In their capacity as fire code officials, Code Enforcement Officers have reviewed Delaware River Solar’s (DRS) Dryden Road Community Solar project application. Included in that review was consideration of fire apparatus access to the project site.

Chapter 5 of the International Fire Code (IFC), a part of NY State’s Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code, dictates when, where, and how fire apparatus access roads are to be installed. In the case of solar facilities, Exception 2 of Section 503.1.1 allows the fire code official to modify, or exempt those requirements.

Exemption 2 states: Where approved by the Fire Code Official, fire apparatus access roads shall be permitted to be exempted or modified for solar photovoltaic power generation facilities.

Because no buildings are proposed and the construction period of the project is relatively short, Code Enforcement Officers have determined that a fire apparatus road, constructed to IFC standards is not required.

DRS’s planned improvements to the existing farm equipment track will adequately serve as emergency apparatus access to the project site(s) provided the track is at least twelve (12) feet wide, and a turn-around area for emergency vehicles is provided.

A hammerhead turn-around is shown on the drawings, located between the two arrays. The dimensions are not indicated. Each leg and the approach to the turn-around should be widened to 20’ and extend at least 50’. The radius of the turns should be at least 26’.