

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

CASE NO. 24-2945-PET

PETITION OF VT REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS 2 LLC
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD, PURSUANT
TO 30 V.S.A. SECTION 248, AUTHORIZING THE
INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF A 20 MW SOLAR
ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITY IN FAIR
HAVEN, VERMONT --

February 13, 2025
9:30 a.m.

Via videoconference

Scheduling Conference held before the
Vermont Public Utility Commission, via videoconference, on
February 13, 2025, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

P R E S E N T

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Edward McNamara, Chair
Margaret Cheney
J. Riley Allen

STAFF: Jake Marren, Staff Attorney
Rowan Cornell-Brown, Utilities
Analyst
Wesley Skidmore, Staff Attorney

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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Also present: Annette Smith, Vermonters for a Clean
Environment

1 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Good morning. This is
2 a scheduling conference in Case No. 24-2945, petition
3 of Vermont Real Estate Holdings 2 LLC, for a
4 Certificate of Public Good for a 20 megawatt solar
5 electric generation facility in Fair Haven.

6 My name is Ed McNamara. I'm chair of
7 the Vermont PUC, and with me today are commissioners
8 Margaret Cheney and Riley Allen. Jake Marren, Wes
9 Skidmore and Rowan Cornell-Brown are members of the
10 commission staff also in attendance today.

11 If a party or participant intends to
12 record today's hearing via video or audio, please
13 indicate this when you provide your name for the
14 court reporter.

15 I'll start by taking appearances for
16 the Department.

17 MR. BAKERPOOLE: Good morning. This is
18 Matthew Bakerpoole for the Department.

19 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Thanks. Petitioners.

20 MS. WESTGATE: Morning. Victoria
21 Westgate from SRH Law on behalf of the Petitioner, VT
22 Real Estate Holdings 2 LLC. And with me today also
23 from SRH Law are my co-counsel, Geoff Hand and Zach
24 Berger.

25 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Thank you. Agency of

1 Natural Resources.

2 MR. EINHORN: Don Einhorn for the
3 Agency.

4 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Thanks. Anyone else?
5 I do see that Annette Smith is attending for
6 Vermonters for a Clean Environment.

7 MS. SMITH: Yes. I'm just watching.

8 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Great. Thank you.
9 All right. Procedures for remote web-based
10 scheduling conference. Just taking a look, I think
11 you are all frequent fliers. I don't need to go
12 through the rigmarole in how to participate in this.
13 We are mostly here today to talk about the schedule.

14 So Petitioners filed a proposed
15 schedule a few days ago. And my understanding is
16 that the parties at the time of filing had signed off
17 on that schedule; is that correct?

18 MR. EINHORN: Don Einhorn for the
19 Agency. Yes. The Agency has agreed with that
20 schedule.

21 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Great.

22 MR. BAKERPOOLE: So does the
23 Department.

24 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Okay. And have the
25 Petitioners reached out to Mr. Bischoff?

1 MS. WESTGATE: Yes. We heard
2 indirectly from Mr. Bischoff, and we understand that
3 he's aware of the schedule filing, although we
4 haven't spoken directly to him about it.

5 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Okay. All right. I
6 believe he received notice of today's workshop or
7 scheduling conference. So commission doesn't have
8 any concern with the schedule.

9 The one thing I did want to talk about
10 a little bit is site visit and public hearing. The
11 commission does intend on holding a public hearing.
12 It would be in person in Fair Haven. And we are
13 looking at March 11, which is a Tuesday.

14 And my understanding is that for in-
15 person public hearings we have been recording those
16 and then producing a transcript after the fact. So
17 with respect to a site visit, we would also like to
18 conduct a site visit, but middle of March is not
19 necessarily ideal. And what we were thinking is
20 potentially looking at farther down the line, maybe
21 in May, so that would inform review of testimony and
22 any evidentiary hearing, assuming one is going to be
23 scheduled or if one is scheduled. And so we are not
24 proposing to schedule it at this time and instead
25 wait and check the weather conditions. Look to other

1 commissioners. Making sure I'm remembering all that
2 correctly. Yup. Great.

3 All right. Any other issues that we
4 need to talk about today?

5 MR. MARREN: Mr. McNamara, this is
6 Jake. Has the Petitioner identified a location --
7 potential location for a public hearing? Or do you
8 need the clerk to sort of look through our Rolodex of
9 potential locations?

10 MS. WESTGATE: I will have to check on
11 that and follow up. I'm not sure we have a specific
12 location in mind. But we can -- I can reach back out
13 to our client and see if they know of a place. I'm
14 sure they have been to Fair Haven a number of times,
15 so I would imagine the Town Hall or something like
16 that would work. So why don't we take that back and
17 see if we can propose a location. And if that
18 doesn't work, then we would follow up and let you
19 know that we might need help finding one.

20 MR. MARREN: Okay. Great.

21 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER CHENEY: And it probably
23 goes without saying, but this is our practice now to
24 precede the public hearing with an informational
25 session hosted not by us.

1 CHAIR MCNAMARA: Thank you. All right.
2 Anything else that we need to talk about today?

3 (No response)

4 CHAIR MCNAMARA: All right. Not seeing
5 anything. Thank you all very much, and enjoy the
6 snow. Take care.

7 (Whereupon, the proceeding was
8 adjourned at 9:42 a.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kim U. Sears, do hereby certify that I recorded by stenographic means the Scheduling Conference re: Case No. 24-2945-PET, via videoconference, on February 13, 2025, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

I further certify that the foregoing testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting and the foregoing 7 pages are a transcript of the stenograph notes taken by me of the evidence and the proceedings to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties thereto or their counsel, and I am in no way interested in the outcome of said cause.

Dated at Williston, Vermont, this 15th day of February, 2025.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim U. Sears". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

0 05402 - 2:7 05402-0329 - 1:24 05620 - 2:4 05620-3901 - 2:12 1 11 - 5:13 112 - 2:3 13 [3] 1:7, 1:11, 8:6 15th - 8:15 2 2 [4] 1:4, 2:12, 3:3, 3:22 20 [2] 1:5, 3:4 2025 [4] 1:7, 1:11, 8:6, 8:16 24-2945 - 3:2 24-2945-PET [2] 1:2, 8:5 248 - 1:5 3 30 - 1:5 329 - 1:24 5 545 - 2:6 7 7 - 8:9 8 802 - 1:25 863-6067 - 1:25 9 91 - 2:6 9:30 [3] 1:7, 1:11, 8:6 9:42 - 7:8 A a.m [4] 1:7, 1:11, 7:8, 8:6 ability - 8:11 adjourned - 7:8 Agency [5] 2:11, 3:25, 4:3, 4:19, 4:19 agreed - 4:19 Allen [2] 1:14, 3:8 although - 5:3 Analyst - 1:16	Annette [2] 2:14, 4:5 appearances - 3:15 Appearing [3] 2:3, 2:6, 2:11 assuming - 5:22 attendance - 3:10 attending - 4:5 Attorney [2] 1:15, 1:17 audio - 3:12 AUTHORIZING - 1:5 B Bakerpoole [4] 2:2, 3:17, 3:18, 4:22 beginning [2] 1:11, 8:6 behalf - 3:21 Berger [2] 2:8, 3:24 best - 8:11 Bischoff [2] 4:25, 5:2 bit - 5:10 Box [2] 1:24, 2:6 Burlington [2] 1:24, 2:7 C CAPITOL - 1:23 care - 7:6 Case [3] 1:2, 3:2, 8:5 cause - 8:14 Certificate [2] 1:4, 3:4 certify [3] 8:3, 8:7, 8:12 chair [13] 1:13, 3:1, 3:6, 3:19, 3:25, 4:4, 4:8, 4:21, 4:24, 5:5, 6:21, 7:1, 7:4 check [2] 5:25, 6:10 Cheney [3] 1:14, 3:8, 6:22 Clean [2] 2:14, 4:6 clerk - 6:8 client - 6:13 co-counsel - 3:23 College - 2:6 commission [6] 1:1, 1:11, 1:13, 3:10, 5:7, 5:11 COMMISSIONER - 6:22 commissioners [2] 3:7, 6:1 concern - 5:8 conditions - 5:25 conduct - 5:18 conference [5] 1:10, 3:2, 4:10,	5:7, 8:4 Cornell-brown [2] 1:16, 3:9 correct - 4:17 correctly - 6:2 counsel - 8:13 court [2] 1:23, 3:14 D Dated - 8:15 Davis - 2:12 Department [4] 2:3, 3:16, 3:18, 4:23 directly - 5:4 Don [2] 4:2, 4:18 DONALD - 2:11 donald.einhorn@v - 2:13 Drive - 2:12 E Ed - 3:6 Edward - 1:13 Einhorn [5] 2:11, 4:2, 4:2, 4:18, 4:18 electric [2] 1:6, 3:5 EMAIL - 1:25 enjoy - 7:5 Environment [2] 2:14, 4:6 ESQUIRE [5] 2:2, 2:7, 2:8, 2:8, 2:11 Estate [3] 1:4, 3:3, 3:22 evidence - 8:11 evidentiary - 5:22 F facility [2] 1:6, 3:5 Fair [4] 1:6, 3:5, 5:12, 6:14 farther - 5:20 February [4] 1:7, 1:11, 8:6, 8:16 filed - 4:14 filing [2] 4:16, 5:3 finding - 6:19 fliers - 4:11 follow [2] 6:11, 6:18 foregoing [2] 8:7, 8:9 frequent - 4:11 G generation [2] 1:6, 3:5 Geoff - 3:23 GEOFFREY - 2:8 ghand@srhlaw.com - 2:9	goes - 6:23 H Hall - 6:15 Haven [4] 1:6, 3:5, 5:12, 6:14 haven't - 5:4 he's - 5:3 heard - 5:1 hearing [6] 3:12, 5:10, 5:11, 5:22, 6:7, 6:24 hearings - 5:15 held - 1:10 hereby - 8:3 holding - 5:11 Holdings [3] 1:4, 3:3, 3:22 hosted - 6:25 I ideal - 5:19 identified - 6:6 imagine - 6:15 indicate - 3:13 indirectly - 5:2 info@capitolcour - 1:25 inform - 5:21 informational - 6:24 INSTALLATION - 1:5 instead - 5:24 intend - 5:11 intends - 3:11 interested - 8:14 issues - 6:3 J Jake [3] 1:15, 3:8, 6:6 K Kim - 8:3 L Law [3] 2:5, 3:21, 3:23 LLC [3] 1:4, 3:3, 3:22 location [4] 6:6, 6:7, 6:12, 6:17 locations - 6:9 looking [2] 5:13, 5:20 M Making - 6:1 March [2] 5:13, 5:18 Margaret [2] 1:14, 3:8 Marren [4] 1:15,	3:8, 6:5, 6:20 Matthew [2] 2:2, 3:18 matthew.bakerpoo - 2:4 maybe - 5:20 McNamara [14] 1:13, 3:1, 3:6, 3:19, 3:25, 4:4, 4:8, 4:21, 4:24, 5:5, 6:5, 6:21, 7:1, 7:4 means - 8:4 megawatt - 3:4 members [2] 1:13, 3:9 middle - 5:18 mind - 6:12 Montpelier [2] 2:4, 2:12 morning [3] 3:1, 3:17, 3:20 mostly - 4:13 MW - 1:5 N National - 2:12 Natural [2] 2:11, 4:1 necessarily - 5:19 notes - 8:10 notice - 5:6 O OPERATION - 1:5 outcome - 8:14 P P.O [2] 1:24, 2:6 pages - 8:9 participant - 3:11 participate - 4:12 parties [2] 4:16, 8:13 party - 3:11 petition [2] 1:4, 3:2 Petitioner [3] 2:6, 3:21, 6:6 Petitioners [3] 3:19, 4:14, 4:25 please - 3:12 potential [2] 6:7, 6:9 potentially - 5:20 practice - 6:23 precede - 6:24 present - 2:14 probably - 6:22 Procedures - 4:9 proceeding - 7:7 proceedings - 8:11 producing - 5:16 propose - 6:17 proposed - 4:14 proposing - 5:24 provide - 3:13	public [10] 1:1, 1:4, 1:11, 2:3, 3:4, 5:10, 5:11, 5:15, 6:7, 6:24 PUC - 3:7 PURSUANT - 1:4 R re - 8:5 reach - 6:12 reached - 4:25 Real [3] 1:4, 3:3, 3:22 received - 5:6 record - 3:12 recorded - 8:4 recording - 5:15 reduced - 8:9 related - 8:12 remembering - 6:1 remote - 4:9 reporter - 3:14 REPORTERS - 1:23 Resources [2] 2:11, 4:1 respect - 5:17 response - 7:3 review - 5:21 rigmarole - 4:12 Riley [2] 1:14, 3:8 Rolodex - 6:8 Rowan [2] 1:16, 3:9 S saying - 6:23 schedule [7] 4:13, 4:15, 4:17, 4:20, 5:3, 5:8, 5:24 scheduled [2] 5:23, 5:23 scheduling [5] 1:10, 3:2, 4:10, 5:7, 8:4 Sears - 8:3 SECTION - 1:5 seeing - 7:4 Service - 2:3 session - 6:25 signed - 4:16 site [3] 5:10, 5:17, 5:18 Skidmore [2] 1:17, 3:9 Smith [3] 2:14, 4:5, 4:7 snow - 7:6 solar [2] 1:5, 3:4 sort - 6:8 specific - 6:11 spoken - 5:4 SRH [3] 2:5, 3:21, 3:23 staff [4] 1:15, 1:15, 1:17, 3:10 start - 3:15 State [2] 1:1, 2:3
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