
From: Rebecca Holcombe <RHolcombe@leg.state.vt.us>

Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 5:11 PM

To: Roisman, Anthony <Anthony.Roisman@vermont.gov>; Cheney, Margaret <Margaret.Cheney@vermont.gov>; Allen, Riley <Riley.Allen@vermont.gov>

Cc: Tierney, June <June.Tierney@vermont.gov>; jlewis6577@aol.com; gerry@uvmaxre.com

Subject: Requesting a response on an application filed by a constituent two and a half years ago

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Dear Commissioners Roisman, Cheney and Allen,

I am writing on behalf of a constituent, John Lewis, cc'd, of 201 Upper Loveland Road in Norwich.

Two and a half years ago, Mr. Lewis signed a contract to sell a small piece of land to a local solar company. This piece of land was the last part of a family farm that was bisected to make way for Interstate 91, essentially ending its use for farming. This sale was contingent on receipt by the company of appropriate permissions from the town and state to build a a 500 kw net metering solar farm on the site.

The solar company performed due diligence in a timely matter. It received approval from Green Mountain Power and conducted all environmental assessments. The Town of Norwich gave preferred designation for a 500kw net metered solar array. An application was deemed complete by the PUC on **December 3, 2021**.

The site will take up only 20% of the 30 + acres, the rest of which will remain forested. It will sit directly adjacent to existing High Tension Power Lines.

Eleven months after the application was deemed complete, the PUC Hearing Officer held a site visit on October 25, 2022. Another six months later, the PUC Hearing Officer held an evidentiary hearing on April 28, 2023. The last item filed to the PUC was on August 21, 2023.

On December 28, 2023, over 2 years after initiating this process, my constituent filed a comment to the PUC asking why the PUC has not responded.

Mr. Lewis deserves a response. **Over twenty-four months for permitting seems unreasonable.**

Can you please let me know when he may reasonably expect a response?

Thank you so much for your help in resolving this matter.

Best,

Rebecca Holcombe

Rebecca Holcombe
House Appropriations Committee
Vermont House of Representatives
Representing Norwich, Sharon, Strafford and Thetford