

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	
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Order entered: 09/08/2021

FINAL ORDER GRANTING NET-METERING CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD

In this Order, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) adopts the following proposal for decision.

PROPOSAL FOR DECISION

I. INTRODUCTION

This case involves an application filed by Putney Green Acres Solar LLC (“Applicant”) for a certificate of public good (“CPG”), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 248 and 8010, to install and operate a 500-kW solar group net-metering system in Putney, Vermont (the proposed “Project”). The Project is on a preferred site defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6002 as a sanitary landfill.

Based on the below findings and subject to conditions, I recommend that the Commission conclude that the Project complies with the requirements of Commission Rule 5.100, the application does not raise a significant issue with respect to the applicable criteria of 30 V.S.A. §§ 248 and 8010, and the Project will promote the general good of the State of Vermont.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 28, 2021, in Case No. 21-0401-NMP, the Applicant filed an application (“Application”) for a CPG to construct and operate the Project. The Project would be located on 2.4 acres of a 22.2-acre former paper sludge dump site south of I-91 that is accessed from River Road South. The Application includes the prefiled testimony of Martha Staskus, who is the chief development officer of Norwich Technologies, Inc. (“Norwich”), in which Ms. Staskus testified

that Norwich created Putney Green Acres Solar, LLC as a limited liability corporation to own and operate the Project.

On January 29, 2021, I determined that the Application was administratively complete and set a date of March 1, 2021, for filing public comments, notices of intervention, motions to intervene, and requests for hearing.

On February 1, 2021, in Case No. 21-0651-NMP, Putney Blood Farm Solar, LLC filed an application with the Commission for a CPG to construct and operate a 150-kW solar net-metering system in Putney, Vermont (the proposed “Blood Farm” facility). The proposed Blood Farm facility would be located north of I-91 on a 0.7-acre portion of a 22.2-acre former paper sludge dump site accessed from River Road South. Ms. Staskus also filed prefiled testimony in Case No. 21-0651-NMP, similarly stating that Norwich created Putney Blood Farm Solar, LLC, as a limited liability corporation to own and operate the proposed Blood Farm facility.

On February 9, 2021, I issued a procedural order directing Norwich to provide supplemental information, in the form of testimony or affidavit, addressing whether the Project and the proposed Blood Farm facility constitute a “single plant” pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8002(18). I also directed Norwich to file a common site plan for the two proposed facilities.

On February 25, 2021, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (“ANR”) filed comments on the Application for the Project. ANR recommended that any CPG for the Project include conditions addressing waste disposal, shorelines, and streams.

On February 26, 2021, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (“DHP”) filed comments on the Application for the Project (the “DHP Comments”). DHP concluded that the Project would have no effect on any historic places listed in or eligible for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places.

On March 1, 2021, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (“AAFM”) filed comments on the Application for the Project (the “AAFM Comments”). AAFM recommended that the Commission find that the Project would have an impact on 5.16 acres of primary agricultural soils. AAFM proposed that any CPG for the Project include conditions to mitigate the impact of the facility on primary agricultural soils.

On March 5, 2021, Putney Green Acres Solar, LLC, and Putney Blood Farm Solar, LLC, each filed a response to my request for supplemental single-plant information.

On April 14, 2021, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) filed comments on the Application. The Department did not identify any significant issues with the Project and recommended that the Commission approve the Application without hearings or investigation.

On May 26, 2021, I issued in both cases a joint proposal for decision recommending that the Commission determine that the Project and the proposed Blood Farm facility together constitute a single plant, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8002(18).

On June 11, 2021, through Putney Green Acres Solar, LLC and Putney Blood Farm Solar, LLC, Norwich filed substantive comments contesting the proposal for decision. Norwich recommended that the Commission: (1) engage an electrical engineering expert witness pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 20(a); (2) provide Norwich with the opportunity for an evidentiary hearing on the single-plant issue; and (3) reject the proposal for decision and issue certificates of public good for both the Project and the Blood Farm facility.

Also on June 11, 2021, the Department filed comments in response to the proposal for decision recommending that the Commission grant CPGs to the Project and the proposed Blood Farm facility.

On July 12, 2021, the Commission issued an order denying Norwich’s request for a Commission-engaged electrical engineering expert witness and providing Norwich with an opportunity to make a 45-minute oral argument before the Commission. The oral argument was scheduled for August 25, 2021.

On August 24, 2021, the Applicant filed notice that the application for the proposed Blood Farm facility was being voluntarily withdrawn and that the parties in Case No. 21-0651-NMP stipulated to the dismissal of that case. The Applicant observed that “the separate plant issue is now moot, and this case is ready for Commission action without the need for oral argument.”¹ The Commission then cancelled the oral argument and directed me to issue a revised proposal for decision. I recommend that the Commission consider my prior recommendation that the Project be denied as moot. My prior recommendation was premised on the Project being part of a single plant with the neighboring proposed Blood Farm facility, the petition for which has now been voluntarily withdrawn.

¹ Letter from Leslie A. Cadwell, Esq., to Holly R. Anderson, Clerk of the Commission, dated 8/23/21 at 1.

No other comments on the Application were received by the Commission.

No party has requested an evidentiary hearing to address the information filed or objected to the prefiled testimony and exhibits. Accordingly, the following prefiled testimony and exhibits are admitted as if presented at a hearing: the prefiled testimony of Martha Staskus of 1/28/21 and exhibits PGAS-MS-1 through 10, the prefiled testimony of Dori Barton and exhibits PGAS-DB-1 and 2; the AAFM Comments, and the DHP Comments.²

III. CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF REVIEW UNDER CERTAIN CRITERIA FOR NET-METERING PROJECTS

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8010 and Commission Rule 5.111, the Commission has conditionally waived review of the following criteria, and I recommend that the Commission find that no party presented any testimony that warrants rescinding any part of that waiver in this proceeding:

- 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(2) (need)
- 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(4) (economic benefit);
- 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(6) (integrated plan);
- 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(7) (electric energy plan);
- 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(9) (waste-to-energy facilities); and
- 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(10) (transmission facilities).

Therefore, only the criteria applicable to the system under Rule 5.111 are addressed in this Order.

IV. FINDINGS

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8(c), and based on the record and evidence before me, I present the following proposed findings of fact to the Commission.

Description of the Project

1. The Project consists of a solar electric system with a total capacity of 500 kW AC on a site that includes the former Putney Paper paper sludge landfill. Martha Staskus, Applicant (“Staskus”) pf. at 2-4.

² If any party has an objection to any of these documents being entered into evidence, the party shall submit its objection within 14 days of the date this Order is entered.

2. The Project will be interconnected with Green Mountain Power Corporation's ("GMP") electric distribution system. Exh. PGAS-MS-7.

3. The Project will occupy approximately 2.4 acres of a larger 22.2-acre parcel of land off River Road South in Putney, Vermont. Along with the closed sanitary landfill, primary agricultural soils also exist on 5.16 acres of the 22.2-acre Project parcel. Staskus pf. at 4; exh. PGAS-MS-2; AAFM Comments.

4. The Project will consist of the following components:

- multiple rows of solar panels mounted on a racking system anchored to the ground;
- ten string inverters mounted on the racking system with each having a capacity of 50 kW (AC), for an aggregate nameplate capacity of 500 kW (AC);
- electrical lines enclosed in conduit connecting the panel rows, string inverters, AC combiner panel, and AC disconnect pedestal;
- three 167 kVA pole-mounted transformers on a GMP distribution pole;
- a GMP line extension to connect to the existing GMP distribution system;
- energized equipment rated for outdoor use, securely shielded by locked enclosure covers; and
- access off an existing drive from River Road South.

Exh. PGAS-MS-2 and 6; Staskus pf. at 4-5.

5. No lighting will be installed at the Project. Staskus pf. at 5.

6. Sound from the Project will be produced by the inverters and transformers, performing primarily during daylight hours. Estimated Project-related sound levels will be 24.8 dBA at the nearest residence. Exh. PGAS-MS-8.

7. Construction activities for the Project will be limited to the hours between 7 A.M. and 7 P.M. Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M. if required to meet the Project schedule. No construction activities will occur on Sunday, or on state or federal holidays. Staskus pf. at 7.

Applicable Rate Adjustors

8. The Applicant has elected to transfer the Project's renewable energy credits ("RECs") to GMP. Staskus pf. at 8.

9. The Project will be located on a preferred site, as defined in Commission Rule 5.103, because it will be located on a closed sanitary landfill. Staskus pf. at 8-9; exh. PGAS-MS-5.

Discussion

Pursuant to Commission Rule 5.127(C)(2), because the Project is greater than 150 kW and is located on a preferred site, a siting adjustor of minus two cents per kilowatt hour shall apply to all energy generated by the net-metering system.

Because the Applicant has elected to transfer the ownership of the RECs generated by the net-metering system, the Project is entitled to receive a REC adjustor of plus one cent per kilowatt hour for 10 years from the date the system is commissioned, pursuant to Commission Rule 5.127(B).

The siting and REC adjustors will be stated in the Project's CPG, pursuant to Commission Rule 5.127(B)(2) and (C)(1).

Orderly Development of the Region [30 V.S.A. §§ 248(b)(1) and 248(b)(1)(C)]

10. The Project will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region. In making this finding, due consideration has been given to the recommendations of the municipal and regional planning commissions, the recommendations of the municipal legislative bodies, and the land conservation measures contained in the plan of any affected municipality. Substantial deference has been given to the land conservation measures and specific policies contained in the duly adopted regional plan. This finding is supported by findings 11 through 13, below.

11. The Project is compatible with the applicable policies and goals in the Putney Town Plan, the Windham Regional Plan, and the Windham Regional Energy Plan. Staskus pf. at 11; exh. PGAS-MS-6.

12. The Project will further the renewable energy policies and goals stated in both the town and regional plans. Staskus pf. at 11; exh. PGAS-MS-6.

13. On a regional basis, the Project's impacts are localized and minimal. Staskus pf. at 11; exh. PGAS-MS-6.

Municipal Screening Requirements

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(1)(B)]

14. The Town of Putney has not adopted screening requirements for ground-mounted solar electric generation facilities pursuant to either 24 V.S.A. § 4414(15) or 24 V.S.A. § 2291(28) with which the Project would have to comply. Staskus pf. at 8.

Impact on System Stability and Reliability

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(3)]

15. The Project will not have an adverse effect on system stability and reliability. This finding is supported by findings 16 through 18, below.

16. The Project will comply with the National Electrical Code (“NEC”) and all energized equipment and wiring will be inaccessible, underground, or within locked or sealed enclosures. Staskus pf. at 17-18; exh. PGAS-MS-4.

17. GMP, the interconnecting utility, has concluded that the Project can be safely interconnected without causing an undue adverse impact on system stability and reliability provided the conditions in the Feasibility Study are met. Exh. PGAS-MS-7.

18. The Applicant has budgeted for and will be responsible for paying for all necessary interconnection costs designated as the Applicant’s responsibility in the Feasibility Study, including an upgraded distribution line. Staskus pf. at 11.

Aesthetics, Historic Sites, Air and Water Purity, the Natural Environment, the Use of Natural Resources, and Public Health and Safety

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5)]

19. Subject to the conditions described below, the Project will not have an undue adverse effect on aesthetics, historic sites, air and water purity, the natural environment, the use of natural resources, or public health and safety, with due consideration having been given to the criteria specified in 10 V.S.A. §§ 1424a(d) and 6086(a)(1) through (8) and (9)(K), impacts on primary agricultural soils as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001, and greenhouse gas impacts. This finding is supported by findings 20 through 57, below.

Outstanding Resource Waters

[10 V.S.A. § 1424a(d)] and [30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(8)]

20. The Project will not affect any outstanding resource waters as defined by 10 V.S.A. § 1424a(d) because there are no outstanding resource waters in the Project area. Exh. PGAS-DB-2 at 3.

Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gas Impacts

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5); 10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)]

21. The Project will not result in undue air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions. Any air emissions associated with installation will be primarily from any fossil-fueled vehicles and equipment used for deliveries, worker transportation, and installation activities. The emissions will be typical of small construction projects and will be short-term. Staskus pf. at 12.

Water Pollution

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)]

22. The Project will not result in undue water pollution. This finding is supported by findings 23 through 36, under the criteria of headwaters through soil erosion, below.

Headwaters

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(A)]

23. The Project is not located in a headwaters area. Exh. PGAS-DB-2 at 3.

Waste Disposal

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(B)]

24. The Petitioner represents that the Project will meet all applicable health and Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation regulations regarding the disposal of wastes and will not involve the injection of waste materials or any harmful or toxic substances into groundwater or wells. Staskus pf. at 14.

Discussion

The Project is sited on the closed and capped former Putney Paper paper sludge landfill. ANR has proposed a condition to ensure that the Project does not compromise the landfill. The Applicant does not object to this condition. To avoid any undue adverse impacts from the

Project's proximity to the landfill, I recommend that the Commission condition any CPG as ANR proposes.

Water Conservation

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(C)]

25. The Project will not have an undue adverse effect on water conservation because water use will be limited to dust control during construction, if needed, and to promote seed germination. Staskus pf. at 14.

Floodways

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(D)]

26. The Project is not located within a floodway or floodway fringe and therefore will not restrict or divert the flow of flood waters, significantly increase the peak discharge of a river or stream within or downstream from the Project, or endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the public or of riparian owners during flooding. Exh. PGAS-DB-2 at 5.

Streams

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(E)]

27. The Project will maintain the natural condition of all streams and will not endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the public or adjoining landowners because no work is required or proposed in any streams. This finding is supported by findings 28 and 29, below.

28. An unnamed tributary to the Connecticut River has been culverted under Interstate 91 and the railroad tracks to the south of the Interstate. There is an approximately 100-square-foot excavated opening between the two culverts where the stream daylights. Dori Barton, Applicant ("Barton") pf. at 3; exh. PGAS-DB-2 at 5.

29. New overhead power for the Project will cross this area of the stream. The stream channel is not in a natural condition in the Project area. The crossing has been designed perpendicular to the channel and the clearing within the riparian zone will not impact the condition of the stream. Dori Barton, Applicant ("Barton") pf. at 3; exh. PGAS-DB-2 at 5.

Shorelines

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(F)]

30. The Project is located on a shoreline. The shoreline of the Connecticut River is approximately 150 feet to the south of the Project. The Project will not have an undue adverse effect on any shorelines because the Project has been designed to preserve a 100-foot riparian buffer from the banks of the river. The Project will retain the natural condition of the river shoreline, will maintain a shoreline screen, will not affect existing access to the river for recreational purposes, and will not affect riverbank stabilization in the adjacent areas of the shoreline. Barton pf. at 3; exh. PGAS-DB-2 at 6.

Discussion

ANR proposes conditions related to streams and shorelines for any CPG that is issued for the Project. The Applicant does not object to these conditions. In order to ensure the Project has no undue adverse impacts on streams and shorelines, I agree with those conditions and recommend that the Commission condition the CPG as ANR proposes.

Wetlands

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(1)(G)]

31. The Project will not have an undue adverse effect on wetlands because there are no wetlands at the site. Exh. PGAS-DB-2 at 7.

Sufficiency of Water and Burden on Existing Water Supply

[10 V.S.A. §§ 6086(a)(2) and (3)]

32. The Project will not cause an unreasonable burden on an existing water supply because the Project will require only minimal water use for dust control during construction, if necessary, and seed germination. Staskus pf. at 14.

Soil Erosion

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(4)]

33. The Project will not cause undue soil erosion or reduce the capacity of the land to hold water so that a dangerous or unhealthy condition results. This finding is supported by findings 34 through 36, below.

34. During installation, temporary earth disturbance will occur from preparing the site, installing the conduit with electric cable as well as the electrical infrastructure, and racking posts. Staskus pf. at 15; exh. PGAS-MS-2.

35. For the State construction stormwater discharge permit, the Project's limit of disturbance will be approximately two acres. Staskus pf. at 15; exh. PGAS-MS-2.

36. The Project will be installed in accordance with the Vermont Standards and Specifications for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control (February 2020), and the Applicant will apply for coverage under the Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation Construction General Permit. Staskus pf. at 15; exh. PGAS-MS-2.

Transportation

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(5)]

37. The Project will not cause unreasonable congestion or unsafe conditions with respect to the use of highways, waterways, railways, airports, airways, or other means of transportation, existing or proposed. This finding is supported by findings 38 through 40, below.

38. The Project's installation will involve only short-term, periodic traffic impacts due to deliveries of equipment typical of a small construction project. Staskus pf. at 15.

39. Access across the adjacent railroad tracks is through a deeded right-of-way that benefits the host parcel. Staskus pf. at 9-10, 15; exh. PGAS-MS-10.

40. The Applicant will coordinate its use of the rail right-of-way to ensure that construction traffic does not interfere with or cause a safety hazard to railway operations. Staskus pf. at 9-10, 15.

Educational Services

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(6)]

41. The Project will not place a burden on the ability of a municipality to provide educational services because the Project will not require or affect educational services. Staskus pf. at 16.

Municipal Services
[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(7)]

42. The Project will not place an unreasonable burden on the ability of the affected municipality to provide municipal or government services because the Project will not require or affect local services. Staskus pf. at 16.

Aesthetics, Historic Sites, and Rare and Irreplaceable Natural Areas
[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(8)]

43. The Project will not have an undue adverse impact on aesthetics or on the scenic or natural beauty of the area, nor will the Project have an undue adverse effect on historic sites or rare and irreplaceable natural areas. This finding is supported by findings 44 through 50, below.

Aesthetics

44. The Project will not have an adverse impact on the aesthetics of the surrounding area. The Project site is on the property of a closed landfill, with Interstate 91 approximately 215 feet to the north. Views along Interstate 91 will be almost entirely screened by existing roadside vegetation and vegetation along the northern property boundary. Exh. PGAS-MS-6 at 6.

45. The array will not be a dominant element in this landscape because its design is low-profile within the viewshed. Exh. PGAS-MS-6 at 6.

46. The Project will not be shocking or offensive to the average person. The visibility potential of the Project is very limited. The scale of the Project is not overwhelming or excessive. Its low-profile presence in the lower section of landscape is compatible with its surroundings. The Project will connect to the existing electric distribution system along River Road South. New GMP transformers mounted on a GMP distribution pole, typical of pole/transformers used in the GMP service area around the state, will be used. Neither the size nor scale of the installation would be shocking or offensive to the average person. Exh. PGAS-MS-6 at 6.

47. The Project will not violate any clear, written community standards intended to preserve the aesthetics or scenic natural beauty of the area contained in the Putney Town Plan, the Windham Regional Plan, or the Windham Regional Energy Plan. Exh. PGAS-MS-6 at 6.

48. The low-profile array and careful site selection will largely shield off-site views of the Project. Existing topographic changes and roadside vegetation within the property will further mitigate potential visual impacts. Exh. PGAS-MS-6 at 6.

Historic Sites

49. The Project will not have an undue adverse effect on historic properties. DHP concluded that the Project would have no effect on any historic places listed in or eligible for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places. DHP Comments.

Rare and Irreplaceable Natural Areas

50. The Project will not have an undue adverse effect on rare and irreplaceable natural areas because there are no rare and irreplaceable natural areas within the Project area. Exh. PGAS-DB-2 at 7.

Necessary Wildlife Habitat and Endangered Species

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(8)(A)]

51. The Project will not have an undue adverse effect on any endangered species or critical wildlife habitat. There are no rare, threatened, or endangered species in the Project area. Exh. PGAS-DB-2 at 8.

Development Affecting Public Investments

[10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(9)(K)]

52. The Project will not unnecessarily or unreasonably endanger any public or quasi-public investment in any facility, service, or lands, and will not materially jeopardize the function, efficiency or safety of, or the public's use or enjoyment of or access to any facility, service, or lands. Staskus pf. at 17.

Public Health and Safety

[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5)]

53. The Project will not have any undue adverse effects on the health, safety, and welfare of the public. This finding is supported by findings 54 through 56, below.

54. The Project will be constructed in compliance with the NEC. Staskus pf. at 17-18.

55. Construction traffic will be coordinated with the railroad to ensure public and railway safety during construction. Staskus pf. at 15.

56. All energized array equipment will be rated for outdoor use and will be securely shielded, including locked enclosure covers, and be otherwise compliant with the NEC for the “Guarding of Live Parts.” Staskus pf. at 17-18.

Primary Agricultural Soils
[30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5)]

57. With appropriate conditions, the Project will not have an undue adverse impact on primary agricultural soils. Approximately 5.16 acres of primary agricultural soil will be disturbed by the installation of the underground conduit for the array wiring and equipment panel. The soils will be put back within the trench in the same layers as they were removed to maintain the integrity of the soil horizons. AAFM Comment at 1.

Discussion

AAFM recommended that the Commission find that the Project would affect 5.16 acres of primary agricultural soils. AAFM proposed that any CPG for Project include conditions to mitigate the impact of the facility on primary agricultural soils. The Applicant does not object to this condition. I recommend that the Commission condition the CPG as proposed by AAFM so that the Project will not have an undue adverse impact on primary agricultural soils.

Minimum Setback Requirements
[30 V.S.A. § 248(s)]

58. The Project will comply with Vermont’s statutory setback requirements for ground-mounted solar electric generation facilities because the Project’s solar panels or support structures for the solar panels are set back at least 100 feet from the nearest road and at least 50 feet from the nearest property boundary line. Staskus pf. at 7; exh. PGAS-MS-2.

Discussion

Section 248(s) of Title 30 requires that the nearest portion of a facility’s solar panels or support structure for a solar panel be set back at least 100 feet from any state or municipal highway and at least 50 feet from any property boundary that is not a state or municipal highway. The setbacks proposed for the Project’s solar panels or support structures for the solar panels meet these minimum requirements.

V. DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

59. The Applicant plans to remove the Project once it is no longer in service and will restore the site to its condition prior to installation of the facility to the greatest extent practicable. Staskus pf. at 8.

60. The Applicant plans to secure any permits that are required to decommission the Project prior to commencing decommissioning work. Any primary agricultural soil disturbed in connection with decommissioning activities will be restored in the same layers as they were removed to maintain the integrity of the soil horizons. Staskus pf. at 8.

Discussion

Commission Rule 5.107(C)(12) requires that all applications for net-metering systems with capacities greater than 150 kW must include a plan for decommissioning the Project at the end of its useful life. The decommissioning plan must provide for the removal and safe disposal of Project components and the restoration of any primary agricultural soils, if such soils are present within the net-metering system's limits of disturbance.

Commission Rule 5.904(A) requires that a project with a capacity equal to or greater than 150 kW and less than or equal to 500 kW shall be removed once it is no longer in service, and the site shall be restored to the condition it was in before installation of the facility to the greatest extent practicable.

The Applicant's plans for decommissioning the Project meet these requirements.

VI. CONCLUSION

Based upon the certifications of the Applicant and the above findings, I recommend that the Commission conclude that, subject to conditions, the Project will comply with the requirements of Commission Rule 5.100 and will promote the general good of the State.

This Proposal for Decision has not been circulated to the parties pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 811 because it is not adverse to any party.



Michael E. Tousley, Esq.
Hearing Officer

VII. ORDER


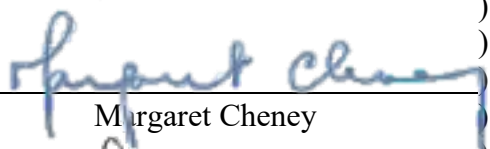
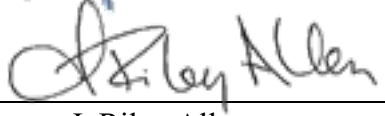
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) of the State of Vermont that:

1. The findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Hearing Officer are adopted. All other findings proposed by parties, to the extent that they are inconsistent with this Order, were considered and not adopted.

2. In accordance with the evidence and plans submitted in this proceeding, the 500 kW AC solar group net-metering system (the “Project”) proposed for construction and operation by Putney Green Acres Solar LLC (the “CPG Holder”) off River Road South in Putney, Vermont, will promote the general good of the State of Vermont pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 248 and 8010, and a certificate of public good (“CPG”) to that effect shall be issued in this matter.


3. As a condition of this Order, the CPG Holder shall comply with all terms and conditions set out in the CPG issued in conjunction with this Order.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 8th day of September, 2021.

 _____)) PUBLIC UTILITY)) COMMISSION) OF VERMONT
Anthony Z. Roisman)	
_____)	
 _____)	
Margaret Cheney)	
_____)	
 _____)	
J. Riley Allen)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: **September 8, 2021**

Attest: 

Clerk of the Commission

Notice to Readers: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Commission (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: puc.clerk@vermont.gov)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 30 days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further order by this Commission or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 28 days of the date of this decision and Order.

PUC Case No. 21-0401-NMP - SERVICE LIST

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