

**APPENDIX II**  
**DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **Project Description – Shugart Solar Project**

The site is comprised of parcels and easements totaling approximately 540-acres located generally along Shugart Valley Place in La Plata, Charles County, Maryland. The terrain of the project site consists of rolling land with gentle to steep slopes, and it is within the Nanjemoy River drainage basin. The study area can generally be described as wooded with a few existing residences and cleared areas.

The purpose of the proposed project is the construction of a solar power generating facility, access roads, security fencing, screening landscaping, and utilities necessary to serve the proposed usage.

The boundaries of jurisdictional wetlands and other Waters of the U.S. within the limits of the proposed project were delineated by ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC (ECS). MDE asserted their jurisdiction over the wetlands and Waters in September 2017. The letter from the MDE is included with this permit application.

A set of Overall Site Maps/Impact Plates, prepared by DBF, Inc., have been included in Appendices V and VI and depict the proposed site plan and jurisdictional wetlands, associated buffers, and streams. Based on the proposed site plan provided by the civil engineer, 62 linear feet of stream and 4,550-square feet of non-tidal wetlands will be impacted for access road crossings and clearing for a utility easement. The proposed utility easement impacts are associated with conversion of forested wetlands to emergent wetlands through tree removal (no grading) in order to allow for the construction of the overhead utility lines. Impacts to streams and non-tidal wetlands have been minimized through careful site layout and placing the proposed solar arrays outside of jurisdictional areas, thereby completely avoiding impacts from the arrays themselves. The unavoidable impacts to jurisdictional Waters and their buffers are necessary in order to accomplish the project goals as access roads for solar panel maintenance and emergency access are needed, as well as connection to existing utility lines, and all proposed impacts are associated with these roads and the utility connection.

### **Practicable Alternatives**

There are no practicable onsite alternatives to the proposed impacts. In order for the project purpose to be practicably achieved, the streams and wetlands must be impacted in these select areas to allow for the access road crossing and utility connection/easement. Additionally, because no fill will be located in wetlands and the amount of fill located in streams has been limited to the minimum necessary to accomplish these requirements, there is no practicable alternative that will allow for the project to meet its purpose and need with less adverse effects on streams, wetlands, and the aquatic community than the proposed project.

### **Avoidance and Minimization**

The Applicant, land planners and engineers have avoided and minimized impacts on the site to the maximum extent practicable. The layout of the proposed solar farm was placed in the only location feasible to suit the proposed usage and has minimized impacts to wooded streams and wetlands through avoidance and the use of existing crossings where practicable.

Due to the location and extent of the streams and wetlands onsite, the permanent impacts to the 62 linear feet of stream and conversion impacts to 4,550-square feet of non-tidal wetlands proposed in this application are unavoidable. We believe that further avoidance and minimization is not practicable and that the proposed project is the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA). Additional information regarding avoidance and minimization of impacts is provided in Appendix III.