

**STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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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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**RESPONSE TO OBJECTION TO MOTION TO CHANGE SCHEDULE**

Town of Lowell Selectboard hereby responds to Northland Solar’s Objection to our motion for an extension for interveners to be after the public hearing and site visit that was requested.

When the Town said that there was “little public awareness of the project” that is true. The Town and landowners were given the 45 day notice. But the Selectboard and Zoning board were unaware of these letters until October 1st, which is when they wrote together their agreed upon stance. There was a clerical error and both parties did not check their mailbox. As a small town in the last four years of being a Selectboard member there had never been anything in the mailbox because anything of importance has been brought to a meeting. We have all felt bad about this circumstance, but the townspeople do not need to pay the price for our mistakes.

Also, as the Town represents all parties at the table we as the Selectboard were waiting to hear from adjoining landowners and only had heard from one. However, when I asked them individually all I heard was opposition, yet they did not understand the process, what their rights were and many did not think they should speak out as they love the local farmers whose land this belongs to.

There is more than timelines and protocols that we as a town have to consider. We live here and as a small town we tend to work together, attempt to find common ground, we look out

for each other and are a large family. I told these landowners that I had reached out to the PUC in order to get a public hearing on October 2, 2025 through email so that we could learn together what our legal actions and rights were. I did not get a response.

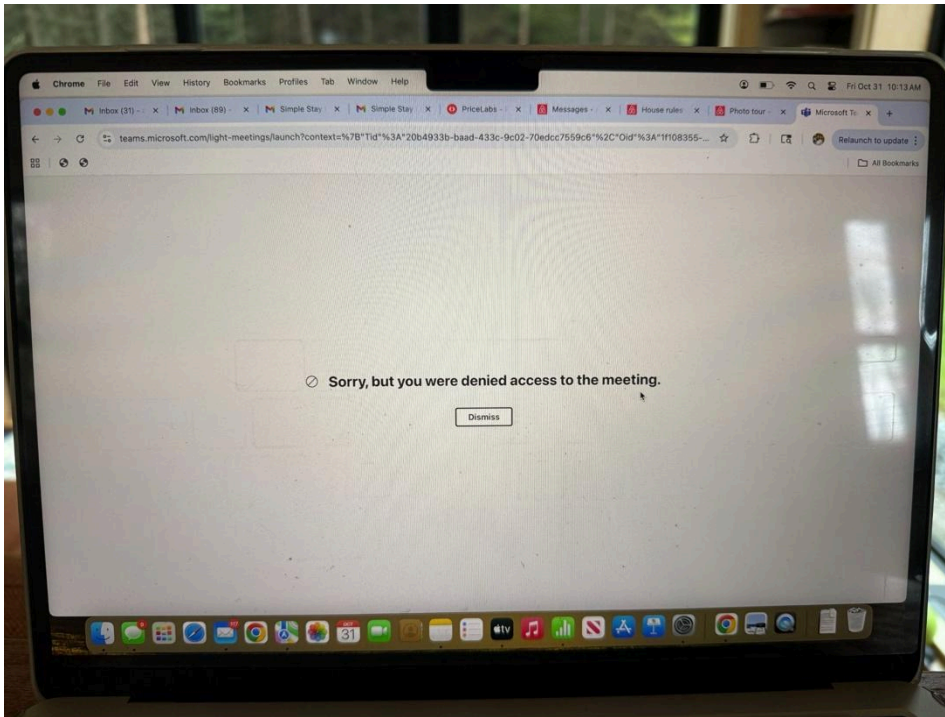
However, Thomas Hand from Northland Solar said he could come and speak with us. This was after the Petition was filed, not during the Advance Notice when we would have appreciated it if he had gotten on our agenda and presented the proposal to us. The meeting we had with him was set up to obtain information and the selectboard invited the adjoining landowners so we could begin to understand. It was not a publicly warned meeting as we were information seeking. After that October 14 meeting, we still did not know about the process, just details about the project which was in the submitted plan that many of us had not seen as we had not been on the Public Utility Commission website.

As chair of the Lowell Selectboard I had no idea even what the process was until I received the letter written October 23rd, 2025 and sent by The State of Vermont Public Utility Commission. This one document enlightened our Selectboard about Section 248 Petitions and the process. This was the first time I learned what an Intervener was and about evidentiary hearings.

The additional meetings that were referred to are our regularly held Selectboard meetings where this project was minimally discussed as we were waiting to hear from the Public Utility Commission.

We then received notice of the October 31, 2025 scheduling meeting where it was stated in the objection that we chose not to attend. To set the record straight, I as a teacher had parent teacher conferences scheduled back to back every 20 minutes on October 31st and did not think I would have time to attend. Another person was going to join to at least fill us in. However, my

meeting for 10 am was canceled so I quickly found the link and attempted to join the meeting. I was put in a waiting room for someone to let me in, instead I was dropped from the room. This happened 3 times and at 10:15 am I gave up. Meanwhile my colleague who attempted to sit in to listen as it was supposed to be open to the public received a message that said "Sorry, but you were denied access to the meeting."



I then did not know where to look on the site to find this new schedule. One of our local Zoning Board members who had the time found it and brought it to the Selectboard meeting on Tuesday, November 4th. It was at this meeting that I learned I had 3 days to communicate with the townspeople that I said I would help and provide information so that they did have rights to be interveners. We decided as the Selectboard that if we could not get a public hearing by the deadline for intervening and that we would hold our own information meeting with what little we knew and scheduled this for Monday, November, 10th, not giving citizens much time and it was

already past the intervener deadline by 3 days but it was the fastest we felt we could do something.

I sent a second email on November 4th, asking the PUC for the Public Hearing and Site Visit, I read in the state document that anyone could ask for. Yet, nowhere could I find how to do this. I did not know I needed to file a motion in the case. I learned and filed it on November 5th, 2025 just in time based on the very tight schedule put forth by the Northland Solar project as they are only looking at money and what benefits them. They are not seeing that this tiny town of 800 has very little hope in this process as half of the town fought and lost their fight when the Wind Towers came in. I have heard them say "Nothing we can do will matter, that we don't stand a chance, why speak up at all. They have money and fancy lawyers and know how to work the system." Sadly, all of that seems to be true if you look at the facts.

I as the chair of the Lowell Selectboard have had a steep learning curve with understanding the language, the process and how to find items in the case site. I still don't know if I helped the adjoining landowners fill out the Intervener paperwork properly. I had to look up lots of language. We have not hired a lawyer as we do not currently have a budget for such lawyer fees. I am frustrated and saddened.

As I reread the Objection by Northland Solar, he is using our meeting minutes to spin his side of the story. If he is as caring and willing to help us, why didn't he tell us how to ask for a public hearing and site visit properly. If we had that information it could have been on the record as far back as our meeting with him, as he knew we were hoping to share with the rest of the town and wanted it to come from authorities in the matter.

This small town in the Northeast Kingdom is requesting due process with time to learn and engage as this site location raises numerous issues that need to be addressed. The schedule

seems very tight, expedited, around many Holidays and when our small town works on local budgets which need to be completed by early January as well. Each of the three of us on the Selectboard have full time jobs. Yet, this company does this process regularly, it is their job and has multiple lawyers. It seems if they knew about the need for a tight schedule they could have started sooner. We are asking for our voices to be heard at the table and I as the Selectboard chair am asking that you consider the individuals in this small community and that they should have more time to be at the table as interveners if they see fit.

It is worthy of mentioning that at our Monday night meeting there were about 50 people in attendance during a snowstorm and not one of them was in favor of the project. Many did not know how to put in a public comment or had submitted one but it went somewhere else in the system as it was not linked to the case number. Second worthy note, I had to learn that the other documents tab in the case file holds important information such as objections.

Once again, I am sorry for my ignorance in this matter. You can see if you look at the [puc.clerk@vermont.gov](mailto:puc.clerk@vermont.gov). I have reached out numerous times thinking that email communication through your site was an acceptable way to reach you to ask for how to participate.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Blay  
Town of Lowell  
Selectboard Chair