

July 13, 2021

Joshua D. Leckey
JLeckey@drm.com

Via First Class Mail and ePUC

To: See Attached 45-Day Notice Service List

Re: Hartsboro Solar, LLC – Advance Notice of Section 248/8010 Petition

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Hartsboro Solar, LLC (“Hartsboro Solar”) is pleased to inform you of plans to construct a 500 kW net-metered solar facility at 2800 Hartsboro Road in Wallingford, Vermont (the “Project”). The Project requires a certificate of public good from the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to Sections 248 and 8010 of Title 30, Vermont Statutes Annotated. This letter provides you with advance notice, as required under the Commission’s rules, that Hartsboro Solar intends to file a petition for a certificate of public good with the Commission on or about August 30, 2021 (the “Petition”).

This letter, together with the attached site plan, describe the Project’s benefits, design, and potential impacts, as well as opportunities to participate in the Commission’s review process.

Project Benefits and Description

Project Benefits. The purpose of the Project is to generate clean, renewable energy for the benefit of consumers and the environment. As a net-metering system, the Project will provide its off-takers with discounted prices and overall savings on their electric bills. The Project will benefit the broader Vermont economy in other ways: by the payment of municipal and education taxes; by employing Vermont businesses for the development work; and, where commercially feasible, by purchasing Project equipment from Vermont companies and employing Vermont businesses for construction, installation, and maintenance work.

Environmental Benefits. The Project will also result in meaningful environmental benefits. The renewable energy credits or RECs associated with the Project’s output will be transferred to the interconnecting utility and retired to meet Vermont’s renewable energy requirements and climate change goals. In its daily operation, the Project will produce no emissions, and thus will help in a small but measurable way to reduce CO₂ emissions associated with global climate change.

Features. As shown on the attached site plan (**Attachment 1**), the Project will be located on the disturbed portion of a gravel-extraction operation located on a parcel bordered by Hartsboro Road to the east and Route 7 to the west. The site plan depicts the configuration of the solar array, related electrical equipment, and point of access. The Project’s preliminary site plan was designed to maintain appropriate separation or screening from surrounding land uses, minimize the Project footprint, maximize solar exposure, and limit impacts on the natural and built environments.

Property Characteristics and Access. The Project will occupy about 2.27 acres of land within the larger 76.5-acre parcel. The gravel operation at the site is not subject to an Act 250 Land Use permit as the operation predates that permitting program. The Project will be accessed from Route 7 via an existing access road that services the gravel pit. The combined effect of generous setbacks, existing vegetation, and natural topography will help ensure the Project is well hidden from public view.

Solar Modules, Inverters, and Fencing. The Project will be comprised of solar modules on fixed-tilt mounting racks. The solar cells in each panel are dark blue, and the panel glass is treated with a low-glare, anti-reflective coating. The solar array will be arranged in rows running generally east to west, with the modules facing south. Hartsboro Solar anticipates using string inverters to convert the DC solar power to AC utility grade power. The string inverters will be mounted on the panels such that they will not require individual foundations. The Project will incorporate either a perimeter fence or use solar scrim as a circuitry barrier to ensure that panel circuitry is not readily accessible to the public.

Electrical Lines and Interconnection. Electrical collector lines within the array will be installed underground, combining to a single electrical line that will lead to a proposed utility pole along the western end of the Project. A bank of pole-mounted transformers at the new utility pole will step up the inverter output to the appropriate voltage for interconnecting with Green Mountain Power Corporation's ("GMP") distribution system. An overhead electrical line will extend from the transformers along a series of new utility poles before connecting with existing GMP's existing three-phase electrical lines located along Route 7. The exact location and design of the interconnection line will be determined in consultation with GMP and the host landowner.

Project Construction

Construction of the Project is expected to take approximately three months. Project construction will be limited 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, as needed. No construction activities will occur on Sundays or state or federal holidays. The solar panels and rack components will be shipped on pallets, typically delivered by standard tractor-trailer truck. All other equipment and material will be transported to the site utilizing standard-width trucks.

The first phase of construction will include limited site preparation such as grading and vegetation removal. After site preparation, the Project will be installed and tested to ensure it can safely operate in parallel with GMP's electrical system. Following successful testing, the Project will be commissioned for commercial operation.

Impact Assessment

Hartsboro Solar has employed a team of engineers, environmental consultants, and energy advisors with substantial experience with solar projects in Vermont. Based upon their assessment of conditions at this site, as well as work on other similar solar projects, the Project has been planned so that it will not cause undue adverse impacts to any environmental resources, to public health and safety, or to the scenic or natural beauty of the area.

Low-Impact Design. The Project incorporates low-impact design characteristics including:

- Limited impervious surface associated with a potential equipment pad.
- Project activities and equipment will avoid all regulated natural resources.
- Limited vegetative clearing and grading is expected to prepare the site for installation.
- During construction, stormwater best management practices will be implemented in accordance with the state guidelines.
- During operation, daily access to the array will not be required. Project production will be monitored remotely, with technicians dispatched to the site only on an as-needed basis.
- The Project will meet the safety standards of the National Electrical Safety Code, the National Electric Code, as well as utility interconnection standards for safe and reliable operation of solar electric plants.
- The Project will not require any special municipal services and thus will not impose undue burdens on fire, police, or water/sewer services.

Electrical. An interconnection application is being submitted to GMP. The utility will complete its analysis for the Project to determine the necessary steps and potential upgrades to safely interconnect the Project with the distribution system.

Aesthetics. A preliminary visual assessment indicates that the Project will have limited visibility from offsite vantage points due to generous setbacks, existing topography, and intervening vegetation on site. For this reason, Hartsboro Solar does not anticipate that additional aesthetic mitigation measures contemplated under Commission Rule 5.800 will be required for the proposed Project. A full aesthetics analysis will be included with the Petition.

Comments and Inquiries Concerning the Project

All persons and entities receiving this letter will receive further notice when Hartsboro Solar files the Petition with the Commission, after which they will have 30 days from the date the Commission deems the Petition complete to file comments about the Project. For additional information regarding the Commission process, please visit the Public Participation section of the Commission's website, which can be found at: <http://puc.vermont.gov/public-participation>.

Hartsboro Solar, LLC
Wallingford, VT
July 13, 2021

Page 4

If you are interested in further information on this Project, or have comments or concerns, please contact Josh Leckey at (802) 846-8613 or jleckey@drm.com. We look forward to your review and input, and thank you in advance for your attention to this proposed Project.

Sincerely,



Joshua D. Leckey

JDL:tmr

Attachment

cc: Advance-Notice Service List

HARTSBORO SOLAR, LLC PROJECT
45-DAY NOTICE SERVICE LIST

The names and addresses of the parties to whom delivery was made via U.S. Mail and e-mail are as follows:

Municipal Legislative Body

Wallingford Selectboard
c/o Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator
75 School Street
Wallingford, VT 05773
Email: selectboard@wallingfordvt.com
Email: townadmin@wallingfordvt.com

Municipal & Regional Planning Commissions

Wallingford Planning Commission
Attn: Erika Berner, Chair and
Zoning Administrator
75 School Street
Wallingford, VT 05773
Email: zoning@wallingfordvt.com

Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Attn: Ed Bove, Executive Director
PO Box 430
Rutland, VT 05702
Email: EBove@rutlandrpc.org

Adjoining Landowners

The names and addresses of the parties to whom delivery was made via U.S. Mail are as follows:

Bradley Sr & Sandra Frederick
2162 Hartsboro Road
Wallingford, VT 05773

Janice Lynch
289 Shepardson Hollow
Cambridge, VT 05444

Katherine L Maclauchlan
2562 Hartsboro Rd
Wallingford, VT 05773

Thomas & Pamela Roberts
3000 Hartsboro Road
Wallingford, VT 05773

Douglas & Darinda Humes
80 Old Turnpike Lane
Canaan, CT 06018

Chapman Family Trust
u/t/d 05-14-03
603 Lewisville Road
Oxford, PA 19363

Timothy L & Elizabeth R Bird
432 11th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Omya Inc
Attn: Maureen Ketcham
PO Box 10
Florence, VT 05744

Bradley L Frederick Jr
2344 Hartsboro Rd
Wallingford, VT 05773

HARTSBORO SOLAR, LLC PROJECT
45-DAY NOTICE SERVICE LIST

Host Landowner

Michael White
7 Michael's Lane
Danby, VT 05739

State Officials
(Via ePUC)

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
(via ePUC)

Vermont Department of Public Service
(via ePUC)

Vermont Agency of Transportation
(via ePUC)

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
(via ePUC)

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