

NEXTERA ENERGY – FAQ
WHITE RIVER VALLEY SOLAR PROJECT

WHO IS NEXTERA:

Question: Who are you and what do you do?

Answer: NextEra is the World’s largest generator of wind and solar energy. We have been around since 1925 and currently have development projects in 49 states, with multiple projects already operating in Colorado. Our goal is to provide clean, home-grown, affordable energy by working with, and supporting the communities where we have our operations.

Question: Where else do you have operations in Colorado? Are those operations bigger than the one proposed here in Rio Blanco County?

Answer: In Colorado, we currently have operations in El Paso County, Arapahoe County, Elbert County, Kit Carson County, and Lincoln County, with several more developing locations in the state as well. Below is a chart of our currently operating projects in Colorado. The “Installed Size” column refers to the amount of energy generated, in megawatts. The “PPA COD” column refers to the date placed in service.

Project	Installed Size (MW)	Technology	PPA COD	County
Bronco Plains	300	Wind	4/21/2020	Kit Carson
Golden West	249.4	Wind	12/12/2015	El Paso
Limon Wind I	200	Wind	11/1/2012	Lincoln
Limon Wind II	200.0	Wind	11/15/2012	Lincoln
Limon Wind III	200.6	Wind	10/2/2014	Lincoln
Logan Wind	201	Wind	12/10/2007	Logan
Northern Colorado	22.50	Wind	9/29/2009	Logan
Northern Colorado	151.80	Wind	8/25/2009	Logan
Peetz Table	199.50	Wind	12/10/2007	Logan
Titan Solar	50.00	Solar	12/20/2018	Lincoln
Carousel Wind	149.7	Wind	7/7/2016	Kit Carson
Niyol Wind	205.60	Wind	11/17/2021	Logan and Yuma Counties, CO

Question: Where is this project and what will this project look like?

Answer: The White River Solar project will be located on approximately 1,447 acres of privately owned parcels of land in Rio Blanco County. The solar panels will be clustered together in groups or “pods” and installed throughout the property, occupying only about 550 acres of the total 1,447. The entire property will not be fenced. Rather, each pod containing a group of solar panels will have a surrounding fence. The project is designed to include several corridors that allow wildlife to travel through the solar panel operation, following the existing direction of known migration corridors. This is to help protect wildlife from directly interacting with the solar panels and provide avenues of migration throughout the property.

COMMUNITY IMPACTS:

Question: How will Rio Blanco County benefit from this project?

Answer: Rio Blanco County will benefit primarily through the estimated 30 million dollars of tax revenue generated over the lifespan of our project to the County. However, this project will also provide up to 200 construction job opportunities over the course of 2 years, and an additional 1-2 long-term job roles for the life of the project. Our goal is to hire locally to fill these positions, to the extent possible. To the extent that property taxes are increased as a result of this project, that is paid by NextEra, not the property owners.

Question: Besides the tax revenue and jobs, how is NextEra benefitting the community?

Answer: Providing approximately 200 jobs to a community has several secondary benefits for the local economy, in addition to the direct employment benefits. These workers will be frequenting local restaurants and shops and utilizing local lodging and accommodations over a 2-year span of time. This provides an additional economic boost to small businesses and the local economy.

Question: How is NextEra involved in the community?

Answer: Historically, NextEra has provided a wide range of community support, from providing trainings with local firefighters to sponsoring local rodeos. Additionally, we teach STEM classes to local schools with a focus on renewable energy and highlight possible careers at NextEra. We consistently donate to local schools by sponsoring field trips, 4-H clubs, high school sports tournaments and proms, booster clubs, and playgrounds. Below is a chart showing some of the specific community events we sponsored and participated in throughout Colorado.

Event Name	Project	County	Organization
Colorado Wind and Solar Forum	Bronco Plains	Denver	REpowering Schools
Flagler County Schools	Bronco Plains	Kit Carson	Flagler County Schools

Colorado Governor's Relief Fund	Bronco Plains	Kit Carson	Colorado Governor's Relief Fund
Junior/Senior 4H Donation	Bronco Plains II	Kit Carson	Burlington Cougar Club
Christmas food baskets for farming families in need	Niyol Wind	Logan	Colorado Young Farmers Foundation
Sterling Community Gala	Niyol Wind	Logan	Sterling Community Foundation
Donation - support of severe weather	Niyol Wind	Logan	Colorado Young Farmers Foundation
Severe weather in Washington Co	Niyol Wind	Washington	Washington County Connections
Logan County 4H Club County Fair Livestock Auction	Niyol Wind	Logan	High Plains 4H Club
Sponsor of Building Splash Pad	Niyol Wind	Logan	Town of Fleming
Fleming School Wildcat Booster Club Post Prom	Niyol Wind	Logan	Fleming School Wildcat Booster Club
Sponsorship of the College's Solar Living Lab	Niyol Wind	Logan	Northeastern Junior College

Question: Where is the estimated 30 million dollars in tax revenue coming from?

Answer: The estimated 30 million dollars in revenue is generated from the taxes we will pay to the County on both real and business personal property items, such as construction materials and the solar panels and associated equipment. NextEra is leasing the property for the project from landowners. The County Assessor will assign a value to this leasehold interest, on which NextEra will pay taxes.

SOLAR PANEL QUESTIONS:

Question: How do the panels work?

Answer: The solar panels work by absorbing energy from the sunlight, which causes the electricity to flow into an inverter. The generated energy then flows to a battery storage unit where it is held until disbursed through an electrical transmission system. This system is what allows our energy to be transferred in the homes of consumers.

Question: How long do solar panels last for? How are they disposed of?

Answer: The typical lifespan of the solar panel used in the White River Solar project is approximately 30 years. When it's time to dispose of a solar panel, almost everything in the solar panel is recyclable. NextEra strives to recycle as much as possible in the disposal process.

Question: Where will the energy end up?

Answer: NextEra is a wholesaler of energy. We work with a variety of companies to sell the energy we generate from the solar panels. The purchasers of our energy then provide it to other consumers and households. This model is similar to farmers, for example, who sell their products to grocery stores. Those grocery stores then sell the products to their store customers. At this stage in the process, we have not identified a purchaser for the energy that will be generated by this project.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Question: What is the construction timeline?

Answer: The estimated construction timeline for this project is approximately 2 years. The construction activity will likely take a hiatus during a portion of the winter season because construction activities will be limited by winter weather.

Question: What is the lifespan of project?

Answer: The estimated lifespan of this project is 30 years, although NextEra would consider extending the life of a project if it is still productive and beneficial in providing sustainable energy in the future. Advances in technology over the next 30 years could extend the life of the project, but this cannot be predicted.

Question: When do you plan on starting this project construction?

Answer: The start of this project depends on two things: when permits are received from the County, and the timing of execution of a purchase agreement with a utility company for the sale of the energy generated by the project.

Question: What is the estimated cost of the project?

Answer: Although we cannot provide the precise cost data, because we need to protect certain information from competitors, we can disclose that the estimated cost of this project is in the hundreds of millions.

PROPERTY AND SAFETY CONCERNS:

Question: How will you address any weed problems?

Answer: NextEra has worked with Westwood Professional Services to prepare a Noxious Weed Management Plan that addresses concerns regarding the containment and management of noxious weeds on the property. The comprehensive Noxious Weed Management Plan analyzes local noxious weeds within the property area and outlines construction and post construction practices that will be implemented to help control weed problems. These control practices

include, but are not limited to: minimizing the project disturbance footprint, tilling prior to reseeding, reseeding disturbed areas with native seed, and treatment of identified weeds during project operations. NextEra will comply with all state and Rio Blanco County requirements for identification and control of noxious weeds throughout the life of the project.

Question: Do solar panels or batteries pose a fire risk?

Answer: Solar panels and batteries pose an extremely low fire hazard. Fire detection systems are built in all the battery containers, which minimize the risk of a significant fire. To further mitigate any fire risk, the solar panels are outfitted with cooling systems, are fully enclosed and separated from each other, and are situated above a pad of gravel. An off-site, 24-hour control room with trained technicians also constantly monitors each site and can remotely shut down the facility, if needed.

Out of an abundance of caution, the engineering, procurement, and construction contractor will also maintain two 20-pound fire extinguishers near the fuel containment area and one water truck for the duration of construction that can be utilized during emergencies. Lastly, NextEra works closely with local fire fighters to provide training and instruction for fires should they occur.

Question: Are you going to eminent domain/ condemn the property?

Answer: No. NextEra does not have the authority to acquire property using eminent domain. All of the leases, easements or other property rights NextEra has acquired for the White River Solar project have been acquired through direct, consensual negotiation with the property owners.

Although NextEra plans to own this property and remain a part of the community throughout the lifespan of this project, in the unlikely event a successor purchaser acquires this property, and if such successor were a public utility with the power of eminent domain, the purchaser would still not be able to expand the project without first seeking approval to do so from Rio Blanco County. At that time, the County could impose such conditions as it feels necessary to address this issue.

Question: Are there any hazardous materials used in the project? If so, what type of hazardous materials are being used in the solar panels? How are they contained?

Answer: Lithium ion batteries, like those used in laptop computers, are used in our operation. These batteries have benefitted from years of research and development in the utility and electric vehicle industry and have proven to be efficient, safe, and cost-effective for the growing utility-scale energy storage industry.

Question: How will you address concerns about drainage? Drainage patterns in this area can be unpredictable and perform contrary to expectations.

Answer: The White River Solar project application package includes a Grading, Drainage, & Erosion Control Plan and a Stormwater Management Plan. These plans are based on an analysis

of the soil composition at the property and potential impacts of solar panel placement on drainage patterns, and outline measures needed to maintain the current drainage patterns. NextEra will comply with both plans throughout construction and operation of the project

Colorado law generally requires that drainage from development be maintained at a flow rate and quantity that is no greater than the historical flow. The proposed drainage improvements according to the plans referenced above are designed to ensure that this occurs. However, in the unlikely event that implementation of the design and practices results in a different outcome, NextEra will coordinate with CDPHE and Rio Blanco County to evaluate, agree on, and implement alternatives in order to ensure compliance with Colorado law.

Question: Are there concerns with the drainage run off containing any hazardous materials?

Answer: NextEra does not anticipate any hazardous chemicals in the runoff water from the property. There are no liquid hazardous substances on the property as part of the White River Solar project, and the project includes containment measures around hardware containing, for example, the lithium ion batteries, as noted above.

It is possible that some fuel may be stored on the site. In such event, NextEra will comply with BESS Project standards, which include a variety of standards and regulations governing the storage and management of fuel. For example, water in secondary containments can only be discharged after verifying that there is no fuel sheen present on the surface of any water buildup.

WILDLIFE CONCERNS:

Question: Will this project negatively impact wildlife and particularly big game animals in the area?

Answer: According to NextEra's analysis and discussions with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, we believe the White River Solar project will have minimal impact on wildlife and big game use and migration in the area. NextEra has conducted numerous studies to understand the potential impacts to wildlife, including a Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Report, local species reviews, a big game assessment, and more. These reports and analysis are included in the application package submitted for the Major Impact Review.

NextEra has conferred with local officials from Colorado Parks and Wildlife multiple times to investigate ways to minimize any potential effects on wildlife and habitat and will continue to engage CPW and the community throughout this process. NextEra understands the value the community places on its local big game population and wildlife habitat. As noted by Bill de Vergie, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife representative at the Planning Commission hearing, the current site has been thoughtfully designed using the best available information to accommodate migration patterns for big game.

Question: Are you going to block off the migration corridor for elk and mule deer?

Answer: The project has been designed, with input and recommendations from CPW, to allow for big game use and migration by keeping the footprint to the minimum amount necessary and incorporating movement corridors within the site. As noted at the Planning Commission hearing, the referenced project fencing will only be located surrounding groups or “pods” of solar panels, not the entire project area. The pods have also been clustered together, leaving open both north-south and east-west corridors for migration, specifically to enable big game to follow traditional migration patterns, while protecting the solar panels from them. Additionally, the project fencing layout has been designed to avoid “dead-end” corridors or pockets that could trap or confuse wildlife.

Question: Is it an option to increase the height of the panels so that larger animals can travel underneath them?

Answer: Each “pod” of solar panels will be fenced off individually, with the intention to keep big game out of those specified solar panel areas to avoid entrapment or damage to the equipment. Therefore, increasing the height of the solar panels would not benefit big game, because the fence would be designed to keep any larger wildlife from directly accessing or interacting with the solar panels.

ROAD CONCERNS:

Question: How will you be using Highway 13 and County Roads 33 and 67?

Answer: During the two-year construction period, the project will use these roads for transportation of personnel, construction materials, and equipment, such as the solar panels. The main types of vehicles needed for this project include personal vehicles, for worker transportation, and loaded vehicles that have the capacity to transport large equipment and construction materials. We estimate that during this time, there will be approximately 150 round trips per day for passenger vehicles and approximately 30 round trips for loaded vehicles.

Question: How will the project impact traffic?

Answer: The project is not anticipated to notably affect existing traffic patterns in the area. During construction, workers are anticipated to travel to the site in personal vehicles and will carpool as much as possible to reduce the amount of traffic at the beginning and end of the shift. Traffic hours will typically be from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and peak construction traffic hours are expected to be between 6:00 AM and 3:00 PM. During construction, temporary traffic would be primarily due to the delivery of solar panels and other large equipment for the project. Upon completion of construction, there will be a substantial decrease in the amount of traffic, as the completed project will generally not require on-site personnel.

Question: How will the project affect road conditions and maintenance?

Answer: In order to ensure that existing roads are left in as good or better condition than when construction started, NextEra's standard practice is to enter into Road Use Agreements, which outline quality and maintenance standards. In order to establish a baseline, immediately prior to commencement of construction NextEra works with the County to conduct an assessment of the existing roadway conditions and agree on standards and improvements required to ensure that NextEra will restore the road to a condition equal to or better to the baseline following construction. Additionally, the project does not include the installation of external site access roads and is not expected to adversely affect federal, state, or county roads. NextEra anticipates entering into this agreement with the County immediately prior to the start of construction.

Question: How is snow plowing going to work for these roads?

Answer: Highway 13 and County Road 33 are serviced by the County and will continue to be plowed during the normal dates and times provided for by the County. If the project construction schedule requires any additional plowing outside of the County's regularly scheduled activities, the project team acknowledges that it will have to arrange and pay for those services. For County Road 67, which is not serviced by the County, the project will arrange and pay for plowing services when needed for our operations.

Question: How is NextEra using County Road 67?

Answer: This roadway is not technically a County Road, as the County has vacated this roadway. (For convenience, however, we will continue to refer to this roadway as County Road 67.) Due to the vacation, the existing width of County Road 67 is owned by the adjacent property owners on each side, up to the centerline. NextEra, as a lessee of privately owned land on one side of the roadway, is afforded the same rights that the property owners have regarding the use of that road.

Concern was raised that County Road 67 may need to be widened to accommodate construction vehicles. If it is determined that this road needs to be widened, NextEra will work with the County and adjacent property owners to determine the appropriate configuration of any widening. One adjacent neighbor raised concerns that NextEra could use eminent domain to acquire right of way on his property. As noted previously, NextEra does not have the power of eminent domain. If widening is required, and the required right of way cannot be acquired through negotiation, then NextEra will work with the County to explore alternatives.