

# Garnet Energy Center, LLC

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[GarnetEnergyCenter.com](http://GarnetEnergyCenter.com)

700 Universe Boulevard  
Juno Beach, FL 33408

Garnet Energy Center, LLC, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, is proposing to build a 200-megawatt solar project with 20 megawatts of energy storage in the town of Conquest in Cayuga County.

NextEra Energy Resources is an American leader in solar energy. We've been in the renewable energy business since 1989 and since then, have developed renewable energy projects in 37 states across the country.

We have a long history of forging strong partnerships with the communities where we build our projects. We meet with local officials, civic associations, environmental groups and other community organizations to ensure we build a project the community can be proud of.

We planned to hold public meetings where you can ask questions and hear the answers directly from our subject-matter experts, and we would still like to hold this open house at a later date, if conditions allow. However, during this time while we're taking precautions and practicing social distancing, we still wanted to share some details of the project with the local community. On the following pages you will find important information about the Garnet Energy Center, as well as answers to questions we frequently receive.

Additionally, you can learn more about the project by visiting us at [www.garnetenergycenter.com](http://www.garnetenergycenter.com). We invite you to share any thoughts you may have and let us know if you have questions about the project by emailing us at [info@garnetenergycenter.com](mailto:info@garnetenergycenter.com) or calling (800) 674-0851.

Answers to questions we receive will be posted on the project website and the New York State Department of Public Service Project website under Case 20-F-0043.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kris Scornavacca'.

Kris Scornavacca  
Project Director  
NextEra Energy Resources, LLC

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## Project Overview

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

Proposed by a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, the Garnet Energy Center is a 200-megawatt solar project with 20 megawatts of energy storage to be located in the town of Conquest in Cayuga County.

The project will interconnect with the existing electrical transmission system and is expected to begin commercial operation in late 2023.

#### Economic Benefits

- Garnet Energy Center is expected to deliver new jobs, taxes and economic development to Cayuga County.
- The project is expected to create over 250 construction jobs.
- It will support the local economy through the purchase of regional goods and services.
- It will help to ease the property tax burden by providing additional revenue to local schools and local governments.
- It will be supported by two to four local permanent employees, and local contractors that can provide additional maintenance services.

## Project Overview

### ABOUT NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES

#### A Leader in Clean Energy

The project's sponsor, NextEra Energy Resources, is the world's largest generator of renewable energy from the wind and the sun with more than 21,000 megawatts of generating capacity primarily in 37 states and Canada as of year-end 2019. NextEra Energy was named to Fortune's 2019 list of the "World's Most Admired Companies" and was also recognized among the top 25 companies worldwide, across all industries, for innovation and social responsibility.

### BENEFITS OF SOLAR ENERGY

The Garnet Energy Center is expected to position Cayuga County as a leader in renewable energy and help New York meet its renewable energy goals.

#### Environmental Compatibility

- Solar energy creates no greenhouse gases or other air pollutants.
- Uses no water resource to generate electricity.
- Creates no waste by-products when generating electricity.
- Does not create any hazardous material clean-up concerns at the end of a project's productive life.
- Will use safe solar panel technology that does not impact ground water. Furthermore, the project will not use pesticides or fertilizers.

## Project Overview

### Local and State Leadership

- > The Garnet Energy Center will help New York meet its renewable energy goals while creating lasting benefits for the town of Conquest, Cato-Meridian School District, Port Byron School District and Cayuga County.
- > Under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, New York State has a statutory target to produce 70 percent of its total power from renewable sources by 2030, and projects like this will help meet that need.
- > Generation serving New York State electrical demand is targeted to have zero emissions by 2040.
- > This new source of clean, renewable power produces no air or water pollution and is also in line with the state's Energy Plan, Clean Energy Standard and Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiatives, which are fostering new opportunities for renewable power that will help New York transform its energy-generation system.

### STUDIES

In support of the project's permitting process, the Garnet Energy Center will conduct numerous detailed studies to ensure the project is appropriately and thoughtfully designed. In consultation with various agencies and stakeholders, the following studies will be conducted by subject matter-experts. These studies must adhere to specific guidelines established by New York State.

#### Studies include:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| > Wetlands and streams              | > Sound                                |
| > Threatened and endangered species | > Visual                               |
| > Habitat characterization          | > Socioeconomic                        |
| > Avian use                         | > Site decommissioning and restoration |
| > Archaeological resources          | > Geotechnical                         |
| > Historic architecture             | > Glare                                |

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## Project Overview

### CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

Should the Garnet Energy Center receive necessary approvals, the project will employ best-in-class construction techniques and practices.

#### Solar Arrays and Electrical Interconnection

- Solar panels are placed on racks that are installed directly into the ground.
- Groups of racks and solar panels are connected through a series of electric cables that run to collection boxes and to inverters.
- Inverters will be installed to convert the power from direct current to alternating current.
- A project substation will be constructed to increase the voltage for connection to the power grid.

#### Site Access

- The project plans to work with the state, county and town of Conquest to minimize the impact on roads and local traffic.
- Public roads will be used to transport equipment to the construction site.
- Gravel Roads will be constructed within the site.
- Equipment will be delivered by truck and trailer as needed throughout the construction phase and stored at temporary lay-down yards within the site.
- Garnet Energy Center will enter into a road use agreement so that local roadway conditions are maintained.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is the Garnet Energy Center?**

**A:** To be located on private land in the town of Conquest in Cayuga County, N.Y., the Garnet Energy Center is a proposed approximately 200-megawatt solar energy generating facility with 20 megawatts of energy storage. The project is proposed by a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC.

**Q: What is NextEra Energy Resources?**

**A:** NextEra Energy Resources, LLC is a clean energy leader and is one of the largest wholesale generators of electric power in the U.S., with approximately 21,000 megawatts of generating capacity, primarily in 37 states and Canada as of year-end 2019. NextEra Energy Resources, together with its affiliated entities, is the world's largest generator of renewable energy from the wind and sun and a world leader in energy storage.

**Q: How is this project going to benefit me?**

**A:** A solar project brings numerous economic benefits to a community, including the potential for millions of dollars in additional tax revenue (or payments in lieu of taxes) which can be used to enhance schools, roads and essential services—improving both the quality of life and overall value of the community. The project will deliver these economic benefits without making additional demands or having an impact on community services.

**Q: How tall are the panels?**

**A:** The panel arrays would stand approximately 10–13 feet above ground level at the highest point.

**Q: Will the project area be fenced?**

**A:** The project's solar arrays and collection substation will be enclosed by a fence.

**Q: Do solar energy projects make noise?**

**A:** During the short construction period, noise at the project area would be typical of construction sites. Once the project is in service, solar panels operate quietly.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Can the equipment be damaged by weather?**

**A:** The support systems for the solar arrays are designed to withstand the typical wind and snow conditions present in this area. PV panel manufacturers have tested and rated their equipment to withstand the impact of hailstones up to a certain size. Any panels that are damaged by hail or other debris can be individually replaced without taking the entire project out of service.

In the case of severe weather or natural disaster, if panels are damaged, trained facility personnel will safely collect, recycle where feasible and/or properly dispose of them.

**Q: Would the panels have glare?**

**A:** Solar panels are constructed with nonreflective coatings and/or glass. These panels are designed specifically to absorb as much sunlight as possible in order to maximize electrical generation, rather than reflect sunlight. Further, the metal supports that form the racking system are typically constructed using galvanized steel or aluminum. Through design and intelligent siting, glint and glare can be eliminated or kept to a minimum. This will be assessed in the project's permitting process.

**Q: Are the solar panels the project plans to use safe?**

**A:** Yes. People have been safely living and working around solar panels for decades. Solar panels create no greenhouse gases or other air pollutants. They use no water resources to generate electricity and they create no waste byproducts. Panels are made of solid materials and do not pose a chemical hazard to the general public, underlying soil or groundwater.

**Q: How is the project being approved?**

**A:** Permitting and approval are currently overseen by the comprehensive New York State Article 10 process.

**Q: What is Article 10?**

**A:** The Power NY Act of 2011 established a process for the siting of electric generating facilities and repowering projects. As part of the process, a multiagency Siting Board is charged with conducting the permitting process for facilities of 25 megawatts or greater. The Power NY Act also encourages investments in clean plants and affords communities more opportunities to participate in the siting process. For more information on Article 10 visit <https://on.ny.gov/3927IID>.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What happens to the project once it has reached the end of its useful life?**

**A:** The anticipated life of this project is 30 years. At the end of that period the project may continue operating, be repowered or be removed through a process called decommissioning. If the solar facility is decommissioned the land would be able to return to its use prior to construction, including farmland.

As part of the project's permitting and approval process, the Garnet Energy Center is required to fully fund decommissioning efforts prior to construction. These funds are set aside to remove the project and restore the land to its original condition. Furthermore, the project plans to abide by NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets guidelines for solar installation requiring the land's potential to return to agricultural use after decommissioning.

**Q: Who will pay for the removal of the system?**

**A:** As part of the Article 10 requirements, Garnet Energy Center is required to file a decommissioning plan, which will include an obligation to provide financial security for the eventual removal of the system at the end of its life. The project is obligated to return the land to substantially the same as it was before the solar project.

**Q: Will the project have an impact on ground water?**

**A:** Garnet Energy Center will use safe solar panel technology that does not impact ground water. Furthermore, the project will not use pesticides. In limited instances, the project may selectively use herbicides approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as a secondary means of vegetation control if necessary. These state-approved products are typically already used at farms or homes. Broadcast or aerial application of herbicides is not proposed.

**Q: Will this project have an energy storage system?**

**A:** The Garnet Energy Center project is proposed to have a generating capacity of approximately 200 MW of power, with 20 MW of energy storage.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: How does an energy storage system work with solar?**

**A:** The energy storage system will be designed and constructed to work with the solar facility throughout the 30-year initial life of the project. Energy storage holds excess electrical generation that is produced during the day and redistributes it to the grid at times when the generation is low, such as at night.

**Q: Do energy storage system containers have fire detection systems?**

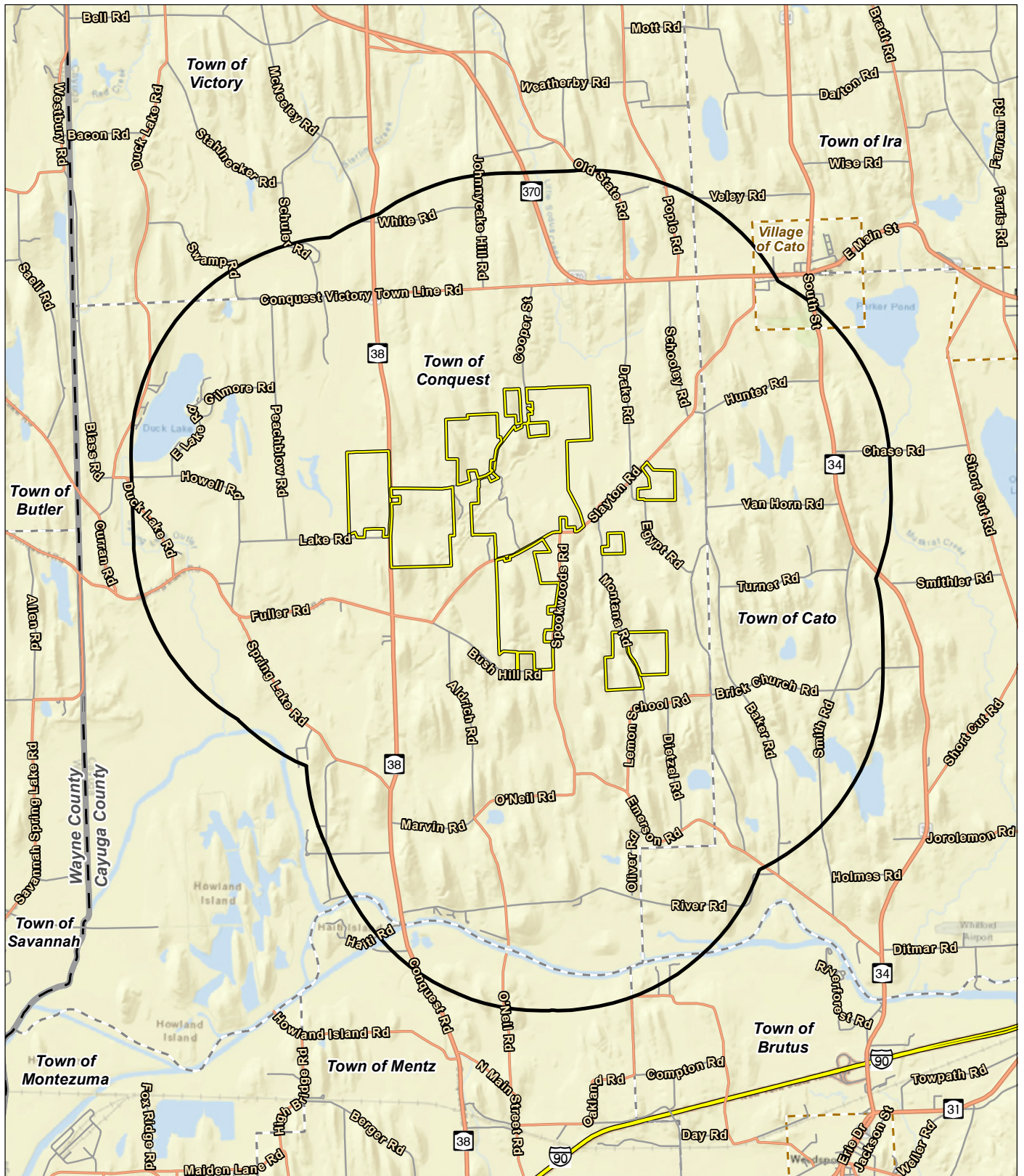
**A:** NextEra Energy Resources uses fire detection and suppression systems in all its battery containers, which minimizes the risk of fire. Those systems often include chemicals inside the storage container that would be released when a fire is detected to help suppress the fire. Each storage facility is equipped with its own air conditioning or cooling system to ensure it operates within a prescribed temperature range. NextEra Energy Resources storage facilities also employ software controls to shut down battery cells in the event excess heat is detected. An off-site, 24-hour control room with trained technicians also constantly monitors each site and can remotely shut down the facility, if needed.

**Q: Will first responders be trained on how to deal with energy storage systems?**

**A:** Yes, NextEra will conduct such training prior to the commencement of commercial operation of the project. We will also conduct regular meetings and training sessions at the site with local first responders to ensure they're prepared to respond to an unexpected incident.

**Q: Where can I go to learn more?**

**A:** To learn more about the project or to sign up to be a stakeholder, please visit [www.garnetenergycenter.com](http://www.garnetenergycenter.com), call (800) 674-0851 or email [info@garnetenergycenter.com](mailto:info@garnetenergycenter.com).



- Project Area
- Two-Mile Study Area
- Village Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary

The Project Area is comprised of the locations being evaluated for placement of permanent Project facilities, including the proposed collection substation, energy storage, and electrical interconnection facilities. The Study Area encompasses areas within at least two miles of the property lines of the Project Area but will not include Project facilities.

N

0 0.5 1  
Miles

Base Map: Esri Street Map

#### MAP LOCATION



#### STUDY AREA GARNET ENERGY CENTER, LLC TOWN OF CONQUEST CAYUGA COUNTY, NY

FIGURE 3

AUGUST 2020

Map Produced by TRC



August 17, 2020

Honorable Michelle L. Phillips  
Secretary  
New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment  
Empire State Plaza  
Agency Building 3  
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Re: Case 20-F-0043  
Garnet Energy Center, LLC  
Garnet Energy Center 200-Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic Generation Project with Energy Storage  
Town of Conquest, Cayuga County, New York

Dear Secretary Phillips:

This letter serves to supplement the Public Involvement Program (PIP) Plan filed in the above-captioned proceeding on January 28, 2020. The PIP provided, inter alia, that two open house events, one during the day and one in the evening, on the same day, would be held before the Preliminary Scoping Statement was filed. Considering the concerns about public gatherings expressed by the Governor to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not currently possible to hold these open houses prior to the filing of the Preliminary Scoping Statement as the Applicant had intended to do so. Accordingly, after discussing the matter with the Department of Public Service, the Applicant will postpone holding the open house events, and, accordingly, they will be rescheduled to a date when the applicable public health concerns have eased and exposure risks have sufficiently abated.

To solicit further input from the public at this time, the Applicant will send updated project information materials, by US mail and/or email, depending on contact information availability and the Stakeholders' previously indicated preference, to property owners within the Project's two-mile Study Area and the Project Stakeholder List. The materials will contain a copy of this letter together with an updated fact sheet and Project map. The public will be invited to submit comments within a 14-day period, via either the Project's toll-free number or the Project's email address. After the conclusion of the comment period, the Applicant will post on the Project's website and on the DPS DMM website for the Project, the relevant comments received and the Applicant's responses to them. Commenters will not be identified in this document. The materials will inform the public that they may view the comments and responses on these two websites. The response document will also be sent to the public document repositories indicated in the PIP Plan.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Garnet Energy Center, LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William J. Boer".

William J. Boer, PP, AICP  
Project Manager Environmental Services

NextEra Energy Resources, LLC

700 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, FL 33408