

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Case No. 21-0401-NMP

Petition of Putney Green Acres Solar LLC, for a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 248 and 8010, authorizing the installation and operation of a 500 kW (AC) solar electric generation system in Putney, Vermont

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMENTS

On January 28, 2021, Putney Green Acres Solar, LLC (“Petitioner”) filed with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) a petition under 30 V.S.A. §§ 8010 and 248 for a Certificate of Public Good (“CPG”) authorizing the construction and operation of a 500 kW photovoltaic group net-metering system located off of River Road in Putney, Vermont (“Project”). The Commission determined the application to be administratively complete on January 29, 2021.

The Project is proposed to be located on a 2.4-acre portion an approximately 20-acre parcel of land in Putney. The Project will include:

- (a) Multiple rows of solar panels mounted on a racking system anchored to the ground;
- (b) Ten (10) string inverters each having a capacity of 50 kW (AC), for an aggregate nameplate capacity of 500 kW;
- (c) Three (3) 167 kVA pole-mounted transformers on a new Green Mountain Power (“GMP”) distribution pole;
- (d) Electrical lines enclosed in conduit connecting the panel rows, string inverters, AC combiner panel, and AC disconnect pedestal;
- (e) A GMP line extension to connect to the existing GMP distribution system;
- (f) Access off of an existing drive from River Road south to Interstate 91; and

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- (g) Energized equipment rated for outdoor use, securely shielded by locked enclosure covers and otherwise compliant with the National Electric Code “Guarding of Live Parts.”

After a review of the Petitioner’s application and accompanying exhibits, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) did not identify any significant issues with the Project. First, both the Windham Regional Plan and the Putney Town Plan generally support local and renewable energy production and thereby satisfy the orderly development clause of 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(1). Furthermore, according to Exh. PGAS MS-5, the Project will be constructed on a preferred site in compliance with Commission Rule 5.103. Given the Project’s location on a preferred site, as well as the *Quechee* analysis found in Exh. PGAS MS-6, the Department did not detect any issues with aesthetics pursuant to § 248(b)(5) and Commission Rule 5.112. The Project’s sound generation is within acceptable limits, and the Department did not find any issues relating to public health and safety as discussed in § 248(b)(5) and Commission Rule 5.111. The Department also did not identify any system stability and reliability concerns with the Project; thus, it satisfies § 248(b)(3). Finally, Exh. PGAS MS-2 provides that the Project will comply with state setback requirements in accordance with 30 V.S.A. § 248(s) & Commission Rule 5.113. The Department has not received any comments from members of the public.

Given the above, the Department respectfully recommends that the Commission approve the Project without further hearings or investigation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter. Please contact me if there are further questions.

