# Fortress Solar ILLC **Public Outreach and Information Session**

# **CIVEDCE** A BLACKSTONE PORTFOLIO COMPANY

### The Course at Pettey's Park 2301 West Mill St. Brush, Morgan County, CO

September 6, 2023 4:00 - 6:00 P.M.





### Fortress Solar I LLC is a subsidiary of Aypa Power ("Aypa"). Aypa is a Blackstone portfolio company.



**Development Pipeline:** 70+ projects









**Under Construction:** 2 projects





### Aypa has a proven track record of developing, financing, constructing, owning, and operating utilityscale renewable energy projects. Aypa Power's existing portfolio and qualified development pipeline spans the continental United States and Ontario, Canada, including +15,000 MWs of projects in





**Operating Fleet:** 30 projects

# **Project Location & Overview**

### The Fortress Solar Project's location is outside the city limits of Brush, in Morgan County, Colorado.

### **Location Highlights**

- The designated zoning on the project is rural agricultural/grazing.
- Current land use is for livestock grazing.
- Utility-scale solar and BESS are permitted with separate Special Use Permits (SUP).
- Proposed solar footprint is on ~4,000 acres of privately owned land.
- There are no existing buildings within solar footprint.
- Ideally located directly adjacent to utility-owned land hosting an electric substation and transmission infrastructure owned by three regional utilities.







# **Preliminary Site Plan**

Fortress Solar is an up to 600-megawatt solar and battery energy storage system project expected to be constructed in three phases of approximately 200 MW each.





- facilities.

- 34.
- ordinance.



### Site Plan Highlights

 Developing up to 600 MW solar over three ca. 200 MW phases, each planned to be constructed from 2025 through 2028.

 Total solar array area of approximately ~4,000 acres of private land secured by the Project (includes solar arrays, inverters, roads, and ancillary

 Battery storage and substation facilities are located near area close to Tri State substation.

• Gen-tie length ~1.3 miles over utility-owned land.

Primary access from US HWY

 Project distance buffers and setbacks in accordance with Morgan County Zoning

# Project Benefits

### Landowners and Communities

- Renewable energy projects play a unique and crucial role in creating a cleaner, modern, and more dependable energy grid. They are needed to generate and store energy from carbon-free sources, help the grid operate more reliably, and provide extra grid capacity when the demand for energy is high, like hot summer days and cold winter nights.
- Taxes paid on a state and local level stimulate economic growth and boost tax revenues.
- Additional regional economic benefits, federal and state incentives, also benefit the Morgan County community. The project is estimated to create ~20 full time jobs over its life.

### Federal, Regional, & Local Renewable Energy Goals & Objectives



Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (potential federal tax credits)



### State of Colorado Goal of supplying 90% of its power from Clean Energy (carbon-free) by 2050



### County has specific land use categorization for solar projects specifying the ability for projects to be sited accordingly

### **QVD**

Federal support for local climate change-related infrastructure

# **Typical BESS Containerized Units**

### BESS containers are a cost-effective, modular way to store energy, making it available when the consumer needs it.

### **BESS Highlights**

- Fire suppression system
- Thermal management
- Fault detection and isolation
- Emergency shut-off
- Industry leading safety certifications
- Encapsulation and containment
- Designed for transportation







# **Frequently Asked Questions**

### Project Lifecycle – Construction, Operations and Decommissioning

### What is the estimated construction schedule?

Construction is expected to begin in Fall of 2025, with a duration of 22 months. Construction inconveniences such as dust generation, traffic and road impacts will be mitigated to be as minimal as possible.

### Will the project make noise?

Battery systems typically produce up to 85dB of noise from a 0 ft setback. This level is similar to dishwashers or indoor air-conditioning units and is only during periods of high charge/discharge during high temperature events. Given the buffer distance of the project from adjacent areas, it is very unlikely any noise will be audible.

### What are typical operations like?

Regular operations include routine maintenance activities such as cleaning panels, checking connections, and replacing faulty components.

### Will there be glare from the panels?

No. The Project was modeled on SGHAT Glare Gauge to evaluate the potential extent of any glare, and the results from 3 separate analyses did not show any major impacts upon nearby points of observation, vehicle routes, and airports.

### What is the decommissioning plan?

There will be periodic upgrades, replacements, and decommissioning and recycling of components at the end of their useful life. Aypa is responsible for removing and decommissioning the Project.

### Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and Solar PV

### What are solar racks and pile depths?

Solar racks are framework structures that hold solar panels in place and are designed to optimize panel angle for maximum sunlight exposure. The racks are attached to pile foundations inserted 6 to 10 feet into the ground.

### What are solar panels made of?

Panels are made of 99% polysilicon (similar to sand) and other metals. Faulty or broken panels would be replaced and recycled appropriately offsite.

### What type of batteries are you installing?

Our BESS systems are composed of lithium-ion batteries, like those used in consumer electronics, phones, and electric vehicles.

### What do these systems look like, and how big are they?

Utility-scale BESS systems are housed in modular, metal containers that look like shipping containers. As a guideline, a 100 MW system can be hosted on 3 acres.

### Are there any fire risks?

The risk of fire is extremely low and further mitigated by the battery's design. All of our installations incorporate stringent fire safety features and meet the most current fire safety standards, such as NFPA 855, and UL9540.





# Morgan County SUP Approval

2024



# **Anticipated Milestone Schedule**



### Construction Permits





### Start of Construction







### In-Service Dates