

CHELSEA SOLAR LLC

45 Day Advance Notice Letter

October 13, 2017

TO: Those Persons Listed on the Attached Certificate of Service

**RE: Chelsea Solar Project
Certificate of Public Good – Section 248 Permit Process
45 Day Advance Notice of Proposed Project**

I. Introduction

Chelsea Solar LLC (the “Petitioner”) is a Vermont limited liability company that is preparing to file a petition with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (the “PUC”) for a Certificate of Public Good pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, requesting approval to build and operate a solar photovoltaic (“PV”) electric generation facility with a nameplate capacity of 2.0 megawatts alternating current (“MWac”) to be located near 1035 Willow Road in Bennington, Vermont (the “Project”).

The proposed Project site has been examined to assess solar resource characteristics, environmental conditions, and potential impacts of the Project. The Petitioner anticipates filing a Petition for a Certificate of Public Good with the PUC no later than November 28, 2017. The Petitioner is providing the information in this 45 Day Advance Notice to municipal and regional planning commissions, municipal legislative bodies, and state agencies in accordance with 30 V.S.A. § 248(f) and PUC Rule 5.402.

This letter (1) describes the Project, plans for its construction and operation, including how equipment and materials will be transported to the site, (2) provides preliminary information regarding potential environmental and aesthetic Project impacts, (3) describes the Petitioner’s schedule for the next 45 days, and (4) explains the rights of the local/regional planning commissions and legislative bodies to comment on the Project plans in accordance with PUC Rule 5.402(A).

II. Project Description

The proposed location for the Project (the “Property”) is on a portion of a 27.3 acre parcel of land within the limits of the Town of Bennington, Vermont. The Property is located along the northeastern boundary of the Route 7 / Route 279 interchange, north of Willow Road, and west of Apple Hill Road. The Property is located along Willow Road in Bennington, and it can be identified with GPS Coordinates: 42.9083, -73.2059. Public road access is planned off of Willow Road at the southern boundary of the Property. The Property carries a land use designation of Rural Conservation District under the Bennington Town Plan. The Property is vacant and contains no structures. The Property contains some topographical and wetlands features that will be avoided by the Project footprint. The Property is surrounded to the west and south by commercial, residential, and industrial uses, and to the north and east by residential uses. The Property location is indicated on the included Project plan set.

The Project is a ground-mounted solar PV array with an estimated generation capacity of 2.0 MWac. The purpose of the Project will be to convert solar radiation to electricity that will be sold to a local utility. This Project will be similar in design and function to multiple other solar generation facilities that have recently been built in the state of Vermont.

The Project will be privately funded, owned, and operated. The Project will pursue a Section 248 Certificate of Public Good with the Vermont PUC, as well as a 3-9020 Stormwater Construction General Permit.

The Project will consist almost entirely of 72-cell crystalline silicon PV solar modules that are mounted above the ground on steel and aluminum fixed-tilt racking structures with no moving parts. The modules will have a maximum height above the ground of up to 8 feet and will be oriented due south at a tilt angle of 15 degrees. Module connection wiring will be run through underground conduits to a central equipment cabinet area. This equipment area will be located along a private gravel access driveway that will near center of the array for maintenance and emergency access. The entire array will be surrounded by a security fence. Inside the fence, the ground cover will be seeded with low-growing native vegetation. Project visual screening will be accomplished by combining existing vegetation around the Property's perimeter with supplemental landscaping plantings and partially-opaque fence mesh material in certain locations.

Site preparation will involve clearing up to 10 acres. Some contour grading may be necessary in areas within the array. Stormwater controls will be installed in accordance with 3-9020 state standards and requirements. Site preparation and construction is estimated to take four to six months. Construction, equipment delivery, and site operations traffic will access the site via a driveway entrance off of Willow Road, connected to E Road, connected to Route 7. It will be an unmanned facility, and it will require only 2 to 3 maintenance visits per month, on average. The Project will have a projected useful life of up to 45 years. A preliminary site plan is included.

III. Petitioner Schedule

The Petitioner anticipates filing a Petition for a Certificate of Public Good with the PUC no later than November 28, 2017. Prior to that date, the Petitioner will continue to work closely with experts in the fields of solar project design, aesthetics, environmental impacts, and civil construction to prepare a petition submittal and verify the Project's compliance with the criteria required in 30 V.S.A. §248.

IV. Right to Comment on the Plans

Pursuant to Section 248(f) of Title 30 of Vermont Statutes Annotated (30 V.S.A. § 248(f)), municipal/regional planning commissions and municipal legislative bodies can make recommendations, if any, to the PUC and to the Petitioner at least 7 days prior to the filing of the Petition with the PUC. So that the PUC and Petitioner may take your views into account, Petitioner requests that your comments be submitted as soon as possible. The planning commissions and legislative bodies also have the right to make revised recommendations within 45 days after the date the Petition is filed with the PUC if the Petition contains new or more detailed information that was not previously included in these plans.

For additional information regarding this process, including your right to participate in the PUC's proceeding, please refer to the "Guide to the Vermont Public Service Board's Section 248 Process" which can be found online at <http://puc.vermont.gov/document/section-248-procedures>

If you are interested in a presentation on this project, or have comments or requests for further information, please contact Michael Melone at (917) 328-2001 or via email at mjmelone@allcous.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Melone', with a stylized, cursive script.

Michael Melone
Chelsea Solar LLC
c/o Allco Renewable Energy Limited
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New York, NY 10019