

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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Order entered: 08/26/2026

ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD

In this order, the Vermont Public Utility Commission adopts the following proposal for decision.

PROPOSAL FOR DECISION

I. INTRODUCTION

This case involves a petition filed by Williston H Solar, LLC (“WHS” or the “Petitioner”) 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 solar electric generation facility at Redmond 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 November 6, 2025, the Petitioner filed a petition with supporting testimony and exhibits (the “Petition”) requesting a CPG to install and operate the Facility.

On November 25, 2025, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (“DHP”) filed a motion to intervene, which was granted.

On March 27, 2026, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) filed comments on the Facility.

The Commission received no other comments on the petition.

The Petitioner provided advance notice of the Facility 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. No entity other than DHP moved to intervene, and the statutory parties—the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (“ANR”), the Department, and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (“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 (“Clark pf.”) and exhibits WHS-JC-1 through WHS-JC-9, revised WHS-JC-5 dated March 13, 2026, and revised WHS-JC-6 dated March 4, 2026; the prefiled testimony of Stephanie Wyman (“Wyman pf.”) and exhibits WHS-SW-1 through WHS-SW-2; the prefiled testimony of Carla Fenner (“Fenner pf.”) and exhibits WHS-CF-1 and WHS-CF-2; the prefiled testimony of Jeremy Owens (“Owens pf.”) and exhibits WHS-JO-1 and WHS-JO-2(D). Additionally, the petition, the Department’s comments and Section 202(f) determination, WHS’s memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) with ANR (“ANR MOU”) and WHS’s MOU with AAFM (“AAFM MOU”), and WHS’s MOU with DHP (“DHP MOU”) 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. FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Findings

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.

1. The Petitioner is Williston H Solar, LLC, a Vermont limited liability company in good standing with a registered address of 50 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 110, Burlington, VT 05401. Clark pf. at 4.

2. The Facility consists of a ground-mounted solar electric system with a total capacity of 2.75 MW AC. Clark pf. at 4.

3. The Facility will occupy approximately 11 acres within an approximately 440-acre parcel located within the GlobalFoundries (“GF”) property in Williston, Vermont. Clark pf. at 6.

4. 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 2 requirements. Clark pf. at 7.

5. The Facility will be interconnected with Green Mountain Power Corporation’s (“GMP”) electric distribution system, specifically the Chip Aly substation, located off Redmond Road. Clark pf. at 6.

6. WHS will sell the electrical output from the Facility to GF Power under a power purchase agreement at a rate of \$0.10821 per kWh. WHS will transfer the renewable energy credits (“RECs”) associated with the Facility to GF Power under the terms of the contract. Clark pf. at 8-9.

7. The Facility will include the following principal components: (a) approximately 6,344 non-reflective photovoltaic modules installed on fixed-tilt, ground-mounted racking, arranged in approximately 50 rows; (b) a bank of UL1741-SB-compliant inverters; (c) switchgear, including a data-acquisition system and auxiliary equipment; (d) one 2,750-kVA pad-mounted transformer with secondary oil containment; (e) cabling to connect the array to the transformer; and (f) overhead poles and wires, spanning a forested ravine, to interconnect with GMP’s substation. Clark pf. at 9-11; exh. WHS-JC-2.

8. The Facility will be enclosed by an approximately 7-to-8-foot-high agricultural-style wire-knot perimeter fence and secured gate. Clark pf. at 9-11; exh. WHS-JC-2.

9. The Facility will be accessed from an existing entrance into the fields along Redmond Road south of the Facility. The Petitioner will install crushed-stone access-road surfaces from the existing entrance. Clark pf. at 10; exh. WHS-JC-2.

10. The Facility will require soil disturbance for the installation of underground conduit, the transformer equipment pad, associated stormwater-treatment improvements, and grading to make the slope of the access road from Redmond Road to the Facility safe for construction and maintenance vehicles. Clark pf. at 11-12.

11. The Facility will require approximately 4.2 acres of tree cutting and grubbing and approximately 1.5 acres of tree trimming. Clark pf. at 11; exh. WHS-JC-2.

12. The Facility's highest modeled sound level at the closest residence, approximately 900 feet from the nearest edge of the Facility's panels, is 27 dBA during the daytime, with lower levels during the evening. Clark pf. at 24.

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 to the evidence presented in Case No. 23-3974. Project H was identified as being approximately 2.7 MW, which is consistent with the Facility's size of 2.75 MW. Clark pf. at 8-9.

14. The Petitioner proposes construction hours of 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on weekdays and 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Saturdays and Sundays, with no restriction on construction on holidays. Clark pf. at 13.

Discussion

The Commission, as a matter of practice, typically restricts construction activities for Section 248 facilities to the hours between 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Saturdays, with no construction allowed on state or federal holidays or Sundays. The Petitioner requests that it be allowed to construct on Sundays and holidays. The Petitioner states that the Facility is in a heavily industrialized campus that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. The Petitioner states that the nearest residence is approximately 915 feet away and construction acoustics are unlikely to be problematic at that distance due to intervening topography and dense vegetation.

I recommend that the Commission approve the Petitioner's proposed construction schedule because it will not result in any undue adverse impacts under the substantive criteria of 30 V.S.A. § 248; no party has objected to the proposed construction schedule; and the Commission has previously allowed the same construction schedule within the GF campus.²

IV. REVIEW OF FACILITY UNDER THE SECTION 248 CRITERIA

Findings

15. 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 3-4; exh. WHS-JO-2(D); Department Comments.

16. 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.

17. 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 7-8, 18.

18. The Facility will not have an adverse effect on system stability and reliability. Clark pf. at 19-21; exh. WHS-JC-5 (revised).

19. The Facility will result in an economic benefit to the State and its residents. Clark pf. at 21-23.

20. 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

² *Petition of Essex C Parking Lot Solar, LLC for a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248(j), authorizing the construction and operation of a 3 MW solar facility in Essex Junction, Vermont*, Case No. 25-1977-PET. Order of 2/6/2026.

criteria specified in 10 V.S.A. §§ 1424a(d) and 6086(a)(1) (A), (B), (C), (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 23-31; Fenner pf. at 4-11; Wyman pf. at 3-6; Owens pf. at 5-7; exh. WHS-JC-8; exh. WHS-CF-2; exhs. WHS-SW-2-3; exh. WHS-JO-2; Department Comments.

21. The Facility is consistent with the 2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan approved by the Department under 30 V.S.A. § 202(f). Clark pf. at 32; Department Section 202(f) Determination.

22. The Facility will not affect any outstanding resource waters as defined by 10 V.S.A. § 1424a(d). Fenner pf. at 4; exh. WHS-CF-2.

23. The Facility can be served economically by existing or planned transmission facilities without undue adverse effects on Vermont utilities or customers. Clark pf. at 33.

24. 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 33; exh. WHS-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.

The Department recommended one CPG condition — specifically, for the life of the Facility, that the Petitioner become a member of Dig Safe and comply with 30 V.S.A. Chapter 86 and Commission Rule 3.800. The Petitioner has agreed to this condition, and I recommend that the Commission include the condition in the Project's CPG.

AAFM has recommended seven conditions to protect primary agricultural soils. The Petitioner has consented to these conditions, and I recommend that the Commission include the conditions in the Facility's CPG to ensure that the Facility will not have an undue adverse impact on primary agricultural soils on the site.

ANR has recommended nine conditions to avoid undue adverse impacts on the natural environment and the use of natural resources. The Petitioner has consented to these conditions, and I recommend that the Commission include the conditions in the Facility's CPG to ensure that the Facility will not have an undue adverse impact on the natural environment and the use of natural resources.

DHP has recommended five conditions to address potential adverse impacts on archaeological resources. The Petitioner has consented to these conditions, and I recommend that the Commission include the conditions in the Facility's CPG to ensure that the Facility will not have adverse impacts on archaeological resources.

V. DECOMMISSIONING

Findings

25. The Petitioner has submitted a plan for decommissioning the Facility once it is no longer in service and restoring the site, to the greatest extent practicable, to the condition it was in before installation of the Facility. Clark pf. at 33-34; exh. WHS-JC-9.

26. The Petitioner has submitted a draft surety bond in an amount sufficient to fund the estimated decommissioning and site restoration costs of \$115,365. Exh. WHS-JC-9.

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.

The Petitioner has submitted a plan for decommissioning the Facility with a detailed cost estimate of \$115,365 to decommission the Facility. The Petitioner has also submitted a draft surety bond and demand notice, which require 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 the Petitioner has 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 WHS'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 the Petitioner 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: August 26, 2026



Rowan Cornell-Brown
Hearing Officer

VII. ORDER

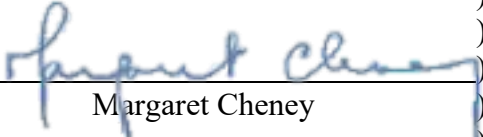
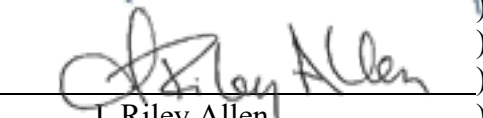
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) of the State of Vermont that:

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 2.75 MW AC solar electric generation facility proposed for construction and operation by Williston H Solar, LLC (the “CPG Holder”) at Redmond 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.

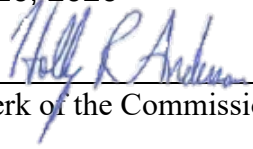
3. As a condition of this Order, the CPG Holder must comply with all terms and conditions set out in the CPG issued in conjunction with this Order.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 26th day of August, 2026.

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: August 26, 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. 25-2774-PET - SERVICE LIST

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