

ASTGU ANNUAL REPORT & WAIVER REQUEST 2024

PURPOSE

This Annual Report form is required to be completed and submitted annually for all projects with the MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER) which received qualification as an Agricultural Solar Tariff Generation Unit (ASTGU) under the SMART program. The form is provided to demonstrate conformance with the general provisions required for ASTGUs in 225 CMR 20.00; in particular pertaining to Section 20.06(1)(d) therein as well as associated ASTGU Guidelines; and specifically pertaining to annual reporting requirements.

The completed form will be reviewed by DOER and the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) to determine that the farm is in conformance with all ASTGU provisions in general under the SMART Program, although more specifically to the annual production requirements.

BASIC FARM INFORMATION

Farm Contact Person Name: Rich Bonanno ☐ Farm Owner ☒ Farm Operator

Farm Name: Pleasant Valley Gardens, LLC

Legal Structure: ☐ Sole Proprietor ☒ LLC ☐ Corporation
☐ Partnership ☐ Other _____

Mailing Address: 255 Merrimack St, Methuen, MA 01844

Street Address (if different): [Same]

Contact Phone: 978-361-5651 Contact E-mail: rbonanno@prodigy.net

Check all that apply: ☐ Solar facility owner ☐ Landowner ☐ Applicant

Current Type of ASTGU Farm Operation (Check all that apply):

☒ Vegetables ☐ Fruit ☒ Livestock ☐ Poultry ☐ Hay
☐ Nursery ☐ Other _____

Total Acreage in ASTGU Farm Production: 4.4 vegetables + 9.6 pasture (when fully operational)

Gross Annual Revenue for ASTGU Farm Production: Total \$s N/A

Are any major modifications to the farm business expected in the next 5 years? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Check all that apply.)

☐ Business Legal Structure ☐ Operation Type ☐ Expansion ☐ Diversification
☐ Retirement ☐ Sale ☐ Subdivision ☐ Other

BASIC SOLAR PROJECT INFORMATION

Solar System Company Owner: BWC Camp Brook, LLC

Solar System Company Address: 116 Huntington Ave, Suite 601, Boston, MA 02116

Solar Company Contact Person/email/tel#: Jesse Robertson-DuBois, BlueWave Energy, jrobertson@bluewave.energy (agvops@bluewave.energy), 413-450-1950

ASTGU PROJECT START-UP / HISTORY INFORMATION:

Date ASTGU Approved by DOER: Pre-Determination Application Approval: 13 January 2022

Date Solar Portion of ASTGU Project Commenced Construction: Notice to Proceed: 24 March 2023; Construction Start (Mobilization): 29 May 2023

Date Solar Portion of ASTGU Project was Completed & Operational: Permission to Operate: 28 February 2024; Incentive Start Date: 27 March 2024; Final Completion: TBD

Date Original Agricultural Portion of the ASTGU Project Commenced: Irrigation well drilled 19 April 2024 and fracked 11 July 2024 (2 gpm yield after fracking); agricultural agreement with Pleasant Valley Gardens renegotiated based on limited water availability and executed 11 October 2024; agricultural activity in east array expected to commence in 2025; Conservation Commission certificate of compliance required prior to grazing in west array, anticipated 2025 (1 year extension granted 6 October 2024)

Date Original Agricultural ASTGU Portion of Project Harvested/Sowed Products: TBD

How many complete years, that is both solar and agricultural production, has the ASTGU been in operation? None

SOLAR ARRAY DESIGN – PLEASE PROVIDE AS-BUILT SYSTEM INFORMATION

Please provide the following information regarding the solar array design:

Nameplate capacity AC (in MW): 1.594 MW (Note: 1 MW=1000 kW)

Expected annual generation AC (MWh): 3,347.436 MWh (Note: 1 MWh=1000 kWh)

Acreage of farmland over which array was installed: 15 acres (fenced acreage)

System type: ☐ Fixed ☒ Tracking ☐ Other _____

Height of lowest panel edge (in feet): 7'

Height of lowest elevated horizontal mounting (in feet): 10'

Type of mounting (mono poles, racking, etc.): Single-axis tracker (Array Technologies, Inc)

Description of materials and process to be used for ground penetration: Driven I-beam pilings with polyethylene frost sleeve

Number of panels, capacity per panel, and panel spacing: 3,575 modules at 580W capacity, mounted in rows 26'-0" on center (18'-1" edge-to-edge spacing)

If you wish to provide additional descriptive information regarding the solar array design, including any system changes since original completion, you may include this information below, or in a typed attachment labeled "Solar Array Design."

N/A

AGRICULTURAL PLAN FOR DUAL-USE AREA

Planned agricultural use, Year 1. Check all that apply.

☒ Vegetable, fruit, grains, for human consumption

☐ Hay

☒ Livestock production

☐ Poultry production

☐ Horticulture

☐ Floriculture

☐ Aquaculture

☐ Other, please describe: _____

AGRICULTURAL NARRATIVE – 2024 SEASON

Inadequate irrigation water supply from well drilled April 2024 prevented initiation of agricultural activity in the east array, and hydro-fracking of well did not produce improvement. Agricultural agreement was renegotiated to allow additional budget for irrigation and equipment modifications, and preliminary field tillage and covercropping was completed.

The anticipated grazing operation for the west array, Riverflock Farm, LLC, has exited agriculture. BWC Camp Brook began discussions with other farmers about farming in the array, including direct outreach and posting the opportunity on the NewEnglandFarmlandFinder.org website. However, the west array vegetation is still in establishment phase and grazing cannot proceed until fully established and Conservation Commission permit is closed out, anticipated spring 2025.

CROP NARRATIVE – NEXT SEASON

*Please detail the crop management planned for next season, including approximate **dates** and **equipment** used. The purpose of this form is to provide planned data for the upcoming season regarding compatible equipment usage and crop management needs. If you need additional space, please include a typed attachment labeled “Crop Narrative.”*

A revised agricultural agreement has been executed with Pleasant Valley Gardens and agricultural activity is expected to commence in April or May depending on weather.

Crop: _____

Planting Plan: _____

Soil Amendment Plan: _____

Cultivation Plan: _____

Irrigation Plan: _____

Pesticide/Herbicide Plan: _____

Harvest Plan: _____

GRAZING NARRATIVE – NEXT SEASON

*Please detail the next season animal and pasture management, including **dates** and **equipment** used. The purpose of this form is to provide planned data for the upcoming season regarding compatible equipment usage and production needs. If you need additional space, please include a typed attachment labeled “Grazing Narrative.”*

Grazing activity is expected in summer or fall 2025. Details will be available once the Conservation Commission approves grazing and plans can be made.

Type(s) of Animals Grazed: _____

Pasture Management Plan: List any anticipated seeding, soil amendment, irrigation, pesticide, mowing, etc., including approximate dates and equipment used.

Animal Management Plan:

For each type of animal grazed, describe management regarding housing/shelter, water source, fencing, movement, disease treatment, harvest, etc. that was carried out within the solar array area. Describe equipment used in these activities.

Describe any modifications to the solar array design that were made in order to reduce the risk of animal damage to the solar array, or risk of electrocution to animals.

WAIVER FOR DECREASED YIELD

i. Waiver for Decreased Yield

Due to unforeseen circumstances, such as but not limited to weather events, pests, or change in crops, the projected agricultural yield for any given year may be lower than stated in the agricultural plan or previous year's annual report. In these instances, an applicant can request a waiver to the Department for the decreased yields. The applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department, and in consultation with MDAR, that a waiver is warranted for good cause. Waiver requests must be submitted by December 1st of the applicable calendar year and sent to DOER.SMART@mass.gov.

Based on the timing of anticipated array final completion and closeout of Conservation Commission permits in early 2025, BWC Camp Brook, LLC is unable to determine from the language of the ASTGU Guideline whether a waiver is required for the 2024 agricultural year. Should a formal waiver be determined to be necessary, it is hereby requested.

ii. Failure to Report

If the ASTGU fails to submit an annual report, the Department may declare the project ineligible for the ASTGU adder for one year. If the annual report is not completed for a second year, then the Department may permanently disqualify the ASTGU from continuing to receive the ASTGU Adder for the remainder of the STGU's tariff term.