



Woodstock, Vermont *The Shire Town of Windsor County*

TOWN-VILLAGE MANAGER GOVERNMENT

Town Hall • P.O. Box 488 • Woodstock, Vermont 05091 • 802/457-3456

May 27, 2015

Mr. Tom Garden
Triland Partners, LP
PO Box 777
44 Indian Rock Rd.
Windham, NH 03087

RE: Triland Partners, LP proposed 500kW Solar Generation Facility (Woodstock Community Solar Project) located at 2414 East Woodstock Rd, Woodstock, VT

Dear Tom:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 500kW Solar Generation Facility proposed at 2414 East Woodstock Rd., Woodstock, VT.

In order to issue a Certificate of Public Good, the Public Service Board must find that the:

- *Project must not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region, with due consideration having been given to the recommendations of the municipal and regional planning commissions, the recommendations of the municipal legislative bodies, and the land conservation measures contained in the plan of any affected municipality.*
- *The Project must meet a need for present and future demand for services.*
- *The Project will not have an adverse impact on system stability and reliability.*
- *The Project will not have an undue adverse impact on aesthetics, historic sites, air and water purity, the natural environment, the use of natural resources, and public health and safety, with due consideration having been given to the criteria specified in 10 V.S.A. §§14724a(d) and 6086(a)(1) through (8) and (9)(K) and greenhouse impacts*

In our review of the materials provided, we find the following:

We note the presence of Hydric Soils in the location where the proposed solar collection system is to be located. Hydric soils can, in some cases, indicate the presence of wetlands.

This site is very wet. This site is at the bottom of a very large water shed and runoff that migrates downhill to this site after every rain event.



The proposed project is located adjacent to a State designated scenic byway (Route 4 Scenic Byway). Since the project can be seen from the designated Scenic Byway, The proposed project will cause an undue and adverse impact on the aesthetics of the Hamlet of Taftsville and on the Route 4 Scenic Byway.

You state that the project is well screened with existing natural vegetation and will not be visible from Route 4.

We disagree. We believe the proposed solar farm will be very visible from Route 4 and from the cemetery. We hope that the Public Service Board will conduct a site inspection to see for itself the inadequacy of the naturally existing screening, and use this information when deciding your application.

The proposed project is located on soils classified as Statewide Prime Agricultural soils. This field is used to grow hay, which is cut twice each year. The open land of this field, and many like it in Woodstock, is why tourists come to visit Woodstock. A solar farm of this magnitude will not provide our visitors the vacation atmosphere they are looking for when visiting Woodstock.

This proposed project will destroy a working landscape, and thereby adversely affect the natural environment and the natural resource of hay that is being grown on this field.

The proposed project is an industrial use that is proposed to be located in a residential zone. The proposed use is not consistent with our Town Plan.

The proposed project is located in the Historic Hamlet of Taftsville. Taftsville as a distinct Hamlet, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Accordingly, the proposed solar farm is detrimental to the historic atmosphere of the Hamlet of Taftsville.

We appreciate your efforts to provide us with sufficient information to effectively review this project. Contact our municipal Manager, Philip B. Swanson if you have any questions regarding our comments.

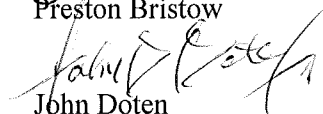
Sincerely,



Margaretta Howe, Chair



Preston Bristow



John Doten



Bruce Gould

Bob Holt

Woodstock Select Board

PBS/mr

cc: Public Service Board