

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 24-1898-PET

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 in Essex Junction, Vermont	
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMENTS

On June 19, 2024, Essex A North Lot Solar, LLC (“Petitioner”) filed a petition in the above-referenced proceeding for a Certificate of Public Good (“CPG”) for a 3.5 MW ground mounted solar array to be located off 3000 Robinson Parkway, Essex Junction, Vermont (“Project”). The property is owned by Global Foundries US 2, LLC.

After a review of the petition, and accompanying exhibits, the Department of Public Service (“Department”) and has identified one area of potential concern regarding public health and safety. The site plan depicts a short segment of underground primary voltage electric line that will be owned by the Petitioner between the Project’s fence and the riser pole. To ensure electrical safety, the Department requests that any certificate of public good issued for the Project include the following condition:

In the event the CPG Holder owns and controls a portion of the underground primary voltage line that is located outside the Project fence line, as depicted on Exhibit EANL-JC-2 on page C2.00 and C2.03, the CPG Holder shall register with Dig Safe and comply with 30 V.S.A. Chapter 86 and Commission Rule 3.8000 for the life of the Project.

The Department recommends the Commission require a signoff from ISO New England be submitted with the Commission before construction. Incorporating these two conditions, the Department concludes that the Project does not raise a significant issue with respect to the Section

248 criteria subject to the Department's review, including aesthetics (30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5)), orderly development with the region (30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(1)), or system stability and reliability (30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(3)). The Department also reviewed the Petitioner's proposed decommissioning plan and finds the plan to be reasonable based on the relative size and scope of the Project and includes an acceptable irrevocable standby letter of credit in accordance with the laws of the State of Vermont.

The Department defers to the Agency of Natural Resources regarding the Project's potential impacts on natural resources in the area.

The Petitioner filed a request that the Department determine whether the Project is consistent with the Vermont Electric Plan under 30 V.S.A. § 202(f). The Department will file a Section 202(f) determination letter with the Commission concluding that the Project is consistent with the 2022 Vermont Electric Plan.

The Department therefore recommends that the Public Utility Commission issue a CPG without further hearings or investigation.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 20th day of October 2024.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

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cc: Service List (via ePUC)