



15 Railroad Row  
White River Junction, VT 05001  
802.281.3213

March 24, 2020

To Those Persons Whose Names Appear on the 45 Day Notice List Attached Hereto

**Re: Advanced Notice for Norwich Turnpike Solar, LLC  
Vermont Statutes Title 30 Section 8010/248 Permit Process**

I. Introduction

Pursuant to the Public Utility Commission (“PUC” or “Commission”) Rule 5.100, Norwich Turnpike Solar, LLC (the “Applicant”) is pleased to provide the following advance notice and information of plans for a 150 kW group net-metering, ground mount solar electric system to be sited at 645 Turnpike Rd, Norwich, Vermont (the “Project”). Filing of an Application with the PUC pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 248 & 8010 for a Certificate of Public Good (“CPG”) is anticipated to be on or after May 8, 2020.

This letter describes the Project, the expected Application filing date, and your rights to participate in review of the Project. Under Sections 8010 and 248, and PUC Rule 5.107(B), the parties listed on the attached 45 Day Notice List (*Attachment A*) are entitled to receive notice by certified mailing at least 45 days in advance of the Application filing. Norwich Turnpike Solar, LLC has selected Norwich Solar Technologies to assist in development and installation of the Project. Please feel free to reach me using my contact information provided at the end of this letter if you are interested in learning more or have comments or suggestions for the proposal.

II. Project Benefits

The Project creates a number of benefits with local and statewide significance. For example, the Project supports numerous clean energy economy jobs from design and development phases through installation and operation. The Project will annually contribute to the State Education Fund through a production tax and to the town through a local tax. Compensation to the landowner will also be provided for hosting the solar array.

Importantly, the Project is an in-state new renewable energy generation resource that will help reduce our dependence on out of state electricity sources,<sup>1</sup> a significant portion of which is nuclear power, and instead fuel local customers and Vermont’s economy with clean power from local resources and strengthen the growth of our resilient local electrical system.

III. Project Description

The *Attachment B* preliminary plan identifies the location of the array (43.745087°N -72.325463°W), its primary components and its access location off Turnpike Road in Norwich. This 150 kW (AC) ground mount array is typical of solar electric generation installations of its type and size, comprising photovoltaic

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<sup>1</sup> By generating electricity locally, electricity is distributed to nearby utility customers, avoiding new construction, upgrades, and expansion of transmission lines.

modules (“solar panels”) on fixed-tilt, supporting racks. The racks are designed to support the bottom of the solar panels approximately 30 inches above existing grade to the top of the panels at approximately 9.5 feet. The array will be arranged in multiple rows running generally east-west with sufficient distance between the rows to minimize self-shading. The solar array may be fenced or, if not fenced, will be otherwise electrically secure.

To convert the DC current generated by the solar panels to AC current, they will be connected electrically with string inverters mounted discretely behind the panels. The power will then travel underground to an AC disconnect, and then interconnect to Green Mountain Power Corporation’s (“GMP”) distribution circuit, with a line extension to a new GMP 150 kVA pole-mounted transformer. The transformer is typical of what GMP uses throughout their distribution system. Potential transformer/inverter sound will not cause undue sound to nearby residences. An analysis will be included with the Application.

The site is located at the southern end of a parcel where the majority of land is open field and lawn with a small pond and hosts the landowner’s residence. The land parcel is not subject to an Act 250 Land Use permit. The majority of the array is not sited on soils marked as prime agricultural by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In the area where soils are identified as prime agricultural steps will be taken to conserve these soils. Throughout the life of the Project the area will remain vegetated with periodic mowing or brush cutting without the use of chemical herbicides. Also, the array area will be monitored remotely, with periodic inspections and field maintenance.

During installation, material and equipment will be transported to the site by standard-size delivery vehicles from I-91, over Vermont state and town roads to the site access. Traffic will be limited in duration, and typical of small construction jobs.

### III. Potential Aesthetic Impacts

This array will be a low-profile and temporary installation and will appear similar to other renewable energy solar arrays commonplace in Vermont. It will be set back from Turnpike Road approximately 95 feet with intervening existing vegetation to remain.

### IV. Potential Environmental Impacts

The Applicant’s preliminary analysis shows the Project is not expected to have an undue adverse impact on the natural environment. Pursuant to PUC Rule 5.107(C)(9), a natural resource inventory was conducted by a qualified environmental professional. The Agency of Natural Resources Wetland Program visited the site on October 31, 2019 and formalized the wetland classifications. The natural resource assessment will include a description of relevant nearby natural resources as required by 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5) and (b)(8) and be included with the Application.

### V. Your Ability to Comment on the Project Plans

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A § 248, you are entitled to make recommendations to the PUC and to us, at least 7 days prior to the expiration of this 45-day notice period. We anticipate filing the Section 248/8010 Application on or after May 8, 2020. Members of the public may participate in proceedings before the Vermont Public Utility Commission by submitting public comments or by intervening as a formal party to a case. Public comments must be submitted within 30 days of the Commission’s determination that the

Application is administratively complete. In addition, the Norwich Selectboard and Planning Commission will have the right to appear as a party in any proceedings held.

For additional information regarding this process, including your right to participate in the PUC's proceeding, please refer to the following Commission documents:

- <https://puc.vermont.gov/public-participation/introduction-participating-commission-processes>
- <https://puc.vermont.gov/document/public-participation-and-intervention-proceedings-public-utility-commission>
- <http://puc.vermont.gov/document/net-metering-procedures>
- [https://puc.vermont.gov/sites/psbnew/files/doc\\_library/Citizens-Guide-2019.pdf](https://puc.vermont.gov/sites/psbnew/files/doc_library/Citizens-Guide-2019.pdf)

Pursuant to Sections 8010 and 248 and Commission rule 5.107, all adjoining landowners and host landowner will receive notice of the Application filing which will be available at the PUC's electronic filing system (<https://epuc.vermont.gov/>).

Again, we welcome the opportunity to further share information about the Project, and to learn of any comments you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 802-281-3213 or my email at [staskus@norwichsolar.com](mailto:staskus@norwichsolar.com).

We appreciate your participation in this process.

Sincerely,



Martha Staskus  
Project Manager

Appendices: Attachment A – 45 Day Notice List  
Attachment B – Preliminary Site Plan

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**Attachment A**

**45 Day Advance Notice Service List**

Via Certified Mail: Return Receipt Requested

Norwich Selectboard  
300 Main Street  
Norwich, VT 05055

Harrison Whitecloud  
1506 Terry Hill Rd  
Fairlee, VT 05045

Norwich Planning Commission  
300 Main Street  
Norwich, VT 05055

Via Commission Electronic Filing System

Judith Whitney, Clerk  
Vermont Utility Commission  
112 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning  
128 King Farm Road  
Woodstock, VT 05091

Vermont Department of Public Service  
112 State Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620

Farwell/Mead Rev Liv Trust  
Edith F Farwell & Jan W Mead Trustees  
645 Turnpike Rd  
Norwich, VT 05055  
(Landowner)

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

Adjoining Landowners to the site:

Upper Valley Land Trust  
19 Buck Rd  
Hanover, NH 03755

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation  
1 National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

Michael and Amy Staggs  
608 Turnpike Rd  
Norwich, VT 05055

VT Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets  
116 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

Green Mountain Power  
163 Acorn Lane  
Colchester, VT 05446

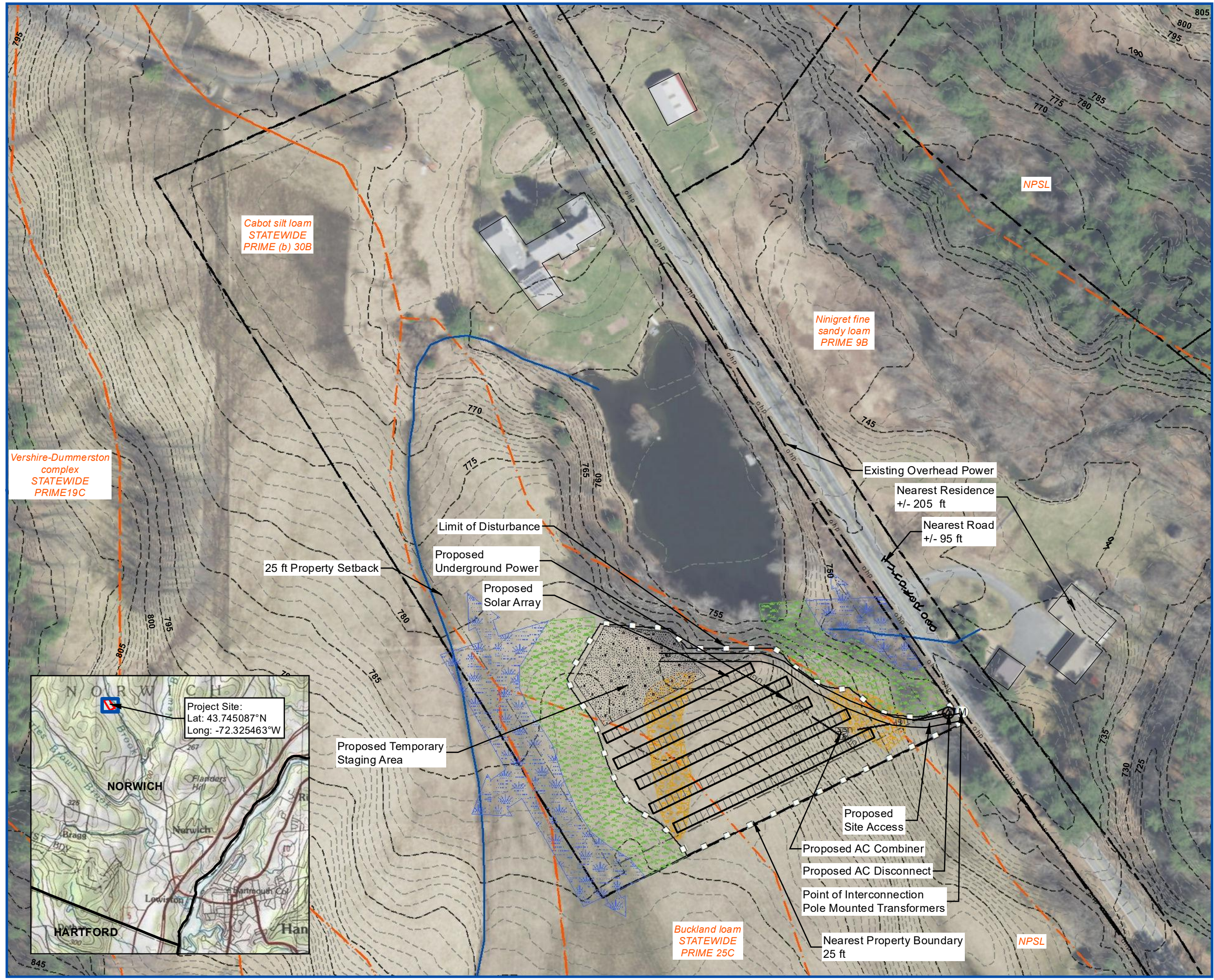
# PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN Norwich Turnpike Solar

645 Turnpike Road  
Norwich, Vermont



## Legend

- Proposed Solar Array
- Proposed Site Access
- Proposed Temporary Staging Area
- Point of Interconnection
- AC Disconnect Pedestal
- AC Combiner Pad
- UGP Proposed Underground Power
- Limit of Disturbance
- ohp Existing Overhead Power, VCGI
- Class II Wetlands, AE
- Class III Wetlands, AE
- 50 ft Wetland Buffer, AE
- Streams, AE
- Primary Agricultural Soils, VCGI
- Approximate Property Lines, VCGI
- 25 ft Property Setback
- 5 ft Elevation Contours, VCGI
- 1 ft Elevation Contours, VCGI



Vershire-Dummerston complex  
STATEWIDE  
PRIME19C

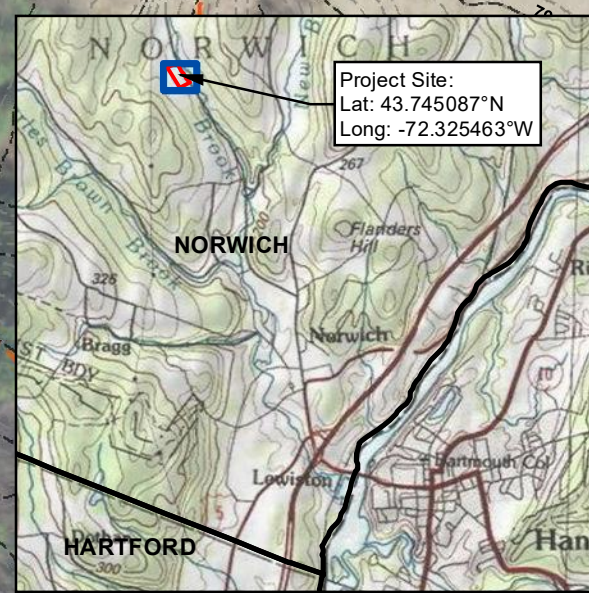
Cabot silt loam  
STATEWIDE  
PRIME (b) 30B

Ninigret fine sandy loam  
PRIME 9B

NPSL

Buckland loam  
STATEWIDE  
PRIME 25C

Project Site:  
Lat: 43.745087°N  
Long: -72.325463°W



25 ft Property Setback

Limit of Disturbance

Proposed Underground Power

Proposed Solar Array

Proposed Temporary Staging Area

Existing Overhead Power  
Nearest Residence  
+/- 205 ft

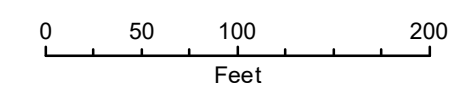
Nearest Road  
+/- 95 ft

Proposed Site Access  
Proposed AC Combiner  
Proposed AC Disconnect  
Point of Interconnection  
Pole Mounted Transformers

Nearest Property Boundary  
25 ft

NPSL

- Notes:
1. Array sizing for 150 kW AC.
  2. The approximate solar array footprint is 0.7 acres.
  3. The approximate Limit of Disturbance is 1.3 acres.
  4. Wetland delineation provided by Arrowwood Environmental (AE).
  5. Aspects of this plan are approximate and from aerial imagery.
  6. The design shown is for the purposes of permitting.
  7. Publicly available data are provided by the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI).



Prepared for: Norwich Solar Technologies  
Prepared on: 3/23/2020 RD

