



**Exhibit 2: Overview and Public Involvement**

Cider Solar Farm  
Towns of Oakfield and Elba  
Genesee County, New York

**Matter No. 21-01108**

## EXHIBIT 2: OVERVIEW AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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### Abbreviations

CES	Clean Energy Standard
dBA	decibel
kV	kilovolt
MW	megawatt
NYPA	New York Power Authority
NYS	New York State
NYCRR	New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations
PV	photovoltaic
S/NRHP	State/National Register of Historic Places

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### Glossary of Terms

Applicant	Hecate Energy Cider Solar LLC
Project	Refers to the proposed Cider Solar Farm, an up to 500-megawatt utility scale solar project that will be comprised of photovoltaic panels, inverters, access driveways, electrical collection lines, point of interconnection/substation, construction staging areas, fencing and plantings, located on private land in the towns of Elba and Oakfield, Genesee County, New York.
Project Area	Refers to the Project Site and surrounding/adjacent land totaling approximately 7,518 acres.
Project Footprint	Refers to the limit of temporary and permanent disturbance within the Project Site caused by the construction and operation of all components of the Project totaling approximately 2,452 acres.
Project Impact Area	Geographic area or areas within which the proposed undertaking may cause any change, beneficial or adverse, in the character or use of an identified archaeological site, historic resource or cultural property (Chapter XVIII, Title 19 of NYCRR § 900-1.2(bk)).
Project Site	Refers to those privately owned parcels under option to lease, purchase, easement or other real property interests with the Applicant in which all Project components will be sited totaling approximately 4,650 acres.
Study Area	Refers to the area evaluated for specific resource identification and/or resource impact assessment. The size of this area is appropriate for the target resource and takes into account the project setting, the significance of resource or impact being identified or evaluated, and the specific survey distances included in Chapter XVIII, Title 19 of NYCRR Part 900. As appropriate, the Study Area for each type of survey or resource impact assessment is provided in the respective sections within the Application.



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The content of Exhibit 2 is provided in conformance with Chapter XVIII, Title 19 of the New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (NYCRR) § 900-2.3, as follows.

### a) Brief Description of the Proposed Project and Overall Analysis

#### 1) Brief Project Description

Hecate Energy Cider Solar LLC (Hecate or Applicant), a subsidiary of Hecate Energy, LLC, is proposing to construct, operate and maintain an up to 500-megawatt (MW) alternating current photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generation facility, referred to as the Cider Solar Farm (Project). The Project will interconnect on-site to the New York Power Authority (NYPA) Dysinger – New Rochester 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to deliver power to the New York State (NYS) electricity grid. It is anticipated that the Project will be constructed between 2022 and 2023, with a planned Commercial Operation Date of December 31, 2023.

The Project location within Genesee County is depicted on Figure 2-1: *Regional Project Location* and Figure 2-2: *Project Area*. The Project Area consists of approximately 7,518 acres of land, roughly bound by County Route 9/Albion Road to the west, Miller Road and vacant land to the east. Lockport Road bisects the Project Area from east to west, while State Route 98 traverses the eastern portion of the Project. The Project Area is located to the north and west of the Village of Elba, and north of the Village of Oakfield. The northern portion of the Project Area is bisected by the NYPA 345 kV Dysinger – New Rochester transmission line and the Empire Gas Pipeline, which are located adjacent to each other and run east-west through the Project Area. Approximately 60% of the Project is located in the Town of Elba, while 40% is located in the Town of Oakfield. The proposed Project substation interconnects to the NYPA transmission line in the center of the Project Area, west of Graham Road in the Town of Elba. The Project Area consists of level to rolling hills with predominantly active agricultural land (4,142 acres; 55%), followed by interspersed with forested land, and rural residential developed land. Low density rural residential development comprises approximately 517 acres, or 7% of the Project Area, and occurs along road frontages, and family-owned farms are located within and adjacent to the Project Area.

The Project components will be located on 67 parcels comprising of 4,650 acres of leased private land owned by 31 private landowners in the towns of Elba and Oakfield, Genesee County, New York (Project Site). The total Project Footprint is 2,452 acres, or approximately 53% of the Project Site, which includes both temporary and permanent disturbance. Land use in the Project Footprint is predominantly active agricultural land.

The PV panels for the Project will be ground-mounted on a low-profile racking system that will be supported by small steel posts driven into the ground, resulting in an extremely small ground disturbance footprint associated with the panels. The Project will utilize single-axis tracking structures, which allow the panels to follow the sun from east to west throughout the day and produce additional renewable energy. The Project will consist of the following components:

- Arrays of PV panels, with a maximum height profile of 15 feet, producing direct current electricity mounted on single-axis tracking structures that will follow the sun throughout the day.

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- Inverters within weather-rated enclosures dispersed throughout the Project (amongst the solar arrays) to convert direct current electricity to alternating current electricity.
- Medium voltage transformers that will raise the low voltage from the inverters to a medium voltage cable collection system (34.5 kV) that will extend underground to collection points for connection to the transmission grid.
- New substation and switchyard that will connect the Project to the NYPA 345 kV transmission line located in the Project Footprint. The proposed substation will be sited on private land adjacent to the NYPA transmission facility on approximately five acres of private land located on Graham Road, north of the intersection of Lockport Road, in the town of Elba.
- Monitoring, control, and protection systems to remotely control the Project to reliably operate on the NYS electricity grid.
- Internal civil infrastructure, including up to 20-foot-wide permanent gravel access roads, 7-foot-tall chain-link security fencing around equipment, and landscape screening vegetation.
- Temporary laydown yards totaling approximately 19 acres that will provide space for construction office trailers, parking and equipment staging areas during construction of the Project, all within the planned Project Footprint.
- Grassland management area for habitat conservation and a compensatory wetland mitigation area.

### 2) Brief Description of Overall Analysis

The Project will have significant benefits at the state and local level. The Applicant began developing the Project in 2019 with a vision of bringing utility-scale solar power to New York. The Project is consistent with the most recent State Energy Plan, the Public Service Commission's Orders in the Clean Energy Standard (CES) Proceeding, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act, all of which support the development of clean energy and renewable resources in NYS. In Q1 2021, the Project signed a contract with NYSERDA for sale of all Recognized Environmental Conditions produced by the Project. Under this contract, the Project will contribute directly to NYS's renewable energy goals. The Project will safely generate enough clean, renewable electricity to power over 125,000 New York households.

The Project is estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 400,000 tons in the State, as well as reducing other emissions associated with displacement of fossil-fired energy generation. The implementation of the Project will support important statewide goal to increase its renewable energy sources. As a large utility scale solar energy project in New York, the Project will help accelerate efforts for future renewable development in the State.

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Across the approximately 18-month construction of the Project, construction payroll will be approximately \$40.1 million, with direct non-payroll expenditures within Genesee County and the State estimated at an additional \$55.3 million and \$79.0 million, respectively. When secondary effects associated with these expenditures are added, the total direct, indirect, and induced economic activity is estimated to be approximately \$244.2 million dollars. Once operational, the Project is expected to directly result in an annual (over the life of the Project) payroll expenditures of [REDACTED] along with non-payroll expenditures and payments within the State of approximately [REDACTED] annually. In addition, the Project expects to make approximately [REDACTED] per year in lease payments to landowners in Genesee County. These economic benefits are provided within the context that this Project also will not cause an increased demand on local services, such as water, wastewater or schools.

The Project will contribute significantly to the tax base of the local school districts, Towns, and County. The Applicant anticipates executing a PILOT agreement and/or Host Community Agreement with the entities identified in Exhibit 18: *Socioeconomic Effects* of this Application. The specific terms of the PILOT agreement have not yet been finalized, but these agreements are anticipated to increase the revenues of the affected jurisdictions. For the purposes of the socioeconomic analyses presented in Exhibit 18 of this Application, total payments estimated and modeled to be approximately \$30 million over the duration of the anticipated PILOT and/or Host Community agreements.

In compliance with 19 NYCRR §§ 900-6.1(f), 900-1.2(z) and New York State Executive Law § 94-c(5)(f), the Applicant will provide host community benefits in the form of an annual bill credit for residential electric utility customers pursuant to the Public Service Commission's February 11, 2021 *Order Adopting a Host Community Benefit Program* in Case 20-E-0249. The Applicant will participate in the Host Community Benefit Program by paying an annual program fee in the amount of \$500 per MW of nameplate capacity for the first 10 years of project operation. The fee will be distributed equally among all residential utility customers residing in the Towns of Elba and Oakfield as a credit on their electric utility bills. Accordingly, residential utility customers will receive ten annual bill credits beginning in the first calendar year following when the Project becomes operational. The Project will avoid or minimize impacts to environmental and cultural resources as well as public health and safety, as summarized in the following subsections. Through deliberate site selection, followed by careful planning and design, nature of the technology, and implementation of best management practices the Applicant has worked to minimize and mitigate impacts on the Project Site and surrounding community. Development of the Project includes extensive revegetation and planting plans that serve to reduce runoff, improve water quality, and provide habitat for pollinators and wildlife habitat; in addition to providing visual mitigation for Project related visibility and visual impacts. The Project has applied setbacks from lot lines, residences, and roads in conformance with local laws. Conformance with local, State, and federal laws is further described in Exhibit 24: *Local Laws* and Exhibit 25: *Other Permits and Approvals* of this Application.

### Land Use and Terrestrial Ecology

Land use in the Project Area consists of rural and agricultural land including rural residences on local road frontages, working farms, and interspersed forestland. As further described in Exhibit 11: *Terrestrial Ecology* of this Application, the dominant landcover class in the Project Area is active agriculture (row crops, hayfields), followed by forestland. Within the Project Footprint, the vast majority of land (2,159

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acres; 88%) is used for active agricultural purposes (specifically row crops), which are further described in Exhibit 15: *Agricultural Resources* of this Application. The remaining land use in the Project Footprint is comprised of successional forestland (203 acres; 8%), grassland/pastureland (54 acres; 2%), with disturbed/developed land and other land cover types comprising the remaining 2%. The panels will not significantly alter the underlying land, preserving the land for future agricultural use. Areas within the security fence will be re-established with meadow vegetative communities comprised of grasses and flowering pollinator-friendly seed mixes. The Applicant has committed to decommissioning methods that will enable the Project lands to be returned to agricultural use after the operational life of the Project. No unique natural communities nor critical habitats were identified within the Project Site. Impacts to vegetation associated with Project construction and operation have been avoided or minimized through an informed design process, including siting components on only approximately 53% (2,452 acres) of the available Project Site. The Project Footprint results in relatively minor impacts to mature and young successional forest or wetland habitats by siting panel arrays within agricultural fields. Furthermore, linear components (e.g., access roads and electrical collection lines) have been collocated to the extent practicable, and previously disturbed areas, such as existing access roads, have been incorporated into the Project design where available. Potential impacts to agricultural land during construction will occur primarily from burying underground collection lines and use of temporary construction laydown yards, which will be restored as indicated in NYS Agriculture and Markets guidelines. The Project's racking system will be pile-driven to minimize subsurface ground disturbance.

Impacts to land use and vegetative communities have been minimized consistently throughout the process of siting components. Approximately 67 acres of the Project Footprint will involve conversion from vegetated communities to developed/impervious surfaces, and approximately 2,179 acres will be occupied by solar panels and maintained areas, i.e., areas within the fenceline not covered by panels or other permanent Project component. Project construction will result in up to 2,176 acres of temporary impact to vegetation and 210 acres of permanent impact to herbaceous vegetation during the Project's anticipated 35- to 40-year operational life prior to decommissioning. The majority of temporary and permanent impacts to vegetative communities is to existing agricultural land, including 2,100 acres (97%) and 59 acres (91%), respectively. Approximately 203 acres of successional forestland clearing is proposed. Agricultural land will be restored in accordance with the Applicant's Agricultural Plan, which is consistent with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Guidelines (19 NYCRR §§ 900-15.1(l)(1)(i) and (ii)), as described in Exhibit 15 and in Appendix 15-A: *Agricultural Plan* of this Application.

Project construction and operation will not adversely impact rare nor other protected plants nor significantly impact any unique or significant ecological communities.

### Agricultural Production Areas

Approximately 2,159 acres of active agricultural land occurs within the Project Footprint, where both temporary and permanent disturbance are anticipated to occur. However, not all agricultural production areas within the Project Footprint will be physically disturbed. For example, areas under panels are not disturbed, although taken out of agricultural operation during the life of the Project. Solar panels and maintained areas will cover approximately 2,179 acres (89%) of agricultural lands within the Project Footprint; however, less than 1 acre (less than 0.1%) will be permanently disturbed due to installation of

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mounting posts. Additionally, access roads will only impact approximately 47 acres (less than 1%) of agricultural lands; inverters will impact less than 1 acre (less than 0.1%) of agricultural lands; and the substation and switchyard will impact 5.4 acres (0.3%) of agricultural lands within the Project Footprint. At the conclusion of operation, the Project Site can be returned to its current state for future agricultural uses, as further discussed in Appendix 23-A: *Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan* of this Application.

### NYS Threatened and Endangered Species and Habitats

A *Wildlife Characterization Study* (Appendix 12-A of this Application) was prepared to summarize known information regarding threatened and endangered species potentially present in the Project Area. Based on the review of available data sources described in the *Wildlife Characterization Study*, 10 state listed species (9 animals and 1 plant) were identified as potentially occurring within the Study Area and/or Project Site. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation provided confidential locations of known populations of state-listed protected species within the vicinity of the Project Area. None of these locations overlap with the Project Site. Because the Project is largely sited in cropland, impacts to listed rare, threatened, and endangered species and their associated breeding habitats are not anticipated. Project components will be sited to avoid woodland and wetland areas, to the extent possible; hence, impacts to listed and conservation concern avian species occupying such habitats are expected to be minimal. In June and July 2020, surveys were conducted to assess baseline use of the Project Area by breeding birds. No federally or state-listed endangered or threatened species were observed; however, five state species of special concern were observed. Species detected during the survey are generally common, regionally abundant, and are representative of the habitats in which they were observed. Survey methods and results are further detailed in Exhibit 12: *NYS Threatened and Endangered Species* and Appendix 12-B(1): *Hecate Cider Solar Farm Breeding Grassland Bird Survey* of this Application.

In November through March 2021, surveys were conducted to assess baseline use of the Project Area by wintering raptors. Through the course of 10 survey events, a total of four observations of northern harrier were documented in the Project Area, as well as one incidental observation of a potential northern harrier. One short-eared owl was observed at a driving transect point. One additional state-threatened raptor, bald eagle, was documented: a total of 11 bald eagle observations occurred during seven survey events. No other state-listed species and no federally listed species were observed. The Office of Renewable Energy Siting has determined there is no occupied habitat for listed species in the Project Site. Survey methods and results are further detailed in Exhibit 12 and Appendix 12-B(2): *2020/2021 Wintering Raptor Survey Report* of this Application.

### Water Resources, Aquatic Ecology, and Wetlands

Impacts to streams and wetlands have been avoided or minimized, to the extent practicable, through careful siting of Project components. The Project will result in some direct impacts to streams and wetlands due to the installation of buried electrical collection lines, access roads, and fences. No panels, inverters, temporary laydown yards or the project substation are located in wetland or stream areas. Of the total Project Footprint of 2,452 acres, Project construction and operation is estimated to impact 0.96 acres of federal jurisdictional and State-regulated wetlands, of which 0.55 acres will be temporary and 0.41 acres will be permanent (including permanent palustrine forested conversion). Impacts to forested

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wetlands, including forested conversion were largely avoided through use of horizontal directional drilling to install buried electrical collection lines. No protected streams are located within the Project Site and therefore no protected streams will be impacted by the Project. Impacts to fence crossing of streams also are limited to buried electrical collection lines and road crossings. Stream channel restoration will occur where underground electrical features are placed, and around installed culverts.

As further discussed in Exhibit 13: *Water Resources and Aquatic Ecology* of this Application, the Project will not have a direct or indirect adverse effect on drinking water supplies nor groundwater quality or quantity. During construction, no blasting is anticipated to occur, and extensive site grading and earthwork will not be required. In addition, given the measured groundwater depths within the Project Site, it is not anticipated that Project construction will negatively impact on-site groundwater. The Applicant will implement best management practices, as outlined in Appendix 13-C: *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan* and Appendix 13-D: *Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan* of this Application, to further provide for groundwater protection.

Once operational, the Project will consist of the solar arrays placed above a ground surface that will be restored with a seed mix containing native low-growing herbaceous species and pollinator species mixes. This full herbaceous ground cover helps improve water quality in the watershed downstream of the Project through limiting erosion and sedimentation offsite. In fact, by converting the land from row crop to meadow, the Project will create a substantial benefit in reducing peak discharge rates across all design storm events. In restored wetland areas, the Project will use a native wetland seed mix appropriate for the western New York region. There are no NYS Department of Environmental Conservation protected surface waters nor streams within the Project Footprint. Best management practices and other water resources protection measures contained within the *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan* will minimize temporary impacts to existing intermittent and ephemeral stream segments that exist within the Project Footprint.

### Aesthetic and Visual Resources

Upon completion, the Project would appear in most views as segments of solar panel arrays set within or in front of mostly agricultural lands and separated from other portions of the Project by mature vegetation. Appendix 8-A: *Visual Impact Assessment* of this Application includes the photographic simulations that were created to show the anticipated appearance of the Project upon completion from a series of representative viewpoints. Along with the solar module arrays, the location and appearance of proposed inverters, access roads, and substation facilities were incorporated into the model and are present in the simulations where they would be visible.

The viewshed analysis conducted for the Project indicates that in nearly 70% of the area where there would potentially be visibility of the Project (the solar panels), no more than 5% of the Project would be visible from any single location. Further, no more than 10% of the Project would be visible from throughout 90% of the Project viewshed (12.3 square miles). Less than 0.1% of the Project viewshed (0.01 square miles, or approximately 6 acres) would theoretically have visibility of more than 25% of the solar arrays, though because viewshed analyses calculate total points visible via lines of sight in all directions, fewer arrays are likely visible in any single, fixed view. And in no area would more than 32% of the Project site be theoretically visible from a single location. In this case, the visibility of the Project is

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minimized due to the topography of the site as well as the presence of existing vegetation such as hedge rows. The Project plans to further mitigate visual impacts within the viewshed of receptors like neighboring residences with visual screening discussed further in Exhibit 8: *Visual Impacts*.

The Project includes no new above-ground conductor or transmission lines aside from those between the substation and the switchyard (424 feet) and the adjacent point of interconnection (223 feet). This area would be generally shielded in publicly accessible views by existing vegetation. Roads used to access solar arrays will follow existing farm roads and trails where practicable to minimize the need for new roads. The same access roads used during construction will be used during operation of the Project and will be gravel surfaced.

A glare hazard analysis is attached as Appendix 8-B: *Glare Hazard Analysis* of this Application. The Project would not be a significant source of glare. The site-specific glare hazard analysis concluded, based on the solar array parameters and the site design, that glare is not predicted from the Project for pilots landing at two airports (Pine Hill Airport and Genesee County Airport) and one heliport (Troop A Headquarters) located in the vicinity of the Project. Further glare from the Project is not predicted to occur for drivers of vehicles on roadways or for residences in and adjacent to the Project.

### Noise and Vibration

Solar facilities are quiet and produce minimal vibration during operation. Adverse noise impacts will be avoided or minimized through careful siting of Project components. The noise emitted by a solar project is limited to daytime periods only for the majority of the components. A small amount (~4 decibels [dBA]) of noise mitigation may be necessary under the current design at the substation in order to meet the Project's noise design goals. Operational noise levels will be at or below 55 dBA  $L_{eq}$  (8-hour) at all residences, which is well below the 70 dBA limit established by World Health Organization Guidelines.

Project construction has the potential to generate temporary impacts related to noise at adjacent properties. Temporary noise impacts from construction are anticipated to be typical of large construction sites, but within acceptable regulatory guidelines for temporary noise generation, and will not impact the public health or safety.

The Applicant will communicate with the public to notify them of the beginning of construction of the Project. Most of the construction will occur at significant distances to sensitive receptors, and therefore noise from most phases of construction is not expected to result in impacts to sensitive receptors. Nonetheless construction noise will be minimized through the use of best management practices, as detailed in Exhibit 7: *Noise and Vibration* of this Application.

### Cultural Resources

The Project Site is considered to be sensitive for cultural features associated with the historic farmsteads/homesteads include middens, wells, privies, or foundations that could be present within the Project and surrounding area. A Phase 1A Cultural Resource Investigation (Appendix 9-A: *Phase 1A Cultural Resources Investigation for the Hecate Energy - Cider Solar Project* of this Application) for the Project Impact Area was conducted in Summer of 2020 to identify any recorded cultural resources that may be impacted by the proposed Project and to assess the likelihood that unrecorded resources may be

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present in the Project Site. In Fall 2020 through Winter 2021, a Phase 1B Cultural Resource Investigation (Appendix 9-B: *Phase 1B Archaeological Investigation for the Hecate Energy Cider Solar Project* of this Application) and a historic structures assessment (Appendix 9-D: *Historic Resource Survey* of this Application) were conducted, which identified no State/National Register of Historic Places (S/NRHP) Listed or Eligible Historic Districts; no S/NRHP-Listed individual resources; 20 previously determined S/NRHP-Eligible individual resources; one previously inventoried resource recommended S/NRHP-eligible; four previously inventoried resources recommended Not Eligible for S/NRHP; and one previously inventoried resources recommended as “undetermined.” Per the conclusions of the *Phase 1B Archaeological Investigation for the Hecate Energy Cider Solar Project* and *Historic Resource Survey*, no impacts to archaeological or historic resources are anticipated as a result of Project construction or operation. The Applicant has consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office regarding avoidance and minimization of impacts to cultural resources and will continue to consult as part of applicable federal or state permitting processes to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

### Public Health and Safety

No temporary, long-term nor cumulative public health impacts as a result of the Project are anticipated. These typically include issues relating to glare, noise, and potable water, as described above, as well as air quality. Solar energy facilities generate emission-free electricity do not contain hazardous materials. Electrons produced by the Project would offset electrons from conventional coal-fired power plants in the area, improving the air quality within the region and, likewise, public health. Temporary impacts to air quality as a result from construction activities (i.e., emissions from construction equipment and transport vehicles) are expected to be negligible.

There is a very low likelihood that a fire would occur at the Project. The project components have no substantive fuel source to support a fire, as the panels are comprised of primarily metal and glass, and the inverters contain no hazardous materials. Vegetation surrounding and under solar arrays will be maintained less than three feet in height. In the event a piece of equipment catches fire, the lack of fuel in the solar field prevents the fire from spreading. Nonetheless, the Applicant plans to conduct fire training for local first responders at the cost of the Project that prepares them for events at utility scale solar projects, but also for how to respond to fires at residences or other buildings with rooftop solar arrays, for example.

### **b) Public Outreach and Engagement**

From the outset, the Applicant’s priority has been to work in a spirit of collaboration with the host communities to gain input to development. The Applicant has applied an intentional approach to community relationship building based on a genuine respect for the local communities, which has positively influenced the Project’s relationship with an array of stakeholders. Early in the development process, the Applicant engaged the local municipalities and local stakeholders, with the goal of welcoming feedback that informed design and siting decisions as a part of an iterative design process. The Applicant prepared a plan outlining local engagement and outreach efforts (Appendix 2-A: *Community Engagement Plan* of this Application), which provides a framework for engaging stakeholders, the public and interested agencies. The *Community Engagement Plan* outlines activities that include:



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- Consultation with interested agencies and other stakeholders;
- Pre-application activities to encourage stakeholders to participate at the earliest convenience;
- Activities designed to educate the public about the Project, the regulatory process and the availability of intervenor funding, as applicable;
- A website to disseminate information to the public;
- Notification; and
- Activities designed to encourage participation by stakeholder in the environmental compliance process.

An essential component of the public outreach process for the Project is to identify interested agencies, municipalities, utilities, host landowners, and other potential stakeholders affected by the construction and operation of the proposed Project. The Applicant has established a Master List of Stakeholders, as part of the *Community Engagement Plan*, that is updated as necessary based upon information and requests from potentially interested and/or affected stakeholders and parties.

Pre-application activities as described in 19 NYCRR §§ 900-1.3(a) and (b) to encourage stakeholder participation have taken place and will continue throughout the process. Numerous pre-application meetings have been held with the Town of Elba and Town of Oakfield local representatives, and county and state agencies, dates, attendees, and topics of which detailed in Appendix 2-B: *Applicant Meeting Log* of this Application. Meetings with local officials are crucial in understanding the goals of the community and allow the Project to tailor the projects to local priorities, promoting a good relationship between the project and its neighbors.

The Applicant held virtual public open houses on October 21, 2020, and December 16, 2020, and March 24, 2021 with afternoon and evening sessions on each of these days to accommodate varying schedules. Public meetings were be announced through public notices in local newspapers, as well as through posting of flyers at common areas within the Towns of Elba and Oakfield, in advance of the scheduled events. The Applicant also mailed notices of public meetings to adjacent property owners, all residences and businesses within one mile of the Project Site, and to the host and adjacent landowners as listed in the Master Stakeholders List appended to the Community Engagement Plan. All meeting announcements also were posted on the Project website. As additional stakeholders showed interest through initial public meetings, emails, and/or ZOOM meetings, the Master Stakeholder List was updated to include these individuals in future mail and email notifications.

At each open house session, the Applicant presented a description of the Project and its potential benefits and impacts to participating and adjacent landowners, as well as the surrounding communities; shared a summary of Project-related activities occurring in the area (e.g., environmental field studies, local outreach efforts, etc.); and solicited feedback from participants. Copies of the slide decks presented at each open house meeting are included as Appendix 2-C: *Open House Presentations* of this Application. It is to be noted that feedback received at early engagement opportunities helped informed

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Project design and siting of Project components, as shown by the progression in Project figures shown in the Open House Presentations from October 2020 through March 2021.

The Applicant also has held weekly virtual public Zoom meetings throughout the pre-application process (starting July 29, 2020) to answer questions, provide Project updates and generally discuss the Project. Public outreach activities were and currently are being conducted in a safe manner, in light of the global pandemic Covid-19, and in consideration of guidance of the New York Governor's communication on Covid-19 safety measures.

Public outreach activities for the Project were started early enough to allow the Project to incorporate feedback from the community into project design. For example, multiple neighbors have reached out to the project team with concerns about viewshed impacts, and the design team has worked directly with them to place visual screening where those neighbors prefer, and in a manner consistent with their intended uses. Opening communication with neighbors in this manner allows for unexpected benefits as well. For example, one neighbor connected the project team with researchers at Cornell with expertise in pollinator seed mixes and coproductive uses on solar land, which informed the development of our plans.

A user-friendly website has been established that describes the Project (<http://cidersolarfarm.com/>). Slide decks presented at the virtual open houses, as well as associated summaries of question-and-answer sessions as described above, are available on the Project website.

The Applicant will continue to seek stakeholder participation in the development and construction phase of the Project. Additionally, the Applicant will track the community engagement and provide updates on public outreach activities to stakeholders upon request. As discussed above, the Applicant maintains a meeting log (*Applicant Meeting Log*) that provides specific information regarding all meetings; including dates, locations, attendees, purpose, and discussion topics.

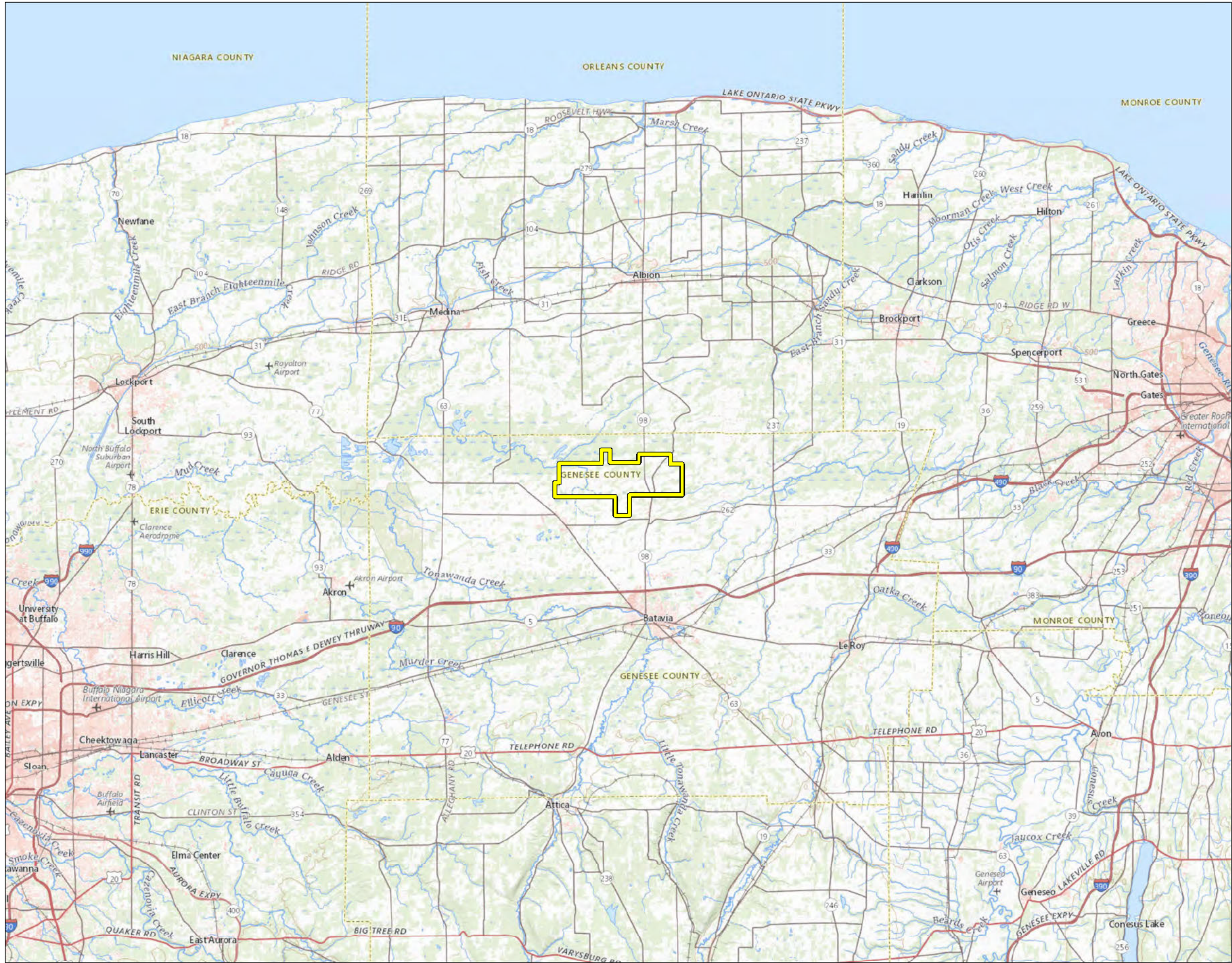
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# FIGURES



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Legend  
Project Area



0 5 10 Miles  
(At original document size of 11x17)  
1:316,800

**Notes**  
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane New York West FIPS 3103 Feet  
2. Background: National Geographic, Esri, Garmin, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, increment P Corp.  
USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit; and NOAA National Centers for Environmental



Project Location  
Towns of Elba and Oakfield  
Genesee County

Prepared by AS on 2021-04-12  
TR by EE on 2021-04-12  
IR by NL on 2021-04-12

Client/Project  
Hecate Energy Cider Solar LLC  
Cider Solar Farm

190502038 REV B

Figure No.

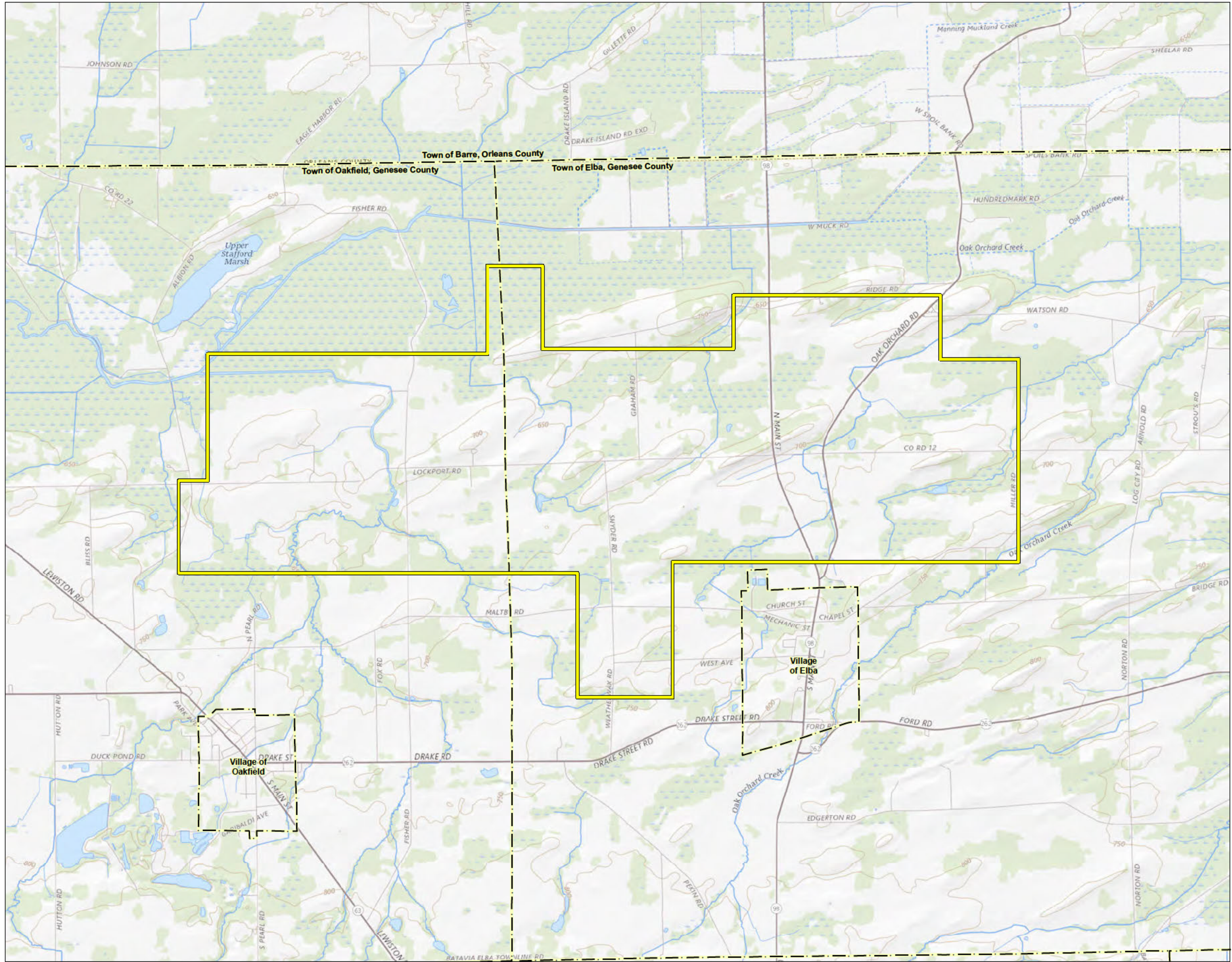
2-1

Title

Regional Project Location



U:\190502038\03\_data\gis\mxd\Application\Exhibit2\Fig\_2-2\_Project\_Area\_CSf.mxd Revised: 2021-04-27 By: astaplston



Legend

- Project Area
- Municipal Boundary



0 4,000 8,000 Feet  
(At original document size of 11x17)  
1:48,000

**Notes**  
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane New York West FIPS 3103 Feet  
2. Sources: NYS Office of ITS GPO, NYS Civil Boundaries, 2018  
3. Background: National Geographic, Esri, Garmin, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, increment P Corp.  
USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department



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Cider Solar Farm

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Figure No.

2-2

Title

Project Area