

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 25-2356-PET

Petition of Williston G Katie Lane Solar, LLC for a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, authorizing the construction and operation of a 2.9 MW solar facility in Williston, Vermont	
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Order entered: 06/19/2026

ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD

In this order, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) adopts the following proposal for decision.

PROPOSAL FOR DECISION

I. INTRODUCTION

This case involves a petition filed by Williston G Katie Lane Solar, LLC (“Katie Lane Solar”) requesting a certificate of public good (“CPG”) under 30 V.S.A. § 248, authorizing the construction and operation of a 2.9 MW solar facility off Mountain View Road in Williston, Vermont (the proposed “Facility”).

In this proposal for decision, I recommend that the Commission approve the Facility and issue a CPG, subject to conditions.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On October 2, 2025, Katie Lane Solar filed a petition with supporting testimony and exhibits for the Facility.

On November 6, 2025, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (“CCRPC”) filed comments stating that the Facility meets CCRPC’s suitability policies and constraint policies if Katie Lane Solar appropriately mitigates impacts on any wetlands and primary agricultural soils.

On April 23, 2026, Katie Lane Solar filed a memorandum of understanding between itself and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (“ANR”), entered into the record as exhibit WGKL-ANR-1 (“ANR MOU”).

On April 24, 2026, Katie Lane Solar filed a memorandum of understanding between itself and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (“AAFM”), entered into the record as exhibit WGKL-AAFM-1 (“AAFM MOU”).

On April 24, 2026, Katie Lane Solar filed a memorandum of understanding between itself and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (“DHP”), entered into the record as exhibit WGKL-DHP-MOU-1 (“DHP MOU”).

On April 24, 2026, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) filed comments stating that it recommends that the Commission approve the Facility and that it did not identify any concerns under the statutory criteria. The Department proposes a CPG condition to ensure that Facility construction meets Dig Safe requirements. The Department also filed its determination under 30 V.S.A. § 202(f).

On June 3, 2026, Katie Lane Solar filed a proposed order and CPG.

The Commission received no other comments on the petition.

Katie Lane Solar provided advance notice of the petition to the municipality, the regional planning commission, and adjoining landowners pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248(f) and Commission Rule 5.402(A) and (B). In addition, these same entities received notice of the petition when it was filed with the Commission. DHP was granted intervention, and no other entity moved to intervene. DHP and the statutory parties—ANR, the Department, and AAFM—have not opposed the Facility, subject to agreed-upon conditions. Based on my independent review and subject to the conditions discussed below, I recommend that the Commission conclude that the Facility meets the substantive criteria of 30 V.S.A. § 248(b) and promotes the public good of the State.

No party has requested an evidentiary hearing or objected to the prefiled testimony and exhibits. Accordingly, the following prefiled testimony and exhibits are admitted as if presented at a hearing: the prefiled and supplemental testimony of Jake Clark, Katie Lane Solar (“Clark pf.” or “Clark supp. pf.”) and exhibits WGKL-JC-1 through WGKL-JC-8; the prefiled and supplemental testimony of Adam Crary, Katie Lane Solar (“Crary pf.” or “Crary supp. pf.”) and exhibits WGKL-AC-1 through WGKL-AC-3; the prefiled testimony of Stephanie Wyman, Katie Lane Solar (“Wyman pf.”) and exhibits WGKL-SW-1 through WGKL-SW-3; and the prefiled and supplemental testimony of Jeremy Owens, Katie Lane Solar (“Owens pf.” or “Owens supp.

pf.”) and exhibits WGKL-JO-1 and WGKL-JO-2 (revised) with Appendices A through D. Additionally, the petition, the Department comments and Section 202(f) determination, exhibit WGKL-ANR-1, exhibit WGKL-AAFM-1, exhibit WGKL-DHP-MOU-1, and CCRPC comments are entered into evidence.¹

Based on the petition and the accompanying record in this proceeding, I have determined that this matter is ready for decision and report the following findings to the Commission in accordance with 30 V.S.A. § 8(c).

III. DESCRIPTION

Findings

1. Katie Lane Solar is a Vermont limited liability company with offices located at 50 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 110, in Burlington, Vermont, established for the purpose of permitting, constructing, owning, and maintaining the Facility. Clark pf. at 4-5.

2. The Facility is a 2.9 MW (AC) ground-mounted solar generation system located off Mountain View Road in Williston, Vermont. The Facility will occupy approximately 11.1 acres of an approximately 440-acre parcel owned by GlobalFoundries (“GF”). Clark pf. 4-5; exh. WGKL-JC-2.

3. The Facility will provide GF, the sole customer of electric utility GF Power LLC (“GF Power”), with a source of solar generation to help it achieve its renewable energy goals. The Facility will help GF Power comply with Vermont’s Renewable Energy Standard (“RES”), including Tier II requirements. Clark pf. at 5-6.

4. Katie Hill Solar will sell the electrical output from the Facility to GF Power under a power purchase agreement at a rate of \$0.1066 per kWh. Katie Hill Solar will transfer the renewable energy credits (“RECs”) associated with the Facility to GF Power under the terms of the contract. Clark pf. at 5-7; Clark supp. pf. at 5.

5. The Facility includes: (a) an array separated into two sections with the northern section having approximately 24 rows of solar panels and the southern section having approximately 26 rows of solar panels, attached to fixed ground-mounted racking systems;

¹ If any party has an objection to any of these documents being entered into evidence, the party must submit its objection within 14 days of the date this order is entered.

(b) string inverters; (c) a 1400 kVA pad-mounted transformer with secondary oil containment for the northern array and a 1600 kVA pad-mounted transformer with secondary oil containment for the southern array; (d) cabling to connect the array to the transformer; and (e) underground wiring from both transformers to the interconnection point with the Green Mountain Power Corporation (“GMP”) distribution system. Clark pf. at 7-8; exhs. WGKL-JC-2, WGKL-JC-6, and WGKL-JO-2 (revised).

6. The northern and southern array sections of the Facility will be separately enclosed by approximately 7- to 8-foot-high agricultural style fences. The perimeter fences and secured gates will restrict access to the Facility to help ensure public safety. Clark pf. at 9; exhs. WGKL-JC-2 and WGKL-JC-3.

7. The Project site will be accessed from Mountain View Road by improving the existing gravel road that leads north from Mountain View Road and constructing a 12- to 16-foot-wide gravel drive for the northern array section. Clark pf. at 8; exh. WGKL-JC-2.

8. The Facility will interconnect with GMP’s distribution service along Mountain View Road. From the transformer at the northern array, the electric lines will extend underground to a new riser pole and will extend south in an overhead configuration along approximately nine new poles. The lines will then transition underground to connect to the transformer located at the southern array. From the second transformer, the lines extend underground to an existing concrete pad and connect to the GMP distribution system. Clark pf. at 6-8; exhs. WGKL-JC-2 and WGKL-JO-2 (revised).

9. Facility construction and interconnection will include upgrades to GMP’s distribution line along Mountain View Road. GMP will upgrade an approximately 1,400-foot segment of the distribution line and install a new upgraded regulator bank to allow Facility interconnection. Clark pf. at 6; Crary supp. pf. at 2-3; exh. WGKL-AC-3.

10. The Facility will require approximately 0.03 acre of tree clearing. Minimal earthwork will be needed for the installation of access drives, underground conduit, equipment pads for transformers, and associated stormwater treatment improvements. The access road to the northern array will require a culvert replacement. Clark pf. at 9-10; exhs. WGKL-JC-2 and WGKL-AC-2.

11. Sound from the Facility will be produced by the inverters and transformers primarily during daylight hours. The maximum sound levels generated by the equipment are estimated to be approximately 37 decibels (A-weighted, exterior) at the nearest residential building. Clark pf. at 21; exh. WGKL-JC-7.

12. Facility construction will be between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Monday through Friday, and between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Saturdays. No construction will occur on Sunday, or state or federal holidays. Clark pf. at 11.

13. The Facility was identified as a “potential solar facility” — Project H — in the Commission’s declaratory ruling in Case No. 23-3974-PET, where the Commission concluded that Project H would be considered a single plant if the plans submitted in the Section 248 case were identical to the plans submitted in Case No. 23-3974-PET with respect to the factors that define a single plant. The plans are identical with respect to the factors that define a single plant and to the evidence presented in Case No. 23-3974. There is one change that is not material to the single-plant analysis. Project H was identified as being approximately 3.0 MW, instead of 2.9 MW. Clark pf. at 6.

IV. REVIEW OF THE FACILITY UNDER SECTION 248 CRITERIA

Findings

14. The Facility will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region. In making this finding, due consideration has been given to the recommendations of the municipal and regional planning commissions and the recommendations of the municipal legislative bodies. Substantial deference has been given to the land conservation measures and specific policies contained in the duly adopted regional and municipal plans. Owens pf. at 3-5; Owen supp. pf. at 2-3; exh. WGKL-JO-2 (revised); CCRPC comments; Department comments.

15. Williston has not adopted screening requirements for ground-mounted solar electric generation facilities pursuant to either 24 V.S.A. § 4414(15) or 24 V.S.A. § 2291(28) with which the Facility would have to comply. Owens pf. at 5.

16. The Facility will meet the present and future demand for service which could not otherwise be provided in a more cost-effective manner through energy conservation programs and measures and energy efficiency and load management measure, including but not limited to

those developed pursuant to the provisions of 30 V.S.A. §§209(d), 218c, and 218(b). Clark pf. at 5-6 and 15.

17. The Facility will not have an adverse effect on system stability and reliability. Clark pf. at 16-18; exh. WGKL-JC-6.

18. The Facility will result in an economic benefit to the State and its residents. Clark pf. at 18-19.

19. Subject to the conditions adopted in the CPG, the Facility will not have an undue adverse effect on aesthetics, historic sites, air and water purity, the natural environment, the use of natural resources, or public health and safety, with due consideration having been given to the criteria specified in 10 V.S.A. §§ 1424a(d) and 6086(a)(1) (A), (B), (D), (E), (F), and (G), 6086(a)(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9)(K), and impacts on primary agricultural soils as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001, and greenhouse gas impacts. Clark pf. at 20-28; Crary pf. at 2-10; Crary supp. pf. at 2-3; Wyman pf. at 3-7; Owens pf. at 5-7; Owen supp. pf. at 2; exhs. WGKL-JC-2, WGKL-AC-2, WGKL-AC-3, WGKL-SW-2, WGKL-SW-3, WGKL-JO-2 (revised), WGKL-ANR-1, WGKL-AAFM-1, and WGKL-DHP-MOU-1; Department comments.

20. The Facility is consistent with the 2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan approved by the Department under 30 V.S.A. § 202(f). Clark pf. at 29; Department comments; Department Section 202(f) determination.

21. The Facility will not affect any outstanding resource waters as defined by 10 V.S.A. § 1424a(d). Crary pf. 4; exh. WGKL-AC-2.

22. The Facility can be served economically by existing or planned transmission facilities without undue adverse effects on Vermont utilities or customers. Clark pf. at 29-30.

23. The Facility complies with Vermont's statutory setback requirements for ground-mounted solar electric generation facilities because the Facility's solar panels or support structures for the solar panels are set back at least 100 feet from the nearest road and at least 50 feet from the nearest property boundary line. Clark pf. at 30; exh. WGKL-JC-2.

Discussion

The Commission, as a matter of practice, imposes a series of standard conditions in all CPGs that are issued for solar facilities. These conditions ensure compliance with statutory and rule-based requirements. I recommend that the Commission adopt these standard conditions for

the Facility, consistent with past Commission practice, to ensure compliance with relevant Vermont statutory criteria.

For applicable portions of the Facility area, the Department recommends a condition in any CPG issued for the Facility to require Katie Lane Solar to register with Dig Safe before any site preparation or construction and comply with 30 V.S.A. §§ 7001 through 7008 and Commission Rule 3.800, as applicable, for the life of the Facility. I recommend that the Commission adopt the proposed CPG condition.

Under the terms of the ANR MOU, Katie Lane Solar agrees to CPG conditions to avoid undue adverse impacts on wetlands and streams. To ensure the Facility will not have an undue adverse effect on water purity, the natural environment, and the use of natural resources, I recommend that the Commission accept the terms of the ANR MOU and adopt the proposed CPG conditions.

Under the terms of the DHP MOU, Katie Lane Solar agrees to CPG conditions that implement measures to protect any archaeological resources identified in the Facility area. To ensure no undue adverse effect on archeological resources, I recommend that the Commission accept the DHP MOU and adopt the proposed CPG conditions.

Under the terms of the AAFM MOU, Katie Lane Solar agrees to CPG conditions that implement measures to avoid impacts on primary agricultural soils during the construction and operation of the Facility. To ensure that the Facility will not have undue adverse effects on primary agricultural soils, I recommend that the Commission accept the AAFM MOU and adopt the proposed CPG conditions.

V. DECOMMISSIONING

Findings

24. At the end of the Facility's useful life, a determination will be made whether: (a) it is financially viable to continue to operate the Facility as is; (b) any changes could be made to the Facility (after any necessary regulatory approval) to allow its continued operation; or (c) the Facility will be decommissioned and the site restored. Clark pf. at 30; exh. WGKL-JC-8.

25. When the Facility is decommissioned, the Facility's equipment will be dismantled and removed from the site in accordance with applicable laws and regulations in existence at that

time. The site will be restored to its condition before installation of the Facility to the greatest extent practicable. Clark pf. at 30-31; exh. WGKL-JC-8.

26. Katie Lane Solar filed a decommissioning plan for the Facility that includes a decommissioning cost estimate and satisfies the requirements of Commission Rule 5.904(B)(1). Clark pf. at 31; exh. WGKL-JC-8.

27. The estimated cost of decommissioning the Facility is \$126,340.00. Katie Hill Solar proposes a surety bond as the form of financial assurance instrument for the decommissioning fund. Katie Hill Solar also submitted a proposed form of a surety bond. Clark pf. at 31; exh. WGKL-JC-8.

Discussion

Commission Rule 5.900 establishes standard requirements for the decommissioning of electric generation facilities. Commission Rule 5.904(B) requires that non-utility-owned generation facilities greater than 500 kW in capacity be removed once they are no longer in service and the site be restored, to the greatest extent practicable, to the condition it was in before installation of the facility. Commission Rule 5.904(B)(2) also requires that requests to construct these facilities include a draft irrevocable standby letter of credit in an amount sufficient to fund the estimated decommissioning and site restoration costs. Alternatively, Commission Rule 5.904(B)(3) provides that “[t]he Commission may, in its discretion, approve alternative forms of financial security from” an irrevocable standby letter of credit “if it finds that such alternative forms will provide an assurance of the availability of financial resources for decommissioning that equals or exceeds that provided by” an irrevocable standby letter of credit.

Katie Lane Solar submitted a plan for decommissioning with a detailed cost estimate of \$126,340.00 to decommission the Facility. Katie Lane Solar also submitted a draft surety bond and demand notice as part of its decommissioning plan, which requires approval under Commission Rule 5.904(B)(3).

Having reviewed the surety bond and demand notice and the supporting documentation, I recommend that the Commission find that Katie Lane Solar satisfactorily addressed the decommissioning fund requirements and that the surety bond will provide financial assurances that are equal to or greater than those provided by a letter of credit. Accordingly, I recommend that the Commission find that Katie Lane Solar’s cost estimate, plan for decommissioning, and

the draft decommissioning bond and demand notice submitted with the plan are consistent with the requirements of Commission Rule 5.904(B).

Further, I recommend that the Commission include in any CPG that is issued for the Facility conditions requiring compliance with the terms and conditions of the proposed decommissioning plan and all applicable provisions of Commission Rule 5.904(B). Because the surety bond filed with the decommissioning plan does not have a named surety, I also recommend that the Commission require that Katie Lane Solar file and receive Commission approval of an executed surety bond before commencing construction.

VI. CONCLUSION

Based upon the evidence in the record, I recommend that the Commission conclude that the Facility, subject to the conditions set forth herein, is in the public good and grant a CPG to that effect.

This proposal for decision has not been circulated to the parties pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 811 because it is not adverse to any party.

Date: June 19, 2026

Mary Jo Krolewski

Mary Jo Krolewski
Hearing Officer

VII. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) of the State of Vermont that:

1. The findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Hearing Officer are adopted. All other findings proposed by parties, to the extent that they are inconsistent with this order, were considered and not adopted.

2. In accordance with the evidence and plans submitted in this proceeding, the 2.9 MW AC solar facility proposed for construction and operation by Williston G Katie Lane Solar, LLC (the “CPG Holder”) off Mountain View Road in Williston, Vermont, will promote the general good of the State of Vermont pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248, and a certificate of public good (“CPG”) to that effect will be issued in this matter.

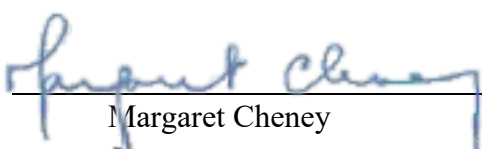
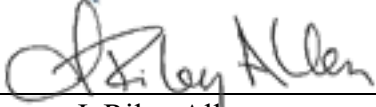
3. The memorandum of understanding between the CPG Holder and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is accepted. The CPG Holder must comply with all the terms of the memorandum of understanding.

4. The memorandum of understanding between the CPG Holder and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation is accepted. The CPG Holder must comply with all the terms of the memorandum of understanding.

5. The memorandum of understanding between the CPG Holder and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets is accepted. The CPG Holder must comply with all the terms of the memorandum of understanding.

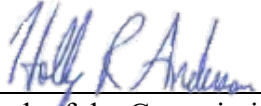
6. As a condition of this order, the CPG Holder must comply with all terms and conditions set out in the CPG issued in conjunction with this order.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 19th day of June, 2026.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: June 19, 2026

Attest: 
Clerk of the Commission

Notice to Parties: Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Commission within 30 days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this order, absent further order by this Commission or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Commission within 28 days of the date of this order.

PUC Case No. 25-2356-PET - SERVICE LIST

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