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Last updated May 21st, 2026

What We Heard

Lower Harmony Solar Project Community Engagement

Salmon River Fire Brigade
20 April 2026
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Summary of Activities

Natural Forces Solar hosted an open-house engagement session for community members near the Lower Harmony Solar Project. Guests were invited to arrive at the event at a time that was convenient for them. Subject matter experts were available at the session to take questions and discuss the following topics: project owners, project timeline and overview, environmental studies, and a site map.

Prior to the first engagement session, informative newsletters were sent out to the community near the site. These included information about the project and an invitation to the community info session. The engagement session was well attended, with more than 20 individuals participating.

Will this project have effects on property value?

The project should have very little to no effect on property value. Having spoken to an employee of Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC, the crown corporation responsible for assessing property values in Nova Scotia), we understand that a local solar farm would only be expected to affect another property's assessed value if it has some significant impact on the view plane from homes. For example, if the solar farm were located on a lakefront property, visible from other lakefront properties. The solar panels are planned to be situated in such a way that they are obscured by trees at most or all angles.

Where is the location of the project?

The project is proposed for the north-west corner of the previously-logged vacant land behind Parks Road and Samson Road. We propose to access the site via the existing driveway on the corner of Parks Rd and Sugar Maple Drive. See the image on the following page.

What size machine would you use for the piles?

Likely 15 ton to 30 ton.

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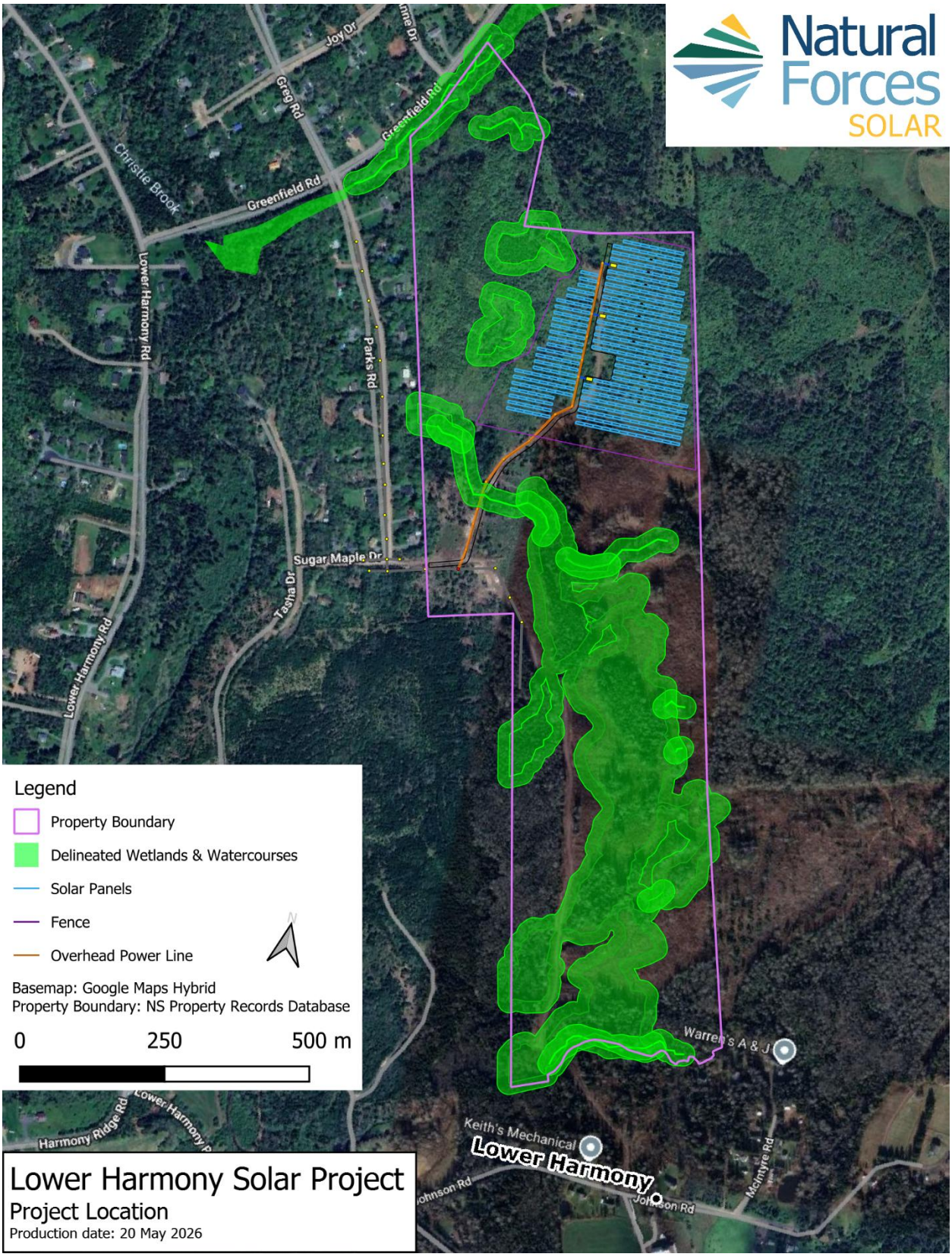

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What is the proximity to the houses nearby?

With the current layout, the shortest distance between the array and a home, on Parks Rd. is approximately 150 m / (490 ft). All others are proposed to be further than this distance.

How high are the solar modules, and will they be visible?

The highest point of the solar panels is typically about 3.7 m (12 ft) tall. We anticipate that the array will not be visible from any adjacent properties, as the view will be obstructed by existing trees.

When will the project start? How long will it take?

The project is currently going through early phases of development. We may begin construction as early as Quarter 4 of this year. We anticipate that construction, once underway will take approximately 8-12 months.

How will you control site vegetation?

Vegetation will be actively managed, either by machine (mowers & trimmers) or by sheep, to keep the site & soil in good condition. Chemicals will not be used for vegetation control at the site.

Will you have goats or sheep?

The project will most likely employ sheep instead of goats. This is due to the tendency of goats to jump onto the solar modules and other equipment, causing damage to the system or resulting in injury to themselves.

If you use sheep, will the coyotes eat the sheep?

That is always a possibility when wildlife and livestock coexist in the same area. The site will be fully enclosed with chain link fencing, limiting the access of any predators to the sheep grazing at the site. We will follow the best practices of the Shepards hired to tend any sheep employed at the site to ensure their safety.

Will there be any noise from the solar farm?

- As above, the nearest home to the array is to be approximately 150 m (490 ft) from the fenced area. The shortest distance between a home and any proposed inverter equipment is about 340 m (1100 ft).
- Our proposed inverter has a rated maximum sound power of 65 dB.
- Noise quickly decreases with distance, especially through trees and over soft ground.

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- Even with no natural sound absorption, at a distance of 150 m to 340 m, the maximum residual sound power is 14.4 dB to 21.5 dB.
- At between 20 dB and 30 dB, noise level is considered equivalent to a “quiet bedroom”.
- Trees and soft ground will absorb sound more quickly, so actual noise level from the solar farm, at the nearest home, is likely to be considerably below this level.

How do you mount the solar panels?

The solar panels will be mounted on a helical pile screw foundation. These piles result in reduced site disturbance, allowing for increased site remediation speed upon project decommissioning as the helical piles can be unscrewed from the ground and quickly removed.

Can the community buy into the project?

Currently, we do not have a plan for a CEDIF or other form of community investment program. If the project proceeds through the community solar program, community members may be eligible for discounted electricity.

Why is the project called Lower Harmony despite not being in it?

While we acknowledge that the project is within the community boundary of Greenfield, we chose the Lower Harmony name because the project is closest to Lower Harmony, as defined by the Nova Scotia GeoNames map.

We are also developing another project in Glenholme, on the edge of Great Village – we wanted to avoid having two projects starting with ‘G’ to avoid confusion!

If something happens to the road who fixes it?

Several community members flagged the present condition of Parks Road, and any potential wear caused by transport and construction trucks, as an area of concern. We understand that the road, which is owned by the province, was originally paved through a cost sharing agreement with the community, and it may be reaching the end of its normal service life. One of the permits that we will apply for is a provincial highway permit. Through this process, we will determine whether the project will have any liability for the use of the road, or any opportunity to help fund a refurbishment.

If the piles corrode what metals are left behind? Would there be an impact on ground water?

When galvanized steel helical piles corrode, the zinc coating corrodes first, forming

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zinc oxide, hydroxide, and carbonate; if the coating is eventually consumed, the underlying steel corrodes into iron oxides (rust). The rate of corrosion depends on soil conditions such as moisture, pH, chlorides, and resistivity, so corrosion is typically gradual and site-specific [1]. The estimated life span for galvanized steel piles components below grade is 50 – 120 years, depending on soil conditions [2]. We will measure soil acidity as part of our design studies to confirm that there will not be unsafe rates of corrosion.

Elevated zinc levels, when observed near galvanized structures, are usually localized close to the steel rather than broadly migrating through soil [3], [4]. Zinc and iron corrosion products generally bind to soil particles and sediments, limiting vertical movement toward groundwater. Zinc movement towards groundwater happens slowly, unless the zinc is applied as an agricultural amendment or if it interacts with corrosive substances [5]. The expected impact on groundwater is very low for a typical greenfield solar site such as this.

What is the radius of homes which would qualify for a community solar rebate and what percentage would it be?

There is currently no guarantee that the project will proceed within the community solar program. If the project is awarded a community solar program PPA, we intend for 200 subscriptions to be provided to the communities nearest the project. Likely these would be allocated on an expanding radius basis, which would expand until all 200 subscriptions were registered.

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[1] American Galvanizers Association, “Galvanized Steel Performance in Soil,” Galvanizeit.org, Jun. 10, 2015. [Online]. Available: https://galvanizeit.org/knowledgebase/article/galvanized-steel-performance-in-soil-1 [Accessed: May 19, 2026].

[2] Goliath Tech, “Corrosion Considerations for Prestige Piles,” Goliathtechpiles.com, [Online], Available: Corrosion Considerations | GoliathTech Components and Piles. [Accessed: May 20, 2026]

[3] American Galvanizers Association, “Hot-Dip Galvanized Steel’s Contribution to Zinc Levels in the Soil Environment,” Galvanizeit.org, 2023. [Online]. Available: https://galvanizeit.org/uploads/publications/AGA-Whitepaper-Zinc-in-the-Soil-2023.pdf. [Accessed: May 19, 2026].

[4] Health Canada, “Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality: Guideline Technical Document – Zinc,” Canada.ca, Apr. 23, 2009. [Online]. Available: https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidelines-canadian-drinking-water-quality-guideline-technical-document-zinc.html. [Accessed: May 19, 2026].

[5] Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, “Toxicology Profile for Zinc”, atsdr.cdc.gov. [Online]. Available: TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR ZINC, [Accessed: May 20, 2026].