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From: **Troy McBride** <mcbride@norwichtech.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 4:24 PM

Subject: Preferred siting meeting request for potential solar project

To: Rod Francis <norwichvtplanner@gmail.com>

Cc: Herb Durfee <hdurfee@norwich.vt.us>, Martha Staskus <staskus@norwicksolar.com>, Ryan Darlow <darlow@norwicksolar.com>, Hannah Boudreau <boudreau@norwicksolar.com>

Hello Rod, Herb,

Norwich Solar Technologies is assessing a site for the installation of a ground mounted community solar project off Upper Loveland Rd under the Vermont Net Metering program. We would like to discuss this project with you and, at an upcoming meeting, present the project to the Planning Commission and Selectboard. This potential project is near the cell tower and transmission lines above Upper Loveland Road. The proposed site is in the Ridgeline Protection Overlay. Our analysis shows that we would not have an impact on the Ridgeline viewshed from all public roads and Norwich homes. We are requesting a "preferred siting" letter from Norwich Planning Commission and Selectboard. More information on the proposed project is attached.

We have sent letters to neighbors to the proposed parcel (also attached). We did not receive much feedback on this potential project, however, the feedback we did receive was positive about the potential solar project and continued land use.

I look forward to discussing with you at your convenience.

Best,
Troy



Troy McBride

| **Norwich Solar Technologies**

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June 29, 2021

Norwich Planning Commission
Norwich Selectboard

Dear members of the Norwich Selectboard and Planning Commission,

Norwich Solar Technologies proposes the permitting and installation of a new net metered 500 kW-AC community solar array within the Town of Norwich. The net metering array is proposed to be located on the 34-acre parcel behind the cell tower (shown conceptually on the next pages) at 201 Upper Loveland Rd. This potential project is near the cell tower and transmission lines above Upper Loveland Road. The proposed site is in the Ridgeline Protection Overlay. Our analysis shows that we would not have an impact on the Ridgeline viewshed from all public roads and Norwich homes. We are currently in the early permitting phase of the installation. The focus of the permitting is an application for a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) from the Vermont Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The CPG establishes the process and requirements for meeting environmental, historic, aesthetic, public safety and interconnection requirements. Part of the application requires the designation of the site as "preferred." As summarized in the attached "Guidance on Preferred Siting Designation," one of the preferred categories is locations that a Town and a Regional Planning Commission have so designated. To facilitate the most efficient and quickest review of the CPG by the PUC, Norwich Solar Technologies is seeking a letter for preferred site designation from the Town and Regional Planning Commission.

An example of such a letter is attached for convenience and to facilitate your review. Also provided are additional viewshed analysis and background information including a letter sent to the property neighbors. If appropriate, we would like to attend a meeting in the near future at your convenience to present information on the site and the project, to answer any questions and, to hopefully, confirm your agreement and memorialize your support for the preferred site designation.

I look forward to discussions on the project and your process.

Sincerely,



Troy McBride
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General Location of Property and Proposed Solar Project:

The 500 kW (AC) Norwich Upper Loveland Solar array will occupy approximately two to three acres and be a low-profile installation typical of solar electric generation installations of its type and size. The panels will be mounted on fixed-tilt, supporting racks. The racks are designed to support the bottom of the solar panels approximately 3 feet above existing grade to the top of the panels at approximately 10 feet. The array will be arranged in multiple rows running generally east-west with sufficient distance between the rows to minimize self-shading. The panels will be adjacent to the existing transmission line corridor and include some tree clearing to reduce shading. Much of the parcel will remain undisturbed and open to the public for walking and biking. By our analysis, the solar panels would be screened from view by existing trees and vegetation from any public roads or existing homes. Additionally, our analysis indicates the project will not impact the natural environment and the project will be installed in compliance with all local and state regulations.



Draft Site Plan for proposed solar project:

