

March 22, 2022

RE: Wautoma Solar Project – Meeting Request

Benton County Commissioners

Sent Via Email at: will.mckay@co.benton.wa.us; jerome.delvin@co.benton.wa.us;
shon.small@co.benton.wa.us; commissioners@co.benton.wa.us

Dear Commissioners Delvin, Small, and McKay,

On behalf of Innergex, I'm writing to request a meeting to discuss our proposed Wautoma Solar Project, located on private land located in the northwestern portion of Benton County (south of Highway 24 and east of State Highway 241/Hanford Road). I've attached a handout to better highlight the project details. Information is also available at www.wautomasolar.com.

Our team will be in the area next week and we're available to meet during the morning or early afternoon of Tuesday, March 29th, or the morning of Wednesday March 30th. **Are you available to meet during those times? Alternatively, we could arrange a phone call or video conference at another time. Please let me know what works best for you.**

I would also like to inform you of two upcoming meetings:

- The first is an in-person meeting on March 29th at 4:30pm with landowners who directly surround the proposed project. Invitations were sent directly to residents via mail.
- The second is a virtual open house that will be held on April 11th at 7pm. Notices will be published broadly via local media channels.

I look forward to meeting with you, sharing information about the project, and hearing your feedback. We are excited about this project and believe it would bring significant benefits to the people of Benton County.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

Thank you,
Ellen



Renewable Energy.
Sustainable Development.

March 10, 2022

REFERENCE: Proposed Wautoma Solar Energy Facility – Meeting with local landowners/residents

Dear Neighbor,

I hope this letter finds you well. Innergex Renewable Energy USA, has been working on a proposed solar project, the Wautoma Solar Energy Facility, in the Wautoma Valley area. The project is still in the early stages of development, and we expect there will be changes to the project size and configuration as we learn more about environmental, technical, and community needs.

We are inviting surrounding landowners and neighbors who are closest to the proposed project site to join us for dinner at the Silver Dollar Café on March 29th to share information about the project and to hear your feedback. We are also available to schedule a phone call with you at your convenience if you prefer.

It is important to us to discuss the project with those who are geographically closest to the proposed project first so that your questions and concerns can be factored into how we move forward. We plan to have additional meetings and discussions with the rest of the community, including a virtual public meeting in April. All community members are also welcomed to reach out to us at any time and we encourage you to share our contact details with your interested neighbors and friends.

Enclosed is our project fact sheet, including a map of the project area under consideration.

We look forward to speaking with you about this project. In the interim, please feel free to contact me at ebird@innnergex.com or 778-689-6023 or Ian McManness, Development Associate, at imcmanness@innnergex.com or 717-598-5373.

Sincerely,

Ellen Bird
Manager, Community and Government Relations

INVITATION

Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Time: 4:30 – 6:30 pm
(Presentation starts at 5pm)

Location: Silver Dollar Café
30501 WA-24, Sunnyside, WA 98944

Food and beverages will be provided.

Please RSVP to ebird@innnergex.com



Renewable Energy.
Sustainable Development.

August 1, 2022

REFERENCE: Proposed Wautoma Solar Energy Facility – Project Update

Greetings Neighbor,

As you may know, Innergex Renewable Energy USA, has been working on developing a proposed solar project, the Wautoma Solar Energy Facility, in the Wautoma Valley area. This letter is meant to provide you with project information and a brief project update.

Innergex has previously sent out letters to members of the community notifying them of the project in August 2021 and inviting them to a community meeting at the Silver Dollar Cafe in March 2022. We recognize that there were some errors in our mailing list and not everyone received a letter. We apologize for this oversight and have made efforts to correct this going forward. Thank you for your understanding.

To ensure everyone has access to project information, I've attached some additional information about the project and would also like to direct you to www.WautomaSolar.com where you can find project information as well as a link to view a virtual public meeting hosted in April.

As a project update, Innergex submitted an application for the project to the State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) in May. Part of this EFSEC process will include a public information meeting and land-use consistency hearing which is set to occur on August 8th. Our team will be there at 5pm to discuss the project with attendees and the formal meeting will begin at 5:30pm. This meeting will be held in person at the Columbia Basin College in the Gjerde Center Building AND virtually. More information can be found on the EFSEC website as well as on www.wautomasolar.com.

The Wautoma Solar Project is still in the early stages of development, and we expect there will be changes to the project as we learn more about environmental, technical, and community needs. Innergex's business model is generally to not just be the project developer, but also the long-term owner/operator for the project. As such, we have a vested interest in ensuring we build a sustainable project and are a good neighbor.

We also promised to follow up on some topics from our community meeting:

- **Emergency response:** We understand that the community has ongoing concerns about fires in the region – especially given that this area doesn't fall within a specific fire district. An emergency response plan will be developed for this project in coordination with local emergency responders such as the Emergency Management Division, Sherriff, Fire Marshall, and DNR Wildland Fire Management Division. We believe that this project has the potential to lower current fire risks in the area. The project design will include fire breaks and vegetation management and we are actively looking into opportunities to have additional water sources and access to trained responders. We'll keep you updated as this develops.

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- **Reflectivity:** Photovoltaic (PV) modules use non-reflective glass and are designed to absorb rather than reflect the light that hits the panels. PV modules are generally less reflective than windows and there are many instances of solar installations at major airports which would not be possible if the panels were too reflective. One of the many studies required as part of permitting includes a glint and glare study and will assess visual impacts to neighbors.
- **Heat Absorption:** We had a question regarding whether this project will cause its surrounding environment to heat up. The short answer is no, it will not. In fact, bare dirt or most any other natural surface will produce a hotter environment, on balance, than the solar project.
- **Community benefits:** The project will be making significant contributions into the local economy through sales tax, property tax payments, community contribution program, and local employment, procurement, and services. For example, a 400 MW project is expected to contribute \$3-4M in the 1st year of operation, benefiting schools, the Port of Benton, roads, county services, etc.

Please feel free to contact me at ebird@innergex.com or 778-689-6023 or Ian McManness, Development Associate, at imcmanness@innergex.com or 717-598-5373 at any point to learn more about the project or to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,



Ellen Bird
Manager, Community and Government Relations



Wautoma Solar Energy Project

Innergex Renewable Energy USA is in the early stages of developing a solar panel energy facility in the Wautoma Valley, located in Benton County, Washington. We are currently targeting a project that will generate approximately 400 megawatts (MWac) of electricity, with a four-hour battery energy storage system (BESS) as an option.

The proposed project will consist of a solar field with arrays of photovoltaic (PV) panels that will be neatly arranged in rows. Other equipment on site would include inverters, battery energy storage system, the project substation, underground and overhead electrical cables, and operations and maintenance buildings. While we are studying more than 3,500 acres, we anticipate the project, as currently contemplated, to occupy about 3,000 acres.

The project is in the early stages of development and changes to the project size and configuration are anticipated in consideration of environmental, technical, and community engagement input. We have completed major environmental surveys for the proposed facility and are facilitating studies to secure interconnection and transmission service with the Bonneville Power Administration.

At this stage in the development process, we are beginning to engage with surrounding landowners and local stakeholders to share information about the proposed facility and gain valuable insight and input from those who are most familiar with Benton County.

Local Benefits

Over the life of the project, Wautoma Solar will make major direct and indirect contributions to the local community. Landowners participating in the project will receive direct compensation in the form of long-term land lease payments. Furthermore, the project will also pay property tax to Benton County which will increase their tax base revenues and benefit surrounding landowners.

For context, the property taxes generated by a 400 MWac solar project are anticipated to contribute about \$3 to 4 million dollars to Benton County in the first year of commercial operation and declining in subsequent years according to the County's schedule.

FAQ

WHY IS THIS PROJECT BEING PROPOSED NOW?

There is growing demand for renewable energy in Washington from both corporations and electric utilities and the regional power market pricing supports the construction of this new capacity. Significant advances in solar PV technology over the last 10 years leading to decreases in solar energy equipment pricing have made solar energy project development in Washington more viable.

WHAT WILL THE PROPOSED PROJECT ACCOMPLISH?

When operational, the Wautoma Solar Energy Project will be a quiet renewable energy facility with limited visual impact and will be a major source of clean power in the region.

WHY USE THIS AREA FOR A RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT?

The area is ideal because it has a good solar resource, available transmission capacity on the electrical grid and flat open ground.

Funding

Innergex Renewable Energy USA will be responsible for 100% of the development, financing, construction, and start-up costs. After completion, Innergex will also be responsible for all operational and maintenance costs, as well as all decommissioning costs.

About Innergex

At Innergex Renewable Energy Inc., we believe in sustainable development that balances People, our Planet and Prosperity. We develop, construct, acquire, own and operate hydroelectric, wind, solar and energy storage facilities that we own for the long term. We pride ourselves in being a good community partner and neighbor. Founded in 1990 and headquartered in Canada, Innergex is a global leader with operations in the United States, Canada, Chile and France. For over 15 years, Innergex has worked in the U.S. and is currently active in a dozen states. Our main office is in San Diego, CA with regional development offices in HI, MA, TX.