



119 Washington Avenue, Suite 108  
Albany, NY 12210  
518.432.1405  
info@aceny.org | www.aceny.org

**Homer Solar Energy Center, LLC**

**Docket No. ER23-1575**

**Comments on the Request of Homer Solar Energy Center, LLC for  
Tariff Waiver and Expedited Action**

*Submitted by The Alliance for Clean Energy New York*

*April 21, 2023*

**I. INTRODUCTION**

On April 3, 2023, Homer Solar Energy Center, LLC (“Homer”), filed a petition with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the “Commission”) requesting limited waiver of Section 30.4.4.5.1 the New York Independent System Operator’s (“NYISO”) Open Access Transmission Tariff (“OATT”). Section 30.4.4.5.1 of the OATT requires that a project achieve a commercial operation date (“COD”) within four years of the NYISO tendering a Standard Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (“LGIA”). The Alliance for Clean Energy New York (“ACE NY”) hereby submits its comments in support of Homer’s petition.

ACE NY appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of the waiver request of Homer Solar Energy Center, LLC. The State of New York has adopted statutory clean energy goals of achieving 70% renewable electricity generation by 2030 and 100% emissions free electricity generation by 2040. Achieving these mandates will be challenging and require success in the siting, financing, and interconnection of many clean electricity generation and energy storage facilities. The Homer Solar Energy Center is one such facility. The approval of its waiver request will enable the project to move through the NYISO’s interconnection process without incurring a damaging delay, and in so doing will help New York in its effort to achieve its nation-leading clean energy goals in a timely manner.

ACE NY is a member-based organization with a mission of promoting the use of clean, renewable electricity technologies and energy efficiency in New York State to increase energy diversity and security, boost economic development, improve public health, and reduce air pollution. Our diverse membership includes companies engaged in the full range of clean energy technologies, but particularly developers of grid-scale renewable energy projects in New York State.

## **II. THE COMMISSION SHOULD APPROVE THE WAIVER REQUEST**

### **a. The Project Will Help New York Fulfill its Important Clean Energy Goals**

New York has a long history of seeking to make its electric generation sector cleaner, originally driven by the desire to improve the health of its citizens and the environment, and more recently to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst effects of climate change. In 2019 New York passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). It mandates that New York’s electric generation sector achieve 70% renewable electricity generation by 2030 and 100% emissions-free electricity generation by 2040. Central to the achievement of these goals is the siting, financing, and interconnection of numerous renewable generation facilities and energy storage facilities. Unless steady progress is made in getting these facilities online and operational, New York’s clean energy goals will not be met. Each new facility that becomes operational contributes immediately to the health of New York’s citizens and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions<sup>1</sup>. These benefits are real and critical.

A significant challenge in getting clean energy facilities built is the ability to successfully complete the NYISO’s interconnection process. Many things can derail a project on its challenging path to become an operational facility, and one of them is a delay in executing its Standard Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (“SGIA”) and inability to achieve commercial operation within four years of the NYISO tendering the SGIA. Delays not only slow progress but can cause a project to fail. Absent obtaining the requested waiver of the NYISO’s four-year COD deadline, this project might be withdrawn from the NYISO queue and ultimately terminated by the developer. That costly outcome can be avoided by waiving the COD deadline and replacing it with a deadline tied to the date at which the connecting transmission owner and Homer anticipate completion of construction of the interconnection facilities.

Accordingly, the important benefits of better health of New York’s citizens and the slowing of climate change can be furthered by the approval of the requested waiver. ACE NY supports the waiver request and recommends that the Commission approve it.

### **b. Expedited Approval of the Waiver is Needed**

ACE NY supports the request that a decision on the waiver be expedited so that it can occur by May 15, 2023. Approval by that date will allow the NYISO, Homer and the connecting transmission owner to execute the SGIA by June 2023 thereby allowing engineering, procurement, and construction to proceed with projected commercial operation in early 2026.

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<sup>1</sup> The nation-leading CLCPA sets ambitious climate and clean energy targets that require all sectors of the State’s economy to collectively achieve 40% emissions reductions from 1990 levels by 2030 and 85% emissions reductions by 2050, as well as to achieve a net-zero carbon economy by 2050.

### III. CONCLUSION

As described in the above discussion, granting approval of the requested waiver will result in important climate action and clean air benefits to New York and its citizens. Moreover, the benefits of reduced greenhouse gas emissions accrue to the world's people as a whole via the resultant slowing of climate change. Further, granting the requested waiver will facilitate a more fair and accurate commercial operation date. For these reasons, ACE NY supports the waiver request and encourages the Commission to approve it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Reynolds".

Anne Reynolds  
Executive Director, Alliance for Clean Energy New York