

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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-	)	Case No. 26-0925-PET
mounted solar array in Newport Town,	)	
Vermont to be known as the “Novus Buck	)	
Solar Project”	)	

SUPPLEMENTAL PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DORI BARTON

August 14, 2026

Exhibits

NBS-DB-3: Distribution Line Upgrade Natural Resources Assessment Report

Summary: Ms. Barton’s testimony addresses the potential natural resource impacts related to the distribution line upgrades required for interconnection of the Novus Buck Solar Project.

Q1. Please state your name, occupation, and business address.

A1. My name is Dori Barton. I am a wetland ecologist and an owner and one of the managing partners of Arrowwood Environmental (“AE”). AE’s primary office is located at 950 Bert White Road, Huntington, Vermont, 05462.

Q2. Have you previously provided testimony in this proceeding?

A2. Yes, I submitted direct prefiled testimony dated May 7, 2026 in support of the Novus Buck Solar Project (“Project”).

Q3. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A3. My testimony today addresses review of the potential natural resource impacts under Section 248 related to the distribution line upgrades required for interconnection of the Novus Buck Solar Project (the “Line Upgrade”). Specifically, I introduce a report summarizing my natural resources assessment of the Line Upgrade and confirm that the Line Upgrade will have no undue adverse effects on natural resources under Section 248 review.

Q4. Please briefly describe the Line Upgrade and the review you conducted.

A4. In the System Impact Study conducted for the Project, approximately 3.4 miles of upgrades along existing Vermont Electric Cooperative (“VEC”) distribution line were identified as requiring upgrades. The identified line area runs from the Project point of interconnection on Buck Road in Newport, across Wheeler Corner, and then along Route 14 until just south of Spencer Hill Road in Coventry. A map of the Line Upgrade is

1 provided in *Exhibit NBS-AB-8*. Where necessary to meet VEC standards for three-phase
2 line configuration, poles may need to be replaced. Petitioner understands from VEC that
3 replacement poles will be in kind, with new poles located within 3-5' of the existing
4 poles. Existing poles will be cut flush and removed. The existing line runs largely along
5 Route 14 with access available from Route 14, Buck Road, Wheeler Court, existing
6 driveways, and managed lawns. As a result, the Line Upgrade will not result in any
7 vegetation clearing or changes to existing vegetation management within the existing
8 utility corridor.

9 To evaluate the potential natural resource impacts, AE conducted a field
10 investigation of the Line Upgrade route on August 10, 2026. AE's natural resource
11 assessment report based on the field investigation, review of digital databases, and
12 outreach with Agency of Natural Resource staff is provided in *Exhibit NBS-DB-3*.

13
14 **Q5. What natural resources did you identify as being present within the Line Upgrade**
15 **area?**

16 A5. There are surface waters and wetlands that were identified within and adjacent to the Line
17 Upgrade route. Additionally, portions of the Line Upgrade meet the criteria for
18 headwaters. There are no outstanding resource waters, shorelines, floodways, necessary
19 wildlife habitat, rare, threatened, or endangered species, or rare and irreplaceable natural
20 areas within the Line Upgrade route.

1
2 **Q6. Will the Line Upgrade have an undue adverse impact on any natural resources**
3 **under Section 248(b)?**

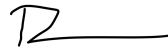
4 A6. No. The Line Upgrade involves reconductoring and in-kind replacement of existing
5 poles with no substantive change in vertical or horizontal dimension. The Line Upgrade
6 will not result in changes to the existing vegetation management within the corridor and
7 adjacent to surface waters, and will not result in a reduction in the quality of ground or
8 surface waters in the area. With respect to wetlands, the Line Upgrade is considered an
9 allowed use under the Vermont Wetland Rules and will not result in undue adverse
10 impacts on wetlands or wetland buffers. See *Exhibit NBS-DB-3* for a more detailed
11 analysis of each resource. VEC has also confirmed to Petitioner that it will follow its
12 Best Management Practices as relates to distribution line work. As a result, the Line
13 Upgrades will not have an undue adverse impact on the natural environment or the use of
14 natural resources under Section 248(b)(5).
15

16 **Q7. Does that conclude your testimony at this time?**

17 A7. Yes.

I, Dori Barton, declare that the testimony and exhibits that I have sponsored are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and were prepared by me or under my direct supervision. I understand that if the above statement is false, I may be subject to sanctions by the Commission pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 30.

Dated at Huntington VT on the 14th day of August, 2026.



Dori Barton