

February 20 2015

Re: AllEarthRenewables/Basin Harbor Club Solar Tracking Array

Dear Andy

My name is Candy Davidson. I live in New Haven Vermont and co-own a family camp at Mile Point. My family has summered at Mile Point since the early 1900's. For the past few months, I have been actively opposing the industrial-sized solar tracking array that has been built on the Basin Harbor Club field adjacent to Mile Point Rd. My experience in dealing with this project and the Public Service Board permitting process has been frustrating. I am not only concerned about this project but also with the proliferation of solar panels throughout the state. On the 17- mile drive from my New Haven home to my family camp in Ferrisburgh, I pass four arrays. The one at Basin Harbor will be the fifth and the largest. As a result of my experience I am convinced that state legislators need to re-examine, re-evaluate and improve the permitting process. Growing up in a state that valued rural aesthetics by passing a billboard law, it is shocking to see our fields being filled with steel and glass. The proliferation of the arrays is pitting neighbor against neighbor--not the Vermont way. There needs to be some kind of "good neighbor agreement" so that compromise can be obtained and placement less divisive. Why should one neighbor be able to put an array in the view of his neighbors entrance but out of sight of his own?? Is it reasonable for one neighbor to ask another neighbor to bear the negative effects of solar arrays when the first neighbor profits? Should the decision about the siting of these arrays be made by just three people on the Public Service Board? How can three people handle all projects being proposed throughout the state? Towns need to be involved. The process needs to be slowed down.

Mile Point Road is gravel road that serves as a common driveway to our camps (several are on the historic register). Residents and renters walk, bike, and run along this road enjoying the rural views. That view now includes 25, 20-foot tall solar tracking panels covering an area the size of a football field. Basin Harbor Club plans to develop the area around the array as its Energy Innovation Center/ Basin Project. We are told this area will host a vegetable garden, an apiary and an osprey nest in addition to its longtime composting system. I welcome the improvement of this area, with the exception of this industrial- sized solar array. I was told at the site visit that one reason for the placing the array in this field was that BHC wanted to keep " the entrance to the resort rural and agricultural for its guests". Also I have felt this project was being rushed after being told that a developer had approached BHC about leasing the land and needed the project to be approved by Dec 31 2015 to obtain tax credits.

If roles were reversed, how would BHC react to this size solar array if it impacted the entrance to the resort?

This letter is a plea for attention to this now statewide issue and a plea for a significant improvement in the Public Service Board approval process. There is a need for neighbors to work together before these solar projects are approved to find a solution that works for all.

Thank you,

Candy Davidson

P.O. Box 76

New Haven, VT 05472

802 453 3443

ourcamp@hotmail.com

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