

Agenda:

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Act 250/Section 248 Committee

4:30 pm November 5, 2015

1. Call to Order

2. Review BDE Vergennes Poquette Solar 45 day notice received 9/2. (Proposal is for a 500kw Group Net Metered Array at 94 Comfort Hill in Vergennes. It is located on the east side of Comfort Hill Rd. and appears to be set on a gentle west facing slope. Based on the distance from the road 575ft the project appears to have little aesthetic impact though final drawings will tell. The site is located behind some substantial farm buildings which will moderate most aesthetics. 45 day notice indicates the final layout will not exist until after the permit is issued. I hope this is a misprint.)

3. Review of GMP Panton solar 45 day notice received 9/21. (The proposal is for a 4.99 megawatt solar array utilizing approximately 40 acres of a 327 acre parcel of agricultural land off the north side of Panton Road between Dead Creek Slang and Jersey St in Panton. The array will be visible from Panton Rd and probably from Jersey St. It will sit approximately 900 ft off both roads. The closest neighbor is located 1,000 ft away from the array. No trees will be cleared and GMP indicates the site is well suited for aesthetics mitigation consisting of trees and other landscaping. They offer to work with the town to accomplish suitable screening. The array will be set back in a field currently tilled for crops and will utilize approximately 60% of that field. This will sit in the middle of an actively farmed area and though it can be effectively screened, it is unfortunate to lose that land to non-farm use.)

4. Review of BDE New Haven Lazar Solar 45 day notice received 10/24. (Proposal is for a 500kw group net metered array off the North side of Rte #17 east of New Haven Village-2219 Main St. The array is proposed to be located on 3 acres of a currently subdivided 14.5 acre parcel. Proposal is set back 575 feet from Rte #17 with the nearest neighbor about 350 ft to the east. The project is set north of an existing hedgerow providing considerable natural screening and is proposing to add screening where the project may be visible from the highway. Unfortunately, the project also proposes to "thin" the hedgerow between Rte #17 and the array to provide better access to the sun. We may want to request more detail on the "thinning" because if the thinning results in a uniform height along that hedgerow, travelers eyes will be drawn to it.)

5. New Haven has identified an issue with whether a new array will have negative impacts on the reliability of the grid. A "fast track analysis" is required by the PSB for all these projects and it appears several have failed the analysis and were still granted a CPG. The committee will discuss whether ACRPC should join the Town of New Haven on this issue.

6. Other Business

7. Adjourn

DRAFT