

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Case No. 21-3587-NMP

Petition of Norwich Upper Loveland Solar, LLC for a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 248 and 8010, authorizing the installation and operation of a 500 kW (AC) group net-metering solar electric generation system in Norwich, Vermont	
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**VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE’S RESPONSE
TO STEPHEN GORMAN’S MOTION TO INTERVENE AND REQUEST FOR HEARING**

On January 3, 2022, Stephen Gorman (“Intervenor”) filed a motion to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding. Also on January 3, 2022, Intervenor requested a hearing on several criteria under 30 V.S.A. § 248(b). The Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) hereby responds to both filings.

The motion to intervene and request for hearing each reference economic benefit, which is evaluated under § 248(b)(4). Pursuant to Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) Rule 5.111 and 30 V.S.A. § 8010(c)(3)(A), the Commission has conditionally waived review of § 248(b)(4) for net-metering systems. The Commission rescinds waiver of criteria only when a significant issue has been raised as to a given criterion. While Intervenor’s motion to intervene speaks generally about potential negative impacts to his electricity rates, and the request for hearing lists § 248(b)(4) among the criteria to be addressed, the Department submits that Intervenor has not raised a significant issue which would warrant rescinding the conditional waiver of § 248(b)(4).

The Department does not object to Intervenor’s motion to intervene or request for hearing with respect to 30 V.S.A. §§ 248(b)(1) (orderly development) or (b)(5) (aesthetics, and public health and safety).¹ Pursuant to Commission Rule 5.119, however, “A hearing requested by a party will be granted provided that the request raises: (1) one or more substantive issues under the applicable Section 248 criteria; or (2) a substantive issue that is within the Commission’s jurisdiction to resolve.” Further, “[r]equests must be supported by more than general or

¹ Issues relating to historic sites, the natural environment, and natural resources under § 248(b) are outside of the Department’s areas of expertise.

speculative statements.”² Based on Intervenor’s filings thus far, the Department is not able to identify with specificity the issues to be addressed at an evidentiary hearing. Therefore, the Department respectfully requests that the Commission seek further detail from Intervenor and limit the scope of any hearing to substantive issues that are raised under the applicable § 248 criteria or are within the Commission’s jurisdiction to address.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont this 1st day of February, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

By: /s/ Ben Civiletti
Ben Civiletti, Special Counsel
112 State Street
Montpelier VT 05620
(802)-622-4388
benjamin.civiletti@vermont.gov

cc: ePUC Service List

² See Commission Rule 5.119(B).