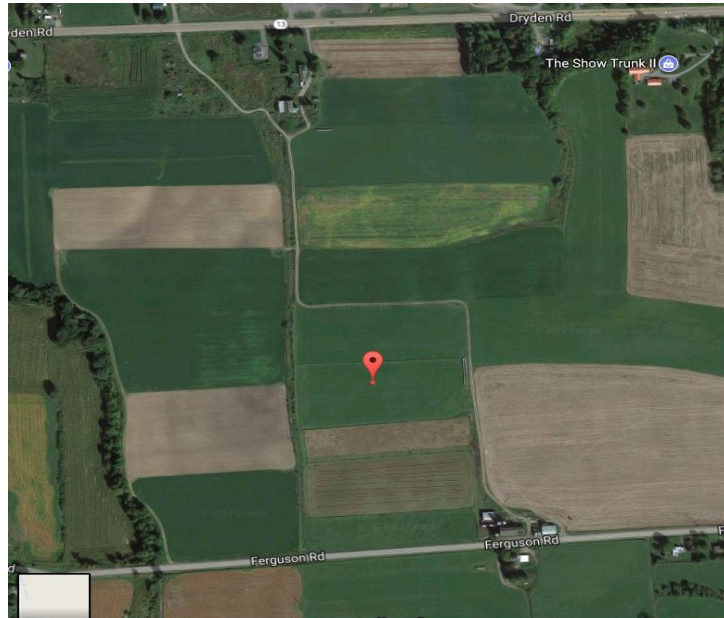
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## 1. Introduction

Delaware River Solar, LLC (“**DRS**”) has prepared this vegetative screening and maintenance plan for the proposed installation of a 3.3 MW solar photovoltaic facility (“**Project**”) located in the Town of Dryden, Tompkins County, New York (See Figure 1).



*Figure 1. Project Location (source Google Maps)*

The Project will be located on approximately 26 acres (“**Project Site**”) of tax parcel ID 47.-1-7.3, which is a 114.79 acre parcel (See Figure 2). Dryden Road runs along the north of the Project Site and Ferguson Road along the south of the Project Site.



*Figure 2. Property Boundaries (source NYS DEC EAF Mapper)*

The Project Site will be subdivided, taking into account required buffers at the proposed subdivided property line. The Project Site is shown in Figure 3 (blue arrays represent solar modules).

There will be a deer fence surrounding the Project Site (represented by the red outline). In addition, vegetative screening will be planted on the north, east and south side of the Project Site as indicated in Figure 3 by the “green circles.” There is no vegetative screening planned for the west side of the Project Site.



Figure 3. Project Site

The combination of (a) natural vegetation, (b) perimeter fencing and (c) proposed vegetative screening is expected to mitigate the views of the Project Site from nearby residences and vehicles traveling along Dryden Road or Ferguson Road.

The proposed plan for vegetative screening will take into account setbacks, fencing corridors and use of native plant species. It is expected that the vegetation will consist of native species of evergreen shrubs or trees with a mature height between 8 and 19 feet, depending on the location of the trees.

## **2. Vegetation Planting Plan**

Vegetative screening of the Project Site will be performed, after receiving permission to operate from the utility, at the next recommended planting date for such selected species, which depends on the seasonal weather patterns and location. In general, the best time to plant trees is early spring (March through early May) or in the fall (October) when temperatures are cooler and trees are dormant or nearly dormant.

As indicated in Figure 3, vegetation will be planted along the north, east and south perimeter of the Project Site. In general, the proposed height of trees are 6' at time of planting.

### **North Perimeter:**

Vegetation will be planted on the north side of the perimeter fence (outside the fence). Trees planted at this location can grow taller than to the east and south as solar resources do not originate from the northerly direction and as a result it is expected that tree trimming and/or maintenance for shading purposes along the north perimeter will be minimal.

### **South Perimeter:**

Vegetation will be planted along the south perimeter fence (outside the fence). Solar resources are maximized from the south so vegetative plantings along the south perimeter will be limited to species that grow 8' in height. It is expected that trimming will be required, as needed, when the vegetation height creates a shadow on the array (approx. height of 8').

### **East Perimeter:**

Vegetation will be planted on the east side of the fencing (outside the fence). The vegetation on the east side of the access drive (northern part of access drive) will be limited to species that grow approximately 20' in height. The vegetation on the west side of the access drive (southern part of access drive) will be limited to species that grow 8' in height. It is expected that trimming will occur, as needed, when the vegetation height creates a shadow on the array.

As indicated above, the primary purpose of trimming vegetation is to avoid shading of the solar arrays. Shading inspections will be done annually and trimming will occur as needed, as soon after a shading inspection is completed.

### **3. Vegetation Screening Maintenance**

Vegetative plantings have both an establishment phase (critical period for establishing healthy vegetation) and a long-term maintenance phase.

#### **3.1 Establishment Phase (Year 1)**

##### At Planting Time:

- Mulching individual trees with layer of wood mulch.
- Pruning to remove damaged branches and to correct structural defects.
- Thoroughly watering.

##### Remainder Year 1:

- Monthly visual inspection of trees (with possibly landowner observations)
- Moisture/Watering revision

#### **3.2 Long term Maintenance Phase (Year 2)**

- Semi-annual visual inspection of trees.
- Semi-annual inspection of all trees to identify and address health problems.
- Prune and trim, as needed, when trees are higher than indicated in above.

#### **3.3 Long term Maintenance Phase (Year 3 and later)**

- Annual visual inspection of trees.
- Annual inspection of all trees to identify and address health problems.
- Prune and trim, as needed, when trees are higher than indicated in above.

#### **3.4 Replacement of Dead Trees (All Maintenance Phases)**

- Dead trees will be replaced with similar species and size as the original planting.
- Dead trees will be replaced the later of (i) 60 days following an inspection that reveals any dead trees and (b) the next recommended planting date for such selected species.