



Rain Lily

A Brighter Tomorrow Starts Today

Solar Farm & Battery Storage Project Newsletter | **May 2026**



Welcome to the Rain Lily Solar & Storage Project Newsletter!

Welcome to the May edition of the Rain Lily project newsletter. At EE North America, we believe that successful renewable energy projects are built on strong community partnerships and deliver lasting benefits that extend far beyond clean electricity generation.

In this issue, we'll share how the Rain Lily project supports Hood County through property tax revenue that funds local infrastructure and services, creates quality jobs, provides long-term value to participating landowners, and establishes partnerships with local organizations. The project will transform land previously used for sand and gravel mining into a productive clean energy resource. Our focus is on community stewardship: how this project delivers economic opportunity, strengthens local infrastructure, and creates enduring value for Hood County.

Whether you're a nearby resident, a community partner, or someone interested in how renewable energy development can restore previously disturbed land and support local communities, we're glad to keep you informed and engaged.

About Rain Lily Solar & Storage Project

Located on County Road 326, near Cleburne in Hood County, Texas, the Rain Lily Solar and Storage project is one of EE North America's key projects in ERCOT.

Development is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2026. Construction is scheduled to start in 2027 with the first power being produced at the end of 2028.

At-a-glance



191 MWdc PV / 210 MWh BESS
installed capacity



377 GWh / year
annual production capacity



810 acres
of land



34,000+ Homes
powered each year



200,000+
metric tons of carbon emissions saved



2028
expected grid connection



24/7 Monitoring
of the energy storage system allows for rapid response, if needed



Meets or exceeds national safety codes and standards
rigorous testing ensures the project also meets multiple international safety certifications



Safety is of the utmost priority
from advanced system design to third-party validation to site layout, safety is built into the project

Strengthening Our Community

How does this project benefit our community directly?

The Rain Lily project brings direct benefits to our community through property tax revenue that supports county services and infrastructure, job creation during construction and operation, lease payments to participating landowners, and partnerships with local educational and conservation initiatives.

The Rain Lily project also supports the community by stabilizing power pricing and strengthening the grid's reliability. Namely, the solar project adds electricity directly to the local grid, generating power where it's needed. It provides a dependable, emissions-free fuel resource that increases the overall grid capacity, rather than drawing from it. By diversifying the energy-mix of the grid, solar enhances grid resilience and reduces the grid's exposure to fuel price volatility.

Likewise, batteries play a key role in supporting the grid. By balancing supply and demand in real time, they make the grid more efficient and protect customers from extreme price fluctuations. Furthermore, batteries can respond almost instantly to fluctuations in grid demand, and support grid stability by maintaining voltage and frequency, which prevents grid outages.

How does the project benefit the local tax base?

The Rain Lily project will generate property tax revenue that flows directly to Hood County and local taxing entities, including the county government, emergency services districts, and other jurisdictions. This revenue supports essential services such as roads, infrastructure maintenance, emergency response capabilities, and public facilities. Property taxes are assessed and allocated according to Texas state law and local taxing district boundaries. There are no tax abatements or special exemptions associated with this project.

By adding new taxable value to the county's tax base without requiring residential services like schools, water, or sanitation, utility-scale renewable energy projects can help strengthen local budgets and may reduce the tax burden on existing residents over time.

Will the project impact local property values?

Studies across the U.S. show that utility-scale solar and energy storage projects do not negatively affect local property values. These projects are typically designed with visual screening and operate quietly, ensuring minimal impact on neighboring properties. In some cases, nearby properties have even seen value appreciation due to increased infrastructure investment in the area.

Meet The Experts



David Van Gorder

Environmental Planner, ICF

David Van Gorder, Environmental Planner with ICF, provides technical and stakeholder engagement support for the Rain Lily Solar project. With over 32 years of experience in the environmental field, he has a strong understanding of the requirements for successful project development. David has prepared and managed categorical exclusion reports (CE), environmental assessments (EA), and environmental impact statements (EIS) on a variety of projects prepared in conformance with Texas Department of Transportation guidelines, Federal Highway Administration guidelines, and the National Environmental Policy Act. He also has extensive experience in wetland permitting, obtaining nationwide and individual permits from the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers. Throughout his public and private sector experience, David has led project teams and partnered with sponsors to navigate complex issues through the environmental review and approval process. He applies a stakeholder-centered approach that supports inclusive public involvement, responsive engagement, and clear, consistent communication throughout the project lifecycle.

"It has been very rewarding to serve on the Rain Lily project team. It has been impressive to witness EE North America take a proactive stance towards ways to be a good neighbor and partner with the community while promoting a source of sustainable, renewable energy."

- David Van Gorder



Stakeholder Engagement Focus: Three Years of Partnership and Transparency

David Van Gorder, Environmental Planner, ICF

Community outreach has been central to the Rain Lily project from the beginning. In response to the project's location, potential impacts, and feedback raised by community members, the team completed comprehensive environmental studies, drainage analysis, and supporting technical documentation. We coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on conservation guidance, including setbacks for an occupied bald eagle nest, and confirmed an agreed-upon finding of no habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler. We also conducted pedestrian cultural resource surveys and completed viewshed and vegetative screening analyses to evaluate potential visual effects and identify effective mitigation measures. In addition, we prepared a noise study to evaluate anticipated sound levels and prioritized addressing fire safety considerations. Much of this work was undertaken in direct response to community questions and concerns.

We paired this technical work with ongoing outreach and coordination. The project team held a dozen meetings with County officials, including the Director of Development, Fire Marshal, Director of Emergency Management, Director of Environmental Health and all County Commissioners. We also engaged with multiple community organizations, including supporting Operation Back to School and continued coordination with the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. When the County requested additional information or clarification, we provided timely responses. The project website includes extensive information about the project, much of it organized in a Frequently Asked Questions format. In addition, the project committed to producing this newsletter to communicate directly on the topics the community has identified as priorities: safety, community benefits, environmental stewardship, energy security, and engagement and transparency.

At every step, we have asked: What does Hood County need from us to develop this project responsibly? And we have worked diligently to meet or exceed those expectations.

Through proactive leadership and early coordination, the Rain Lily project is a model of sustainable development. The project has received USFWS approvals, avoids all floodplain impacts, and is designed to avoid U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional waters and associated permitting requirements while also addressing local priorities and community needs.

We look forward to continuing to engage stakeholders as the project moves forward and becomes an integrated part of the community.

Hood County Update

Rain Lily Solar & Storage is providing project design information and environmental studies to Hood County as part of our ongoing commitment to open communication with the county and the broader community. This includes documentation on stormwater management, wildlife habitat, and other environmental considerations we have studied throughout the development process.

We have been engaged partners in Hood County from the start, and that will not change. As these materials become available to the public, we look forward to the community's review and remain available to answer questions as the project continues to develop.

- EE North America

An Invitation

Have questions or want to learn more? Reach out—we'd love to connect!
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