

Executive Summary: Jasper County

NextEra Energy Resources (NEER) is planning a 435 MW utility-scale photovoltaic energy project, known as the Dunn’s Bridge IIa Solar Energy Project, in Jasper County in 2023. A capital investment of \$433 million is expected in this project. Purdue University’s Center for Regional Development undertook an economic impact analysis at the request of the company to quantify the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts from this planned investment at both the statewide and local (county/regional economic) levels.

The study found that the capital investments would yield almost \$308 million in short-term economic output (including \$60 million of labor income) during the construction phase locally. An additional impact of nearly \$42 million in economic output (including \$9 million of labor income) will be accrued in the remainder of the state from the Dunn’s Bridge-IIa Solar Energy Project construction. In the long run, \$176 million of economic output (including \$24 million of labor income) is expected during the ongoing operating period of the planned project over 30 years. For remainder of the state, it will be \$26 million in economic output (including almost \$5 million of labor income) during the ongoing operating period. These represent economic impacts of investments in the county economy and spillover of economic impacts and benefits to the rest of Indiana.

Collectively, the short-term and long-term impacts include \$29 million of local tax payments that can be used for a variety of community benefits (if localities choose) including tax reductions, investments in public education, other local services, or infrastructure improvements (such as roads, broadband or other community needs). NEER also will provide \$3.8 million in Economic Development Agreement (EDA) payments to the Jasper County government.

In terms of job creation, the construction impact of the Dunn’s Bridge-IIa Solar Energy Project is anticipated to support 836 jobs locally and 154 jobs in rest of the state. 270 job-years locally and 67 job-years in the remainder of state are expected from ongoing operations and maintenance through the 30 years life cycle of the project. The sectors which benefit most from these investments in order are: 1) solar panels at \$151 million; 2) metal fabrication at \$87 million; and 3) electrical and civil works at nearly \$108 million, indicating broad support of the economy from the solar energy project investment. Overall, the modeling of economic impacts from investment in Jasper County will support a total of 990 jobs in the short-term, and 337 job-years in the long-term (during the project’s planned 30-year lifespan). The major findings are summarized in the “A” tables below.

Table A1: Construction Economic Impacts in Jasper County-IIa

Construction impacts	Employment	Labor Income	Economic Output
Direct	477	\$36.3 Millions	\$181.7 Millions
Indirect	224	\$19.0 Millions	\$107.2 Millions
Induced	135	\$4.5 Millions	\$18.9 Millions
Total	836	\$59.8 Millions	\$307.8 Millions

Table A2: Construction Economic Impacts in Remainder of State

Construction impacts	Employment	Labor Income	Economic Output
Indirect	78	\$5.5 Millions	\$29.8 Millions
Induced	76	\$3.9 Millions	\$12.0 Millions
Total	154	\$9.4 Millions	\$41.8 Millions

Table A3: O&M Impacts in Jasper-IIa and Remainder of State Over Life Cycle

O&M Impacts	Employment-Years	Labor Income	Economic Output
Jaspet-II	270	\$23.7 Millions	\$176.1 Millions
Remainder of state	67	\$4.9 Millions	\$26.3 Millions

Top industry sectors by impacts include electric power generation-solar, construction of other new nonresidential structures, electric power transmission and distribution, etc.