

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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	)	Case No. 24-1898-PET
ground-mounted solar array located off	)	
Robinson Parkway in Essex Junction, Vermont	)	

**THE VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND MARKETS' COMMENTS**

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM), by and through counsel, provides the following comments in this matter pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248(a)(4)(F)(ii).

The project contains approximately 13.3 acres of soils mapped by NRCS as primary agricultural soils (PAS). The various areas mapped PAS are on global Foundries' property and are located in the vicinity of prior impacted areas. Because of a variety of circumstances unique to this specific site, including that a majority of the project will occur on an existing paved parking lot, AAFM is not requesting its standard conditions. However, because these soils are mapped as PAS, AAFM requests that these soils continue to be treated as PAS and returned to their original condition upon decommissioning of the project.

AAFM requests that the commission include in its order the requirements of 30 VSA § 248 (t):

(t) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the law, primary agricultural soils as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001 located on the site of a solar electric generation facility approved under this section shall remain classified as such soils, and the review of any change in use of the site subsequent to the construction of the facility shall treat the soils as if the facility had never been constructed. Each certificate of public good issued by the Commission for a ground-mounted solar generation facility shall state the contents of this subsection.

The reason for this condition is to ensure that currently mapped PAS continues to be protected as PAS in the future. The soil that is currently mapped as PAS will continue to be mapped and protected as PAS after the completion of the operational phase of this project, and this construction will not constitute a prior impact for future construction projects. Petitioner understands this rationale and does not object to the inclusion of the requirement of 30 VSA § 248 (t) in the order.

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

By: */s/ WillyJane Patry*

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