

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 21-____-NMP

Petition of Putney Green Acres Solar LLC,)
pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 248 and 8010, for a)
certificate of public good to install and operate a)
500 kW (AC) solar electric generation facility to be)
located in Putney, Vermont)

PREFILED TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS OF DORI BARTON

Exhibit List

Exhibit PGAS-DB-1	Dori Barton Resume
Exhibit PGAS-DB-2	Arrowwood Environmental Natural Resource Assessment

Ms. Barton's testimony presents the Natural Resource Assessment prepared by Arrowwood Environmental for the Putney Green Acres Solar Project and she explains why the Project will not have an undue adverse impact on outstanding water resources (30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(8)), headwaters (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(A)), floodways (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(D)), streams (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(E)), shorelines (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(F)), wetlands (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(G)), rare and irreplaceable natural areas (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(8)), necessary wildlife habitat, and rare, threatened or endangered species (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(8)(A)).

1 Q1. Please state your name, occupation, and business address.

2 A1. My name is Dori Barton. I am a Wetland Ecologist with Arrowwood
3 Environmental ("AE"). My business address is 950 Bert White Road in
4 Huntington, Vermont.

5 Q2. Please describe your educational background and professional experience.

6 A2. My background and professional experience are presented in my resume which
7 is offered with my testimony as Exhibit PGAS-DB-1.

8 Q3. What is the purpose of your testimony?

9 A3. My testimony is in connection with the application of Putney Green Acres Solar
10 (the "Applicant") for Section 8010 and Section 248 approval to construct and
11 operate a 150 kW (AC) ground-mounted solar electric generation project (the
12 "Project") in Putney, Vermont. I present a Natural Resource Assessment Report
13 prepared for the Project by AE under my direct supervision. The report is offered
14 with my testimony as Exhibit PGAS-DB-2. The Report explains why the Project
15 will not have an undue adverse impact on outstanding water resources (30
16 V.S.A. § 248(b)(8)), headwaters (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(A)), floodways (10 V.S.A.
17 § 6086(a)(1)(D)), streams (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(E)), shorelines (10 V.S.A.
18 § 6086(a)(1)(F)), wetlands (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(G)), rare and irreplaceable

1 natural areas (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(8)), necessary wildlife habitat, and rare,
2 threatened or endangered species (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(8)(A)).

3 **Summary of Natural Resource Findings and Conclusions**

4 Q4. Please summarize the review of the Project site you performed and your findings
5 and conclusions.

6 A4. AE conducted a natural resources assessment for the proposed Project planned
7 for an open field adjacent to the capped portion of the former Putney Paper
8 closed landfill on River Road, in Putney Vermont south of Interstate 91. The field
9 assessments were conducted in September and October 2020. Our review
10 examined the site for streams and headwaters, floodways, outstanding resource
11 waters, shorelines, wetlands, rare and irreplaceable natural areas, necessary
12 wildlife habitat, and rare, threatened, and endangered species. AE determined
13 that no headwaters, outstanding resource waters, wetlands, rare and
14 irreplaceable natural areas, necessary wildlife habitat, or rare, threatened, and
15 endangered animal species are present at the Project site.

16 An unnamed tributary to the Connecticut River appears on the Vermont
17 Hydrography Dataset in the eastern Project area. This stream has been culverted
18 under Interstate 91 and the railroad tracks to the south of the Interstate. There is
19 an approximately 100 square foot excavated opening between the two culverts
20 where the stream daylights. New overhead power for the Project will cross this

1 area of the stream channel requiring minor tree clearing within the designated
2 riparian zone. The stream channel is not in a natural condition in the Project area.
3 The crossing has been designed perpendicular to the channel and the clearing
4 within the riparian zone will not impact the natural condition of the stream.

5 The shoreline of the Connecticut River is approximately 150' to the south
6 of the Project. The Project has been designed to preserve a 100' riparian buffer
7 from the banks of the River. There are no changes proposed to the riparian zone
8 or shoreline area of the River. The Project will retain the natural condition of the
9 river shoreline in the area of the Project, will maintain a shoreline screen, will not
10 affect existing access to the river for recreational purposes, and will not impact
11 riverbank stabilization in the adjacent areas of the shoreline.

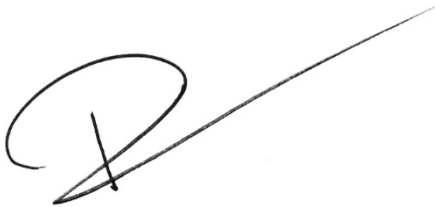
12 On September 29, 2020, AE performed an RTE plant survey. The S2S3
13 ranked smooth aster (*Symphotrichum laeve*) and S2 ranked bead-grass (*Paspalum*
14 *setaceum*) were identified and mapped in the Project area. The Project has been
15 designed to avoid impacts to both of these species during construction. The
16 bead-grass within the defined limits of disturbance will be subject to the same
17 vegetation management regime in post construction as the Project in order to
18 maintain appropriate habitat conditions for this grass species. AE provided the
19 Agency of Natural Resources botanist with the proposed construction plans and
20 mitigation measures to protect the resource and concurred that the measures will

1 protect the RTE species from adverse impacts during construction and operation
2 of the Project.

3 Based on our review and findings, it is my opinion that the Project has
4 been sited and designed to avoid undue adverse impacts to natural resources
5 including streams and headwaters, floodways, outstanding resource waters,
6 shorelines, wetlands, rare and irreplaceable natural areas, necessary wildlife
7 habitat, and rare, threatened, and endangered species. Please refer to Exhibit
8 PGAS-DB-2 for the details that support the above findings and conclusions.

9 Q5. Does this conclude your testimony?

10 A5. Yes. I declare that the above statements and those in my exhibits are true and
11 accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that if my
12 statements are false, I may be subject to sanctions by the Commission for
13 contempt.¹

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital letter 'D' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

14
15
16 Dori Barton

¹ Statement in lieu of notarized affidavit per PUC Emergency Rule 2.506.