



Frequently Asked Questions: Republic Solar Project

Updated 08/28/25

1. When is construction anticipated to begin?

- a. Based on current projections, the earliest construction could begin as early as September 2025.

2. How will the Republic Solar Project impact my bill?

- a. The Republic Solar project is just one of several renewable projects that UPPCO plans to undertake over the next ten to fifteen years to meet Michigan's 2023 renewable and clean energy laws. Based on current modeled projections, UPPCO expects the initial bill impacts, necessary to reach the 60% renewable statute by 2035, may be less than 5% for a typical residential bill.
- b. Modeled breakeven for this project occurs in Year 20 depending upon accounting treatment for any investment tax credits.

3. What is the anticipated life of the solar facility?

- a. UPPCO has secured certain lease and easements that could extend for up to 65 years and would allow for continued operation and maintenance of the facilities for that duration. Upon mutual concurrence with the landowner, the Project could extend much longer.

4. Has UPPCO applied for any tax incentives through Republic Township?

- a. Yes. UPPCO has applied for a Solar Energy Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate under PA 108 of 2023. This exemption provides for a specific tax in place of an ad valorem tax over a 20-year period.
 - i. Beginning once the Project is placed in service, which is currently planned no later than December 31, 2027.
- b. Contingent upon both Township Board approval on August 28, 2025, and subsequent State Tax Commission (STC) approval, UPPCO will pay approximately \$125,000, annually, to all eligible taxing jurisdictions of which approximately \$61,250 annually would inure directly to Republic Township in the form of specific tax dollars.
 - i. Upon STC approval, a certificate of exemption will be issued beginning December 31, 2025.



5. What are some of the Project benefits?

- a. Specific Tax portion
 - i. ~ \$61,250 per year for 20 years to Republic
 - ii. ~ \$1,225,000 total
- b. Localized economic benefits from construction
 - i. Utilization of regionally local, skilled-trade labor
 - ii. Increase in general economic activity in localized region
 - iii. Income multiplier effect – an increase in local incomes leads to an increase in local spending
- c. Revitalization of a former industrial site
- d. Optimization of applicable federal tax credits is anticipated to lower the cost of the project by approximately > \$50.0 million for all UPPCO customers

6. Why is UPPCO primarily investing in solar and renewables?

- a. Compliance with Michigan's 2023 renewable & clean energy laws.
- b. With many of the tax credits, the costs of these projects are proving to be cost competitive when compared to other technologies
- c. As a portion of UPPCO's power supply portfolio, renewable energy has an important place in the future sustainability of our electricity grid. Utility-scale solar will be part of this, so are hydroelectric facilities.

7. How is UPPCO managing costs?

- a. Optimizing investment tax credits where appropriate to lower the cost of the project.
- b. Competitive procurement regarding proposals for development
- c. Competitive procurement of Engineering, Equipment, and Construction contracts
- d. Internal project management and engineering oversight of project deliverables.

8. Would UPPCO be building this project if Michigan Energy Laws were not in place?

- a. Yes. The Republic Solar project is a direct result of the Commission Order in Case No. U-20350 whereby UPPCO was directed to build 62.5 MW of renewable and contract 62.5 MW of renewable.



9. Is solar power reliable in Republic Township?

- a. Yes. Utility scale solar production estimates come from solar modeling software that utilizes regional data (weather/irradiance) combined with solar facility design characteristics (panel output/layout) to simulate the amount of solar energy that will reach the site over a given period. Preliminary planning for the Republic site indicates winter months, defined as November through March, will contribute approximately 30% of the total annual production of a solar facility while the remaining non-winter months provide the remaining 70%.

10. How is UPPCO planning to manage activities during the construction phase?

- a. **Roads:** Heavy-haul traffic will be routed through Republic Mine to bypass downtown Republic. Heavy hauls will also require DOT permitting. Also, contractors will be required to have a plan for managing traffic to/from site to ensure all County Rd permitting requirements are met and adhered to.
- b. **Substation/Solar Array Design:** Contractors and UPPCO engineers will evaluate the proposed substation and solar array design with a heightened emphasis on mitigating any potential negative visual aspects of the project.
- c. **Generation – Transmission Line (G-T):** The generation- transmission (G-T) line may be the only part of the project that is visible from some residences. However, it may run parallel to the existing ATC and UPPCO lines as its interconnection point is the Perch Lake substation.

11. Can residents expect elevated levels of sound disturbance?

- a. **During construction:** Yes. Residents can expect to experience elevated levels of sound during construction due to the transportation of construction equipment and crews. Varying sizes of trucks will be necessary for transportation of equipment to and from the construction site. The Final design of the solar array is not complete; however, driven piling is an industry standard for solar array construction. In the event this construction practice is utilized for the Republic site residents can expect additional noise from the process.



- b. **During operation:** Generally, no. Solar photovoltaics are a static method of power generation and produce very little noise during operation. Some low noise levels are expected in the vicinity around the power inverters and substation but nothing more than industry standard for such installations. Activity from operation and maintenance of the facility is anticipated to be minimal. UPPCO will be following the MI siting laws (PA233 of 2023) that include noise requirements for the project to be no louder than 55 dB. The existing Perch Lake Sub will be no louder than it is today after construction.

12. What is the property layout in relation to the new generation infrastructure?

- a. The solar arrays and collector substation will be enclosed with a perimeter fence and is anticipated to be primarily situated on the tailings area.
- b. The generation-transmission line will connect into the Perch Lake substation and will be approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in length.

13. How does the power from the Republic Solar project get distributed?

- a. All UPPCO customers will benefit from this renewable generation - analogous to many of our hydro facilities.
- b. The energy created from the Republic Solar project will be interconnected to the power grid at the Republic substation. Once the energy is interconnected at the transmission level it will be utilized by all UPPCO customers, whether near the Republic site or at any point on the UPPCO system.