

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

Proposed Massive Solar Power Plant Affecting Rush and Caledonia in Monroe and Livingston Counties!



Horseshoe Solar (HSS) Project Proposal

Horseshoe Solar is a 180 mega-watt, industrial-sized, massive, solar power plant planned for Rush and Caledonia impacting 3,857 acres, which is approximately 5,000 football fields! There would be 600,000 solar panels, 15 ft. high, surrounded by a 7 ft. metal fence with a 10 ft. hedge and a network of heavy duty maintenance roads, and other infrastructure. To get an idea of the sheer magnitude of this project, view <https://vimeo.com/303108895> which shows a facility of only 150 acres.

The HSS facility will be at least 10 times this size!!!!

Proposed Location

At least 1,260 acres of land is required for the proposed industrial power plant by Invenergy, a Chicago based company. This is prime farmland and zoned Residential in Rush. HSS will run approximately 6 miles along the Genesee River extending in a southwest direction from the Lehigh Valley Trail at East River Rd to Route 5 in Caledonia, west of West River Road. The project would straddle Honeoye Creek and the Genesee River, and will run along the south side of the Lehigh Valley Trail and both sides of the Genesee Valley Greenway Park. See [https://horseshoesolar.com/assets/pdfs/2019-04-26 Preliminary-Buildable-Area-36x48_opt.pdf](https://horseshoesolar.com/assets/pdfs/2019-04-26_Preliminary-Buildable-Area-36x48_opt.pdf) for a map of the proposed project area.

Possible Issues and Concerns

- Destruction of prime farmland
- Destruction of flora/fauna
- Animal habitation disruption
- Bird migration and nesting disruption, and bird deaths from birds diving into the panels which appear as water due to 'lake effect' phenomenon
- Microclimate changes affecting soils and plants under the panels.
- Erosion/runoff affecting Genesee River and Honeoye Creek
- Unsightly view, glint and glare from panels, and noise from 600,000 motors rotating 600,000 panels to follow the sun all day long
- Home values being depreciated
- Destruction of our rural culture and character of our town
- Threatening our archaeological/historical sites
- Years long construction effects on neighborhood and local roads
- Future removal responsibility, costs, recycling, etc.
- Solar panel chemical toxicity affecting soil, ground water, creek and river
- Conflict with current Town Zoning, Solar Code, Farmland Preservation Goals and Comprehensive Plan
- Inefficiency of solar panels due to the large number of cloudy days in this area and not generating power at night. **Therefore, it will only produce power less than 20% of the time!**
- This would be the **largest and most massive** Industrial Solar Power Plant in New York State even though Western NY already has renewable sources of energy in Niagara Falls and Ginna Power Plant.



Before HSS



After HSS

Although some leases have been signed with individual landowners, this does not necessarily mean that the project can or will go forward. We still have a voice in determining the future outcome. That is why it is so important to get involved now and support the work and legal efforts being taken to help preserve the character and beauty of the Town of Rush. This is why we live here!

If you are concerned about the impact of this massive industrial power plant, please join and/or support our local citizens group, Residents United to Save our Hometown (RUSH) at

Email Address: information@RUSH-solar.com

Website: www.RUSH-solar.com

For a Deeper Look!

- When a solar facility is directly connected to the grid, our utility bills may go up if a solar source option is selected.
<https://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/high-costs-and-errors-of-german-transition-to-renewable-energy-a-920288.html>
- Inverenergy may not be paying an appropriate amount of tax dollars. There is no re-zoning of the properties to "Industrial". Instead they will be using a PILOT, or Payment In Lieu of Taxes. This is a payment made to compensate a government for some or all of the property tax revenue LOST due to tax exempt ownership or use of real property.
- Hazardous chemicals are released during the manufacturing and disposing of solar panels, and much fossil fuels are used in the mining of these chemicals.
<https://sciencing.com/effects-solar-power-farms-environment-13547.html>
- A new study has warned that the 'toxic waste from used solar panels now poses a global environmental threat.' 'Discarded solar panels, which contain dangerous elements such as lead, chromium and cadmium are piling up around the world, and there's been little done to mitigate their potential danger to the environment.'
<https://hardware.slashdot.org/story/17/07/01/0442203/study-claims-discarded-solar-panels-create-more-toxic-waste-than-nuclear-plants>
- The EPA has confirmed that GenX-related compounds are used in solar panels. There is concern that 'the public doesn't appreciate concerns about toxic chemicals, fluids, and substances leaking into the soil and groundwater as solar installations age and deteriorate, or suffer damage from windstorms or other disasters.'
<https://www.carolinajournal.com/news-article/epa-confirms-genx-related-compounds-used-in-solar-panels/>
- The article 'If Solar Panels are So Clean, Why do they Produce So Much Toxic Waste?' states that the problem of solar panel disposal 'will explode with full force in two or three decades and wreck the environment because it is a huge amount of waste and they are not easy to recycle.' 'The reality is that there is a problem now, and it's only going to get larger...'
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelshellenberger/2018/05/23/if-solar-panels-are-so-clean-why-do-they-produce-so-much-toxic-waste/#77ca987121cc>
- 'Our prime, or even secondary agricultural land is the last place we should be looking to build solar or wind farms.' Future food/prices may be more dire in the future than energy. These solar power plants are rapidly encroaching across our extremely valuable and essential farmland that we MUST have to grow vital food crops! Plus, flora and fauna could be displaced for generations to come.
<https://www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/opinion/item/3621-can-solar-farms-work-on-agricultural-land>
- The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has made the following comment on the Article 10 project board.
"Notably absent are any indications that other suitable sites including forested non-residential or commercial properties were evaluated. As noted above, a majority of the land included in this project is comprised of farm land and constitute some of the most productive agricultural land in both counties. The land adjacent to the Genesee River is valuable, highly productive farmland best suited for rotation crop production. The Department recommends other alternative sites be explored and identified which are not flat, productive, well-drained farmland comprised of Prime Farmland soil or Farmland of Statewide Importance. In conclusion, the Department is concerned about the long-term viability of agriculture in the Facility Area due to the agricultural land and farmland soils being converted from active rotation crop production to a passive grazing land use in conjunction with solar energy production. The Applicant should assess the cumulative impact of the Facility Site and other conversions in the area over the useful life of the project. The Applicant then needs to determine whether any reasonable and practicable alternative or alternatives exist which would minimize or avoid the adverse impact on agriculture to sustain a viable farm enterprise or enterprises within the Facility area."
NYS DAM Staff PSC Comments, April 16, 2019, PSC Case No. 18-F-0633, Horseshoe Solar Energy, LLC
- This proposed massive power plant is inconsistent with the Town of Rush's Comprehensive Plan and our Town Board has stated that they are not in favor of a project of this magnitude. But this project is under the Article 10 process for power generation facilities by the NYS Dept of Public Service which overreaches our local control, potentially bypassing our Rush local town code!
'Goals included in the Town Comprehensive Plan are intended to protect important aspects of the Town's existing rural and open character. These goals include establishing a network of open spaces, protecting environmental quality, conserving agricultural resources and viable farmland, and preserving significant historic and architectural resources.'
Town of Rush Comprehensive Plan-2010, Executive Summary, pages E2-3

What can you do to participate? IMPORTANT things to do.

- 1)  Get on this website and provide comments and input: **
<http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterSeq=57857&MNO=18-F-0633>
One of our next critical steps in our fight against this takeover of our town's beautiful agricultural land and peaceful countryside is to post as many comments as we can on the NYSDPS Article 10 Project website. Please post your objections/concerns on DPS Case 18-F-0633 HORSESHOE SOLAR PROJECT!
- 2) We would also encourage you to join our Residents United to Save our Hometown (RUSH) and spread the word about this proposed project and our citizens group.**
- 3) Attend Town Hall meetings and express your concerns.**
- 4) Financial participation to help pay for legal fees and support RUSH would also be very much appreciated!**

THANK YOU!