



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How does solar work?

- a. As the sun shines onto a solar panel, the energy from the sunlight is absorbed by the photovoltaic (PV) cells. The energy absorbed by the cells creates electrical charges that move in response to an internal electrical field within the cell – allowing electricity to flow. The energy absorbed by the panel, producing direct current (DC), is then transported through underground cabling to an inverter. The inverter will convert the direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC), which will then be transmitted to a substation to supply nearby power lines with locally sourced renewable energy.

2. Where will the power generated from the project go?

- a. The power from Falling Waters Solar will be delivered into the PJM grid, helping to diversify the state's energy portfolio and increase local energy supply. Power generated by the project will be used by electrically proximate sources of demand. This means that it will serve both local demand, and may be transmitted elsewhere in the system when power is needed.

3. Are solar panels toxic?

- a. No. Falling Waters Solar will utilize photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, which are widely used in solar energy projects today. These panels are manufactured to meet rigorous safety and environmental standards. Solar panels do not pose a risk to public health or safety, and at the end of their lifespan, many components can be recycled as part of responsible decommissioning practices.

4. Will Falling Waters Solar impact wildlife?

- a. Project environmental experts have been assessing the project footprint by conducting site-specific studies to avoid and minimize potential impacts on wildlife by consulting with federal and state governments such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (WVDNR). Common wildlife in West Virginia includes mammals (deer, squirrels, mice, bats, rabbits, foxes, racoons, etc.), birds (robins, sparrows, warblers, bluejays, ducks, geese, plovers, etc.), and reptile and amphibians (toads, frogs, snakes, salamanders, turtles, lizards, and skunks), and it is expected that a similar subset of wildlife would be present within the project footprint. The project is not expected to have adverse wildlife impacts during construction or operation; minor restrictions for larger wildlife such as deer or foxes may occur due to safety fencing around the solar panels.

5. What happens to solar panels when the project is decommissioned?

- a. Falling Waters Solar will submit a detailed decommissioning plan and financial assurance to cover all decommissioning costs. At the end of the project's operating life (35 years or more), panels will be removed from the site. Because solar panel production only degrades around 0.5% annually and up to 90% of the materials used in solar panels are recyclable, it's common for solar panels to lead a new life after decommissioning, and to ultimately be recycled.





6. Do solar panels make sound?

- a. No, solar panels themselves are completely silent. Certain pieces of equipment in a solar facility, which includes inverters, transformers, and motors, do emit a small amount of sound during the day from sunrise to sunset. The impact of this sound is negligible because the equipment is strategically placed within the solar layout and is typically distant from the property lines. Transportation and maintenance equipment – including cars, trucks, lawnmowers and string trimmers – are also a common source of sound on solar farms that most people are used to hearing elsewhere. A sound study will be conducted to ensure that the project operates within applicable sound limits.

7. Are property values impacted by this facility?

- a. Studies show that large-scale solar power facilities economically benefit the community and generally do not decrease residential property resale values following proper design and visual/sound mitigation. The increase in tax revenue generated by the facility typically leads to stronger school funding, leveled taxes, the potential for better roads, stabilized funding for emergency services, and more. Additionally, solar is a quiet, safe, and environmentally friendly neighbor when compared to other more permanent types of development.

8. Will there be any light pollution from the panels?

- a. Panels do not create light and will not cause light pollution. For security purposes, there will be lighting at the project substation, however lighting will not be required within the rest of the arrayed area.

9. What type of visual mitigation will there be during the life of the Project?

- a. Falling Waters Solar will provide visual mitigation through vegetation to be planted within the buffer to screen the project from adjacent properties. Visual mitigation may consist of planting native trees, shrubs, and grasses, to obscure the view of the solar facility from the neighbors and roadsides.

10. What type of fencing will be used for this project?

- a. MN8 will incorporate “agricultural fencing”, also known as “wildlife friendly fencing”, as Falling Waters Solar perimeter fencing. This type of fencing will be constructed using wooden posts and wire mesh ‘fabric’ that contains approximately 6-inch square holes. This fencing is also permeable, allowing for the passage of small animals. Fencing around the substation will differ from the fencing around the solar array. In compliance with the National Electrical Safety Code, substations are required to have seven-foot chain link fencing for the safety of others.

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