

BCRC Regional Energy Committee

MINUTES

June 14, 2019

3:00 PM

BCRC Offices – 111 South Street, Bennington

Present: Wayn Goodman (Chair), Jim Hand, Bhima Nitta (also representing Power Guru), Rob Costantino, Bill Christian, Paul Myers, Barbara True-Weber, Jeannie Jenkins
Jim Sullivan, Catherine Bryars (BCRC Staff)
John Guerin (Target Energy Solutions), Ralph Meima (GreenLantern Group)

1. Introductions

2. Review of Solar Projects: presentations and Q&A

- TES Bromley Solar 23 - 500 kW - Bromley Lodge Road, Peru
Tangent Energy Solutions, John Guerin

Project is located at the Bromley Mountain Resort, on 2.5 acres between VT Route 11 and the main parking lot. 500 KW capacity. Planning to use 375W bifacial modules. Will file with the PUC this month. Interconnection agreement has been submitted to GMP. Showed visual and sound graphics and modeling.

Catherine Bryars noted that the Peru Planning Commission is working with the BCRC to develop an enhanced energy plan. The area near Bromley and south of Route 11 is identified in the plan as a preferred site for solar development. There may be some potential for expansion at/near this site in the future.

The Energy Committee consensus was that the location is outstanding and consistent with the Regional Plan. Fully support the project.

- Mass Line GLC Solar - 150 kW - VT 8/100, Stamford
Green Lantern Group, Ralph Meima

150 KW project proposal in Stamford. Stamford has identified this area as a “preferred site” in their new town energy plan; Meima indicated that the designation greatly simplified the siting process and ensured town acceptance. CPG application to be filed soon. Originally planned the project to be 500 KW, but wetlands constrained available area. 3-phase power runs along VT Route 100 adjacent to the site.

The Energy Committee discussed the town planning process and how effective it was in this case and voiced support for this site.

- T&M Solar - 150 kW - State Line Road, Shaftsbury
Power Guru, Bhima Nitta

A 150 KW project on State Line Road in Shaftsbury. Nitta reviewed the net metering credits and allocation for this project. The site and layout of the arrays was discussed. Noted that this is a preferred site via letters received from the Town and the BCRC. Sullivan explained the BCRC process for issuing such letters, including waiting for a determination from the town. The Energy Committee consensus was support for this site.

- T&T Solar - 500 kW - Route 7A, Shaftsbury
Power Guru, Bhima Nitta

A 500 KW project between Buck Hill Road and VT Route 7A in South Shaftsbury. Location is adjacent to 3-phase power. The site was designed to avoid impacts to wetlands and associated buffer areas. Existing trees shield the site from view from VT 7A. VT Wood Pellets is the off-taker for the net metering credits. This site also is a preferred site by virtue of letters received from the Town and the BCRC. The Energy Committee consensus was support for this site.

- Shadowbrook Farm Solar - 150 kW - Monument Avenue, Bennington
Power Guru, Bhima Nitta

A 150 KW project on the Beal Farm off Monument Avenue in Bennington. This is a community solar project benefitting some local nonprofits and residents. Underground power is provided to Monument Avenue. The site meets the town plan definition of a preferred site. There was much discussion locally – and at this meeting – of screening vis-à-vis the town solar screening ordinance, as it applies to this site and other potential projects.

The Energy Committee voiced support for the site consistent with any town requirements for screening.

3. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.