

**STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

|                                                  |   |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Petition of Randolph Davis Solar LLC for a       | ) |                      |
| certificate of public good pursuant to 30 V.S.A. | ) |                      |
| §§ 248 and 8010, authorizing installation and    | ) |                      |
| operation of a 500 kW (AC) photovoltaic group    | ) | Case No. 21-2939-NMP |
| net-metering system in Randolph, Vermont         | ) |                      |

**SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY OF  
MARTHA STASKUS  
ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER**

February 25, 2022

Ms. Staskus' supplemental testimony responds to the Hearing Officer's record requests made at the Scheduling Conference held February 16, 2022.

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## **EXHIBITS**

|                                       |                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Exhibit RDS MS-2A (2/22/22)</b>    | <b>Revised Site Plan</b>                                                         |
| <b>Exhibit RDS MS-3 (Rev 2/22/22)</b> | <b>Revised Elevation Drawings</b>                                                |
| <b>Exhibit RDS MS-12</b>              | <b>Letters from Engineering Firms</b>                                            |
| <b>Exhibit RDS MS-13</b>              | <b>Petitioner's 2/14/22 Response to Planning<br/>Commission Requests</b>         |
| <b>Exhibit RDS MS-14</b>              | <b>Planning Commission 2/14/22 Letter to<br/>Petitioner Accepting Assurances</b> |
| <b>Exhibit RDS MS-15</b>              | <b>Selectboard 2/10/22 Meeting Minutes</b>                                       |

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**SUPPLEMENTAL PREFILED TESTIMONY OF  
MARTHA STASKUS  
ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER**

**1.     Introduction**

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

A1.     My name is Martha Staskus. I am Chief Development Officer of Norwich Technologies, Inc. (“Norwich Solar”), which has offices at 15 Railroad Row, Suite 101, White River Junction, Vermont 05001. I have previously submitted testimony and exhibits on behalf of Randolph Davis Solar LLC (the “Petitioner”) in this proceeding.

Q2.     What is the purpose of your supplemental prefiled testimony?

A2.     My supplemental testimony responds to the Hearing Officer’s request made during the February 16, 2022 Scheduling Conference, that the Petitioner provide (i) a further explanation of how the site plan submitted on February 16, 2022 (Exh. RDS MS-2 (Revised 2/09/22)) has changed from the original version, requesting a layer to easier see where the slope is 25 percent or more, (ii) an updated set of Elevation Drawings (Exh. RDS MS-3), (iii) supplemental prefiled testimony that describes the changes to the Site Plan and Elevation Drawings, and (iv) to provide a chronology of the efforts made by the Petitioner to provide information to the Town of Randolph Planning Commission and Selectboard.

2. **Supplemental Information Requested by the Hearing Officer**

Q3. Has the Petitioner prepared the requested updated Site Plan and Elevation Drawings?

A3. Yes. They are included with this supplemental testimony as Exhibits RDS MS-2A (Revised 2/9/22 with slope layer added 2/22/22) and RDS MS-3 (Revised 2/22/22). As I explain below, Exhibit RDS MS-2A is the same Site Plan layout shown in Exhibit RDS MS-2 (rev 2/9/22) submitted to the Randolph Selectboard on 2/10/22 and the Commission on 2/16/22, however to address the Hearing Officer's request to see the areas easier, the areas that exceed 25% slopes are now illustrated in yellow. So in other words, it is a version of the same 2/9/22 Site Plan with additional information added per the request of the Hearing Officer.

Q4. Please describe the changes made to the Project's original Site Plan submitted (issued 8/4/21), that of RDS MS-2 (rev 2/9/22) and the site plan filed with this supplemental testimony RDS MS-2A (rev 2/9/22 with slope layer added 2/22/22).

A4. Following the Randolph Planning Commission's December 10, 2021 request for more information about the topography on site and the Randolph Selectboard's January 13, 2022 meeting with similar questions, I decided to expedite the gathering of on-site topography so that a site plan could be reviewed at their February 10, 2022 meeting that demonstrates the array can be installed and avoid slopes in excess of 25% in the existing Limit of Disturbance (see chronology below). To accomplish this I hired Horizon Engineering, a Vermont licensed surveyor, to gather on-site field topographic data and requested Krebs & Lansing, a Vermont licensed professional civil engineering firm, to redesign the array,

1 based upon the on-site survey and within the existing Limit of Disturbance, to areas that  
2 did not contain slopes greater than 25%. See Exhibit RDS MS-12, letters from Horizons  
3 Engineering and Krebs & Lansing provided to the Selectboard on February 10, 2022.

4  
5 Based upon the questions at the PUC February 16, 2022 Scheduling Conference, to clarify  
6 Exhibit RDS MS-2 (rev 2/9/22) that had the redesigned array only, Exhibit RDS MS-2A is  
7 provided here, which has yellow shading added to highlight the areas in excess of 25%  
8 slopes. The difference between the original Exhibit RDS MS-2 (issued 8/4/21) and Exhibit  
9 RDS MS-2 (rev 2/9/22) is the later illustrates the redesigned layout. The difference  
10 between the original Exhibit RDS MS-2 (issued 8/4/21) and Exhibit RDS MS-2A, filed  
11 with this testimony, is the later illustrates the redesigned layout as well as yellow shading  
12 representing slopes in excess of 25%. Exhibit RDS MS-2A also demonstrates that the  
13 redesigned solar panel rows layout can be installed in areas with slopes less than 25%  
14 slopes while staying within the original Limit of Disturbance.

15  
16 Q5. Please describe the changes to the Elevation Drawings.

17 A5. Exhibit RDS MS-3 (rev 2/22/22), the Elevation Drawings, has been updated to present the  
18 relocation of rows. The yellow highlight on the existing grade dashed line are the areas of  
19 slopes in excess of 25%, based upon the on-site survey data.

20  
21 Q6. Please provide the chronology of the efforts made by Petitioner to provide information to  
22 the Town of Randolph Planning Commission and Selectboard regarding the Project design.

1 A6. See the table below that chronicles interaction with the Randolph Planning Commission  
2 and Selectboard for the over nine-month period from May 4, 2021 through February 10,  
3 2022.

| Date                        | Event                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 4, 2021<br>June 1, 2021 | Planning Commission meetings with warned agenda items for Norwich Solar's request for preferred siting. Norwich Solar attended both meetings.                                                                                |
| June 10, 2021               | Selectboard meeting with warned agenda item for Norwich Solar's request for preferred siting. Norwich Solar attended the meeting.                                                                                            |
| June 21, 2021               | PUC 45-Day Advanced Notice of Application letter mailed to adjoining properties and regulatory bodies, including the Planning Commission and Selectboard.                                                                    |
| August 18, 2021             | The PUC application was deemed complete. Within 2 business days, hardcopy of the application was mailed to same parties as above, with electric copy to state regulators and GMP.                                            |
| December 7, 2021            | Planning Commission meeting agenda item "a. Discussion on slope issues related to the Solar Array project on Davis Road in East Randolph". Norwich Solar was unaware of the agenda item and was therefore not in attendance. |
| December 10, 2021           | Planning Commission Chair requested Norwich Solar provide clarification to discussion at 12/7/21 meeting.                                                                                                                    |
| December 13, 2021           | Norwich Solar provided additional information and assurances to the Planning Commission as requested. See Exh. RDS MS-13.                                                                                                    |
| December 14, 2021           | Planning Commission Chair sent notification of acceptance. Pertinent text below, as letter was filed to the PUC on December 15, 2021 as Exhibit A, and is included with this testimony as Exh. RDS MS-14.                    |

4 The Planning Commission letter states:

*In response to our Notice of Discrepancy (subject as above) the Randolph Planning Commission received your response on 13 Dec 2021 and accepts your guarantee that “prior to installation of the panels, Norwich Technologies will confirm the grade slopes in the area of the solar panels by having a Vermont licensed surveyor set grade stakes for the solar array rows location and document the slopes. The parties have noted specific concern to the terrain on the eastern side of the array, and again, confirmation will be secured before any panels are installed in that location. The array will be arranged so that solar panels within the current limit of disturbance are not installed on slopes greater than 25%. The onsite survey data can be provided to the Town and the Allen/Binders upon request.”*

*We request that the onsite survey data mentioned above be provided to both the Town of Randolph and the Allen/Binders. We further request to see your final Solar Array plot plan prior to construction.*

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 13, 2022  | Selectboard meeting agenda item “c. Discuss Davis Road Solar Project (per request by Michael Binder).”<br>Norwich Solar attended the meeting. The Selectboard moved to continue the discussion to their February 10, 2022 meeting.                                                                                                                       |
| February 10, 2022 | Selectboard Meeting continuance of discussion. Norwich Solar attended this meeting.<br><br>For further clarity for the Selectboard, Norwich Solar expedited an on-site topographic field survey and with that data redesigned the layout to avoid installation of solar panels rows on slopes greater than 25% within the existing limit of disturbance. |

See Exhibit RDS MS-15, Selectboard meeting minutes from February 10, 2020, which state in relevant part:

*There was discussion about there being no need to take action on the preferred siting letter if there was no intent or motion to rescind it; the letter’s issuance stands as approved in June 2021 at this time.*

1           **3.    Conclusion**

2    Q7.    Does this conclude your testimony?

3    A7.    Yes.

4    8497594\_3: