



# HEARTWOOD SOLAR II

Fire Response Plan  
Fayette Township, Hillsdale County, Michigan

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## Fire Response Plan

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## I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Heartwood Solar II, LLC (Heartwood Solar II) proposes to construct and operate a ground-mounted photovoltaic solar energy system known as the Heartwood Solar II Project (Project). The Project entails the development of an up to 140-megawatt (MW) ground-mounted photovoltaic solar system, spanning approximately 1,388 acres in Fayette Township, Hillsdale County, Michigan. The Project is located near the intersection of E. Chicago Road and Dobson Road.

The health and safety of our team, the communities where we operate, and those with whom we collaborate are the top priority for our team at Heartwood Solar II. The plan put forth below outlines fire safety guidelines and standards for the Project.

## II. OVERVIEW

In accordance with the Fayette Township draft compatible renewable energy ordinance (CREO) provided to the Applicant in February 2026, which provides regulations for Fire Response Plans (FRP), Heartwood Solar II has provided the Township with this Fire Response Plan. The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29, Part 1926.24, establishes the requirements for fire protection and prevention during construction activities. Employers are mandated to develop and implement a comprehensive fire protection program tailored to the specific conditions and hazards of the construction site. A responsible individual must be designated to oversee the effective implementation of the program. Additionally, appropriate firefighting equipment must be readily accessible and maintained in proper working condition to address potential fire incidents. The regulation also requires employees to receive training on fire prevention and response measures pertinent to the hazards they may encounter on-site. Furthermore, the safe storage and handling of flammable materials, such as liquids and gases, are emphasized to minimize fire risks. Restrictions on smoking and open flames may also be necessary in areas prone to fire hazards. Overall, this regulation underscores the importance of proactive measures to mitigate fire risks, ensure preparedness, and safeguard worker safety on construction sites (29 CFR § 1926.24). Therefore, Heartwood Solar II will fully adhere to these regulations and will implement the FRP and associated information outlined below. **In the event of an emergency, please dial 911 first.**

**TABLE 1. OPERATIONAL AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

Company	Contact	Job Function	Phone Number	Email
Heartwood Solar II Non-Emergency	Brady Friss*	Development Manager	(734) 680-3556	<a href="mailto:brady@rangerpower.com">brady@rangerpower.com</a>
Heartwood Solar II Emergency	Brady Friss**	Development Manager	(734) 680-3556	<a href="mailto:brady@rangerpower.com">brady@rangerpower.com</a>
Jonesville Fire Department	Rick Riggs	Fire Response – Deputy Chief	<b>Emergency: 911</b> Non-Emergency: (517) 849-9451	<a href="mailto:rriggs@jonesvillemi.gov">rriggs@jonesvillemi.gov</a>
Jonesville Police Department	Mike Lance	Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police	<b>Emergency: 911</b> Non-Emergency: (517) 849-2101	<a href="mailto:mlance@jonesvillemi.gov">mlance@jonesvillemi.gov</a>
Hillsdale County Sheriff	Scott Hodshire	Police Response - Sheriff	<b>Emergency: 911</b> Non-Emergency: (517) 437-7317	<a href="mailto:s.hodshire@co.hillsdale.mi.us">s.hodshire@co.hillsdale.mi.us</a>

Hillsdale County Emergency Management	Jason Lautermilch	Director	<b>Emergency: 911</b> Non-Emergency: (517) 437-7384	<a href="mailto:hcem@hillsdalecounty.gov">hcem@hillsdalecounty.gov</a>
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\*Heartwood Solar II will review and update Non-Emergency contact information prior to the commencement of construction, if necessary.

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### III. LOCAL CONSULTATION

Consultation, or a good-faith effort to consult, with local police and fire department representatives is underway to ensure that the FRP aligns with acceptable operating procedures, capabilities, and available resources. The Project team has initiated engagement with relevant agencies to solicit feedback and integrate it into the FRP as appropriate. Updates to the FRP may occur based on continued coordination with these local emergency service providers.

On October 6, 2025, Ranger Power representatives Brady Friss and Ella Hackett met with the Jonesville Fire Department at the Jonesville Fire Department station to discuss the proposed Heartwood Solar II project. Fire Department participants included Deputy Chief Rick Riggs and Assistant Chief Scott Lucas. The meeting included a review of the project map, a summary of the project’s development history to date, and an overview of the current status of local permit application preparation. The anticipated construction start date of late 2027 and a commercial operation date (COD) of late 2028 were also discussed.

The discussion also focused on emergency response coordination, including the Fire Department’s experience with Heartwood Solar construction activities to date and considerations related to training and equipment needs for effective response to solar facility incidents. Ranger Power and the Jonesville Fire Department agreed to continue coordination throughout the permitting, construction, and operational phases to ensure appropriate preparedness, communication, and resource planning for the Project.

Additional meetings, responder training opportunities, and future updates to the FRP will ensure alignment with local response protocols and support a safe and coordinated approach to emergency preparedness.

### IV. ON-SITE EQUIPMENT

The Project will be equipped with appropriate fire prevention and response systems to address potential fire emergencies. This includes the provision of one fire extinguisher in each site vehicle, one fire extinguisher in the substation control house, and one to two fire extinguishers inside the operations and maintenance (O&M) building, designed to extinguish small or incipient fires effectively. In addition, smoke detectors will be located within the substation control house and O&M building. These measures ensure the safety of personnel and property by facilitating prompt and efficient fire response on-site.

For any situation in which on-site fire response equipment proves insufficient, O&M staff will coordinate with local first responders to safely address potential fire emergencies. Gravel access roads are proposed within the facility footprint to provide access to key electrical equipment and disconnect devices. A fence surrounds the entire site and includes controlled access gates that will have a fire/utility approved Knox Box and signage showing emergency contact number.

During construction and normal operational activities, proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times. PPE requirements may change due to onsite activities. Always check with the Heartwood Solar II local O&M team before entering the Project during operations.

## **V. CONTINGENCY PLANS**

This section outlines the comprehensive contingency plans to be implemented in response to a fire emergency, detailing the proactive measures, protocols, and resources designed to ensure an effective and coordinated response to safeguard personnel, property, and the environment.

### **NOTIFICATION OF FIRE PERSONNEL**

In the event of a fire, all personnel must immediately notify the on-site O&M manager or lead technician. Emergency services, including local fire departments, will be contacted promptly using pre-designated communication protocols. Access points and site-specific information, such as high-risk areas, will be provided to responding fire personnel to facilitate an efficient response.

### **STAFF AND VISITOR TRAINING**

Comprehensive fire safety training will be provided to staff annually, covering fire prevention, proper use of extinguishers, evacuation procedures, and communication protocols. Visitors and contractors will receive site-specific fire safety briefings during orientation. Regular fire drills will be conducted to ensure readiness and familiarity with evacuation routes and safety measures.

### **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

Vegetation under and around photovoltaic panels will be maintained to minimize fire risks. This includes routine trimming of grass and removal of dry foliage or combustible materials. Any debris accumulation will be promptly cleared to prevent potential ignition sources.

### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

Clear evacuation routes and assembly points will be identified and communicated to all personnel and visitors. Evacuation maps will be posted at key locations, and personnel will be instructed to use the nearest safe exit during an emergency. The evacuation radius will be determined at the time of emergency. The Project site manager will determine the radius based on voltage level and equipment type. Designated leaders will account for all individuals at assembly points.

### **FIRE SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE**

As discussed above, fire extinguishers and other suppression tools will be strategically placed throughout the site, including the O&M building and areas containing electrical components. Equipment will be inspected regularly to ensure functionality. Only trained personnel will operate fire suppression equipment during emergencies.

### **COORDINATION WITH LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Project will maintain active communication and coordination with local fire departments and emergency responders. Regular meetings and site tours will familiarize them with the layout, high-risk areas, and fire suppression resources.

### **POST-FIRE RECOVERY AND REPORTING**

After a fire, a thorough inspection of the affected area will be conducted to identify damages, determine the cause, and assess safety risks. A detailed incident report will be prepared, and corrective actions will

be implemented to prevent recurrence. All affected systems and equipment will be repaired or replaced to restore operational safety.

By implementing these fire contingency measures, the Project ensures a proactive and organized approach to fire prevention and emergency response, safeguarding personnel, property, and the surrounding community.

## **VI. FIRE RESPONSE TRAINING**

Heartwood Solar II will notify relevant emergency response agencies and fire departments having jurisdiction of the Project area prior to construction so that the Fire Department can visit the Project during construction to obtain an on-the-ground understanding of the Project layout, access points, and protocols in place. Furthermore, Heartwood Solar II will supply additional equipment to support the local departments if necessary. Heartwood Solar II commits to conducting, or providing funding to conduct, site-specific training drills with emergency responders prior to the commencement of construction and upon request while the facility is in operation to, among other things, familiarize local fire departments with the Project, hazards, procedures, and current best practices.

Additionally, health and safety training is expected to be provided to EPC and O&M staff on the Project. Trained personnel are expected to be on site during working hours, however, hours per day are expected to vary based on construction/maintenance needs. It is expected that a designated emergency contact would be selected at the time of emergency based on the type, location, and severity of the incident. If the site manager is not present, an individual that is at the location of the incident will be selected as the emergency contact to call 911 and help guide responders to the appropriate location.

## **VII. FIRE RESPONSE PLAN UPDATES**

Heartwood Solar II is dedicated to maintaining a robust and effective FRP to ensure the safety of its operations and the surrounding community. To achieve this, Heartwood Solar II commits to meeting with fire departments, first responders, and county emergency managers at least once every three years to review and update the FRP. These periodic reviews will involve a thorough assessment of the plan to confirm its relevance and effectiveness, incorporating any new best practices, advancements in technology, or changes in local emergency response protocols. Heartwood Solar II will finalize the FRP prior to the commencement of construction.

## **VIII. LOCAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY**

Heartwood Solar II is committed to ensuring that all necessary measures are in place to support fire safety and response efforts effectively. The Project is proposing to include 14-foot access roads for the solar facility and a 20-foot access road for the Project substation to allow access for emergency vehicles in the unlikely event of a fire. At the time of Application submittal, Heartwood Solar II is not aware of any emergency response capacity issues or deficiencies that would necessitate any specific equipment or training to address same, with respect to the Project. Additional coordination between Heartwood Solar II and Fire Departments will take place prior to the construction of the Project to determine emergency response capacity as well as specific equipment needs or training requirements. During the pre-construction meeting, Heartwood Solar II will provide a detailed outline of the plans, protocols, and procedures related to fire prevention and emergency response. Once this coordination and analysis has been completed, the FRP will be updated accordingly, including specifically addressing any emergency response capacity issues and identification of any specific equipment or training deficiencies in local

emergency response capacity, if applicable, as well as measures to mitigate such deficiencies as needed. This will ensure that all stakeholders, including fire departments and first responders, are fully informed and prepared.

As part of this process, Heartwood Solar II will evaluate and recommend any specific equipment, resources, or training necessary to support effective fire prevention and emergency response activities. This may include specialized tools, firefighting apparatus, or targeted training programs tailored to the unique needs of the Project and its operations.

In the event that additional equipment or resources are required to adequately support the Fire Department, Heartwood Solar II will work collaboratively to identify and provide these resources. Our commitment is to ensure that all parties are equipped and prepared to respond effectively to any fire-related incidents, prioritizing safety and operational readiness.