

Email received 3/23/15 as Public Comment for the 3/24/15 Public Hearing on Renewable Energy Siting

Hi Katie,

I wish i could attend this meeting, but responsibilities for Green Energy Times and the next issue on April 15th requires that my time is spent on preparing everything.

In lieu of missing the chance to testify in person, I want to submit my own testimony that answers your questions. Please read below and thank you for this opportunity to have a voice at this important meeting.

1. **Why is solar in Vermont important to you?**
 - Solar has provided over 100% of my electricity needs for 12 years, in Bradford, VT. I know how well it works. I cannot even begin to use all of the energy my 3.8kW system produces. I have not once in 12 years been without power, from the sun!
 - Why does it work so well for me? Being off-grid due to the cost to get my excess back to the grid, i have learned how to be responsible for my energy needs. This requires a level of awareness of what those needs are and being aware and conscious of my usage and waste.
2. **How has it been beneficial to you?**
 - It has shown me how well that the power from the sun can meet 100% of my needs. This knowledge and experience led me to the need/desire to share it with others. Thus, Green Energy Times (G.E.T.) began. Today we share our educational information and stories now throughout 90% of VT, 85% of NH, into MA and currently expanding into NY with the assistance of the NY Solar Energy Society.
 - G.E.T. has been able to show our readers the importance of energy independence and how to make it work through building and energy efficiency and a sustainable lifestyle.
3. **Why is it important to you that more Vermonters be allowed to go solar, without additional limitations, restrictions, or slow downs?**
 - The importance of solar is that it is one of the key players to help us lower our Carbon emissions, as we all need to do in the fight against climate change and to be able to give our children and grandchildren a place that they will be able to sustain themselves with.. We have already reached dangerous CO2 levels and every minute matters if humanity is to survive on this planet. We need to create the infrastructure to take us into the future without fossil fuels if we are to have a future.
4. **Why we need solar and renewable energy:**
 - First of all, we need to understand that this is really not an option. If we continue supporting the use of fossil fuels, we are not benefiting and only destroying what is left of this beautiful state we live in. Staying with coal, oil and even so-called 'clean' natural gas will only make things worse.
 - Then we need to understand that we need more than solar to meet our needs.
 - We need wind,
 - We need micro-hydro, which does not require dams and the only time it may not work would be due to a drought, which is most likely to happen at the end of summer, when the sun is strongest and can more than meet our needs.
 - We should consider re-building many of the existing dams to create hydro that runs 24/7.
 - And we do need biomass, if it is done properly so there are minor if not zero emissions coming from them. They can reduce the poor quality air in the winter from the wood stoves. Ie: Rutland in early March had an alert for poor air quality. I feel that biomass is are best suited for heat generation more than making electricity.
 - AND then we need STORAGE.
5. As for actual siting of these systems: Well, people got used to the power lines and all of the substations. I don't want to see miles and miles of them, for sure, but houses and houses with solar on them and in yards, is wonderful the Big solar farms should not take a place from growing

food/agriculture. But with some planning, planting around the solar arrays is a great way to do two things at once.

Vermont is in a unique position to become the example for the country. We have made great advancements in this direction. More solar creates jobs, like for those that previously worked for VT Yankee.

I am in full support of moving forward with aggressive measures to put a full solar infrastructure in place in our state, as quickly as possible!

Green Energy Times is a designated Vermont Green Business.

*Best,
'Nancy Rae'*

Green Energy Times
- creating a sustainable future...
energy awareness, understanding & independence

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