



State of Vermont
Division for Historic Preservation
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*Agency of Commerce and
Community Development*

This document filed to the ePUC

August 28, 2024

Holly R. Anderson, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Petition of Essex A North Lot Solar, LLC pursuant to 30 V.S.A § 248 for a Certificate of Public Good authorizing installation of a 3.5 MW ground-mounted solar array located off Robinson Parkway in Essex Junction, Vermont. Public Utility Commission Case No. 24-1898-PET.

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project. The Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) is reviewing this undertaking (VDHP #CH24-063) for purposes of 30 V.S.A., Section 248. Project review consists of identifying the project's potential impacts to historic buildings, structures, districts, landscapes and settings, and known or potential archeological resources. The purpose of the VDHP's comments is to provide the Public Utility Commission (PUC) with the necessary information for their Section 248 review.

The proposed project consists of installation and operation of a 3.5 MW solar generation facility on approximately 13 acres of a 228-acre parcel of land located off Robinson Parkway in Essex Junction, Vermont. The facility will consist of approximately 7,488 photovoltaic panels attached to fixed tilt ground mounted racking systems arranged in linear arrays within three separate sections within the 13 acre parcel. Related infrastructure includes a new and existing access, inverters, a pad-mounted transformer with secondary oil containment, above and below ground electrical connections, and a gated perimeter fence. Two temporary staging areas will also be established. The project will interconnect to the existing Green Mountain Power Corporation (GMP) three-phase distribution system using an underground electrical connection from the transformer to a new riser pole and an overhead electric line along four additional new poles to the point of interconnection.

VDHP has received the University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology (UVM CAP) July 26, 2024 Phase I Site Identification Survey End of Field Letter Report documenting the results of the archaeological survey conducted within a small section of the Project that was identified as archaeologically sensitive. No evidence of significant cultural activity was documented and the



August 28, 2024

Essex A North Lot Solar Project, Essex Junction, Vermont

Page 2 of 2

UVM CAP recommended that no additional archaeological work was warranted in the project area. VDHP concurs with this recommendation and has no further archaeological concern with the Project.

In addition to our archaeological review, the VDHP has considered the effects of the project on above-ground historic structures, districts, and landscapes. VDHP has reviewed the site plans and landscape mitigation plan submitted as Exhibit Petitioner JC-2 and Exhibit Petitioner JO-2 Appendix D. It is VDHP's opinion that the proposed installation will have no effect on above-ground historic resources.

Based on the above considerations, the VDHP concludes that the Essex A North Lot Solar Project will have **No Effect** on any historic sites that are listed in or eligible for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places. Thank you for your cooperation in protecting Vermont's irreplaceable historic and archeological heritage. R. Scott Dillon and Greg Socinski reviewed this project and prepared this letter. I concur with the findings and conclusions described above.

Sincerely:

VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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For:

Laura V. Trieschmann

State Historic Preservation Officer

