

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Petition of Northland Solar LLC for a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, authorizing the installation and operation of a 4.999 MW solar electric generation facility in Lowell, Vermont	Case No. 25-2346-PET
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OBJECTION TO MOTION TO CHANGE SCHEDULE

Petitioner Northland Solar LLC (“Petitioner” or “NS”) hereby responds to the motion filed by the Town of Lowell Select Board (“Town”) to change the schedule adopted by the Hearing Officer in this matter on November 3, 2025 and objects to the change proposed by the Town. The Town’s motion asserts that the “Town has become aware that there is very little public awareness of this Project” and requests that the schedule be changed so that the motion to intervene deadline be moved one week after a site visit. NS respectfully disagrees that there is little public awareness of the Project or that it is necessary to adjust the schedule in order to hold a site visit or public hearing. Furthermore, the Town chose not to attend and participate in the scheduling conference, and given timelines for qualification of federal tax credits, NS would be substantially prejudiced by a long delay to the Project at this juncture. For these reasons, NS objects to the proposed schedule change and requests that the Town’s motion be denied.

The Town has had ample notice of the Project.¹ As early as October 2nd (the day after the petition was filed on October 1, 2025), Selectboard Chair Jennifer Blay sent a letter to NS indicating that the Lowell Selectboard had been contacted by neighbors regarding the Project and asked about timelines and holding a Public Hearing. NS responded the same day and

¹ Advance notice was mailed to the Town and all adjoiners on July 21, 2025, followed by notice of the petition filing on October 7, 2025. Notice of a scheduling conference was mailed to the Town by the Commission on October 23rd, 2025.

corresponded with Chair Blay to schedule a meeting. The Town then discussed the Project at multiple Select Board meetings on both October 7th and October 21st prior to the Scheduling Conference that was held on October 31, 2025.² In addition to those Selectboard Meetings, the Town held an additional meeting on October 14th that NS was invited to and attended, and which a number of neighbors attended and spoke at. The Town was thus very aware of the Project early in October and chose not to attend the scheduling conference on October 31st, where a proposed schedule was discussed. The Town has since filed comments and a notice of intervention in the proceeding, and has posted a public message on its website.³

Members of the local community are also well aware of the Project and have filed public comments and have intervened.⁴ As mentioned above, the Town held a meeting about the Project on October 14th, weeks before the scheduling conference, which NS attended and listened to attendees' comments and concerns. NS has also directly engaged with neighbors and other local groups going back as early as August after the advance notice was mailed to all adjoiners and through and beyond the October 14th meeting. In these discussions, NS has shared plans for the Project and has sought to address individual concerns, including: offering further visual mitigation in addition to the substantial plantings already proposed, allowing continued public use of non-fenced areas of the site for sledding, and allowing continued use of the VAST trail on the parcel. NS has also responded to suggestions for improvements, and has agreed to host a community garden on a portion of the parcel and allow sheep grazing underneath the panels to

² See Meeting Minutes October 7, 2025 (*available at* <https://nebula.wsimg.com/5fbba4e4262d4ccc0b61a238a573fd6f?AccessKeyId=B0B2069B1EAA8E43C052&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>) and October 21, 2025 (*available at* <https://nebula.wsimg.com/0d1a252fd91e7f531d4797fc048544af?AccessKeyId=B0B2069B1EAA8E43C052&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>).

³<http://www.townoflowell.org/news---events.html> (providing notice of solar project and requesting public comments).

⁴ As of the date of this filing eleven public comments and six motions to intervene have been filed through ePUC.

continue agricultural use, if so desired by a local farmer. NS has therefore made significant efforts to date to directly engage with the Town and local community and address concerns to the degree reasonably possible, and NS will continue to do so throughout this proceeding. Given the clear level of awareness of the Project at both the Town and individual level, it is not necessary or reasonable to delay the recently adopted schedule by several weeks for this purpose. Members of the public have already filed a number of public comments and notices of intervention, and further delay for this purpose is not justified given the clear prejudicial impact to Petitioner of halting the schedule for several additional weeks.

To be clear, NS does not object to the holding of a site visit and another public meeting with the Commission; rather, NS objects to amending the schedule to delay the proceeding until a site visit and public meeting are noticed and held. Anyone who attends a site visit and has comments will be able to provide them at the public meeting, and those comments will be taken into consideration by the Commission. Moreover, it is not uncommon for schedules to be adopted by the Commission where these events take place after the intervention deadline.⁵ NS filed the proposed schedule several days before the scheduling conference, and the Town was clearly engaged in the process, having had at least three meetings on the Project prior to the scheduling conference, and could have attended the scheduling conference to make its request if it felt strongly about this change.

For these reasons, NS objects to the Town's request to amend the schedule and respectfully requests that this motion be denied. If the Hearing Officer does grant the Town's

⁵ See, e.g., *In Re Petition of Reservoir Road Solar, LLC*, 24-3571-PET, Order Establishing Schedule (Jan 17, 2025) (setting deadlines for motions to intervene and requests for site visit on same date with placeholder for public hearing several weeks later); *In re Petition of VT Real Estate Holdings 2 LLC*, 24-2945-PET, Scheduling Conference Order (Mar. 10, 2025) (setting deadline for motions to intervene several months before site visit).

request, NS requests that the site visit and public hearing be held as soon as possible to prevent further undue delay to this proceeding.

Dated at Burlington, Vermont this 10th day of November 2025.

NORTHLAND SOLAR LLC

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