

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Case No. 25-2774-PET

Petition of Williston H Solar, LLC for a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, for a 2.75 MW ground-mounted solar array in Williston, Vermont	
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**COMMENTS BY THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGARDING
THE 30 V.S.A. § 248 PETITION OF WILLSTON H SOLAR, LLC**

On November 6, 2025, Williston H Solar, LLC (“Petitioner” or “WHS”) filed a petition with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) requesting a certificate of public good (“CPG”), under 30 V.S.A. § 248, authorizing the construction and operation of a 2.75 MW ground-mounted photovoltaic solar electric generation facility located off of Redmond Road (northeast of Chip Aly) in Williston, Vermont (the, “Project”). The Project will occupy roughly 11 acres of a 440-acre parcel owned by GlobalFoundries. The Project will consist of approximately fifty rows of solar panels, a 7-8 high agricultural fence, an inverter bank and pad mounted transformer, improvements to an existing access drive, and around 4.2 acres of vegetation clearing and 1.5 acres of tree trimming. The Project will interconnect to an existing Green Mountain Power Corporation substation and the Project’s output is being sold to GF Power, LLC via a Power Purchase Agreement noticed in Case No. 25-0605-PPA.

The Department of Public Service (“Department”) has reviewed the petition, testimony, and exhibits for concerns within its areas of expertise under 30 V.S.A. § 248 and the Commission’s rules.¹ The Department served one round of discovery on WHS to investigate these criteria. As described herein, the Department supports the issuance of a CPG under 30 V.S.A. § 248, without further hearings or investigation, provided that the CPG is conditioned on WHS (and any successor CPG Holder or assigns)

¹ Including, Rule 5.400, Rule 5.500, Rule 5.900, and 30 V.S.A. §§ 248(a) general good of the State, (b)(1) orderly development of the region, (b)(2) need for present and future demand for service, (b)(3) system stability and reliability, (b)(4) economic benefit to the State and its residents, (b)(5) aesthetics and public health and safety, (b)(7) compliance with the electric energy plan, (b)(10) economic service by existing or planned transmission facilities.

becoming a member of Dig Safe and complying with the requirements of 30 V.S.A. §§ 7001-7008 (ch. 86) and Commission Rule 3.800 for the life of the Project. It is the Department's understanding that WHS consents to this CPG condition based on communications with WHS and its discovery responses. With this proposed CPG condition in place, the only unresolved substantive concern identified by the Department would be addressed.

The Department's Review of Criteria under 30 V.S.A. § 248 and Commission Rules

The Department did not identify undue interference with orderly development of the region nor an undue adverse effect on aesthetics. The Department reviewed the Project's decommissioning plan and WHS's proposed decommissioning fund security, including a comparison of the proposed decommissioning fund credit amount with the sums approved by the Commission for several similar facilities. WHS's Project decommissioning plan is reasonable, and the proposed decommissioning fund security would conform with the requirements of Rule 5.900 provided it is issued by an A-rated financial institution. The evidence indicates that WHS will pay for upgrades required by the interconnection study and thereby the Project does not adversely affect system stability or reliability. There is no indication that the Project would present an undue adverse effect under 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(10). No adverse effects under 30 V.S.A. §§ 248(b)(2), (b)(4), or (b)(7) were discovered during the Department's review. Per the letter filed with these comments, the Department determined the Project is consistent with the Vermont Electrical Energy Plan pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 202(f).

To protect public health and safety, under 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(5), the Department asked discovery regarding the Project's buried electrical line(s) operating at primary voltage. To clarify the record regarding these electrical safety issues, WHS filed a revised one-line diagram (Revised Exhibit WHS-JC-6) on March 4, 2026, and – on March 13, 2026 – WHS filed a revised interconnection Feasibility Study

and ISO-NE determination letter (stating the Project will not have a significant adverse effect on the operation of the related Transmission facilities or a Market Participant's system). Because WHS is responsible for a buried, primary voltage line according to the petition as revised, the Department recommends a CPG condition requiring WHS, and any successors or assigns to the CPG, to register with Dig Safe and comply with 30 V.S.A. §§ 7001-7008 (ch. 86) and Commission Rule 3.800 for the life of the Project. As a non-utility, WHS is not otherwise subject to these legal requirements ensuring underground electrical safety without this condition. It is the Department's understanding that WHS consents to this CPG condition.

Conclusion

Provided that any 30 V.S.A. § 248 CPG contains the condition recommended herein to provide electrical safety, the Department has not identified any other unaddressed concerns and therefore recommends approval of the Petition without further hearing or investigation.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 27th day of March 2026.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

By:

/s/ Alex Wing
Alexander Wing, Special Counsel
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620
(802) 461-5009
alexander.wing@vermont.gov

cc: ePUC Service List