

CHELSEA SOLAR LLC
c/o Allco Renewable Energy Limited
1745 Broadway, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10019

November 27, 2017

Mrs. Judith Whitney, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620

Re: Petition of Chelsea Solar LLC, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, for a certificate of public good authorizing the installation and operation of the “Chelsea Solar Project,” a 2.0 MW solar electric generation facility located off Willow Road in Bennington, Vermont

Dear Mrs. Whitney:

On behalf of Chelsea Solar LLC (“Chelsea Solar”), I am pleased to enclose for filing in the above matter the Section 248 petition and associated materials requesting Commission approval for the installation and operation of a 2.0 MW solar electric generation facility in Bennington, Vermont, to be known as the Chelsea Solar Project (the “Project”). The Project was awarded a long-term power purchase agreement under the Vermont Standard Offer Program in June, 2014.

The Chelsea Solar project has had a long history. Throughout that time, we have continued to work with interested parties to develop a project that would have no adverse impact on the public and neighbors. The result is a project that is fully screened from all public and neighboring vantage points resulting in no adverse impact on aesthetics.

The site is ideal for solar for many reasons. *First*, because of its existing topography together with the proximity to existing hedgerows and other topographical features the Project is naturally screened, year-round. *Second*, from an ecological perspective it is basically clean. The only feature noted on ANR’s Biofinder is a small patch of rare plant species, which the project completely avoids. *Third*, it is situated with a highly developed area adjoining nearby commercial and industrial use areas, highway infrastructure, a planned housing development and is proximate to substantial load. *Fourth*, the appropriateness of the site for solar is highlighted by a recent email by Bennington Select Board Vice Chair, Don Campbell, to Project neighbor Libby Harris, a copy of which was provided by Harris to Petitioner, and is included as ***Exhibit CS-BW-20***:

the lot is small, there is no river or lake to protect, the forest is in terrible condition (basal area is so low it barely qualifies as forest in many places and it is rife with invasives), it does not connect to other conserved lands, it is not part of an animal corridor, it does not provide significant public access, it is not high quality farm land nor is it suitable for low-income housing, and is not tribal or cultural heritage land.

Fifth, the Bennington County Regional Commission Energy Committee has reviewed the project and noted its compliance with the regional plan.

Chelsea Solar respectfully requests that the Commission schedule a prehearing conference as soon as practicable on or around December 8, 2017, to initiate the review process and to set a schedule that would result in a final Commission decision no later than March of 2018 enabling the Project to place orders for equipment in time for Vermont's good weather during the building season.

The documents that accompany this letter have been electronically filed using ePUC.

Service on Entities Listed in 30 V.S.A. § 248(a)(4)(c)

Please be advised of the following with respect to service on certain statutory interested parties entitled under 30 V.S.A. § 248(a)(4)(C) to receive a copy of the petition and associated materials. Within two business days of notification from the Commission that the petition is complete, Chelsea Solar will electronically serve a copy of the petition and associated materials via ePUC on the following persons or entities: the Attorney General, the Department of Public Service, the Department of Health, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Historic Preservation Division, the Agency of Transportation, and the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets. All other persons or entities identified in 30 V.S.A. § 248(a)(4)(C) will be served a hard copy of the petition and associated materials, also within two business days of notification from the Commission that the petition is complete.

Notice to Adjoining Landowners

Pursuant to PUC Rule 5.402(B), Chelsea Solar is providing a hard copy of this letter and the petition (without associated materials) to adjoining landowners.

Chelsea Solar is pleased to file this petition and looks forward to commencement of the Commission's review of its proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further information, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/Michael Melone

Michael Melone
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cc: Service List