

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 26-0925-PET

Petition of Novus Buck Solar LLC for a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, authorizing the installation and operation for a 4.999 MW ground-mounted solar array in Newport Town, Vermont	
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Order entered: 06/05/2026

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR WAIVER

On May 13, 2026, Novus Buck Solar LLC (“Petitioner”) filed a petition, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) for a certificate of public good (“CPG”) to construct a 4.99 MW solar electric generation facility in Newport, Vermont (the “Facility”).

On May 13, 2026, Commission staff issued a memorandum concluding that the petition was incomplete pursuant to Commission Rule 5.403(A)(1) and (14) because the petition did not contain sufficient information to support a positive finding under 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(3) (system stability and reliability) and to comply with Commission Rule 5.500, regarding interconnection procedures for electric generation facilities. The Petitioner anticipated this incomplete determination and filed a motion requesting that the Commission waive the completeness requirement for these specific provisions, pursuant to Commission Rules 2.107 and 5.415, based on the unique circumstances of this case.

Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“VEC”) plans to use the power from this Facility to help satisfy its obligations under the Vermont Renewable Energy Standard (“RES”).¹ The Petitioner is seeking to qualify the Facility under the expiring federal Investment Tax Credit (“ITC”) and to do so the Facility must commence construction by July 2026 or be fully operational by the end of 2027.² Qualifying for the ITC will enable the Petitioner to sell the power to VEC at a lower cost per unit.³

¹ Bravakis pf. at 9-10.

² Petitioner’s Motion at 3.

³ Bravakis pf. at 10.

The Petitioner submitted its interconnection application to VEC on November 25, 2025, and was informed by VEC that a System Impact Study (“SIS”) would likely be issued around May 15, 2026.⁴ The Petitioner will file the results of the SIS as soon as it is completed.⁵ The Petitioner seeks a waiver due to concerns about the expiration of the ITC, in hopes that the Commission can initiate proceedings and establish a schedule for the proceeding while the SIS is being completed.

On May 22, 2026, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) filed comments recommending that the Commission grant the Petitioner’s request because good cause exists to grant a waiver of the completeness requirement pursuant to Commission Rules 2.107 and 5.415, given that the expiration of the ITC is outside the Petitioner’s control. The Department requested that the Commission grant the waiver with a condition that the SIS be filed at least two weeks before the due date for the last round of discovery requests before any non-petitioner testimony, non-petitioner comments, or stipulations are due.

Commission Rule 2.107 provides, “[t]o prevent unnecessary hardship or delay, to prevent injustice, or for other good cause, the Commission may waive the application of a rule under such conditions as it may require, unless precluded by the rule or by statute.” Commission Rule 5.415 provides, “[f]or good cause, the Commission may waive any of the requirements of this rule.”

Commission Rules 5.403(A)(1) and (14) require a petitioner to file: (1) “[p]refiled evidence (testimony and exhibits) that demonstrates how the proposed project complies with each of the separate criteria of 30 V.S.A. § 248(b) and promotes the general good of the State in compliance with 30 V.S.A. § 248(a). The testimony and exhibits must contain sufficient facts to support a positive finding by the Commission under each of the applicable Section 248 criteria,” and (2) “[i]nformation to document compliance with Commission Rule 5.500 regarding interconnection procedures for electric generation facilities.” Under 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(3), to grant a CPG, the Commission must find that a Facility “[w]ill not adversely affect system stability and reliability.”

⁴ Petitioner’s Motion at 2.

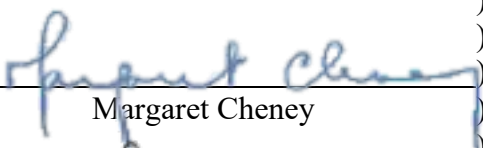
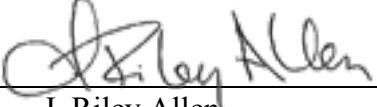
⁵ Bravakis pf. at 11.

The Commission concludes that good cause exists to grant a waiver of the completeness requirement specific to filing sufficient evidence to demonstrate compliance with criterion (b)(3) of Section 248 and Commission Rule 5.500. The Petitioner submitted its interconnection application to VEC in November 2025. VEC is currently working on an SIS, which is expected to be completed imminently. The Commission will not issue any CPG for this Facility until the Petitioner files an SIS that demonstrates compliance with 30 V.S.A. § 248(b)(3) and Commission Rule 5.500. Delaying the initiation of this proceeding to wait for the SIS to be filed could potentially result in higher costs for VEC (and, therefore, VEC ratepayers) to meet RES requirements. Based on the foregoing, the Commission grants the waiver subject to the requirement requested by the Department that the SIS be filed at least two weeks before the due date for the last round of discovery requests before any non-petitioner testimony, non-petitioner comments, or stipulations are due.

The petition is deemed administratively complete. Following the issuance of this order, the Clerk of the Commission will issue a separate memorandum regarding the notice provisions with which the Petitioner must comply and will notice a scheduling conference.

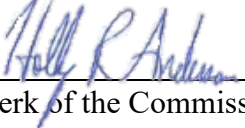
SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 5th day of June, 2026.

 _____	)	
Edward McNamara	)	PUBLIC UTILITY
	)	
 _____	)	COMMISSION
Margaret Cheney	)	
	)	
 _____	)	OF VERMONT
J. Riley Allen	)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: June 5, 2026

Attest: 

Clerk of the Commission

PUC Case No. 26-0925-PET - SERVICE LIST

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