

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 25-2412-PET

Petition of GRH Growth, LLC, pursuant to 30 V.S.A § 248, authorizing the construction and operation of a 3.5 MW solar array in Vernon, Vermont	
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Order entered: 12/09/2025

ORDER RE: INTERVENTIONS AND INFORMATION REQUESTS

I. INTRODUCTION

This case concerns a petition filed by GRH Growth, LLC (“Petitioner”), pursuant to 30 V.S.A § 248, requesting a certificate of public good authorizing the construction and operation of a 3.5 MW solar array in Vernon, Vermont (the “Project”). In this order, I address the interventions of the Town of Vernon and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (“DHP”). I also request information from the Petitioner.

II. INTERVENTIONS

Town of Vernon

On November 25, 2025, the Town of Vernon filed a notice of intervention. The Town of Vernon is a party pursuant to Commission Rule 5.409. The Town of Vernon’s intervention in this proceeding is limited to the interests identified in its notice pursuant to Commission Rule 2.209(C).

The Division for Historic Preservation

DHP filed a motion to intervene on November 25, 2025, pursuant to Commission Rule 2.209(B). DHP states that it is the relevant state entity responsible for reviewing matters concerning historic sites arising under 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5).

Rule 2.209(B) reserves to the Commission the power to grant intervenor status on a permissive basis:

- (1) when a statute or Commission rule confers a conditional right to intervene; or
- (2) when an applicant's claimed interest shares a question of law or fact in common with the matters that must be resolved in the proceeding.

In exercising its discretion under Rule 2.209(B), the Commission must consider whether intervention will unduly delay the proceeding or prejudice the interests of existing parties or of the public.

No party objected to DHP's intervention. I have reviewed the motion and find that DHP meets the criteria for permissive intervention because DHP has an interest in protecting historic resources and the Commission must address the Project's impact on historic resources in this proceeding. Therefore, the motion is granted. DHP's intervention in this proceeding is limited to the interests identified in its motion pursuant to Commission Rule 2.209(C).

III. INFORMATION REQUESTS

The Commission is required by statute to develop lines of inquiry based on the public comments received at a public hearing that are relevant to the findings to be made under Section 248.¹ The Petitioner is directed to respond to the following information requests with written testimony by January 9, 2026.

1. Please address the potential aesthetic impact the Facility will have on the Connecticut River Paddlers Trail portage route around the Vernon Dam.
2. Please describe whether it would be reasonable for the Petitioner to eliminate one row of panels in the northeast corner of the Facility to reduce the views of the Facility from the adjoining property. If it is not reasonable, please explain why.
3. Is the Project located in an area where the development of renewable energy facilities is discouraged by Policy 7.25 of the Vernon Town Plan?² If so, please explain what weight the Commission should give this portion of the Vernon Town Plan when determining whether the Project will interfere with the orderly development of the region.

¹ 30 V.S.A. § 248(a)(4)(A).

² This provision of the Town Plan states:

Policy 7.25: Discourage any renewable energy generation facilities in these identified unsuitable areas, identified by the Town of Vernon:

- Within the Resource or Conservation Land Use Areas.
- Fragile natural areas, as determined by the Land Use chapter of the Vernon Town Plan.
- Prime agricultural soils and fragile natural areas as designated on the Town of Vernon Constraints map.

4. Pages 6-7 of Craig Martin's prefiled testimony describe the estimated future annual property tax revenue that will accrue to the State and the Town of Vernon if the Project is constructed. Please explain what portion of these estimated future tax revenues will accrue to the Town of Vernon versus the State. Please compare the estimated future annual tax revenue to the current property taxes that are being collected for the Project parcel.
5. The Project site plan shows the construction of three new poles near Governor Hunt Road as part of the Project's interconnection. Is it feasible to consolidate this infrastructure onto the existing utility poles in the area? Alternatively, is it feasible to underground the Project's interconnection line?
6. The prefiled testimony of Krista Clark states that the Petitioner will stockpile primary agricultural soils separately by soil horizon, making sure piles are located and planted with ground cover to prevent erosion and preserve integrity. Please explain whether there is any risk due to potentially disturbing dredge spoils that may have been deposited on field.

SO ORDERED.

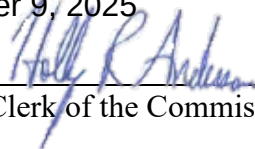
Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 9th day of December, 2025.



Jake Marren, Esq.
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: December 9, 2025

Attest: 
Clerk of the Commission

PUC Case No. 25-2412-PET - SERVICE LIST

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^Motion to Intervene pending.