

NextEra/Akron Solar Farm Project

September 27, 2025

Informational meeting
for Rome residents and
property owners.





Please Hold Your
Questions and Comments
Until The End

What Solar Farm???

Where Is It???

What Will It Look Like???



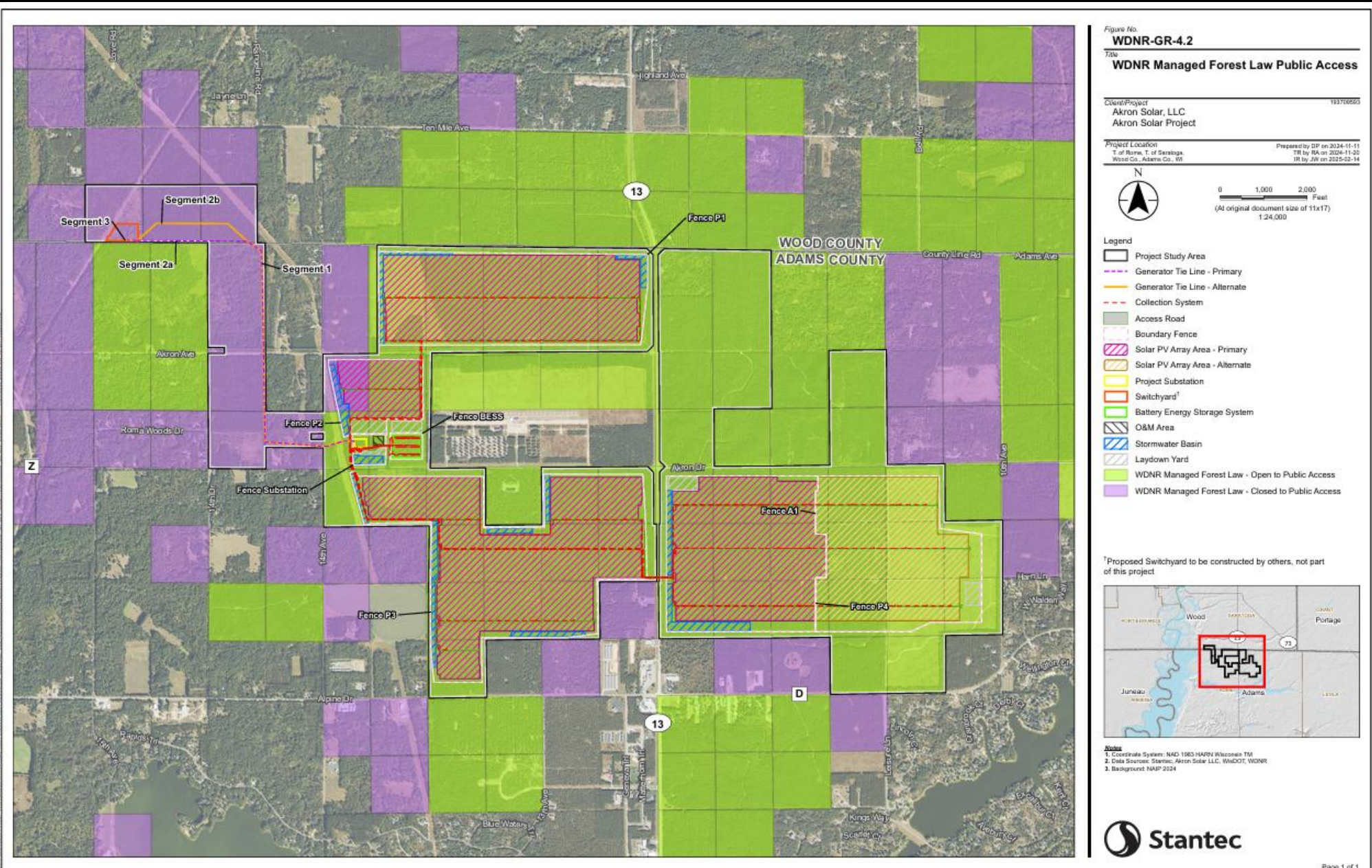
Akron Solar project overview

- Located in Adams County and Wood County, WI
- Town of Rome
- ~\$380 million capital investment
- Enough electricity to power approximately 50,000 homes
- Gen-Tie and line tap to existing 138-kV American Transmission Co transmission line
- Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity filing targeted for Q1 2025
- Commercial operation targeted for December 2028



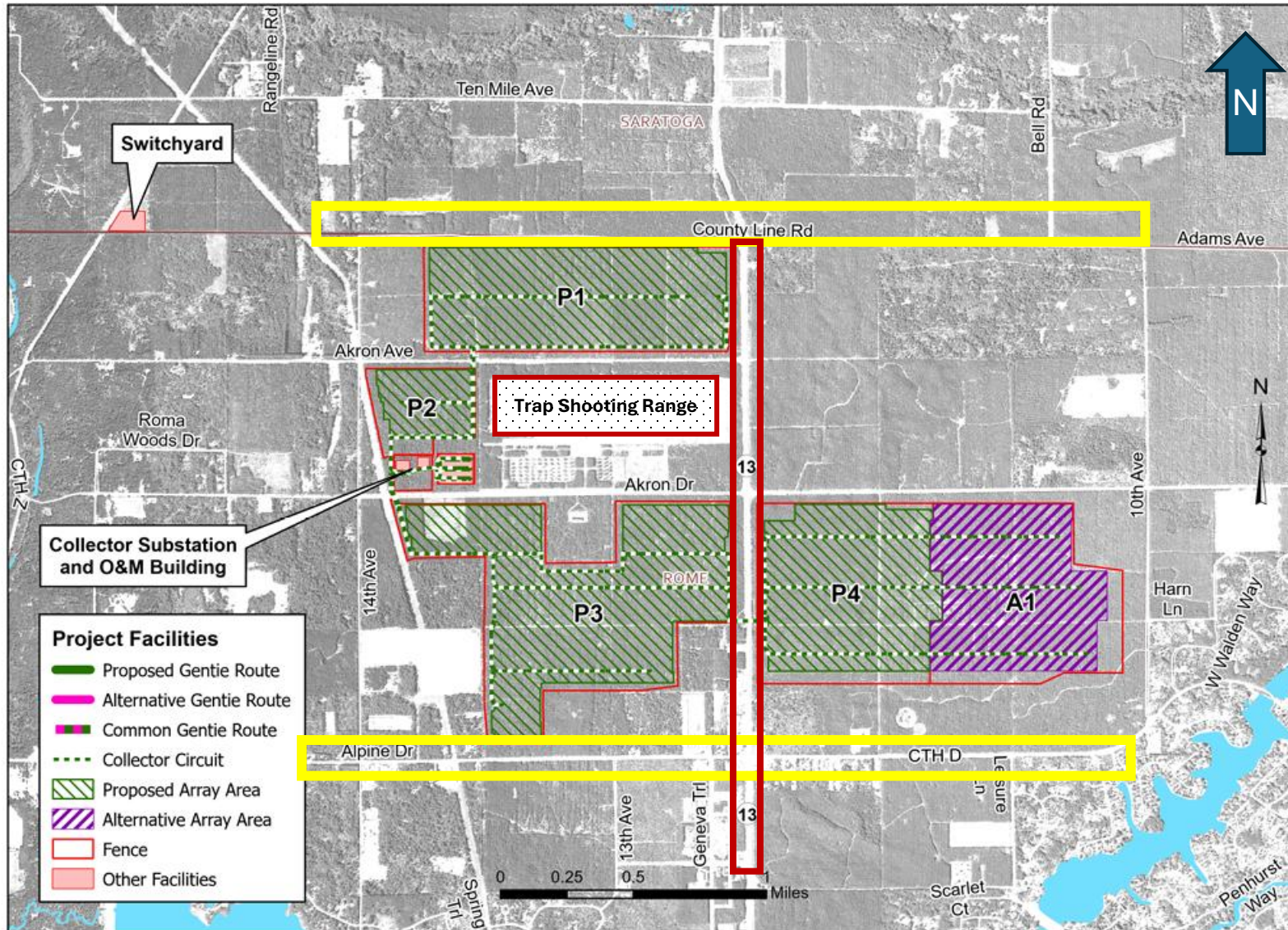
200 MW
of clean
energy

Proposed Area



Where Will It Be?

Akron Solar Project 9832-CE-100

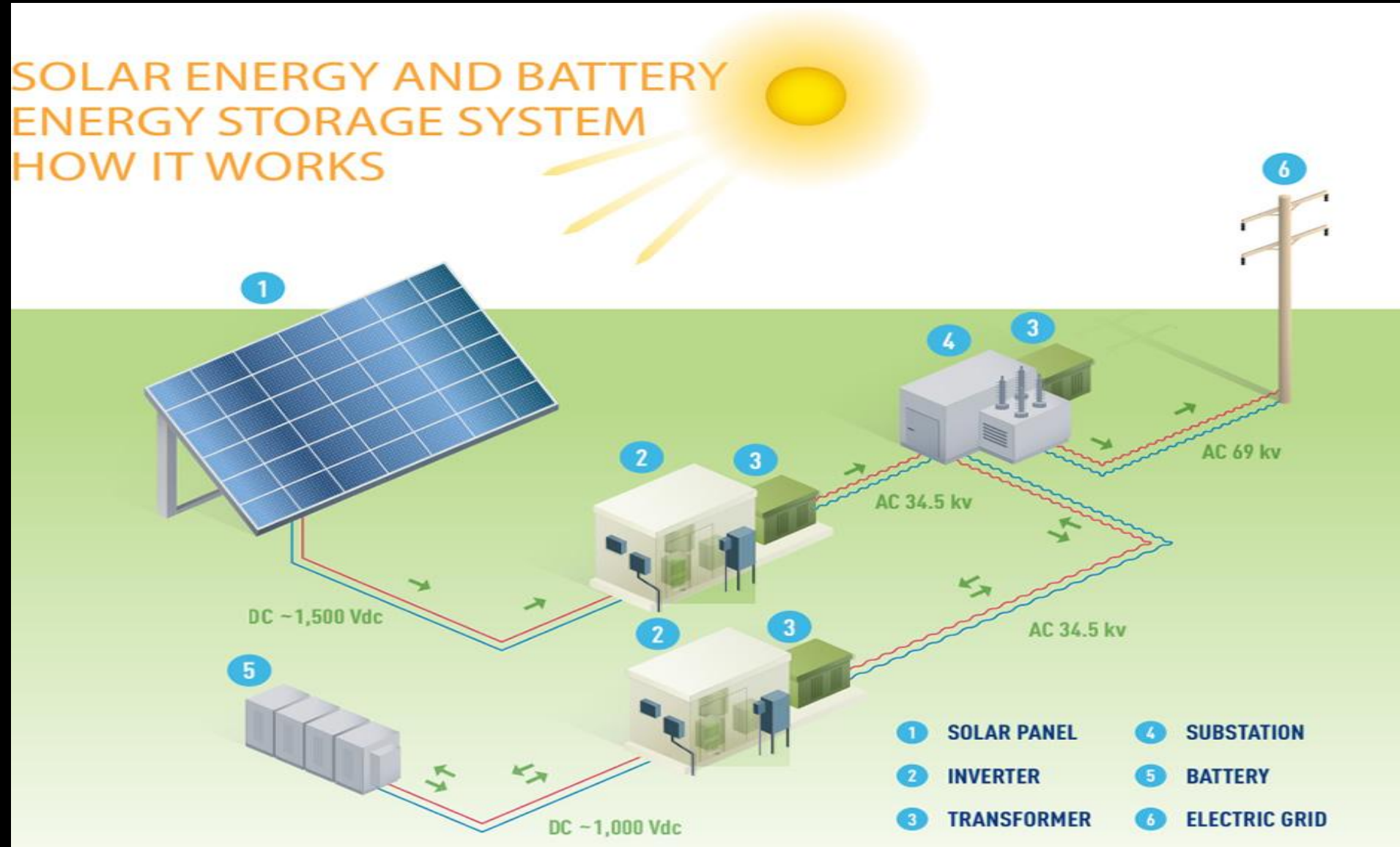


- Both Sides of Highway 13 going North
- On the West side all the way up to CL Road
- On the East side up to Akron
- Completely surrounds the Trap Shooting Facility

What's It Going To Look Like??



How Does it Work?



Will This Solar Farm Benefit Me or My Family?

- Electricity Rates to residents will not be lowered from this project
- The power generated will go to the grid and not to Rome residents specifically
- Our real estate taxes will not be lowered as a result
- Our real estate values will likely not be enhanced as a result
- Short term construction jobs may be available depending on needed trades and skills. It is not known if any long term operational jobs will be available to residents
- The Town of Rome will benefit from tax revenue sharing with Adams County ~ 60/40



Pros

- Clean, renewable energy without emissions
- Tax revenue of \$1M annually is shared with Adams County ~ 60/40
- Investors will get rich as they are able to cash in on Federal grants for renewable energy which provides grants for up to 50% of the project cost, this project expected to cost \$380M
- Low maintenance energy. ***However, efficiency degrades if the panels are not cleaned regularly.***
- Land Owners abutting the solar farm are being offered cash incentive contract agreements



Cons

- Visibly unattractive
- May impact property values
- Will displace numerous ATV and snowmobile trails
- Habitat destruction for native wildlife, including plants, birds, insects and animals
- Vulnerable to our weather patterns and hail
- Chemicals may leach into our soil from damaged panels
- Lifespan of the panels is 25 – 30 years and there is NO CURRENT recycling infrastructure
- Requires vast energy storage solutions
- Insufficient firefighting infrastructure to handle a fire or other calamity (Adams County is the number 1 fire risk area in Wisconsin)
- There is a saturation of solar farms already in the area



Cons (continued)

- Heavy equipment used for construction will cause damage to roads and other infrastructure without a restoration commitment
- Disposal of 2,000 acres of timber has not been addressed
- Solar panels (depending on their construction) consume vast amounts of rare earth minerals such as Cadmium telluride (CdTe) and copper indium gallium deselenide (CIGS). Sunlight may be renewable, but these minerals are not.
- Costly to build. A small solar farm producing one megawatt of electricity will cost around \$3 million. A natural gas plant producing the same amount of electricity can be built for a little over \$800,000
- Recycling panels will be considered hazardous waste due to the toxic composition
- End of life concerns and returning the land to its former state is not stipulated
- Most solar panels (80%) are manufactured in China, which dominates the global supply chain for solar photovoltaic (PV) products. Other countries, like the United States and Canada, also produce solar panels, but the majority of production occurs in China due to its significant investment and manufacturing capacity



Take Us To The Beginning

- June 15, 2023 NextEra met with Town of Rome board for general information (see meeting video on Town website)
- December 2023 - NextEra held a public meeting (entire meeting is on Town website)
- December 2023 - Town Board retained counsel H. Stanley Riffle for contemplated NextEra Solar Farm (See letter dated February 3, 2025 on Town website)
- No action could be taken by the Town until an actual application is filed
- Prior to filing the application, the developer conducts outreach and assessments
- Pre-application was filed on December 20, 2024
- **Current stage: APPLICATION SUBMISSION**, known as Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (**CPCN**)
- Counsel advised the board to organize a campaign to press the state to pass Senate Bill 2025-03
- June 11, 2025 our attorney notified the PSC with a Request to Intervene and notice of appearance for Town of Rome



Town of Rome Is Pushing Back

- Attorney H. Stanley Riffle is representing Rome
- See letter dated February 3, 2025 on Rome's website

<https://cdn.townweb.com/romewi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Municipal-Law-letter-2-3-25.pdf>

**BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN**

Application of Akron Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a Solar Electric Generation Facility Capable of Generating Up to 200 MW, a Collector Substation, a Generation Tie Line, and a Battery Energy Storage System in the Town of Rome in Adams County and the Town of Saratoga in Wood County, Wisconsin

Docket No: 9832-CE-100

**REQUEST TO INTERVENE AND NOTICE OF APPEARANCE FOR
THE TOWN OF ROME, ADAMS COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44 and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.21, the Town of Rome hereby requests to intervene with full-party status in the above captioned-docket now pending before the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission). This proceeding considers Akron Solar, LLC's (Akron Solar) Application for a certification of public convenience and necessity.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the law firm of Municipal Law and Litigation Group, by H. Stanley Riffle appears for the Town of Rome in this docket. Please serve copies of all documents filed in this action on Attorney Riffle.

Dated this 11th day of June 2025.

MUNICIPAL LAW & LITIGATION GROUP, S.C.

Electronically signed by H. Stanley Riffle

H. Stanley Riffle
State Bar #1012704



Getting Much Needed Help

Wisconsin Republicans introduce bill to start community solar program, localize permitting

By Kelsey Misbrener | September 15, 2025



On Sept. 15, Wisconsin State Senator Pat Testin (R-Stevens Point) and State Representative Scott Krug (R-Rome) — joined by JD Smith, head of business development for Arch Electric and Rick Beyers, a local landowner and community solar advocate — introduced legislation to enable a community solar program in Wisconsin.



A community solar project by New Energy Equity.

According to [WSAU](#), this is the third session the bill has been around, but sponsors believe they have a strong coalition to pass it this time.

Currently, the power to approve or decline most energy projects rests with the state's Public Service Commission (PSC). This top-down approach deprives voters control over development in their local community. Community solar returns power to the people by giving local municipalities and towns control over siting and approval for solar projects in their jurisdictions.

- Pat Testin and Scott Krug are working to pass legislation to give local communities the ability to approve projects like this
- Under the proposed bill, PSC may not issue a CPCN or CA for a solar project or wind project unless each city, village, and town in which the project is proposed to be located has adopted a resolution approving the project.

[Wisconsin Republicans introduce bill to start community solar program, localize permitting](#)



Other Ideas Currently Under Investigation

- The proposed land is currently enrolled in MFL. It is unlawful to build on MFL land without changing its designation.
 - Changing this to commercial will require a 10 year payback of real estate taxes by the landowner
 - This could result in millions of dollars in back taxes
- Work with UW system to identify any endangered species
- Zoning ordinance changes could potentially provide for a minimum buffer or setback
- Banning heavy equipment from Rome owned roads might prove useful
- Requiring a sizeable investment in Rome and surrounding communities fire fighting capabilities



Where Are We Now?

There are various stages of scrutiny a solar project must undergo through the PSC approval process:

- Public information meetings organized by the applicant ✓
- Formal application ✓
- Public notification ✓
- PSC scoping meetings ✓
- Environmental review ✓
- **Hearings (2 sessions scheduled December 3rd, 2025 at 2 and 6 pm)**
- Decision



The Actual Application

Akron Solar Project

[< Highlighted Cases](#)



Town of Rome, Adams
County, and Town of
Saratoga, Wood County,
Wisconsin

Docket ID: 9832-CE-100

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[View and Download Project Map](#)

Jump to Section:

[Interactive Map](#)

[Application Summary](#)

[Application Documents](#)


[Case Contacts](#)

[Public Participation](#)

- The Application is posted on Rome's website with **many links to pertinent documents**




How Can We Get Involved?

- Town Board Meetings have continually discussed the Solar Farm
 - ❖ Attend and make your voice heard
- Educate yourself on solar farms. Go to the Town of Rome website and click on 
- At the July 24th Town Meeting, Town Chairman Carl Hasdal asked for volunteers to start an Ad Hoc Committee for the express purpose of finding ways to push back. The Committee was formed and met the first time on July 30th.
- Discussions and action items have been planned and debated at many meetings resulting in an action item list that was presented to the Town Board for approval and resourcing



How Can We

WISCONSIN.GOV

Public Service Commission of WISCONSIN

About PSC

Public Participation

Participate in a Case

All cases provide opportunities to participate in the type of case.

The easiest way to participate in a case is to contact the organization that is sponsoring the case. You can find the organization by the name of the case or by the name of the sponsor. You can either contact the organization by phone or submit a request online.

Gov - Assistance Request

8/25/2025 12:14:52 PM

Introduction

Request assistance from the Governor's Office

Request

First name: Carl

Middle name (Optional):

Last name: Hasdal

Phone: (612) 751-4779

Email: hasdal@romewi.gov

Address

Address Line 1: 1156 Alpine Drive

Address Line 2:

City: Nekoosa





State: Wisconsin

Zip: 54457


Affiliation (Optional): Rome Town Board Chairman

How can the Office of Governor Evers help you? : The Town of Rome is scheduled to receive a 2,000-acre solar farm depending on the direction of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. The outcry has been deafening but it appears the PSC does not take into consideration the destruction this will cause the town to endure. We are a travel and tourist destination with our 3 wonderful lakes; and we are adjacent to Lake Petenwell. Rome is the home of the world-famous Sand Valley Golf club, the Wisconsin Trapshooters Association, the largest ATV/UTV park in Wisconsin and is home to several outdoor clubs that will be permanently affected. Clear cutting 2,000 acres of timber land will close snowmobile and ATV trails as well as stop all hunting and nature walks. These 2,000 acres are currently listed as MFL properties which allow public access that will be shut down for 30 years or more. As this is just over 5% of the land in Rome, the harm to wildlife will be extensive. We also know that there are several endangered species both animal and plant life in our area and fear there will be Irreparable damage to their population. This solar farm will be located on the North side of Rome and will be an eyesore to any traveler coming south on State Highway 13 as it will be abutting up on both sides of the highway. They have assured us there will be buffers but we have nothing in writing and note the lack of buffers at the solar farm just north of us in Saratoga. Please understand most of us are not against solar farms, we just cannot imagine the need for this many farms in Wisconsin where we are considered about 41st in state rankings

ed)

News & Events



their interest in the issues and the

Case
that
a case as an
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become a
ven qualify for
while



AD Hoc Committee Recommendations

- Conduct a mass information campaign to ensure resident and land owners are informed
 - Petition ✓
 - Yard signs ✓
 - E-letter ✓
 - Direct mail post cards ✓
 - Banners at all main entrance roads to Rome ✓
 - Media Blitz ✓
 - Saturday meeting for residents ✓
- Lobby the PSC in Madison (potential for bus trip)
- Reach out to other Towns in Wisconsin that have or already are going through this ✓
- Conduct a letter writing campaign to politicians
 - Post letters on Town Website for interested individuals to download and send
- Legal maneuvers - e.g., zoning ordinances, road use restrictions, etc.



