ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN PARTNERSHIP, LLP.
Shaping the physical environment

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April 06, 2026

Ms. Corrie Magee (Corrie.Magee@apa.ny.gov)
Environmental Program Specialist 2

Sent Via Email Only

Adirondack Park Agency
PO Box 99
1133 NYS Route 86
Ray Brook NY 12977

Regarding: Maple Ridge Renewables, LLC c/o Nexamp Solar, Inc.
APA Project Number 2025-0223 Public comments

Dear Ms. Magee:

The Environmental Design Partnership, LLP (EDP) represents the Applicant, Maple Ridge Renewables, LLC c/o Nexamp Solar Inc., in the pursuit of the necessary approvals for the Maple Ridge Solar project. EDP has reviewed comments received by the APA during the public comment period. Most, if not all, of the comments relate to issues that were discussed during the APA review process. The Preapplication was submitted to the APA in April 2025, and The Application for Commercial Solar Generation Facility was sent to the APA on 9/17/25. Over the course of the next several months, The Applicant received three (3) Notices of incomplete application Letters from the APA detailing the concerns and questions from the APA .As a result ,the Site Plan was revised and site-specific special studies were commissioned to address comments of the APA and public to ensure Project impacts were adequately mitigated. Simultaneously a site plan application was submitted to the Town of Ellenburg to commence site plan review by the Town Board.

The site-specific special studies prepared for the Project included numerous visual impact studies, a noise analysis, glare analysis, viewshed analysis, ecological communities map, forest clearing/carbon analysis, carbon calculator and forest inventory report.

We offer the following additional information related to the public comments received by the APA:

Wildlife and Forest habitat

EDP and APA staff biologists have completed requisite environmental review of the proposed project area. These reviews consisted of in-house evaluations for known/documented occurrences of rare species/habitats, regulated aquatic resources, and overall general ecology; consultation with state and federal regulatory agencies; and on-site field evaluations to document existing conditions. During the in-house and on-site reviews, no environmentally sensitive habitats or otherwise rare species were observed within the project area.

The project area is comprised of a mixture of fallow, early successional upland, mowed lawn, mixed northern hardwood forest, and palustrine wetland. The majority of these areas have been subjected to historic and on-going logging and maple syrup production activities that are undertaken by the

current landowner. In addition, an existing road bisects the property. As a result, the prior usage of the property has not resulted in the establishment of a pristine, unfragmented, mature forested habitat. Instead, the project area is consistent with anthropogenically manipulated landscapes common in the geographic region.

While certain species of indigenous wildlife present will likely be displaced by the proposed project, current populations will not be detrimentally affected, nor will individuals be specifically precluded from being able to safely and adequately navigate the adjacent, undeveloped components of the property. While perimeter fencing is proposed to encompass the panel array, the fencing will be installed so that there is 6-8" gap at the bottom of the fence that will promote adequate passage by small mammals and amphibian/reptiles. Avian species will be able to fly over and around the fence and solar panels. In addition, larger fauna, such as white-tailed deer, will be able to easily traverse around the fenced area, through the contiguous forest that is adjacent to the project area, and which shall remain undisturbed and available for use.

Based on the site development plan, approximately 15± acres of forested habitat will be cleared in conjunction with the project. At the request of the APA, a forest carbon study was completed to document the effect of this clearing on the overall carbon sequestration and storage capacity of the surrounding landscape. Despite the removal of trees, the carbon study documented that the project area has a relatively low storage and sequestration capacity when compared with adjacent, semi-mature forest stands. This can be attributed to the relatively young-aged class and structure present, as a result of prior logging activities that have been undertaken.

The project area is bordered by thousands of acres of contiguous forested habitat that is managed as part of a conservation easement by the current property owner. Therefore, it is believed that the conversion of 15± acres of young, successional forested land will not have any significant lasting effect upon the overall carbon storage and CO2 sequestration rate of the forested communities in the surrounding landscape, or any significant adverse effect upon the indigenous species of fauna present.

The project has also been designed in a manner to completely avoid any of the regulated aquatic resources that were documented on the subject property. By doing so, wetland/stream disturbance permits have been deemed not required. Consequently, potential impact to aquatic fauna (amphibians) and any perennial sources of available drinking water for indigenous wildlife has been minimized.

Water Quality /Stormwater Management

The proposed project has been designed such that it is eligible for coverage under the New York

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State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity. As such, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) has been developed for the project. The SWPPP and associated stormwater design complies with standard practices of the New York Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control (November 2016 version) and designed in accordance with the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual (July 31, 2024, version). Silt fence is proposed to encapsulate the site to ensure sediment laden runoff does not flow off-site during rainfall events. Additionally, the site will be inspected weekly during construction per NYSDEC guidelines. Sheet flow will be maintained on the site by the utilization of overland flow dispersion devices within the solar array area, a gravel diaphragm adjacent to the impervious access road, and a flow diffuser at the end of the overflow swale for the stormwater detention area.

Noise

A Solar Farm Noise Analysis Report was prepared on 8/27/25 and submitted to the APA and Town of Ellenburg. The conclusion of this report states "Noise generated from the central electrical equipment during operation of the solar farm will not exceed ambient background levels at receptors surrounding the site. It should also be noted that the electrical equipment only generates noise during daylight hours when the solar field is producing electricity."

Sincerely,

Melissa Aucompaugh
Project Manager

cc: Fred Ball

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