

January 18, 2019

Applicant's Statement of Community Outreach
Board of Zoning Adjustment

Application of Grid Alternatives Mid-Atlantic on behalf of the District of Columbia
Square 6274 Lots 800, 801 and 802
ANC 8D

The Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) began engaging the Oxon Run community regarding this project in October 2017. Via various networks, including direct communication with Ward 8 Councilmember Trayon White's office, DOEE was recommended a number of active community members to engage on this project. An 8-member Oxon Run Solar Task Force was established, which included a mix of residents, non-profit advocates, a faith-based leader, and some ANC 8D Single Member Districts and their respective Commissioners. From the onset, the primary goal of this engagement was to create a mechanism by which the community could have early input on prioritization of beneficiaries, specifically, how and to whom the benefits of the solar energy produced by the solar facility could be most equitably allocated to income-eligible households in the surrounding neighborhood. DOEE staff managing various aspects of the project (funding, low-income assistance and subscriber management, and communications) met with the Task Force members on three occasions in 2018 - June 25, July 17, and September 10. A fourth and final meeting will take place in February, at which time the group will provide its final recommendations.

Over the course of the first three Task Force meetings, DOEE sought to explain the basics of solar energy and community renewable energy facilities (community solar systems), some of the nuances of our existing low-income energy assistance efforts and utility allowances, etc, and provide an overall introduction to the project itself, including technical specifications, environmental impact assessments, budget, etc. Engagement with the community continues as DOEE further hones its community outreach plan in order to reach the broadest possible swath of prospective beneficiaries upon project completion.

Additionally, according to the ANC 8D's procedures and guidelines the DOEE and/or GRID will present the project at ANC 8D's next available public meeting after submission.