

Agenda:

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Act 250/Section 248 Committee

4:30 pm December 3, 2015

1. Call to Order

2. Application reviews:

Review Shoreham GLC Solar, LLC application to construct a 150kw (received 11/16, no 45 day notice required) group net metered solar array at 876 Shoreham Depot Rd. in the Town of Shoreham. The organization receiving the power from this .75 acre array will be Summit Ventures NE LLC in Warren, VT. The array will be built 40' from Shoreham Depot Rd. and 260 ft of an existing hedgerow will be removed along the road. The applicant states that an existing 3-4' berm will hide the array from the road and that they will plant additional trees on the berm if required which they will maintain to a height of 5'-6'. Other exposures to existing residences are estimated to be minor with the closest house across the road 200' from the project. The property owner is a sheep farmer and intends to continue grazing their sheep under the array. The removal of the existing hedgerow will impact this road considerably. The project is further impacted by class II wetlands to the west.

Review of Acorn Energy 150 kw net metered solar array (received 11/16, no 45 day notice required) to be located on the array Watch Point Road in the Town of Shoreham. The array appears to be located on approximately 1 acre of unmown pasture about 900 ft. from Watch Point Road but in an elevation 40-60 ft above that road. The application, as delivered to ACRPC, appears to be incomplete with the site plan showing no setback distances from the road or nearby residences, no inset showing it in relation to the region and also contains no description of expected aesthetic impacts. There appear to be 9 abutting landowners which may raise the aesthetics question beyond average. Located 40-60 ft in elevation above the road, there is a strong possibility that this array may be "skylined against the horizon. Without a complete application or a site visit it is impossible to tell.

Review of application by GMP to reconductor parts of the 46kw line that runs from the Silver Lake generation plant on Lake Dunmore in Salisbury to East Middlebury. A total of approximately 3.5 miles of 46kw line is to be upgraded to a larger diameter line. This line will run on new poles not more than 10ft higher than the existing poles. The line runs between 400 and 800 ft from Lake Dunmore so the impact to the majority of those camps/houses will be unnoticeable.

3. 45 Day Notice reviews:

Vergennes GLC Solar proposed for 1069 Panton Rd. in the Town of Panton received on 11/6. The 500kw project will be located on 4.1 acres of a larger (249 acre) parcel. The project will be located south

of Panton Road and the land is currently farmed for alfalfa. The array will be located 150ft south of the neighbors to the north and is separated from them by a hedgerow which is currently not expected to be removed. This site is to be located ¼ mile east of and on the opposite side of the road from the 5mw GMP Solar project. (45 day notice sent)

Ferrisburgh GLC Solar proposed for Basin Harbor Rd. in the Town of Ferrisburgh received on 11/6. This 500kw project is expected to impact 4 acres of an 18 acre parcel located north of the intersection of Basin Harbor Rd. and Button Bay Rd. The project appears to be located 700-800 ft from the road and no removal of trees is currently shown. Of concern is that the property is split by a mapped stream currently maintained as a drainage ditch for agricultural purposes. The array is proposed to be located away from the stream but once the property is no longer in agricultural use, one would expect maintenance of the stream channel would no longer be allowed. (45 day notice sent)

Addison GLC Solar proposed for the east side of Lake St. on a former apple orchard on 3.5 of 10 acres. This 500kw project is set to wrap around existing farm buildings on the east and south side and is proposed to be located approximately 250 ft off Lake St. Class II wetlands have been conspicuously avoided and include a 50ft buffer. The applicant claims that the existing buildings and the distance from the road will reduce any adverse aesthetic impacts. Not enough detail has been provided to adequately assess the location of nearby hedgerows and trees and evaluate that claim. (45 day notice sent)

4. Correspondence:

Tunbridge New Haven Solar Rte #7 New Haven-Testimony from the NH Selectboard.

Next Generation Solar, Field Days Rd. in New Haven - Scheduling letter and a copy of an MOU between Next Generation Solar and the Dept of Public Service agreeing that 1. The failed Fast Track Analysis will not require a Facilities Study as required if modifications outlined in the supplemental review are followed. 2. There will be no undue adverse impact from the project. Adverse impact is acknowledged and the consultant's request for a post-construction review will not be honored due to the fact that any plantings proposed to screen the north side of the project will potentially impact bob-o-link habitat.

GMP Solar Panton, a 4.9 mw solar installation for Panton Rd in Panton - Town of Panton submits a motion to intervene and a notice for a pre-hearing conference. ACRPC submits a Notice of appearance. DPS submits a notice of appearance.

New Haven Solar II for construction of a group net metered array off Rte #7 in New Haven.- Discovery requests to DPS regarding system reliability and supplemental testimony from Robert Amelang (for New Haven) regarding system reliability disagreeing with the DPS MOU conclusions.

Sun CSA 22 LLC for a 150kw array off South St. in the Town of New Haven - Pre-filed testimony of Michael Lawrence landscape architect for the Town of New Haven concluding that the project will have an undue adverse effect on the surroundings.

BDE Solar New Haven for a proposed 500kw net metered project north of and “off” Rte 17. - Comments from the Town of New Haven on the 45 day notice relating to system reliability.

5. Meeting scheduling for the year.

6. Other Business

7. Adjourn

DRAFT