

One South Wacker Drive | Suite 1500 | Chicago, Illinois 60606 T 312-224-1400 | F 312-224-1444

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#### **SLOOPY SOLAR's FAQS:**

#### 1. Do solar panels leach chemicals into the ground and affect human health?

There is no evidence that operating solar panels have negative effects on human health, and they do not leach chemicals into the ground because they are in a solid state matter (*do not melt*).

- Solar panels are made of industrial strength glass, silicon, aluminum, copper, and other common materials, making them safe to touch, attach to your home or install in your neighborhood. In fact, solar panels have been installed on houses and businesses for decades.
- The racks that hold solar panels and wiring that transmit electricity are also made from common, everyday metals like aluminum, steel, and copper.
- Solar panels are made from industrial strength materials, and in the rare event that they are damaged, they stay intact. Invenergy follows safety procedures to ensure all panels are compliant with the EPA's TCLIP test, which categorizes them as non-hazardous.
  - TCLP tests are a chemical analysis process used to determine if hazardous elements are present. The TCLP test utilizes testing protocols published by the EPA and assesses if Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, Mercury, Selenium and Sliver pose a leaching threat if the material being tested were to degrade over time.

#### 2. Who is responsible for decommissioning?

Sloopy Solar will be responsible for removing the facilities once the project's life comes to an end. Sloopy Solar will also cover all costs to restore the land. A solar project is a **temporary land use** installed on private properties whose landowners decided to participate in the project. State law on electric generation facilities mandates that all developers have a decommissioning plan and post a decommissioning bond prior to any construction activities. This bond ensures funds are available to decommission a project throughout the life of the project. The bond is assessed every five years.

#### 3. Will the roads be maintained during the construction of the project?

A third-party state certified engineer will conduct a Road Condition Survey and work with the project's host County to create a Road Use and Maintenance Agreement prior to construction. This ensures all local roads and infrastructure will be well-maintained during construction and left in the same or better condition as they were prior to their use for the construction or ongoing maintenance of the project.

# 4. Are the 300ft setbacks from the project from non-participating residences' property lines or from an actual home?

The minimum setback consideration is 300 feet from a non-participating residence (300 feet = 100 yards; think of this as a football field between home structures and solar panels of the proposed project boundary). The minimum setback consideration from non-participating adjacent properties is 150 feet; this is between property lines and solar panels.



### 5. Will the solar project decrease property values?

There are multiple studies that have been conducted across the country that show that solar projects have no negative impacts on property values. Sloopy Solar is conducting a Property Values Study, and the team will share it once it's finalized.

Property values generally increase due to a combination of factors, such as market factors, economic conditions, infrastructure improvements (i.e. well-maintained roads, utility upgrades), proximity to schools and emergency services, among other factors.

In general, there are factors that are associated with a negative effect on property values, such as sound, traffic, odor, and a solar project does not produce any of these. A solar facility does not produce any discernable sound beyond the project boundary. Operating projects rarely have any visitors, and solar panels do not produce light pollution. Solar facilities do not produce odors or contain hazardous materials.

### 6. Can the project be larger than the proposed 180 MW size? Will Sloopy Solar have battery storage?

The project will not be larger than 180 MW. Sloopy Solar currently does not plan to have a battery storage component. If the community is interested, the project team is open to analyzing the feasibility of adding battery storage.

## 7. Will the solar project be noisy after it is built?

Solar projects create little to no sound. Some electric components, such as inverters, make a quiet humming sound, similar to that of a window air conditioning unit. Inverters for solar facilities are placed inside the project fence lines and should not be heard from neighboring properties.

Ohio state law on electric generation facilities mandates facilities to not exceed 40 dBA (scale used to reflect how the human ear perceives loudness) of noise. 40 dBA is around the level of noise that some of your home appliances make, such as the sound of a refrigerator humming. Neighboring properties should not be able to hear solar equipment. Sloopy Solar will submit a noise study to ensure it complies with state law.

#### 8. Will Sloopy Solar use our local water sources?

Solar panels do not require the use of water during operation. Water is only used during construction for dust mitigation and watering of trees and shrubs planted as a part of the project's landscape screening establishment. As needed, the construction team may utilize a water truck that will be monitoring the site and trailing vehicles that exit construction zones to ensure local roads are clear from dust.

#### 9. How will topsoil be protected during construction?

Prior to construction, Sloopy Solar will install a permanent seed mix to protect soil resources and provide a safe and stable ground cover for the project site during construction. As part of the permitting process with the Ohio Power Siting Board, the amount of allowable earth disturbance will be determined by the project's certificate. During construction, in areas of earth disturbance such as access to road installation and grading, topsoil will be assessed, removed and stockpiled separately from subsoils for civil work to be conducted on-site. The topsoil is stored on-site



and replaced with proper sequencing, following the completion of the necessary civil work in that area. This is considered best practice; proper soil management is a keystone of our vegetation management philosophy.

### 10. How do you address flooding and excess water runoff?

During construction, the project will be subject to a stormwater management plan. The project team will work with our dedicated vegetation management leads to create a project-specific vegetation and soil management plan, which will include planting regionally appropriate perennial vegetation under and around the solar panels to prevent surface erosion, improve stormwater controls and water infiltration rates, and promote healthy topsoil resources. The project design will avoid and is set back from identified floodplains and areas more susceptible to flooding; the project team will continue to conduct studies on this matter up until construction.

### 11. What if the facility gets impacted by an extreme weather event?

Extreme weather events are weather occurrences that are hard to predict. However, solar panels are designed to withstand severe weather, including wind events and hailstorms. Invenergy uses solar panels that are certified to withstand up to 140-mile-per-hour winds, and racking equipment is built to meet or exceed building codes. A panel shouldn't break but if it does, it is tempered glass and shatters in place, staying intact. It is the responsibility of the facility owner to repair it. Generally, the owner will do so quickly so the facility can resume operating.

As solar technology evolves, new innovations are making panels increasingly durable during severe weather events. For example, newer panels can be preemptively tilted at an angle before a storm to minimize the risk of hail damage.

We continuously monitor our solar operating facilities, and if this project comes to fruition, the Operations and Maintenance staff will be on-site, and will be notified if the panels are damaged. Damaged solar panels can be quickly replaced to ensure the project is operating at full capacity. Our projects are monitored 24 hours a day by sensors and cameras that detect problems or changes in normal operating conditions.

## 12. Will lights from the facility impact my nightly routine?

Sloopy Solar is anticipated to have i) lighting during construction, and ii) operational lighting. Neither of these lighting configurations should impact residents neighboring the project area. Lighting during construction will be necessary for some equipment operation, and these will be subject to work hours. Security lighting may be in areas around equipment, material lay-down areas and temporary construction facilities, such as trailers, that will be located within the project's footprint. Operational lighting will provide safety and site security. Entrance areas of the project will have switched, or motion activated safety and security lighting that will be downlit and not exceed local code permanent footcandle levels.

## 13. How will wildlife be affected by this project?

The project team has conducted and will continue to conduct extensive environmental studies to mitigate or avoid impacts on wildlife. We will use these study results along with guidance from wildlife agencies and other stakeholders to avoid and minimize potential impacts to the natural environment. Sloopy Solar is anticipated to have wildlife friendly fencing around the project boundary. Wildlife friendly fencing allows for safe passage of wildlife over or under fences. Wildlife friendly perimeter fencing incorporated into the construction of the project has been



demonstrated to be effective in avoiding or minimizing impacts to wildlife, while maintaining adequate facility security; it is not exhaustive and the options we use are flexible and can be mixed and matched to accommodate site specific wildlife conditions and presence. For the safety of any animal that may attempt to jump over the perimeter fencing, fences are built 7-10 ft high with smooth wire on the top to avoid snagging. Flagging is used to establish visibility.

## 14. Will there be landscape screening around the project?

The project team will have a Landscape Plan that will be included in the permit application. There are two types of screening that are anticipated: i) screening for adjacent, non-participating residences with a direct line of sight to the facility, and ii) screening to address visual impacts to the traveling public, nearby communities, sensitive institutional land uses and recreationalists.

Additionally, the project team can commit to alternative mitigation measures through a Stakeholder Agreement. If you are interested in this, please contact the project team.

## 15. Will electricity generated by Sloopy be distributed in Harmony Township?

If Sloopy Solar comes to fruition, it will inject clean electricity into the grid. PJM, the regional transmission operator, coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity over 13 states and the District of Columbia.

As the power from Sloopy travels along the power lines, it is delivered to customers with demand along the way. This means the power from Sloopy can be delivered to homes and businesses in the area. Excess power will then be delivered to other regions within PJM with energy demand.

## 16. Where can I learn more about requirements for solar projects in the state of Ohio?

To further review all rigorous requirements for electric generating facilities under state law, visit: *Chapter 4906-4, Certificate Applications for Electric Generation Facilities in the Ohio Administrative Code:* <u>https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-4906-4</u>

You can review all that is required for Sloopy Solar to come to life. The Ohio Power Siting Board updates its rules frequently to continue ensuring well-developed electric generating facilities.

Thank you for your time, Sloopy Solar Team