MHG Solar LLC
PO Box 1204
Manchester Center, VT 05255

TO: Persons and Entities Entitled to Notice Pursuant to Public Utility Commission Rule 5.107(B) (See Enclosed List)

RE: MHG Solar LLC's Proposed Richville Road Solar Project in Manchester Center, VT
45-Day Notice of Application to be filed with the Vermont Public Utility Commission

DATE: November 22, 2019

Dear Interested Persons and Entities,

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 8010 and 248 and Vermont Public Utility Commission Rule 5.107(B), MHG Solar LLC ("MHG") is pleased to submit the following pre-application notice concerning its proposed 500 kilowatt (kW) group net-metered solar project, to be sited on a parcel of land located off Richville Road in the Town of Manchester Center, Vermont ("Richville Road Solar Project" or "Project").

I. Introduction

MHG is preparing to file an application for a Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") with the Vermont Public Utility Commission ("Commission"), requesting approval to install and operate a 500 kW alternating current ("AC") solar electric generation facility to be located off Richville Road in Manchester Center, Vermont. The Project would be located on land that MHG Solar intends to purchase from Blackacre LLC, the current owner of the property.

The Project will be a group net-metered facility connected to the Green Mountain Power ("GMP") electric distribution system. The electricity produced by the Project will offset the electricity requirements of its group members, GMP electric customers.

The remainder of this letter briefly describes: (1) MHG's plans for construction and operation of the Project, including how equipment and materials will be transported to the site; (2) the expected benefits of the Project; (3) the preliminary assessment of potential impacts; (4) the expected date an application will be filed with the Commission; and (5) the rights of persons and entities receiving this notice to comment on the project plans in accordance with Commission Rule 5.107(B).

II. Project Description and Construction Plans

MHG has an option to purchase an 8-acre (±) parcel of land off Richville Road in Manchester Center, Vermont from Blackacre LLC. The Project site will be accessed via a 12 foot-wide, 75-foot-long (±) proposed access road off Richville Road.

The Project will occupy approximately 5 acres (±) of land on the currently vacant parcel. *See* Site Location Map and Site Plan, *Attachment A.*

Our research indicates that the Project parcel is not subject to an Act 250 Permit.

The 500 kW solar electric generation facility will consist of solar modules mounted on fixed metal racks, string inverters, and electrical collector system components consisting of underground conduit, wire, AC combiner panel, and AC disconnects. The interconnection equipment will include a pole-mounted 500 kW three-phase transformer, low-side metering, and a GMP high-side disconnect. The Project will connect to the existing GMP distribution line that runs along Richville Road.

A preliminary Site Plan is included in *Attachment A.* It illustrates the anticipated location of the Project's components in relation to the surrounding area. MHG chose this site based upon its solar exposure, accessibility to existing roads and distribution lines, and its minimal impacts on natural resources and its ability to be effectively screened from public view via plantings and or fencing. Subject to the concurrence of the Manchester Center Selectboard and Regional Planning Commission, the proposed location will be deemed a "Preferred Site" under the Commission's rules for net-metering (PUC Rule 5.103).

While the attached site plan represents the current preferred layout, the layout that will be contained in the final application may vary somewhat based upon further engineering, environmental, or other siting considerations. The final layout will be within the overall site area where environmental and other impacts have been evaluated for the purposes of this 45-day notice.

The basic parameters of the site plan include the following working assumptions:

- Access to the solar site will make use of the existing roads within the area, including Richville Road, and site access will be obtained via a short gravel driveway into the project on the northern edge of the parcel near an existing tree-line separating the area from the adjacent parcel to the north.

- The solar panel support frame structures will be held in place by steel piles driven into the ground.

- Construction will be performed in accordance with the Vermont Standards & Specifications for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control (2006).

- Year-round daily access to the array is not required. Therefore, no on-site septic or water supply systems will be constructed. The solar project's energy production will be monitored remotely and, if any abnormal conditions are detected, technicians will be dispatched as required.

- The solar project will be enclosed by a perimeter fence or restricted access gate that will meet applicable state and electric safety code standards.

Site Access & Equipment Delivery

Standardized trucking methods will be used to transport the panels and other project components (e.g. racking, wire, conduit, and construction materials) to the site. Typical tractor-trailer and box truck vehicles will be used to transport materials to the site for construction. The Project will not require any oversized loads. The proposed access road coming off Richville Road will be used for bringing in all construction-related equipment and machinery. Construction equipment will likely include a light duty crane or similar equipment to lift solar equipment into place, trucks to move racking around the site, and a small pile driver to install fence posts and racking. A small trencher will be used to install any underground electrical wiring.

Solar Panels and Electrical Collection System

The Project will utilize 2184 (±) HT solar panels (375 watts each), or the equivalent, mounted on 91 (±) racks (24 modules or panels per rack). The solar arrays will be set on steel piles (foundations) which will hold the solar panels at a fixed angle of 25 (±) degrees, to maximize solar radiance collection. The bottom of the solar panels will be at approximately 3 feet above existing grade and the top at approximately 9 feet above grade.

The array will be arranged in 16 rows (±) running east-west, with each row ranging from approximately 50 feet to approximately 400 feet in length (±). The rows will be connected via electrical cable to string inverters, which convert the electricity from DC to AC. From the inverters, the electrical interconnect line will run underground to the pole-mounted transformer. All system design and installation methods will be NEC compliant.

The final selection of all equipment will be made after a CPG is issued and contractors and vendors are selected.

III. Project Benefits

The benefits that the Project will provide include, but may not be limited to:

- Energy cost savings for net-metering group members.

- Payment of State educational and municipal property taxes.

- Purchasing project equipment from Vermont businesses, when commercially feasible.

- Employing Vermont businesses for pre-application, construction, and operation and maintenance work, when commercially feasible.

In addition to these economic benefits, the proposed solar electric facility will also result in important environmental benefits. The 2016 Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan set a goal for the State to receive 90% of its energy from renewable resources by the year 2050, and solar power is needed to meet that goal. The solar energy produced by this Project will result in less electricity needed in the New England region from plants that likely use fossil fuel or nuclear energy. It will emit no air pollutants (including CO2) in generating electricity, and thus will help in a small but measurable way to reduce CO2 emissions, acid rain, and the negative public health effects associated with the use of fossil fuel and the waste storage challenges presented by nuclear energy production.

IV. Preliminary Impact Assessment

Based upon the initial review performed by MHG and its consultants (including use of the State's environmental databases), and the Project's proposed siting in a preferred location, the Project will avoid and/or not cause undue adverse impacts to environmental resources and will not create public safety concerns. Key elements include the following:

- The Project has been sited to avoid wetlands and streams and other sensitive environmental resources.

- No rare/endangered plants, significant natural communities, or critical wildlife habitat have been identified within the Project footprint and the required buffers.

- The Project will be designed to meet electric safety and utility interconnection standards for safe and reliable operation of solar electric facilities.

- The Project will require no new municipal services and will not pose undue burdens on town fire, police, or water/sewer services. The Project will not impact the ability of the town to provide educational services.

As shown in the Site Plan provided in *Attachment A*, the Project will be set back from Richville Road a minimum of 100 feet. Views of the Project will be limited from adjacent areas and roads by utilizing supplemental vegetation and/or fencing per the direction of an aesthetic consultant and in coordination with the Manchester Planning Commission and Selectboard. Photographs taken from the Project site and the surrounding area are provided in *Attachment B*. Given this context, the Project is not expected to have an undue

adverse effect on aesthetics based upon the views from adjacent areas and roads and visibility will be limited from off-site public roads and homes.

MHG's visual consultant will conduct a complete aesthetics assessment and their findings and recommendations will be included in the final application.

V. Expected Petition Filing Date with Vermont Public Utility Commission

MHG intends to file a Section 8010 application and supporting materials with the PUC soon after the 45-day notice period expires, in January 2020.

VI. Comments and Inquiries Concerning the Project

At this juncture, if you have any questions or comments concerning the Project please feel free to contact MHG as follows:

Thomas Hand
MHG Solar LLC
PO Box 1204
Manchester Center, VT 05255
thomas@mhgsolar.com
802-688-3776

We here at MHG hope that you will support this Project, given the benefits it will provide to net-metering customers, the town, and the State, and given its extremely limited impacts. You will have an opportunity to file comments with the Public Utility Commission once the application for a certificate of public good is filed. In the meantime, I invite you to contact me with any questions or comments you have, as we welcome your input and suggestions to make this a successful project.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hand
MHG Solar LLC

Enclosures:
List of Persons and Entities Receiving Notice
Attachment A –Location Map and Site Plan
Attachment B – Photographs from Project Site

MHG Solar LLC – Proposed Richville Road Solar in Manchester Center, VT

List of Persons and Entities Receiving 45-Day Notice of the Application

By ePUC:

Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street, 4th floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Vermont Public Service Department
Commissioner's Office
112 State Street, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Secretary's Office
1 National Life Dr., Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
1 National Life Drive, # 6
Montpelier, VT 05620

Vermont Agency of Agriculture,
Food and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Green Mountain Power
68-70 Merchants Row
Rutland, VT 05701

By Certified Mail:

Town of Manchester Selectboard
40 Jeff Williams Way
Manchester, VT 05255

Town of Manchester Planning Commission
40 Jeff Williams Way
Manchester, VT 05255

Bennington County Regional Commission
111 South St Ste. #203
Bennington, VT 05201

Blackacre LLC
52 Deer Hill Ave
Danbury, CT 06810

Adjoining Landowners (by Certified Mail):

Mark N. Roberts
PO Box 785
Manchester Ctr, VT 05255

Town of Manchester
40 Jeff Williams Way
Manchester Ctr, VT 05255

Linda Bushee
PO Box 744
Manchester Ctr, VT 05255

Roseanne M. Dennan
PO Box 1228
Manchester Ctr, VT 05255

Christopher Reid
3270 Richville Rd
Manchester Ctr, VT 05255

Jeremy Toomey
PO Box 2674
Manchester Ctr, VT 05255

Timothy P. & Dody S. Boucher
125 Valley Pass
Manchester Ctr, VT 05255

Joseph H. Charbonneau and
Mary Frances Leone-Charbonneau
PO Box 456
Manchester Ctr, VT 05255

Dad & The Boys LLC
379 Westview Est
Manchester Ctr, VT 05255

State of Vermont
1 Railway Lane
Burlington, VT 05401

Richard & Nadine Hayes Estate
300 Green Mountain Rd
Manchester Ctr, VT 05255

Martin J. and Christine N. Michael White
78 Fleming Ln
Salem, NY 12865

Burr & Burton Seminary
PO Box 498
Manchester Ctr, VT 05254