

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Docket No. 2019-02

Application of Chinook Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Site and Facility

February 5, 2020

**ORDER ON MOTIONS FOR LEAVE TO RETAIN EXPERT CONSULTANTS
FILED BY COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC**

This Order grants two Motions for Leave to Retain Expert Consultants filed by Counsel for the Public.

I. Background

On October 18, 2019, Chinook Solar, LLC (Chinook) filed an Application for a Certificate of Site and Facility seeking to site, construct and operate a 30-megawatt (MW) solar energy generation facility and associated civil and electrical infrastructure in Fitzwilliam in Cheshire County. The proposed project will be located on approximately 513 acres south of NH State Route 119, east of NH State Route 12, and west of Fullam Hill Road.

On October 24, 2019, Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald appointed Assistant Attorney General Heather Neville to serve as Counsel for the Public in this docket. On November 8, 2019, a Subcommittee was appointed. On December 17, 2019, the Subcommittee issued an order finding that the Application was administratively complete.

See RSA 162 H:7, VI.

II. Positions of the Parties

On January 21, 2020, Counsel for the Public filed a motion to retain Kavet, Rockler & Associates, LLC (Kavet Rockler) as a consultant to provide expert analysis and opinion concerning the economic benefits and impacts of the project. Counsel for the Public requests

that Chinook pay the fees and costs for the consultant in an amount not to exceed \$53,740.

On January 21, 2020, Counsel for the Public filed a motion to retain Arrowwood Environmental (Arrowwood) as a consultant to provide expert analysis and opinions concerning the impact of the proposed project to: wetlands, water bodies and vernal pools; wildlife and wildlife habitat; rare, threatened, and endangered plants; and natural communities. Counsel for the Public requests that Chinook pay the fees and costs of the consultant in an amount not to exceed \$59,301.

Counsel for the Public represents that both Chinook and the Town of Fitzwilliam assent to the relief sought in each motion. No objections were filed.

III. Analysis

RSA 162-H:10, V, allows the Subcommittee and Counsel for the Public to “conduct such reasonable studies and investigations as they deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this chapter and may employ a consultant or consultants...the cost of which shall be borne by the applicant in such amount as may be approved by the committee.”

The consultants will assist Counsel for the Public and the Subcommittee in determining the benefits and impacts of the Project. Kavet Rockler is qualified to assist in understanding the economic benefits and impacts of the Project. Arrowwood is qualified to assist in understanding the environmental impacts of the project. The scope of services set forth in the motions are reasonable, as are the proposed costs to be borne by Chinook.

Counsel for the Public’s motion to retain Kavet Rockler as an expert consultant and for Chinook to bear the cost is granted in an amount not to exceed \$ 53,740.

Counsel for the Public’s motion to retain Arrowwood as an expert consultant and for Chinook to bear the cost is granted in an amount not to exceed \$59,301.

On a monthly basis, Counsel for the Public shall forward the consultant's invoices to Counsel for Chinook for payment.

SO ORDERED this fifth day of February, 2020.



Dianne Martin, Presiding Officer
Site Evaluation Committee