



Energy Siting Fact Sheet

*One of the recommendations of the Maryland SJRIS was to develop a series of fact sheets that address compatibility planning factors and associated tools. The fact sheets are intended to improve outreach and awareness of military and community compatibility planning to help mitigate existing encroachment issues and prevent future incompatibility issues. This fact sheet addresses the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) for activities related to the **commercial development of energy projects** that may have adverse impacts on military installations and mission readiness. This fact sheet describes the OEA FFO program and how the state and communities can obtain and leverage funding opportunities in support of community and military compatible planning and prevent encroachment on military testing, training, and operations from commercial energy projects.*

Impacts to Military Operations

Commercial development of energy projects in Maryland may affect DOD activities and military readiness, especially when located near installations, ranges, lands beneath designated military training routes (MTRs), or special use airspace.

Examples of impacts to military installations and operations include:

- **Wind Energy:** The US Department of Energy's Wind Program and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) developed a series of wind resource maps for Maryland to determine the potential for wind energy development throughout the state. The maps note that wind energy opportunities tend to be at turbine hub elevations of 140 meters, or approximately 450 feet. If located near airfields at this elevation, the turbines may impinge upon the imaginary flight surfaces that help ensure safe flight operations for aircraft arriving and departing from the runways. MTRs are located across Maryland and many provide for aircraft operations below 1,000 feet. Any vertical obstructions at these locations can pose a hazard to safe aircraft operations. Wind turbines also can have impacts on aircraft traffic radar and weather radar systems.

Impacts of wind turbines on radar systems can include creating clutter, reducing detection sensitivity, obscuring potential targets, and scattering target returns. The end effects on radar systems tend to inhibit target detection, generate false targets, interfere with target tracking, and impede weather forecasts.

- **Solar Energy:** Glint and glare impacts from large commercial solar arrays can impact the ability of pilots to safely operate aircraft. The reflection off the solar panels can, in worst case scenarios, temporarily blind pilots causing a hazard to safe aircraft operations.

OEA's Compatible Use Programs

Maryland, regional governments, and local governments can support effective collaboration, early engagement and dialogue between DOD and energy developers to ensure proposed energy projects may proceed without compromising the DOD missions. OEA's Compatible Use and Joint Land Use Studies Program provides technical and financial assistance to state and local governments to plan and carry out community adjustments required to mitigate or prevent incompatible civilian development and activities that are likely to impair the continued operational utility of a DoD installation.

OEA Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) for Compatible Energy Siting

OEA accepts proposals for grant assistance to support communities, regions, and states to assist in the siting of energy project investments so they do not impair the continued operational utility of a DOD installation. The FFO awards are issued in the form of a grant agreement, and in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 6304 is defined as the legal instrument reflecting a relationship between the United States Government and a State, a local government, or other recipient.

A minimum of 10 percent of the project's total proposed funding is to be comprised of non-Federal sources. Any proposals submitted on the behalf of a multi-jurisdictional region (e.g. State of Maryland and regional / local jurisdictions) should demonstrate a significant level of cooperation across the jurisdictions within the proposal.

Eligible activities for FFO funding may include, but are not limited to:

- staffing, operating, and administrative costs for an organization;
- outreach to industry and other interests;
- geospatial information system mapping;
- model ordinances; and
- siting or permitting processes or procedures that could include DOD Siting Clearinghouse mitigation agreements as stipulations for local siting approvals or certificates of necessity and convenience.

FFO Selection Criteria for Compatible Energy Siting

All proposals will be reviewed on their individual merit by a panel of OEA and DOD Siting Clearinghouse staff, all of whom are Federal employees. OEA will also seek the input of other Federal agencies with relevant expertise (e.g., Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Energy) in the evaluation of proposals as necessary. OEA will consider each of the following equally-balanced factors as a basis to invite formal grant applications:

- An appropriate and clear project design to address the need, problem, or issue identified;
- Evidence of an effective approach to ensure compatible siting of energy projects to support the continued operational utility of DOD's test, training, and military operations;
- The innovative quality of the proposed approach; and
- A reasonable proposed budget with a non-Federal match commitment and schedule for completion of the work program specified.

A successful proposal will require the respondent to submit an application through OEA's grants management system, eGrants. OEA will assign a Project Manager to advise and assist successful respondents in the preparation of the application. Grant applications will be reviewed for their completeness and accuracy and a grant award notification will be issued, to the extent possible, within seven business days from its receipt.