STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No.

Petition of Essex A North Lot Solar, LLC for a certificate of public good pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248 for a 3.5 MW ground-mounted solar array located off Robinson Parkway in Essex Junction, Vermont

PETITION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD PURSUANT TO 30 V.S.A § 248

This document has been filed ePUC

By this Petition, Essex A North Lot Solar, LLC (EANL) requests that the Public Utility Commission (Commission) issue EANL a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248 for the installation and operation of a 3.5 MW solar photovoltaic electric generation facility off Robinson Road in Essex Junction, Vermont (the "Project"). In support of this Petition, EANL represents:

1. EANL is a Vermont limited liability company with offices located at 50 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 110 in Burlington, Vermont 05401.

2. EANL proposes to install and operate a 3.5 MW fixed tilt ground mounted solar electric generation facility, known as the Essex A North Lot Solar Project on approximately 13 acres of an approximate 228-acre parcel of land that is privately owned off 3000 Robinson Parkway, Essex Junction (the "Property") on tax parcel ID 100200800 at N 44° 28' 56.27" W 73° 05' 55.78". The Petitioner has rights to lease the Property from the landowner.

3. The Project was initiated and designed with the intent of providing GlobalFoundries (GF), the sole customer of Commission-regulated electric utility GF Power LLC

(GF Power), with a source of local solar energy generation to help it achieve its renewable energy goals.

4. The Project is structured so that the Petitioner plans to sell the output of the Project to GF Power under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) at a competitive rate of $0.06830/kwh. The PPA is on file with the Commission in Case No. 23-4155 PPA, which has been closed after no comments on the PPA were received by the Commission during the Rule 5.200 ninety-day notice period.

5. The power is both generated and interconnected into the GF facilities, but it is transferred via the Green Mountain Power (GMP) distribution infrastructure on the GF Campus, so GF will pay a wheeling charge to GMP to compensate for this use of its infrastructure. This structure will contribute to GF Power's compliance with Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard, help its sole customer—GF—to advance its sustainability initiatives, and allow GMP to help facilitate accomplishment of these objectives without any negative impact on GMP's ratepayers.

6. The Petitioner will transfer the renewable energy credits associated with this Project to GF Power pursuant to the PPA between Petitioner and GF Power.

7. The solar array consists of approximately 7,488 non-reflective photovoltaic modules installed on fixed tilt ground mounted racking units within a fenced area of panels spread across the approximately 13-acre Project area. The array is separated into three sections of racking, with two sections having 9 rows of panels, and the third section having 20 rows of panels. The approximate 38 rows of panels comprising the solar array range in length and run generally east-west, are oriented predominantly to the south, and are fixed at around 25 degrees. Racking systems will be approximately 3.5 feet tall on the low side and 15 feet tall on the high side and installed on

driven post foundations, generally without the use of concrete. Please refer to Exhibit EANL-JC-2 for a site plan and Exhibit EANL-JC-3 for typical equipment specifications for the Project. The final site design and equipment selection will occur post-permit issuance, however such design will be substantially the same as shown in Exhibit EANL-JC-2.

8. Electricity will run from the panels in direct current to a network of string inverters, which are UL1741-SA compliant, dispersed among the array, before being converted to alternating current. Cabling will then run-in protective conduit to a switchgear, which will include the data acquisition system and other auxiliary equipment. Electricity will then run underground to one 4,200 kVA pad-mounted transformer with secondary oil containment.

9. From the transformer, the electricity will run north, 390 feet underground, to a proposed riser pole. From the riser pole, the electricity will run north approximately 360 feet on new overhead 3-phase lines, which will require 5 new poles (1 riser pole, and 4 more poles to get to the existing GMP owned pole) to convey electricity to the point of interconnection with an existing GMP-owned pole on the east side of the Police Department access road. The 5 new wooden poles will be approximately 40 feet high. At the point where the new overhead lines connect with the existing GMP owned pole on the east side of the Police Station access road, the Project will interconnect with GMP's existing distribution network. Petitioner will own the transformer, whereas GMP will own the above referenced overhead line extension and new poles. Please see Exhibit EANL-JC-2 and Exhibit EANL-JC-7 for a one- line diagram.

10. The Petitioner will access the Property via a new access drive that will provide connectivity to an existing drive to the west. The new access drive will be approximately 480 feet long, 12 feet wide, and made of crushed stone gravel. The Petitioner will construct this permanent

access drive with a minimum of 18" of gravel material over geotextile fabric. The Petitioner will install two short-term staging areas for deliveries and temporary storage of equipment. One short-term staging area would be located at the end of the access drive, and the second would be north of the entrance to the Project area. Additional details are shown on Exhibit EANL-JC-2.

11. The Petitioner is proposing to clear and/or top certain areas of trees on the site for Project installation and to avoid shading of the array. Petitioner anticipates that in total, the Project will require approximately 2.7 acres of tree clearing (including grubbing).

12. The Petitioner proposes to install an approximate 7-8' high agricultural style wire-knot perimeter fence affixed to driven fence posts. The perimeter fencing would restrict access to and from the Project to secure the Project and prevent the public from entering the array. The Petitioner will install a secured gate where the fence meets the access drive. GMP and first responders will be provided with access through the gate. Exhibit EANL-JC-3 includes a representative fence specification sheet.

13. Project construction is estimated to take 4-7 months following the receipt of necessary approvals.

14. EANL will follow the filing requirements set forth in Commission Rule 5.407, including providing notice to adjoining landowners upon receiving notice of completion.

15. EANL identified the adjoining landowners by using Essex Junction's certified grand list as it existed on May 31, 2024, no more than sixty days prior to the date on which notice of a complete petition will be provided.

16. The proposed Project meets the criteria established by 30 V.S.A. § 248 including the applicable environmental criteria incorporated from Title 10 of Vermont Statutes Annotated

pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5), and hence warrants that the Commission make the findings requisite to the issuance of a Certificate of Public Good.

17. In support of this Petition, EANL submits supporting prefiled testimony and exhibits that address each of the § 248(b) criteria by the following Witnesses:

Witness	Subject
Jake Clark	Mr. Clark's testimony addresses orderly development of the region (§ 248(b)(1)) need (§ 248(b)(2)); system stability and reliability (§ 248(b)(3)); economic benefit (§ 248(b)(4)); public health and safety, air pollution, use of natural resources, greenhouse gas impacts (§ 248(b)(5)); transportation systems (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(5)); educational services (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(6)); municipal services (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(7)); historic sites (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(8)); development affecting public investments (10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(9)(K)); compliance with IRP (§ 248(b)(6)); electric energy plan ((§ 248(b)(7)); existing or planned transmission facilities (30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(10)); setbacks (30 V.S.A. § 248(s); decommission plan and fund (Public Utility Commission Rule 5.900); and comments received in response to 45-day notices and responses thereto, and public outreach.
Adam Crary	Mr. Crary's testimony addresses the portions of 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5) that include the natural environment, water pollution, outstanding resource waters, headwaters, floodways, streams, shorelines, wetlands, rare and irreplaceable natural areas, threatened and endangered species and necessary wildlife habitat.
Jeremy Owens	Mr. Owen's testimony addresses the Project's compliance with aesthetics and scenic beauty (30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5)). He also addresses orderly development of the region (30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(1)) and compliance with Public Utility Commission Rule 5.800.
Stephanie Wyman	Ms. Wyman's testimony addresses the Project's compliance with natural resources 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5) with respect to Waste Disposal, Soil Erosion, and Primary Agricultural Soils. She also addresses comments received in response to 45-day notices and responses thereto as they relate to primary agricultural.

Request for Relief

WHEREFORE, EANL respectfully requests the Commission to:

1. Hold a prehearing conference as expeditiously as possible on the Petition;

2. Hold technical hearings, as the Commission determines necessary;

3. Make findings as required by 30 V.S.A. § 248, that EANL shall be authorized to construct and operate a 3.5 MW solar electric generation facility off Robinson Parkway in Essex Junction, Vermont and that the Project will promote the general good of the State of Vermont; authorize EANL to undertake the actions described herein and in the attached testimony and exhibits; and issue a Certificate of Public Good to that effect; and

4. Take such other actions as may be required for the expeditious review and approval of this Petition.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont, this 19th day of June, 2024.

Essex A North Lot Solar, LLC
By:

Joslyn Wilschek, Esq.
Wilschek Iarrapino Law Office PLLC
35 Elm Street, Suite 200
Montpelier, VT 05602
802-249-7663
joslyn@ilovt.net