

FILED via ePUC

February 26, 2021

Holly Anderson, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602-2701

Re: Petition of Putney Green Acres Solar LLC. pursuant to 30 V.S.A §§ 219a and 248 for a Certificate of Public Good authorizing the installation and operation of a 500 kW solar electric generation facility to be located at River Road, Putney, Vermont. Vermont Public Utility Commission Case No. 21-0401-NMP.

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project (VDHP #WD20-038). The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) is reviewing this undertaking for purposes of 30 V.S.A., Section 248 and 8010. Project review consists of identifying the project's potential impacts to historic buildings, structures, historic districts, historic landscapes and settings, and known or potential archeological resources. The purpose of VDHP's comments are to provide the Public Utility Commission (PUC) with the necessary information for their Section 248 review.

The proposed project consists of the construction of a 500 kW solar electric generation facility located on River Road, Putney, Vermont. The facility limits of disturbance will consist of approximately 2.4 acres of a larger twenty-acre parcel of land located south of Interstate-91. The proposed project will be sited adjacent to a capped landfill and will consist of the installation of photovoltaic modules attached to fixed ground mounted racking systems arranged in five east to west rows as well as string inverters, rack mounted switch gear, and three pole mounted transformers. The Project will be accessed off an existing drive from River Road south of Interstate 91. The project site will be connected to the existing Green Mountain Power Corporation distribution system using an aboveground electrical connection.

A desk review of the project area indicated significant Precontact sensitivity. The Applicant informed VDHP that the project area was subject to a previous Act 250 permit. A search of the files in the Vermont Online Resource Center found an archaeological investigation performed by GEOARCH, dated June 1995, and titled *Fragments from the Frontier, Phase I Archaeological Survey and Phase II Testing of a Proposed Borrow Pit Project Along the Connecticut River in*



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Putney, Vermont (Act 250 #2W0436-7). The archaeological study included the current proposed project area in its entirety and did not identify any important intact archaeological sites. Although the study was conducted more than 25 years ago, VDHP is satisfied with the methodology and recommendations from the investigations and has no further concerns with regards to archaeology.

In addition to our archaeological review, the VDHP has considered the effects of the project on aboveground historic structures, districts, and landscapes. VDHP has reviewed the project plans and the January 25, 2021 Aesthetics, Orderly Development and Above-Ground Historic Sites Assessment Report produced by Norwich Technologies and submitted as exhibit PGAS-MS-6. VDHP has identified no above-ground historic resources that will have visibility of the proposed project.

Based on the above considerations, VDHP concludes that the Putney Green Acres Solar LLC Solar project will have **No Effect** on any historic sites listed in or eligible for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places. Thank you for your cooperation in protecting Vermont's irreplaceable historic and archeological heritage. Elizabeth Peebles and Yvonne Benney Basque reviewed this project and prepared this letter. I concur with the findings and conclusions described above.

Sincerely:

VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

R. Scott Dillon

Historic Preservation Review Coordinator

