

Biemer, Andrew

From: Michael Kellett <kellett@restore.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 3:33 PM
To: SEC: Admin
Subject: Comments on: Chariot Solar Project Docket No. 2021-04

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June 7, 2023

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301
admin@sec.nh.gov

Dear Chairman Goldner and the Site Evaluation Committee,

Please accept my preliminary comments regarding the Chariot Solar Project, Docket No. 2021-04, which has been proposed by NextEra. I am commenting on behalf of the nonprofit organization, RESTORE: The North Woods, which is dedicated to creating new parks, saving natural forests, and protecting imperiled wildlife. Our organization has numerous members in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and beyond.

We have reviewed the details of this project proposal and note that important information is missing. However, based on what is presented in the proposal, we are very concerned that this project would have significant negative environmental impacts. The project would clearcut 250 acres of intact forest around Lipscomb Brook, which flows into the Connecticut River near the border of Vermont and Massachusetts. This would do major damage to wetlands and sensitive habitats and would undermine the integrity of nearby protected open space.

It is especially concerning to me that this will have little or no benefit to New Hampshire residents, whom the Site Evaluation Committee represents. Instead, all the electricity would apparently be sent to Massachusetts and sold to towns as “green” energy, despite being environmentally harmful.

My organization supports environmentally sound solar energy development and actively works to advocate appropriate solar siting in Massachusetts. We would oppose this project in Massachusetts or in other New England states because it would not be environmentally sound. We believe that Massachusetts' energy needs should not be contributing to environmental harm in neighboring New Hampshire, as would be the case with this project.

We respectfully urge you to reject this project.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Kellett
Executive Director
RESTORE: The North Woods

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