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A.D. Makepeace and Renewable Energy Development Partners LLC plan for new solar panel canopies in Plymouth, MA

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Plymouth, MA The A.D. Makepeace Company and Renewable Energy Development Partners LLC (REDP) are proposing a plan for solar panel canopies installed over some two miles of agricultural canal in a remote section of town.

The proposal, which is subject to review and approval by the Plymouth Inspectional Services Department, is part of a multifaceted renewable energy initiative which also includes floating solar on an agricultural reservoir, ground-mounted solar arrays and additional canal canopy arrays. The project is proposed under the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program. The SMART program encourages the development of new photovoltaic energy sources in a manner that is compatible with current and future agricultural practices. The canals are used for irrigation and bog flooding for harvest and pest management purposes, and will continue to be used as such after the solar canopies are installed.

“This is part of our ongoing effort to site innovative solar projects in areas with minimal impact on wildlife and our neighbors,” said James Kane, president and CEO of the A.D. Makepeace. “In so doing, we are helping the Commonwealth make meaningful progress towards greenhouse gas reduction goals.”

REDP submitted a proposal for the canal solar to the town. The project will be the second canal canopy solar array that the A.D. Makepeace and REDP have partnered to construct. The first project, roughly half the size of the proposed new project, is located nearby on a cranberry farm in Carver, Mass. and is expected to be operational by the end of the year.

“This project is an innovative approach to solar energy production that requires minimal land disturbance, creates an additional beneficial use of land already in agricultural use, and is fully compatible with the ongoing agricultural activities. We hope it will be a model for similar types of projects done in partnership with other agricultural producers,” said Hank Ouimet, a managing partner at REDP.

The canopies require no tree cutting. The land is zoned for residential and agricultural uses.

Kane noted that the project site is zoned for residential development and local officials have long feared the prospect of having to provide municipal services to an area separated from the rest of the

town by Myles Standish State Forest. In response, the company has explored options with minimal impact on services, such as agricultural and renewable energy uses.

The sites for the projects are in the area where the boundaries of Plymouth, Carver, and Wareham meet, all a mile or more from any publicly accessible roadway. The A.D. Makepeace Company has been growing cranberries there since the early 1900s.

REDP is a boutique Massachusetts-based renewable energy project development firm specializing in innovative solar solutions.

The 169-year-old A.D. Makepeace Company is developer of the award-winning Redbrook, North America's largest cranberry grower, the largest private property owner in eastern Massachusetts, and a recognized leader in environmentally responsible real estate development and stewardship.

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