

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Docket No. 2019-02

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

March 2, 2020

REPORT OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE

On December 23, 2019, a Procedural Order was issued in this docket scheduling a prehearing conference on February 11, 2020. The Order designated Pamela Monroe, Committee Administrator and Michael J. Iacopino, Counsel to the Committee to serve as the hearing officers. This memorandum serves as a Report of Prehearing Conference held on February 11, pursuant to RSA 541-A: 31,V (d).

Participants

The Applicant was represented by Douglas L. Patch, Esq. (Orr & Reno), Nathaniel B. Morse, Esq. (Orr & Reno), Heath Barefoot, Project Director, and Joseph Persechino, Project Manager. Assistant Attorney General Heather Neville appeared as Counsel for the Public. The Town of Fitzwilliam did not appear. Lisa Murphy from the Southwest Regional Planning Commission appeared as an observer.

General Discussion

The parties were advised of the scope and nature of a prehearing conference. The Town of Fitzwilliam is the only intervenor in this docket. All parties present at the conference agreed that the pending Motion for Protective Order filed by the Applicant should be granted. The Applicant advised that it did not expect to make further requests for protective orders. However, subsequent

to the prehearing conference, the Applicant advised the Administrator that it planned to file a supplemental motion for a protective order to include some additional information in the Application as filed. An order will be issued once the supplemental motion is received and responded to by the other parties.

The Applicant reported on the status of discussions with ISO-NE. A System Impact Study has been completed the Applicant and is in negotiations with ISO-NE and National Grid regarding an interconnection agreement. That agreement is expected to be completed during the second quarter of 2020.

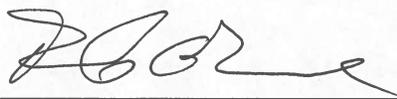
The Applicant notified the parties that the substation switchyard associated with the Project will be owned by National Grid. This may require subdivision approval from the Town or may require an order from the Subcommittee.

The participants also discussed the status of negotiations with the Town of Fitzwilliam. The Applicant reported that negotiations are ongoing.

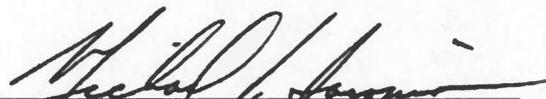
Regarding scheduling, the Applicant expressed a preference to expedite the procedural schedule, if possible. The predominant feature of the Applicant's suggestion is to advance the statutory deadline for final agency decisions from August 13, 2020 (240 days after acceptance of the application) to June 15, 2020. As a preliminary matter, the Applicant has contacted the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to discuss the possibility of accelerating the schedule for its final decision. The parties were asked if they had any objection to the Administrator contacting DES regarding the schedule and the parties concurred that the Administrator could consult informally with DES and any other relevant state agencies.

Under the Applicant's proposed schedule, adjudicative hearing would be schedule during the end of June or early July, and the final written order of the Subcommittee would be due on or about September 1, 2020. Counsel for the Public did not object to expediting the final decision but did propose different intermediate deadlines for discovery requests, technical sessions, testimony and supplemental testimony.

The hearing officers advised that the procedural schedule was at the discretion of the Presiding Officer and that the result of the informal contacts with the state agencies will be reported to the Chair prior to the issuance of a procedural order. Until such time as a procedural order is issued, the parties should commence discovery in accordance with the proposed procedural schedule submitted at the prehearing conference.



Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
Presiding Officer



Michael J. Iacopino, Esq
Presiding Officer