

From: Miller, Elizabeth [Elizabeth.Miller@state.vt.us]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Springer, Darren; Recchia, Chris
Subject: Fwd: Solar Projects in North Springfield, VT
Attachments: image002.jpg; ATT00001.htm; Net Metering and Close Proximity 1-20-15.pptx; ATT00002.htm; SWCRPC 45Day Notice Response.pdf; ATT00003.htm; SRDC Support Letter 10 20 14.pdf; ATT00004.htm; PBS Support WinStanley PDF 12 02 14.pdf; ATT00005.htm

Elizabeth H. Miller
802-522-3090, cell
elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us

Begin forwarded message:

From: Adam Winstanley <AWinstanley@winent.com>
Date: January 20, 2015 at 11:22:29 PM EST
To: "Elizabeth Miller (elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us)" <elizabeth.miller@state.vt.us>
Cc: Peter Van Oot <pvanoot@drm.com>, Eric Nelson <Enelson@winent.com>
Subject: RE: Solar Projects in North Springfield, VT

Hi Liz-

Happy New Year! I have a matter that I would like to discuss with you and Governor Shumlin in the immediate future. After my Bio-Mass project failed last year (I lost \$ 3 million) I was told by the State of Vermont and the Community to develop some less intensive options, like solar. We have been successful in developing one SPEED project in Brattleboro, VT and are studying the Vermont Net metering program to complete some additional projects on our land surrounding 36 Precision Drive (200 +/- acres/zoned Industrial). We have broad based support from the Town of Springfield, SWCRPC, as well as SRDC support. I have just learned from Commissioner Recchia that we will only be allowed to complete one solar project under the net metering program because of the close proximity issue, even though we have as many as 8 off-takers who would like to purchase our power.

Before I embark on another expensive journey in Vermont I would like to get a read from the Governor on where he stands on this issue and if he would support multiple projects on my land? My understanding is that there is an exemption for landfills, and we might be able to pursue some type of exemption for industrial parks.

Please review my enclosed information and let me know if the Governor would be available to discuss this matter further.

Best Regards,
Adam

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Winstanley Solar Development



Net Metering & Close Proximity

- THE LODGE AT OTTER CREEK DECISION
 - 3-PRONG TEST
 - SAME FUEL SOURCE - and
 - SUN
 - SAME INFRASTRUCTURE - and
 - SINGLE ACCESS ROAD
 - CLOSE PROXIMITY
 - APPROXIMATELY 100'

Net Metering & Close Proximity at National Life

- 200 acres – same Owner.
- Same Offtakers (National Life).
- Multiple projects approved 0.4 miles apart.

North Springfield

EXISTING NET METERED PROJECTS IN “CLOSE PROXIMITY”

- THERE ARE 3 EXISTING NET METERED PROJECTS ALREADY APPROVED IN NORTH SPRINGFIELD IN “CLOSE PROXIMITY.”
- IVEK
 - 200 kW
- SOVEREN COMMUNITY SOLAR
 - 149.5 kW
 - 350’ to IVEK Property Line
 - Approximately 450’ to IVEK panels
- BLACK RIVER PRODUCE
 - 175 kW
 - Approximately 400’ to Property
 - Approximately 650’ to IVEK panels

WSD North Springfield

EXISTING NET METERED PROJECTS IN
“CLOSE PROXIMITY”



WSD North Springfield

Comparison of Otter Creek and National Life

	Otter Creek	National Life	WSD
Same Fuel Source	Yes	Yes	Yes
Same Infrastructure	Yes	No	No – up to 5 separate points of access
Proximity	100'	2,000'	TBD
Same Owner	Yes	Yes	Yes
Same Offtaker	No	Yes	No

Other Considerations

- **LESSONS LEARNED FROM BIOMASS**
 - Community preference for solar.
 - Less traffic impact a major consideration.
- **BENEFIT TO RATEPAYERS**
 - Fixed array projects are a net benefit to rate payers and the state.
 - See p. 23 of the Evaluation of Net Metering in Vermont Conducted Pursuant to Act 99 of 2014. Public Service Department. October 1, 2014.
- **CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATE'S AMBITIOUS RENEWABLE GOALS**
- **SUPPORTED BY THE TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD**
 - See letter of support dated December 2, 2014.
- **ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR PROJECTS (mitigating aesthetic impact scattered throughout the state)**
 - See letter of support from the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission dated September 24, 2014.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
 - See letter of support from Springfield Regional Development Corp. dated October 17, 2014.
 - Potential for increased revenues for host municipalities.
 - Cost savings for offtakers

Net Metering – Identified Offtakers/Stakeholders

- Brattleboro Memorial Hospital
- Town of Springfield
- Town of Brattleboro
- Springfield Hospital
- Southwestern Vermont Medical Center
- GS Precision
- New Chapter
- Hannaford Bros.
- Jeld-Wen



**SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Ascutney Professional Building, Route 5
Post Office Box 320, Ascutney, VT 05030
802 674-9201 / fax 802 674-5711

www.swcrpc.org

September 24, 2014

Mr. Daniel Ingold
Project Technical Director

Re: 38 and 46 Precision Drive Solar Projects, 45-Day Notice Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §248 and §219a

Dear Mr. Ingold,

Please accept this letter as the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission's (SWCRPC) response to the 45-Day Notices submitted by 38 Precision Drive Solar, LLC and 46 Precision Drive Solar, LLC seeking a Certificates of Public Good to build and operate two separate solar installations located in the Springfield Industrial Park. Both 38 and 46 Precision Drive would be 500kW solar electric generation facilities.

The development of solar electric generation facilities is consistent with the following goals and policies and is in conformance with the SWCRPC's 2009 Regional Plan.

Energy Goal #1, Page 123 of SWCRPC's Regional Plan

- To improve conservation and efficiency in the use of existing energy resources, and to facilitate the transition to cleaner energy resources in order to protect the environment.

Energy Policy #2, Page 124 of SWCRPC's Regional Plan

- Promote the feasibility of alternative energy options for commercial and industrial uses.

Energy Policy #7, Page 124 of SWCRPC's Regional Plan

- Where development and construction of alternative energy facilities and electric power generation facilities are proposed for public use, plans must consider placement of such facilities in locations where aesthetic and wildlife impact is minimal or reasonable measures have been employed to mitigate adverse impacts.

Additionally, the proposed locations of the solar generation facilities are within a locally designated Industrial Park and located in close proximity to an existing substation. Given these considerations, the proposals are consistent with the following goals and policies and in conformance with the SWCRPC's 2009 Regional Plan.

Land Use Goal #3, Page 31 of SWCRPC's Regional Plan

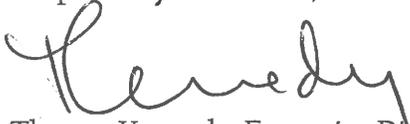
- To achieve the concentration of infrastructure development within areas determined by town plans as desirable for growth.

Land Use Policy #4, Page 31 of SWCRPC's Regional Plan

- In order to maintain the existing settlement patterns, higher density residential, commercial, and industrial development should be located in Regional Centers, Town Centers, and areas identified as desirable for growth in municipal plans.

While it is acknowledged that, as presented, the type of generation and the location of the projects are in conformance with the SWCRPC's 2009 Regional Plan, should additional information be presented that may affect conformance SWCRPC may reconsider its position.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas Kennedy, Executive Director

October 17, 2014

Winstanley Solar Development

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Springfield Regional Development Corporation, please consider this as a letter of support for the proposed Winstanley Solar Development in Precision Park in North Springfield, Vermont.

The proposed 5 500 kW arrays would be located on property within the existing industrial park. The park has a substation already on this parcel, which was installed when Fellows Gear Shaper constructed their "new" facility in the late 1960's. This land is not considered to be part of the prime developable portion of the Park.

There are three other solar arrays already within Precision Park and the proposed project would not be located near any of those. It is consistent with the evolution of the Park and is consistent, in our view, with the Town Plan and Regional Plan.

This will have a positive economic impact on the Town's Grand List as well as providing a significant clean energy supply for the state. The location near the existing substation will ensure that there is not a need for new transmission infrastructure to power to go into the grid.

We view this project as a positive step forward for the site, the Park and our region.

Please let us know how we can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Bob Flint
Executive Director

Tom Yennerell
Town Manager

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
Springfield, Vermont 05156
(802) 885-2104
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E-mail: tosmanager@vermontel.net

December 2, 2014

The Vermont Public Service Board
People's United Bank Building
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

At the direction of the Selectboard, I am submitting this letter on behalf of the Town of Springfield in support of the 500 kW Net Meter Solar Generation Facilities being proposed at 38 through 46 Precision Drive in Springfield.

The proposed solar arrays will be built in an existing Industrial Park, in an empty but previously disturbed and unused field. The Town feels that this is an ideal location for solar arrays. It is an Industrial Park with a substation already located at one end of the field. The arrays will only be visible from within the Industrial Park or from higher elevations.

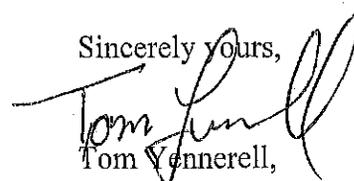
The Springfield Town Plan encourages the development of renewable energy such as solar energy. The Town Selectboard passed a Motion on October 13, 2014, in support of the projects, which states:

The Selectboard endorses the construction of up to five 500kW (AC) solar arrays to be constructed within the Industrial Park in North Springfield on the property of WinStanley (sic) and urges the State of Vermont and the Vermont Public Service Board to pass enabling legislation and adopt an exception to the proximity rule in order to allow the construction of all five arrays at said site.

The Town supports locating all five projects on the subdivided lot. Collocating the projects is the best use of the space, is efficient, minimizes any environment and aesthetic impacts, and avoids the creation of unusable empty lots. Grouping the projects promotes orderly development in Springfield and the region. There are real and material benefits to grouping the proposed Net Meter Projects, and those benefits should not be lost to a strict adherence to the "close proximity" rule.

The Town of Springfield believes that the proposed Net Meter Solar Generation Facilities will be good for the Town, the region, and the State. The proposed projects will help Springfield and Vermont meet their renewable energy goals with a clean, low carbon, renewable source of power.

Sincerely yours,


Tom Yennerell,
Town Manager

TM/dmh

CC: Dan Ingold, Proj Mgr

