

From: [PUC - Clerk](#)
To: [Tousley, Michael](#); [Roisman, Anthony](#); [Hofmann, Sarah](#); [Cheney, Margaret](#); [Landis-Marinello, Kyle](#)
Cc: [Anderson, Holly](#)
Subject: FW: PUC Case Nos. 8454 - Apple Hill Solar Project; and 17-5024-PET- Chelsea Solar Willow Road Project
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:43:38 AM

From: Thomas Melone <thomas.melone@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 7:07 PM
To: PUC - Clerk <PUC.Clerk@vermont.gov>
Cc: Michael Melone <mjmelone@allcous.com>; Porter, James <James.Porter@vermont.gov>; Aceves, Sarah <Sarah.Aceves@vermont.gov>; Einhorn, Donald <Donald.Einhorn@vermont.gov>; Brooke Dingleline <lbrooke@vdmclaw.com>; Hayden, Kimberly, Esq. <khayden@pfclaw.com>; Merrill Bent <Merrill@greenmtlaw.com>; Lora Block <lblock@sover.net>; maru@mtanthonycc.com; Stone, Alison <Alison.Stone@vermont.gov>; Rob Woolmington <rew@wittenetal.com>; Annette Smith <vce@vermontel.net>
Subject: Re: PUC Case Nos. 8454 - Apple Hill Solar Project; and 17-5024-PET- Chelsea Solar Willow Road Project

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Good evening Ms. Whitney,

I hope you are well on this warm summer evening of Juneteenth.

Vermont is certainly the envy of the Nation as it has fared so well during the current health crisis. My state of residence, on the other hand, the State of Florida, appears poised to be at the other end of the spectrum. The leadership that Governor Scott has shown by wearing a mask in public sets a standard that others should follow.

It certainly speaks volumes that Annette Smith and sundry neighbors of our property express such concern on Juneteenth over a flower (the white arrow-leaf aster) that can be ordered from nurseries all over the United States, while ignoring the disproportionate impact that people of color suffer from the burning of fossil fuels, and her and her cohorts activities exacerbating those conditions by trying to stop renewable energy projects.

The current pandemic has shined a spotlight on the ignored human health toll of the fossil fuel generation that Vermont chooses to consume from out-of-state generators, rather than building the necessary solar energy facilities within its borders. A recent study by the T.H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University concludes: "A small increase in long-term exposure to PM2.5 leads to a large increase in the COVID-19 death rate."

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.05.20054502v2>. The energy from fossil fuels that Vermont chooses to consume rather than building the necessary solar energy facilities within its borders also causes a raft of other health issues that span generations, which disproportionately affect people of color. The fossil fueled Mystic Generating Station is one such power plant that supplies electricity to the ISO-New England region from which Vermont gets its electricity. This week's Boston Globe reported on the generational suffering that families like Sean Collie's have endured and still endure from Vermonters and New Englanders flipping on the light switch. See, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/06/14/metro/effort-keep-states-largest-power-plant-open-fuels-concern-about-climate-public-health/> ("The towering smokestacks of the state's largest power plant have loomed for decades over the Boston area, spewing pollutants that produce smog, warm the planet, and exacerbate asthma and other respiratory illnesses, such as the coronavirus. ... Sean Collie, who has lived a few blocks from the Mystic plant for 23 years ...suffers from asthma, as does his 12-year-old daughter. Collie, whose wife gave birth last year to another daughter, worries for his

growing family. The air in the neighborhood can be so difficult to breathe that they sometimes have to shut all their windows. The foul-smelling fumes often leave him wheezing, and prone to long spells of coughing.”)

We may never know how many lives have been lost, and are yet to be lost, from the increases in the COVID-19 death rate from fossil fuel generation consumed by Vermont, including what would have been displaced if the Apple Hill solar project and other projects opposed by Annette Smith were timely approved when they should have been. But whatever joy Annette Smith and her cohorts get from defeating renewable energy projects should be tempered with the knowledge that their actions support the continued death and destruction wrought by fossil fuels, and perpetuate the generational health issues for families such as Sean Collie's. I am reminded of this quote: *“Out, damned spot! ...will these hands ne'er be clean”* ~William Shakespeare, *MacBeth*, Act 5, Sc. 1.

It is my understanding that at approximately 12:45p on June 16, 2020, the Apple Hill site was visited by VT Environmental Enforcement Officer Patrick Lowkes at the request of Don Einhorn. While ANR can certainly make its own comments, Officer Lowkes' inspection confirmed that NO RTE area was being disturbed and that the RTE area was cordoned off to prevent intrusion. I assume that if ANR believed there was any issue, it would have filed something already.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Respectfully,

Thomas Melone
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On Fri, Jun 19, 2020 at 4:55 PM PUC - Clerk <PUC.Clerk@vermont.gov> wrote:

To the parties in PUC Case Nos. 8454 and 17-5024-PET:

Dear Parties - Below is a public comment the Public Utility Commission received today from Annette Smith of Vermonters for a Clean Environment. The Commissioners would appreciate any comments in response to VCE's comment as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judith C. Whitney
Clerk of the Commission
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701
802-828-2358
puc.clerk@vermont.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Annette Smith <vce@vermontel.net>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 1:08 PM
To: PUC - Clerk <PUC.Clerk@vermont.gov>
Subject: Apple Hill Solar forest clearing

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear PUC Clerk,

Please let the Commission know that forest clearing for the Apple Hill Solar (and Chelsea Solar) sites has begun in the last week or so, apparently including driving through the area set aside for RTE species on the Apple Hill Solar site.

Annette Smith
VCE

Judith C. Whitney
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