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**Carbonfree Rainy River Ltd.
Rainy River REA**

Distribution

**Rainy River Renewable Energy Approval - Report Summaries
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Report Disclaimer

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1. Introduction

CarbonFree Rainy River Ltd. (CarbonFree or the Proponent) is proposing a 60-megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) project located in the township of Chapple, Ontario. The Project will require a Renewable Energy Approval as per Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 359/09 - Renewable Energy Approvals under Part V.0.1 of the *Environmental Protection Act*.

The term “Project Location” is defined by O. Reg. 359/09 as: “A part of land and all or part of any building or structure in, on or over which a person is engaging in or proposes to engage in the project and any air space in which a person is engaging in or proposes to engage in the project” The Project Location is shown on Figure 1 of Appendix A.

The proponent has retained Hatch Ltd. to prepare the Renewable Energy Approval application including the necessary technical reports and on site surveys.

In accordance with O. Reg 359/09, this document summarizes each of the draft technical reports (with the exception of the Consultation Report) that will be included as part of the Renewable Energy Approval application package submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. Comments and feedback received from Indigenous communities, municipalities, and the public will be considered and incorporated by the Project team prior to the final public meeting for the Project and submission of the Renewable Energy Approval application. Summaries of the following documents have been provided in the sections below:

- Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report
- Archaeological Assessment Report
- Waterbody Assessment Report
- Natural Heritage Assessment Report
- Construction Description Report
- Design and operations Report
- Decommissioning Plan Report
- Acoustic Assessment Report

2. Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report

2.1 Purpose of the Evaluation

The evaluation was completed to:

- Identify any buildings, structures, landscapes, or areas with cultural heritage value or interest.
- Determine whether the project could negatively impact cultural heritage resources.
- Fulfill Renewable Energy Approval requirements under Sections 19–23 related to protected properties, archaeological resources, and heritage resources.

The assessment focused on built heritage and cultural heritage landscapes.

2.2 Findings

The inspection and research concluded the following:

- No buildings, structures, or built heritage resources are present on any of the assessed parcels.
- No cultural heritage landscapes were identified within or adjacent to the project location.
- None of the parcels are located near properties with known cultural heritage value.
- Screening checklists indicated no criteria suggesting heritage potential on or surrounding the project lands.

Accordingly, the project lands do not contain cultural heritage resources, nor do they exhibit potential for such resources based on provincial criteria.

3. Archaeological Assessment Report

A Stage 1 and Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment for CarbonFree Rainy River was conducted in 2025 to identify any existing or potential archaeological resources within the Project Location and to outline appropriate measures for their protection or management. This work was completed by a licenced archaeologist in accordance with the under Sections 19-23 (Protected Properties, Archaeological, and Heritage Resources) of O. Reg. 359/09 and the Ontario Heritage Act, and following the Standards & Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011)..

As part of the regulatory process, the assessments are submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) for review. Once the MCM has completed its evaluation and has accepted the report for inclusion in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports, the confirmation letter from MCM will be included in the Renewable Energy Approval application package.

The Stage 1 and Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment consisted of archival research, review of local history, aerial imagery, historic and topographic maps, and a field inspection with a shovel testing program. The database for known archaeological sites registered in the province was examined to identify previous sites within the development and within 1 km of the surrounding location. There are no sites within 1 km of the study.

3.1 Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment

A full inspection of the study area was completed using 10-metre walking transects. The only feature with archaeological potential was the intermittent stream on the northwestern side of the property, identified during background research. As this feature meets the potential criteria outlined in Section 1.3.3 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists, a Stage 2 assessment was required and conducted.

3.2 Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment

The observed stream on the northwestern side of the property exhibited potential in the form of an intermittent streambed as per Section 1.3.3. of the Standards and Guidelines, as such the stream was subjected to shovel test survey. No archaeological resources were observed either in the test pits or in the exposed soils on the surface.

3.3 Recommendations

Based on the results of the desktop research and site investigation no further Archaeological Assessment is being recommended at this time. Should there be any alteration to the plans of the development, additional archaeological assessment may be required based on the presence of archaeological potential as outlined in the 2011 Standards and Guidelines.

4. Acoustic Assessment Report

The design of the system intentionally sited noise making equipment (e.g., inverters) in the interior of the Project Location to maximize the distance between this equipment and sensitive receptors such as nearby residences. An acoustic Assessment Report was produced to identify the noise generating equipment expected to be in use during operation of the facility and confirm noise levels will not exceed NPC-300 requirements at the proximal noise receptors.

4.1 Noise Source Summary

- **Panel Arrays:**
Panel racks will be fitted with a single axis tracker that rotates from east to west during the day, following the sun, and is idle overnight. The tracker motor operates briefly to tilt the panels into an optimal position for solar radiation exposure throughout the day, adjusting approximately every hour during the period of sunrise to sunset. The estimated daily energy consumption is 0.04 kWh per tracker motor. Due to their relatively small size and brief operation, the tracker motors are considered insignificant community noise emission sources.
- **Inverter - Transformer Power Conversion System:**
4.4 MW AC inverters convert the direct current supplied by the PV modules to AC. A 4.4 MVA (Megavolt-ampere) three-phase, liquid filled transformer will then 'step up' the voltage to 34.5 kV. Each installation will consist of a Sungrow Power Supply SC4400 or equivalent power conversion system (PCS) that combines the inverter and medium voltage transformer in single container skid.
- **Noise from the PCS inverter comes from its air-cooling fans while noise from its medium voltage transformer is largely from the magnetostriction hum. Due to the tonal nature of the magnetostriction hum, a 5 dB tonal penalty is added to the noise emission of entire PCS.**
- **Switch Gear:**
The local panel array and substation switch gears are a combination of switches, fuses and circuit breakers used to safely isolate arrays or the entire facility for maintenance. Switch Gear control panel cooling fans are small and are located indoors. Therefore, the switch gears are considered insignificant community noise emission sources.
- **Substation Transformer:**
The Facility contains one large 68 MVA transformer that will 'step up' the voltage from 34.5 kV to 115 kV. The substation transformer noise was calculated using the NEMA TP-80050 standard with a 5 dB tonal penalty added for its magnetostriction hum.

Additional substation yard components such as the switchgear, communication tower, and line reactors are considered insignificant noise sources.

- Other Nearby Solar Facilities and External Anthropogenic Noise Sources
- There are no adjacent solar facilities within 1 km of the Facility. As such, a cumulative noise impact study that incorporates adjacent solar facilities, as recommended in Ontario's *Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals* is not required.
- Ancillary Distribution Lines:
Above ground ancillary distribution lines connecting the local panel switch gears to the substation will not emit significant amounts of isolator corona noise due to a relatively low AC line current and voltage (34.5 kV). Therefore, the noise from the ancillary distribution lines is considered insignificant.

4.2 Assessment Criteria

The MECP publications; NPC-300 - Environmental Noise Guideline - Stationary and Transportation Sources - Approval and Planning provides guidance on control of industrial noise emissions for Ontario and Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals provide noise limits according to the surrounding POR classification.

Sound Level limits respected the Class 3 performance limits for rural receptors at different times of the day. A conservative assessment limit of 40 dBA was used at all receptor locations under the likely potential for the Facility to operate, sometime throughout its lifecycle, at full power generation for at least 1 hour during the evening period.

4.3 Conclusions

Based on the project design which has sought to maximize the setback of noise making equipment from local residences, the proposed Project is expected to be compliant with the community noise limits identified in the MECP Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals and Environmental Noise Guidelines NPC-300 for the predictable worst-case operating condition.

All applicable PORs are compliant with the NPC-300 40 dBA noise criteria for a Class 3 receptors during the evening and nighttime periods.

5. Water Body Assessment Report

The purpose of the Water Body Assessment Report is to identify what surface water features (i.e., lakes, ponds, rivers, creeks, permanent or intermittent watercourses, Lake Trout Lakes) may be present within 120 m of the Project Location (300 m for Lake Trout Lakes). This is done through a Records Review (desktop) study and on Site Investigations. Once identified, the distance between the proposed Project and the waterbody is detailed. When the Project Location is within 120 m, impacts to the feature are assessed and mitigation measures are prescribed to ensure the system design is appropriate. These mitigation measures are summarized in the report and become an obligation of the issued REA permit.

5.1 Records Review

The records review involved an assessment of publicly available records maintained by both government and non-government sources, such as MNR Land Information Ontario

mapping, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs online drainage mapping, LIO data for Lake Trout Lakes in Ontario, and satellite imagery.

The records review identified one water feature located within 120 m of the Project Location. Mather I Creek is a permanent sinuous watercourse flowing through the western, northern, and southern parcels of the Study Area. Mather I Creek Tributary A was also identified, located within the southwestern PV array within the Project Location.

5.2 Site Investigation

The site investigation confirmed the presence of Mather I Creek within 30 m of the Project Location in two distinct areas on two separate parcels proposed for development. Mather I Creek Tributary A was deemed not to be present during the Site Investigation. In total, one waterbody was identified within 120 m of the Project Location.

5.3 Potential Impacts

Potential impacts to waterbodies include an increase in surface water runoff from the Project Location, erosion of soils resulting in sedimentation of receiving waterbodies/watercourses, and impacts to surface water quality due to accidental spills.

5.4 Mitigation Measures

As a result of the Site Investigation, the project Location was amended to accommodate a 30 m buffer between the Project and all waterbodies. Industry best management practices (BMPs) related to sediment, erosion, groundwater, and stormwater management mitigation have been included within the Construction Plan (H375916-0000-840-066-0003) Design and Operations (H375916-0000-840-066-0006) and Decommissioning Plan (H375916-0000-840-066-0007) Reports. The Design and Operations Report will include a Stormwater Management Plan which will generally maintain drainage patterns throughout the Project Location. Sediment and erosion control measures will be implemented where the watercourse is within 120 m of the Project Location. Existing infrastructure will be used to separate surface runoff away from existing waterbodies. In all cases, the Project Location will be setback a minimum of 30 m from waterbodies.

6. Natural Heritage Assessment Report

The Natural Heritage Assessment Report documents the process that is undertaken as part of the Renewable Energy Approval to document wildlife habitats in proximity to the Project Location, and where necessary identify potential impacts to the habitats and prescribe mitigation measures to avoid or minimize impacts to present wildlife habitats.

6.1 Records Review

Provincial and municipal records search identified no Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves, or Earth/Life Science ANSIs within 50 m of the Project. Wetlands and general wildlife habitat were identified as present, prompting the need for field verification. Six wetlands appeared in records; Wetlands 1, 2, 3, and the Chapple Provincially Significant Wetland were considered potentially present, while Wetlands 4 and 5 required field confirmation. Wildlife species of conservation concern (SoCC) historically documented in the area inclusive of Brewer's Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, and Black billed Magpie.

The Records Review determined that the Project Location is not within 50 m of any Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves, or Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs). Several unevaluated northern wetlands and potential wildlife habitat were

identified within 50 m of the Project Location based on provincial databases. In addition, no Important Bird Areas occur within 50 km of the site. Multiple wetlands, including the Chapple Provincially Significant Wetland were identified within 50 m of the Project Location, to be verified during Site Investigations.

6.2 Site Investigations

Site Investigations confirmed multiple wetlands (named Wetlands 1-3 and the Chapple Provincially Significant Wetland) within and adjacent to the Project Location. Wetlands 4 and 5 were determined to be absent as agricultural activities have overtaken these areas.

Field studies were completed to evaluate candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat (cSWH) including:

- Amphibian Breeding Habitats
- Bald Eagle Nesting activity
- Potential bat maternity roost habitat within several woodland ecosites
- SoCC habitat for species at risk grassland birds

Additional studies (breeding birds and bats) confirmed site usage by multiple species, though no turtle observations or colonial nesting birds were documented.

- Grassland/meadow communities were widespread but mostly disturbed or in agricultural rotation.
- No rare vegetation communities or movement corridors were identified.

6.3 Evaluation of Significance

Evaluation against provincial criteria (SWH Ecoregion 3E) identified:

Generalized SWH – Treated as significant due to potential presence, including:

- Bat maternity roost habitat
- Bald Eagle/Osprey nesting
 - ◆ One confirmed nest adjacent the Project Location
- Multiple SoCC bird habitats (grassland and woodland species)

These candidate or generalized SWH features and all wetlands over >2 ha were assumed to be significant and were considered for potential impacts and prescribed appropriate mitigation through the Environmental Impact Study.

Studies focused on amphibian breeding habitat outlined the populations did not meet significance criteria (for ecoregion 3E).

No significant woodland, rare vegetative communities, or specialized wildlife habitat was present.

6.4 Environmental Impact Study (EIS)

The Environmental Impact Study assessed potential impacts of the solar facility and transmission line on significant wetlands and wildlife habitats

6.4.1 Potential Impacts to Significant Wetlands including Significant Wetlands

The following potential impacts were identified related to wetlands in proximity to the solar facility and transmission line portions of the Project

Potential Impacts:

- Soil compaction during construction
- Disturbance to drainage patterns
- Increased sediment or dust

6.4.2 Potential Impacts to Generalized SWH

6.4.2.1 Bat maternity roost habitat

- Potential roost habitat occurs site wide but is widely distributed regionally.
- Primary risk is removal of cavity trees/snags.
- Retain snags outside project footprint where feasible

6.4.2.2 SoCC bird habitat

- Grassland birds – habitat loss where meadows overlap the footprint.
- Maintain buffers around confirmed broad-winged hawk nest site (100 m if active)

6.4.3 Potential Impacts –Bald Eagle Nest Habitat

- Disturbance to nest during nesting season
- Reduction in agricultural forestry habitat
- Improvement following construction regarding nest disturbance

Mitigations:

- 120 m setback from nest.
- Avoid high noise work between Feb 15–Aug 15; actively monitor the nest during construction.

6.4.4 Potential Impacts – Generalized SWH (Bats)

- Potential roost habitat occurs site wide but is of poor quality in comparison to regional areas.
- Primary risk is removal of cavity trees/snags.
- Retain snags outside project footprint where feasible

6.4.4.1 SoCC bird habitat

- Grassland birds – habitat loss where meadows overlap the footprint.
- Woodland birds (Canada Warbler, Wood Thrush) – habitat where deciduous forest overlaps with the footprint, minimal loss is expected

6.5 Mitigation Measures

Key mitigation measures include:

- Timing restrictions:

- ◆ No tree or vegetation clearing between April 15–August 31 (bird nesting & bat maternity roost restricted activity windows).
- ◆ Grassland clearing outside April 15–July 31 where applicable.
- Buffers and erosion controls:
 - ◆ 30 m setback from wetlands for solar components.
 - ◆ Sediment and erosion control plans; spill prevention protocols.
- Wildlife protection:
 - ◆ Pre construction nest surveys where needed.
 - ◆ Equipment cleaning to reduce invasive species spread.
 - ◆ Minimum 120 m setback from active bald eagle nests. Setback 400 m during sensitive breeding period February 15 – August 15
- Spill prevention procedures
- Dust suppression (e.g., water application on roads)
- Maintaining natural drainage patterns throughout the Project Location

These restrictions will eliminate direct impacts to bat or birds, limiting impacts to the loss or temporary loss of the habitat associated with the Project Location. The solar facility portion of the Project Location was modified to allow for a 30 m vegetated buffer between construction activities and the wetlands. Where the Project Location extends within 50 m of the features, sediment and erosion controls will be put in place to minimize these impacts to the wetland.

The Environmental Impact Study determined that the Project can be constructed, operated, and decommissioned with minimal residual effects on significant natural features when recommended mitigation measures are implemented. Impacts to Significant Wildlife Habitat, will be minimized, reversible and localized through the implementation of mitigations and respecting restricted timing windows.

6.6 EIS Conclusion

With the planned setbacks, protective buffers, and mitigation measures, the project is expected to avoid significant impacts on wetlands, wildlife habitat, woodlands, and Species of Conservation Concern.

7. Construction Report

7.1 Overview of Construction Activities

Construction will occur in four phases:

- Phase 1 – Site Preparation:

Vegetation clearing (~January–March 2027), installation of perimeter fencing, establishment of temporary laydown areas, grading, drainage improvements, and construction of up to two permanent access roads with entrances onto Mather Road or R. Wilson Road. Additional internal access roads will be built within solar arrays and

temporary access roads/trails may be required during construction from Highway 71. Sediment and erosion controls will be installed prior to ground disturbance.

- Phase 2 – Construction & Installation:

Installation of foundations for inverters, transformers, and trackers; mounting of approximately 130,700 PV modules; installation of DC/AC cabling; construction of the substation yard including ground grid, containment system, and transformer infrastructure; and installation of the short connection line to the existing 115-kV Hydro One line (~April – December 2027). Heavy equipment such as excavators, graders, cranes, compactors, and transport trucks will be used.

- Phase 3 – Testing & Commissioning:

DC and AC system testing prior to energization, with additional commissioning after grid connection to verify performance and meet system operator requirements (~March – June 2028).

- Phase 4 – Site Restoration:

Removal of temporary infrastructure, reuse of stored topsoil, soil loosening where necessary, and re-vegetation. Areas beneath the solar arrays will be seeded to support agrivoltaic uses such as grazing.

Construction hours will generally be 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, with occasional extended hours as needed. Workforce hiring will prioritize local labour, including Indigenous community members.

7.2 Potential Environmental Effects

The assessment examined potential effects within 300 m of the Project Location. Anticipated environmental considerations include:

- **Vegetation and Wildlife:** Some clearing of meadow and treed areas is required. Impacts are expected to be minor and reversible, as vegetation can be restored post-construction. Wildlife may temporarily avoid the area due to noise and activity.
- **Soils, Erosion, and Drainage:** Soil compaction, erosion, and sediment runoff may occur during clearing and grading, especially near water features.
- **Surface Water & Aquatic Habitat:** No direct work will occur within 30 m of waterbodies. Indirect temporary effects (e.g., turbidity from runoff) may occur if not properly controlled.
- **Air Quality & Noise:** Dust and equipment emissions will be temporary. Construction noise may be noticeable to nearby receptors but limited to daytime hours.
- **Traffic & Roads:** Local traffic may experience minor disruptions from construction vehicles. Some tire wear or minor road damage is possible.
- **Public Safety:** Heavy equipment and active construction zones pose safety risks without proper controls.
- **Archaeology & Cultural Heritage:** Previous assessments identified no archaeological sites or heritage resources; however, chance-find procedures will be in place.

7.3 Mitigation Measures

Key mitigation measures include:

- Erosion and sediment controls such as silt fencing, stabilized entrances, and phased grading
- Wildlife protection measures including scheduling clearing outside sensitive periods
- Setbacks and buffers for wetlands and watercourses
- Dust and noise controls during active construction
- Traffic management measures and coordination with road authorities
- Fencing, signage, and security measures to ensure public safety
- Spill prevention and response plans with appropriate buffer distances from water features
- 30 m setbacks and where possible 50 m setbacks from wetlands and watercourses
- 120 – 400 m setbacks to sensitive nest features

7.4 Materials, Equipment, and Construction Logistics

Materials, equipment and construction logistics include:

- No temporary water takings are required; all water will be trucked to site.
- Laydown areas will be gravelled selectively for equipment staging and storage.
- Construction wastes (e.g., broken modules, packaging, cables) will be sorted and disposed of in accordance with provincial regulations.
- Hazardous materials such as fuel, oils, and lubricants will be stored in contained areas at least 50 m from water features.

7.5 Environmental Monitoring

During construction, the project will implement an Environmental Monitoring Plan that includes:

- Regular inspection of erosion controls, drainage systems, and stormwater features
- Monitoring for spills, wildlife interactions, incidental take, and dust or noise complaints
- Documentation through monthly environmental monitoring reports
- Contingency measures to address emerging issues, including additional erosion controls, modified work timing, or enhanced mitigation

8. Design and Operations Report

8.1 Project Overview

The facility consists of nine PV arrays, 14 inverter-transformer units, a high-voltage substation, underground and overhead electrical cabling, and both temporary and permanent access roads. The project area is characterized by agricultural land, pasture, and deciduous forest/forestry activities, with rural residential properties and farmland

within 300 m. Natural features, including wetlands, watercourses, and candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat have informed the facility design and setbacks.

The project requires no on-site water supply, wastewater treatment, waste processing, or air-emitting equipment. A Stormwater Management Plan will ensure that natural drainage patterns are maintained and that runoff does not negatively affect downstream features.

8.2 Facility Design

Key components include:

- Solar PV Modules: Approximately 136,000 mounted on racks mounted on tracking structures.
- Inverters & Transformers: 14 4.4-MVA inverter-transformer units stepping output to 34.5 kV.
- Substation: An approximately 68-MVA transformer stepping voltage to 115 kV; containment includes a reinforced concrete oil-retention pit.
- Access Roads: Up to two permanent entrances.
- Drainage & Stormwater: Minimal grading, with runoff directed to existing ditches; vegetated ground cover beneath arrays to prevent erosion.
- Security: Perimeter chain-link fencing (~2 m with barbed wire), gated access, and optional security lighting/cameras.

8.3 Operations & Maintenance

The facility will be remotely monitored and visited regularly by maintenance personnel. Routine tasks include:

- Regular inspections of PV modules, wiring, inverters, transformers, vegetation, and drainage features.
- Vegetation management through mowing or agrivoltaic activities. Herbicides may only be used in rare occurrences for the control of invasive species.
- Panel cleaning only if necessary, using water supplied by truck—no chemicals.
- Transformer inspections quarterly with remote SCADA monitoring occurring at all times.
- Winter snow clearing on access roads and selective manual clearing on panels if needed.

Unplanned maintenance will be performed as needed, using qualified personnel and stocked spare parts to minimize downtime.

8.4 Environmental Effects & Mitigation

A comprehensive assessment identified potential effects related to soils, vegetation, wildlife, wetlands, surface water, groundwater, noise, dust, and socio-economic factors. Mitigation measures include:

- Minimum 30 m buffers from wetlands and watercourses
- 120 m buffers from active eagle nests where present

- Spill Prevention: Fuel storage and refueling ≥ 50 m from water features, spill kits on-site, and required reporting to the Spills Action Centre.
- Wildlife Protection: Reduced vehicle speeds, awareness signage, and monitoring for incidental wildlife encounters.
- Noise Management: Compliance with MECP NPC-300 guidelines, daytime maintenance, and complaint-response processes.
- Land Use Considerations: Agrivoltaics incorporated where feasible to retain agricultural function.

With mitigation, all residual effects are expected to be low, localized, and manageable.

8.5 Monitoring Program

During operations, regular monitoring will include:

- Inspection of erosion controls, drainage features, and vegetation.
- Wildlife interaction documentation and reporting.
- Visual checks on fuel storage, transformer containment, and spill-prevention measures.
- Dust and noise monitoring supported by a public complaint-response system.

Annual operations reporting with adaptive management for any emerging effects

8.6 Emergency Response and Communications Plan

A site-wide Emergency Response Plan covers fire, spills, and personal injury. Measures include:

- Fire extinguishers on-site, emergency response protocols, and trained personnel.
- Spill response kits, containment procedures, and reporting requirements.
- Health & Safety programs for all personnel.

For public communication, a 24-hour contact number will be posted at the facility entrance. All inquiries and complaints will be logged, addressed, and documented. Public notifications (if required) will be issued through mail, email, or local publications.

9. Decommissioning Report

9.1 Project Lifespan and Future Land Use

The facility is expected to operate for approximately 35 years, after which it may be refurbished or fully decommissioned depending on market conditions or technological changes.

The Project Location will be restored to a clean and safe condition, suitable for the likely future use of the land on which it is located (i.e., agriculture) and as agreed to with the landowners.

9.2 Removal of Infrastructure

When the facility is decommissioned:

- **Solar Panels (PV Modules):**
PV modules will be disconnected, removed from racking, packaged, and transported off-site for resale, recycling, or disposal, in accordance with applicable municipal and provincial requirements
- **Racking, Posts, and Foundations:**
Steel racks will be unbolted and removed. Steel posts and foundations will be extracted or demolished using mechanical equipment such as a backhoe with hydraulic hammer. Concrete debris will be hauled to an approved disposal area and recycled where feasible.
- **Electrical Equipment:**
Inverters, transformers, underground collection lines, and overhead AC lines will be de-energized, isolated, disconnected, and transported off-site. Transformer oils will be drained into approved sealed containers to prevent spills.
- **Other Components:**
Access roads, culverts, drains, concrete foundations, and fences will be removed unless landowners request that certain roads or infrastructure remain. For safety, the perimeter fence will be the final removal.

9.3 **Waste Management**

All waste materials will be handled according to municipal and provincial rules. Reuse and recycling will be prioritized; disposal will occur at licensed facilities using licensed haulers. Hazardous waste is not expected but will be managed according to provincial requirements if encountered. Typical solar facility waste and disposal techniques:

- Solar panels: reuse or recycle
- Steel racks/mounts: salvage or scrap recycling
- Cables: recycling
- Transformers, inverters, breakers: salvage or scrap recycling
- Concrete: crushing and recycling as granular material
- Geotextile: landfill disposal
- Oils/lubricants: recycling
- Miscellaneous non-recyclables: landfill

9.4 **Site Restoration**

After equipment removal, the site will be restored to a safe and stable condition consistent with future planned land uses. Activities may include:

- Filling and leveling any trenches, excavations, or disturbed areas
- Removing roads/embankments where requested by landowners or no longer needed for land use.
- Repairing any drainage systems damaged by the project
- Planting or reseeded disturbed areas with appropriate vegetation

9.5 Communications

Emergency procedures from the Construction and Design & Operations Reports will remain in place during operation:

- **Fire Response:**
Fire extinguishers staged in vehicles and strategic locations; staff attempt suppression only when safe. If a fire spreads or poses danger, personnel evacuate and call 911. Emergency signage will be posted at the facility entrance.
- **Personal Injury:**
Contractors will implement Health & Safety programs in accordance with the Ontario Occupational Health & Safety Act. First-aid supplies and hospital maps will be available on site. Ambulances will be called for serious injuries.
- **Spills:**
Spill procedures will follow provincial legislation (EPA, O. Reg. 675/98). Spill prevention includes setback distances from watercourses and proper storage of hazardous materials. Any reportable spills will be reported to the Ontario Spills Action Centre. Spill kits will be available onsite.

All incidents (fire, injury, spills) will be documented and retained.

A project phone number will be posted publicly at the facility's main gate for emergencies or inquiries.

9.6 Communications

During decommissioning:

- A sign with a project phone number will be posted at the facility gate.
- All public questions, complaints, and responses will be logged electronically and responded to.
- Public and agency notifications will be issued if required.
- All communications will be documented and retained.

9.7 Restoration of Land Negatively Affected by the Project

Following decommissioning of the Project, if any lands or water features are negatively affected by the Project, the Proponent is committed to restoring the site as close to its pre-construction state as feasible.

9.8 Communications

Throughout decommissioning:

- A public phone number will be posted at the gate for questions or complaints.
- All inquiries will be logged, including contact details, response actions, and follow up.
- Public and agency notifications will be issued if required (e.g., project changes).
- All communication records will be maintained.

9.9 If Construction Stops Early

If the project is cancelled during construction, all installed equipment, foundations, and imported materials will be removed. Site restoration, waste management, and emergency procedures will follow the same approach described above.