

Norwich Planning Commission Special Meeting – September 19, 2023 6:00pm

To be Held via Zoom Only

Zoom Information:

Topic: Planning Commission (Special Meeting)

Time: September 19, 2023, 6:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81307504748>

Meeting ID: 813 0750 4748

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

1. Approve Agenda
2. Review 249 Bragg Hill Rd Hennessey net-metering PV application.
[09-11-2023 Packet Received from Catamount Solar re: Instructions on Participating in Review of Attached Net Metering, Case #23-2899-NM for Michael Hennessey, 249 Bragg Hill RD]
[06-30-2023 Correspondence from Michael Hennessey re: Michael Hennessey's Proposed Net-Metered Solar Project in Norwich, VT 45-Day Notice of Application to be filed with Vermont Public Utility Commission]
 - a. Public comment welcome on the Hennessey application
3. Adjourn

9/11/23

Instructions for Participating in the Review of the Attached Net-Metering Application

Any person may file a public comment addressing whether the application should be approved. Public comments may be filed via the Commission's online document management system, known as ePUC, which you can access on the Commission's website at puc.vermont.gov, or mailed to the Commission at 112 State Street, 4th Floor, Montpelier, VT 05620-2701.

If you wish to participate in the review of a CPG application as a party, which is a prerequisite for filing an appeal of a final Commission decision, you must obtain party status from the Commission. The following persons may obtain party status by filing a notice of intervention form with the Commission by the deadline that is stated on the first page of the application:

- adjoining landowners,
- the municipal legislative bodies and the municipal and regional planning commissions where the net-metering system will be located,
- under certain circumstances, the municipal legislative bodies and the municipal and regional planning commissions of an adjacent municipality or region (see Commission Rule 5.116(B) for more information),
- the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets,
- the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and
- the applicant's electric utility service provider.

If a party wishes to offer contrary evidence or to challenge the accuracy of information contained in an application, the party must request a hearing to present such evidence and argument. To request a hearing, a party may use the hearing request form available on the Commission's website. All requests for hearing must be filed by the deadline that is stated on the first page of the application.

Motions to intervene, notices of intervention, and requests for hearing must be filed with the Commission via the Commission's online document management system, known as ePUC, unless one of the exceptions stated in Commission Rule 2.110 applies. You can access ePUC on the Commission's website at puc.vermont.gov. ePUC will then automatically provide notice of and access to your filing to all other parties who are participating in the case electronically. You must mail a copy of your filing to any party who is not participating in the case electronically (i.e., any party who does not have an email address listed on the People tab in ePUC).

To request a waiver under Commission Rule 2.110(B) of the requirement to use ePUC, you can file the "Request for Waiver of Requirement to Use ePUC and Notice of Appearance" form that is available on the Commission's website and from the Clerk of the Commission at 802-828-2358 and puc.clerk@vermont.gov. If you mail your filing to the Commission at 112 State Street, 4th Floor, Montpelier, VT 05620-2701, you must also mail a copy of your filing to all other parties in the case.

For more information about participating in the review of applications for CPGs, see Commission Rule 5.100 on the Commission's website (puc.vermont.gov).

Net-Metering Application Form

Applicant Information	
Applicant Name	Michael Hennessey
Applicant Mailing Address	249 Bragg Hill Rd
Town/City/State	Norwich
Zip Code	05055
Daytime Telephone	(401) 225-8187
Email Address	mhh@provri.net
Name of Utility	Green Mountain Power Corporation
Consumption Meter Number	new generation meter
Is this a group net-metering system?	Yes
Is the property owner the same as the net-metering customer/applicant?	Yes
Do you elect to retain or transfer ownership of any environmental attributes associated with the system?	Transfer Ownership
Advance Filing Reference Number	23-2205-AN

System Information	
System Location	249 Bragg Hill Rd
Town/City/State	Norwich
Zip Code	05055
Existing CPG Number (if amendment)	
Description of Proposed Amendment	
Number of Act 250 Land Use Permit applicable to the host parcel (if any)	
Are there one or more existing, approved, or other proposed net-metering systems at this service address?	N
Case Number(s) or CPG Number(s) of Other Systems	

Photovoltaic System Information	
System Capacity (AC nameplate capacity of the inverter(s))	50.0 AC Kilowatts
PV Module Manufacturer	Hanwha QCELLS
PV Module Model Number	Q.PEAK DUO XL-G10.3/BFG
Number of Modules	152
Power Rating per Module	485 Watts
Total Array Output (no. of modules x power rating)	73.72 Kilowatts
Inverter Manufacturer	Fronius
Inverter Model Number	(4) Primo 12.5-US
Physical Location of the Facility's Lockable Disconnect Switch	At the inverter rack on back side of the array
Interconnection Configuration	Generation Meter
Installation Type	Ground Mount
System Orientation	Fixed
Will the applicant own or lease the generation equipment?	Own
Setback Information	
Distance to the Nearest Residence	500 ft.
Name of and Distance to Each Adjoining Municipal or State Highway	Bragg Hill Rd, 570 ft.
Distance to All Adjoining Property Boundaries that Are Not State or Municipal Highways	nearest boundary to east, 150 ft.
Do the municipal bylaws or ordinances of the municipality where the project will be located contain any screening requirements for ground-mounted solar facilities?	No
Is the proposed project in compliance with the municipality's screening requirements?	
System Installer Information (if different than Applicant information)	
Installer Name	Liz SMITHIES, Catamount Solar
Mailing Address	4 Randolph Ave
Town/City/State	Randolph, VT
Zip Code	05060
Daytime Telephone	(802) 728-3600
Email Address	liz@catamountsolar.com
Owner of Generation Equipment (if different than Applicant)	
Owner Name	
Mailing Address	
Town/City/State	,
Zip Code	
Daytime Telephone	
Email Address	

Environmental Information / Preferred Sites	
System will be sited on, near, or within the following resources	Stream
Type(s) of Preferred Site	<p>Near customer load</p> <p>Customer has 3 meters on this property - E22088229, E22088330, E22088331. The customer intends to use 100% of the project's output</p>

Aesthetic Impact	
Description of the aesthetic impact of the project and why it will not have an undue adverse effect on aesthetics and the scenic and natural beauty of the area. Description of the location of the facility in relation to adjoining properties, including a specific statement about the visibility of the facility from adjoining properties; and, if it is highly visible, what measures the applicant has taken, if any, to minimize the visual impact.	The project is on a 197 acre property, in an open field surrounded by woods on the closest boundaries. The installation will not be viewable from roads or adjacent properties.

Certification

The undersigned declares, under the pains and penalties of perjury, that to the best of my knowledge:

- (1) having exercised due diligence and made reasonable inquiry, the information that I have provided on this form and any attachments is true and correct;
- (2) I have complied with the advance notice requirements of Public Utility Commission Rule 5.106(C);
- (3) the project for which this application seeks approval is in compliance with the land conservation measures contained in the applicable Town Plan;
- (4) the project is in compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal requirements and has all other necessary approvals for operation of this type of system;
- (5) any waste generated by the construction of this project will be disposed of at a state-approved disposal facility;
- (6) any construction activities will follow the recommendations of the Low Risk Site Handbook for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control (available from the Agency of Natural Resources Stormwater Program);
- (7) the system will be installed in compliance with the interconnection, safety, and technological requirements of Vermont Public Utility Commission Rule 5.100;
- (8) this application will not result in more than 500 kW of cumulative net-metering generation being allocated to any customer consistent with Commission Rule 5.129(D) and the definitions of the terms "account" and "customer" contained in Commission Rule 5.103, unless the customer is a school or school district, in which case the school or school district may be allocated greater capacity but not more than the limit set forth in Section 6 of Act 81 of 2019;
- (9) within two business days of a determination that this application is administratively complete, I will mail a copy of this complete application to all parties as required by this form;
- (10) site preparation or construction of the project will not commence until a Certificate of Public Good is issued;
- (11) if I am a system installer, the Applicant has authorized me to submit this registration form on behalf of the Applicant and the Applicant has signed a binding contract for the installation; and
- (12) I have paid the required Department/Commission Application Fee to the Department of Public Service.

Making false or misleading statements on this application is subject to penalties under 30 V.S.A. § 30 and/or amendment or revocation of any approval granted. Such revocation could require you to remove the project and restore the site to its original condition.

Kevin McCollister

Filer Name

08/24/23

Date Filed with the Commission

4 Randolph Avenue, Randolph, VT 05060



(802) 728-3600

Act 250 Consistency
Hennessey Solar, Norwich Vermont

The Hennessey Parcel in Norwich, location of the planned 50kW solar array is not subject to an Act 250 Permit.

**Michael Hennessey – Proposed Solar Project in Norwich, VT
List of Persons and Entities Receiving the Application**

By ePUC:

Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street, 4th floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701
(1 hard copy via first class mail)

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
1 National Life Drive, # 6
Montpelier, VT 05620

Vermont Public Service Department
Commissioner's Office
112 State Street, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Vermont Agency of Agriculture,
Food and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Secretary's Office
1 National Life Dr., Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

Green Mountain Power
163 Acorn Lane
Colchester, VT 05446

By first class mail:

Town of Norwich Selectboard
Tracy Hall
300 Main St.
PO Box 376
Norwich, VT 05055

Two Rivers-Ottawquechee
Regional Commission
128 King Farm Rd
Woodstock, VT 05091

Town of Norwich Planning Commission
Tracy Hall
300 Main St.
PO Box 376
Norwich, VT 05055

Adjoining Landowners (by first class mail)

Dept Of Interior National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20241

Jon Wilkinson
391 Bragg Hill Rd
Norwich, VT 05055

Peter Silberfarb
287 Bragg Hill Rd
Norwich, VT 05055

Phillip McCaull
28 Goddard Rd
Norwich, VT 05055



Catamount Solar
44 Hull St, Suite #3,
Randolph, VT 05060
802-728-3600
www.catamountsolar.com

PROJECT NAME
HENNESSEY, MICHAEL
ADDRESS
249 BRAGG HILL ROAD, NORWICH, VT

DATE
6/22/2023

REVISIONS

#	DATE

SHEET
SITE PLAN

DRAWN BY
CB

SCALE
NTS

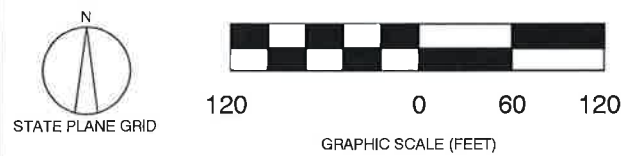
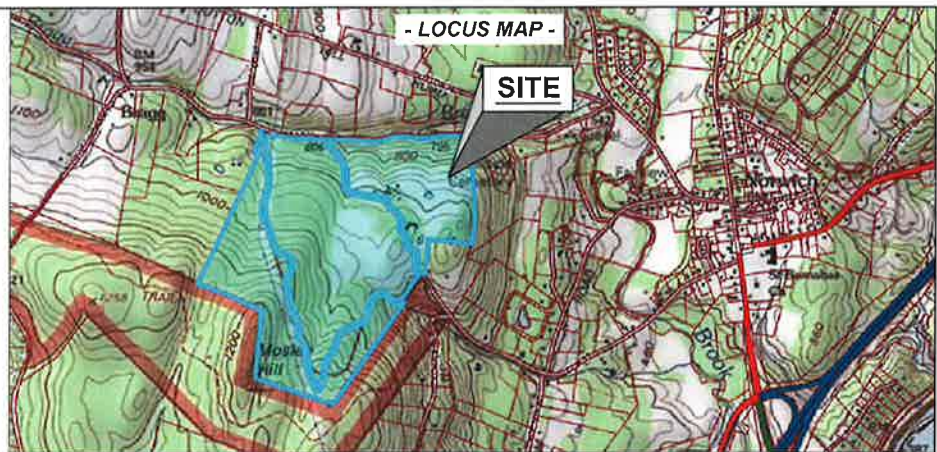
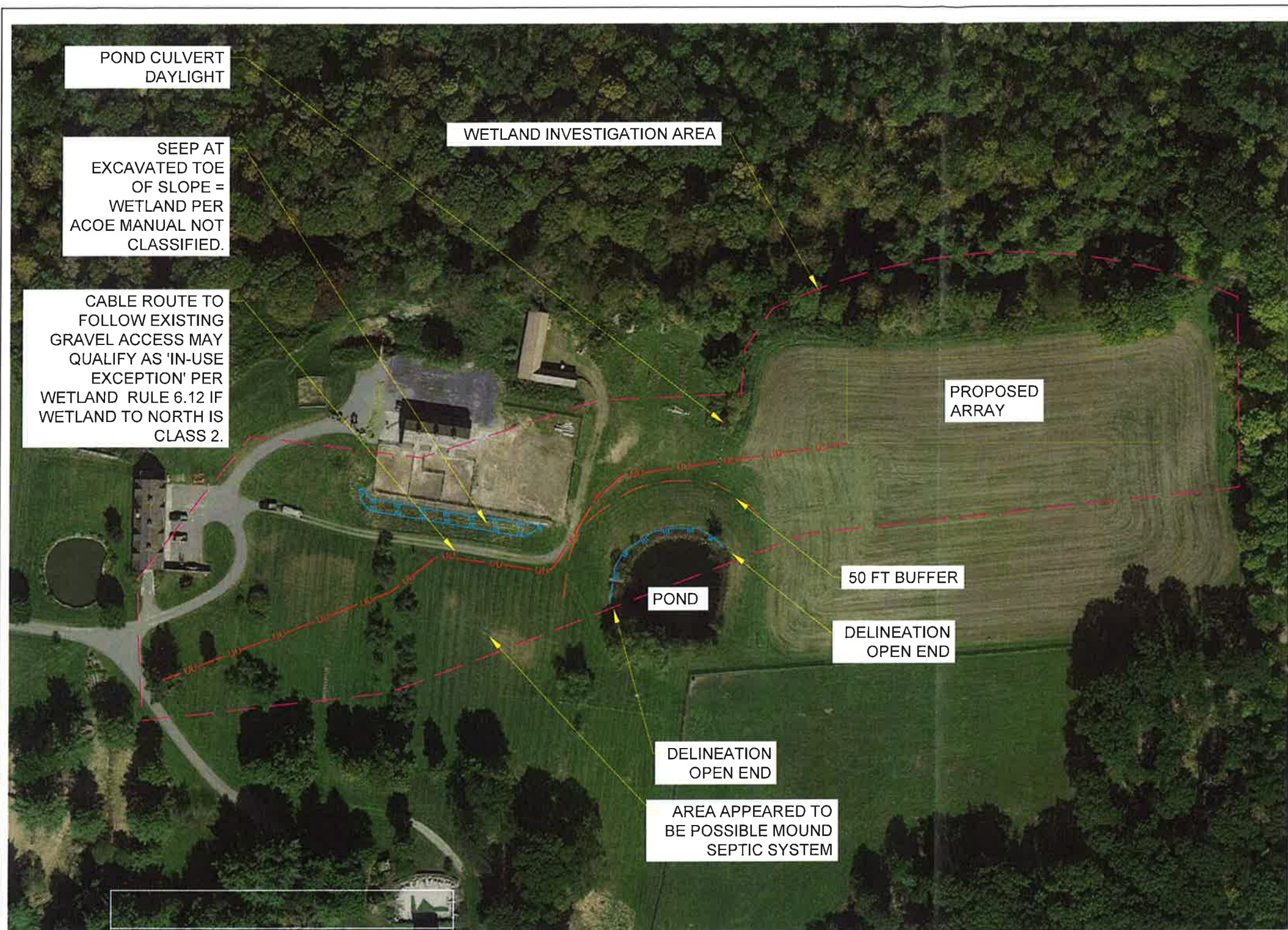
ORIGINAL SHEET SIZE
11" x 17"

Hennessey Residence Site Plan

(152) Hanwha Q Cell 485 Modules
(4) Fronius Primo 12.5k Inverters

- Impacts:**
- Limits of disturbance: 0.42 acres +/-
 - Array area: 0.37 acres +/-
 - Utility trench area: 0.055 acres +/-
 - Transformer area: 0.0022 acres +/-

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WETLAND DELINEATION 8-9-23 BY M. BANNON PER THE
TECHNICAL CRITERIA OF THE US ACOE DELINEATION
MANUAL (TR Y-87-1 1/1987) WITH NORTH CENTRAL AND
NORTHEAST REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT, V 2.0 (1/2012)
IMAGERY = GOOGLE EARTH

 **Bannon**
ENGINEERING
WWW.BANNONENGINEERING.COM
802.728.6500
- CIVIL - ENVIRONMENTAL - DESIGN - PLANNING -
© 2023 BANNON ENGINEERING

WETLAND SITE PLAN

CLIENT: MICHAEL HENNESSEY
PROJECT: CATAMOUNT SOLAR INSTALLATION
LOCATION: 249 BRAGG HILL ROAD, NORWICH, VT
DATE: 8-16-23

**Michael Hennessey
249 Bragg Hill Rd
Norwich, VT 05055**

**TOWN OF NORWICH
PLANNING AND ZONING
RECEIVED
7-3-23**

TO: Persons and Entities Entitled to Notice Pursuant to Public Utility Commission Rule 5.107(B) (See Enclosed List)

RE: Michael Hennessey's Proposed Net-Metered Solar Project in Norwich, VT
45-Day Notice of Application to be filed with Vermont Public Utility Commission

DATE: June 30, 2023

Dear Interested Persons and Entities,

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 8010 and 248 and Public Utility Commission Rule 5.107(B), Michael Hennessey is pleased to submit the following pre-application notice concerning his proposed 50 kilowatt (kW) net-metered solar project ("the Project"), to be sited on his property at 249 Bragg Hill Road, Norwich, Vermont.

I. Introduction

Michael Hennessey is preparing to file an application for a Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") with the Vermont Public Utility Commission ("Commission"), requesting approval to install and operate a 50 kW (alternating current or "AC") solar electric generation facility in Norwich, Vermont (the "Project"). Michael Hennessey is developing this net-metering project as a "Preferred Site" (item 9) under Commission Rule 5.103.

The Project will be a net-metered facility interconnected to the Green Mountain Power ("GMP") electric distribution system and will produce power to offset the electricity requirements of the Hennessey property.

The remainder of this letter briefly describes: (1) Michael Hennessey's plans for construction and operation of the Project, including how equipment and materials will be transported to the site; (2) expected benefits of the Project; (3) a preliminary assessment of impacts; (4) the expected date an application will be filed with the Commission; and (5) the rights of persons and entities receiving this notice to comment on the Project in accordance with Commission Rule 5.107(B).

II. Project Description and Construction Plans

The Project will be located on a portion of his approximately 197 acre parcel of land on Bragg Hill Road, Norwich, Vermont, and owned by Michael Hennessey. See Location Map and Site Plan, Attachment A.

The 50 kW solar electric generation facility will consist of approximately 152 solar modules (485 Watt) each mounted on fixed metal racks, string inverters, electrical collector system components consisting of underground conduit, wire, AC combiner panel, and AC disconnects. The Project proposes to install the system disconnect and inverters on the north side of the racking system.

Michael Hennessey chose the site based upon its solar exposure, accessibility to existing roads and its minimal impacts on natural resources and the character of the area. The array area is on an under utilized portion of the property out of sight from the neighboring properties.

The project parcel is not subject to any Act 250 permits.

The attached site plan represents the current preferred layout. The final layout to be applied for may vary somewhat based upon further engineering, environmental, and other siting considerations. However, the final layout will fall within the overall site area where environmental and other impacts have been evaluated for the purposes of this 45-day notice.

The basic parameters of the site plan include the following working assumptions:

- The parcel on which the solar site will be located can be accessed from existing public roads within the area, specifically Bragg Hill Rd, Town Highway 59, and Elm St.
- Construction will be performed in accordance with the Vermont Standards & Specifications for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control (2006).
- Year-round daily access to the array is not required. No on-site septic or water supply systems will be constructed. The solar project's energy production will be monitored remotely and, if any abnormal conditions are detected, technicians will be dispatched as required.

Site Access & Equipment Delivery

Standardized trucking methods will be used to transport the panels and other project components (e.g. racking, wire, conduit, and construction materials) to the site. Typical tractor trailer/box truck vehicles and/or pick-up trucks will be used to transport materials to the site for construction. The Project will not require any oversized loads. The property's access roads coming off Bragg Hill Road and or Elm St will be used for bringing in all construction-related equipment and machinery. Construction equipment will likely include a mini excavator, a rough terrain forklift or similar equipment to lift the panels in place and to move material around the site.

Solar Panels and Electrical Collection System

The Project will utilize (152) 485-watt solar panels, or the equivalent, mounted at a fixed angle of 35 degrees to maximize solar collection. The bottom of the solar panels will be at approximately three feet above existing grade and the top at approximately 12 feet above grade.

The array will be arranged in a single row running east-west. The row will be connected to string inverters at the north side of the array, which convert the electricity from DC to AC. From the inverters, the electrical interconnect will take place at a new dedicated service.

The final selection of all equipment will be made after a CPG is issued and contractors and vendors are selected.

III. Project Benefits

The Project will provide several benefits to Norwich and the state, including but not be limited to:

- Payment of municipal property taxes.
- Purchasing equipment from Vermont businesses, when commercially feasible.
- Employing Vermont businesses for pre-application, construction, and operation and maintenance work, when commercially feasible.

In addition to these economic benefits, the proposed solar electric facility will also result in important environmental benefits. The 2016 Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan set a goal for the State to receive 90% of its energy from renewable resources by the year 2050, and solar power is needed to meet that goal. The solar energy produced by this Project will result in less electricity needed in the New England region from plants that likely use fossil fuel or nuclear energy. It will emit no air pollutants (including CO₂) in generating electricity, and thus could help in a small but measurable way to reduce global climate change, acid rain, and the negative public health effects associated with the use of fossil fuel and the waste storage challenges presented by nuclear energy production.

IV. Preliminary Impact Assessment

Based upon our initial review including the use of the State's environmental databases, the Project will either avoid or not cause undue adverse impacts to environmental resources, and will not create public health or safety concerns. Key elements include the following:

- The Project will not impact any wetlands, streams, or other sensitive environmental resources.
- The Project will be designed to meet electric safety and utility interconnection standards for safe and reliable operation of solar electric facilities.
- The Project will require no new municipal services and will not pose undue burdens on town fire, police, or water/sewer services. The Project will not impact the ability of the town to provide educational services.

With respect to aesthetic impacts, the Project site is away from the road and neighboring properties, giving it little or no visibility from any public roads or area residences.

V. Expected Petition Filing Date with Vermont Public Utility Commission

Michael Hennessey intends to file a Section 8010 application and supporting materials with the PUC soon after the 45-day notice period expires, approximately August 15, 2023.

VI. Comments and Inquiries Concerning the Project

At this juncture, if you have any questions or comments concerning the Project please feel free to contact us as follows:

Catamount Solar Attn: Philip Parrish
44 Hull St. Suite 3
Randolph, VT 05060
802-728-3600
phil@catamountsolar.com

Michael Hennessey hopes that you will support this Project, given the benefits it will provide the town and the state, and given its extremely limited impacts. You will have an opportunity to file comments with the Public Utility Commission once the application for a certificate of public good is filed. In the meantime, I invite you to contact me with any questions or comments you have, as we welcome your input and suggestions to make this a successful project.

Sincerely,
Michael Hennessey

Enclosures:

List of Persons and Entities Receiving Notice
Attachment A – Location Map, Site Plan

Michael Hennessey – Proposed Solar Project in Norwich, VT
List of Persons and Entities Receiving 45-Day Notice of the Application

By ePUC:

Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street, 4th floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701
(1 hard copy via first class mail)

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
1 National Life Drive, # 6
Montpelier, VT 05620

Vermont Public Service Department
Commissioner's Office
112 State Street, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Vermont Agency of Agriculture,
Food and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Secretary's Office
1 National Life Dr., Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

Green Mountain Power
163 Acorn Lane
Colchester, VT 05446

By first class mail:

Town of Norwich Selectboard
Tracy Hall
300 Main St.
PO Box 376
Norwich, VT 05055

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee
Regional Commission
128 King Farm Rd
Woodstock, VT 05091

Town of Norwich Planning Commission
Tracy Hall
300 Main St.
PO Box 376
Norwich, VT 05055

Adjoining Landowners (by certified mail)

Dept Of Interior National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20241

Jon Wilkinson
391 Bragg Hill Rd
Norwich, VT 05055

Peter Silberfarb
287 Bragg Hill Rd
Norwich, VT 05055

Phillip McCaull
28 Goddard Rd
Norwich, VT 05055

Redpath Trust Margaret C
PO Box 202
Norwich, VT 05055

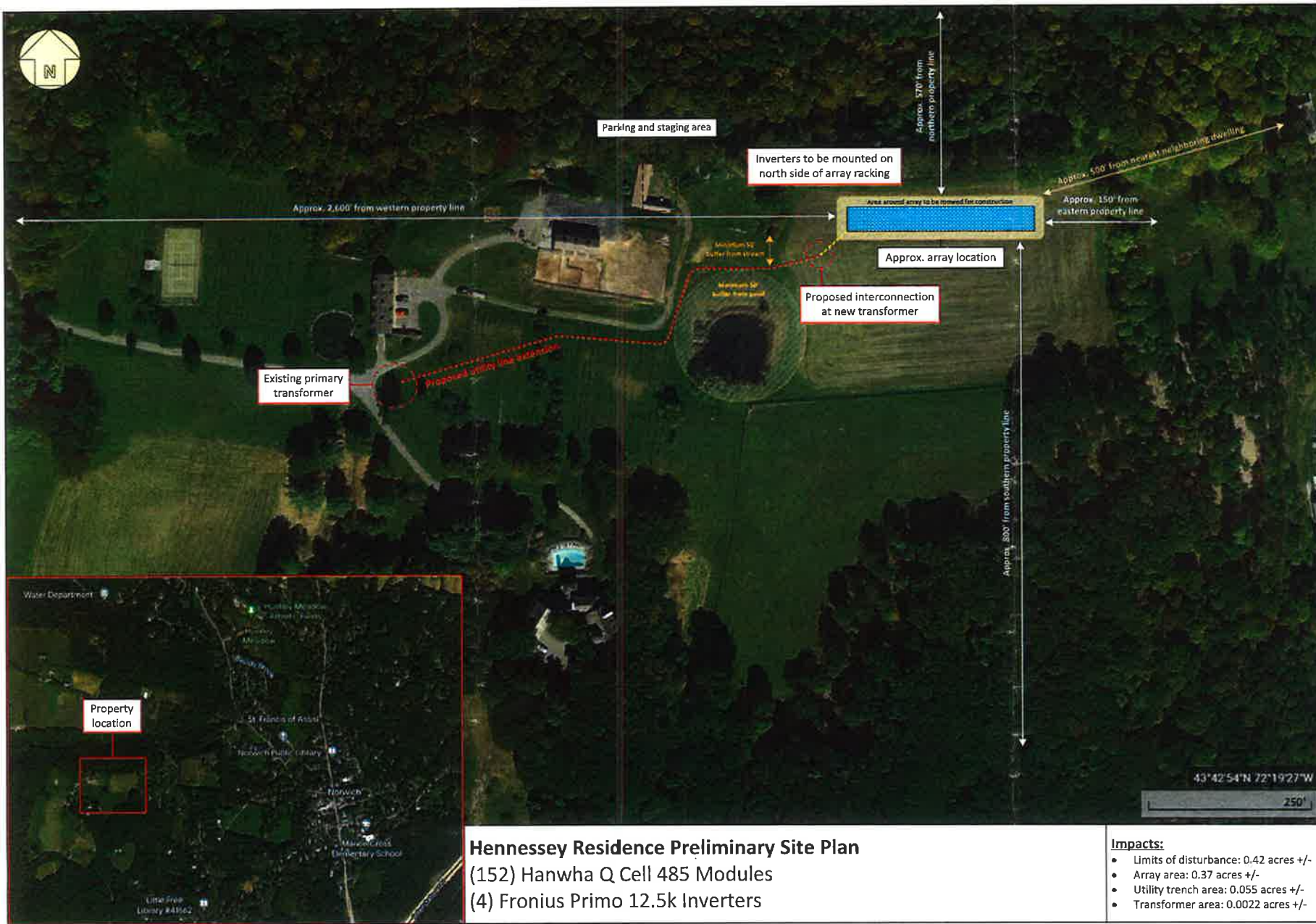
Katherine Fisher
117 Dutton Hill Rd
Norwich, VT 05055

Sarah Reeves
PO Box 887
Norwich, VT 05055

Peter Griggs
256 Dutton Hill Rd
Norwich, VT 05055

Charles Richards
54 Simpson Rd
Norwich, VT 05055

Michael Hennessey
249 Bragg Hill Rd
Norwich, VT 05055



Catamount Solar
 44 Hull St, Suite #3,
 Randolph, VT 05060
 802-728-3600
www.catamountsolar.com

PROJECT NAME HENNESSEY, MICHAEL	
ADDRESS 249 Blakes Hill Road, Norwich, VT	
DATE 6/22/2023	
REVISIONS	
#	DATE
SHEET SITE PLAN	
DRAWN BY CB	
SCALE NTS	
ORIGINAL SHEET SIZE 11" x 17"	

Hennessey Residence Preliminary Site Plan

(152) Hanwha Q Cell 485 Modules

(4) Fronius Primo 12.5k Inverters

Impacts:

- Limits of disturbance: 0.42 acres +/-
- Array area: 0.37 acres +/-
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