

More Efficient Solar Siting: Updating the “Single” Plant Definition in Statute

H.710 Single Plant Testimony
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Senate Finance Committee
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“Single” Plant Law Limits Development on Good Sites for Solar

Vermont’s current “single” plant law can prevent solar projects from being built near one another, preventing us from taking maximum advantage of sites that are:

- Already disturbed locations like brownfields
- Already host solar
- Close to existing load
- Located where the distribution infrastructure is robust



Old gravel pit potentially off-limits for solar because of “single plant”

2.3 MW solar array on an old gravel pit

Background on “Single” Plant

- Applies only to solar projects <5MW that are located on the same or adjacent parcels
- Enacted in 2009 to ensure that solar projects were not artificially partitioned to be eligible for the non-market prices in Standard Offer and net metering
- “Single” plant language prevents a co-located solar array from sharing costly access roads, poles, wires and other infrastructure that would help lower the cost of electricity to ratepayers
- With the end of off-site net metering and Standard Offer, “single” plant rulings add time, cost and uncertainty to meeting Vermont’s in state renewable energy requirements without any other benefits to ratepayers
- Towns have responded to the State’s enhanced energy planning requirements and have clustered solar development in their land use planning. “Single” plant limitations run counter to a Town's ability to manage development

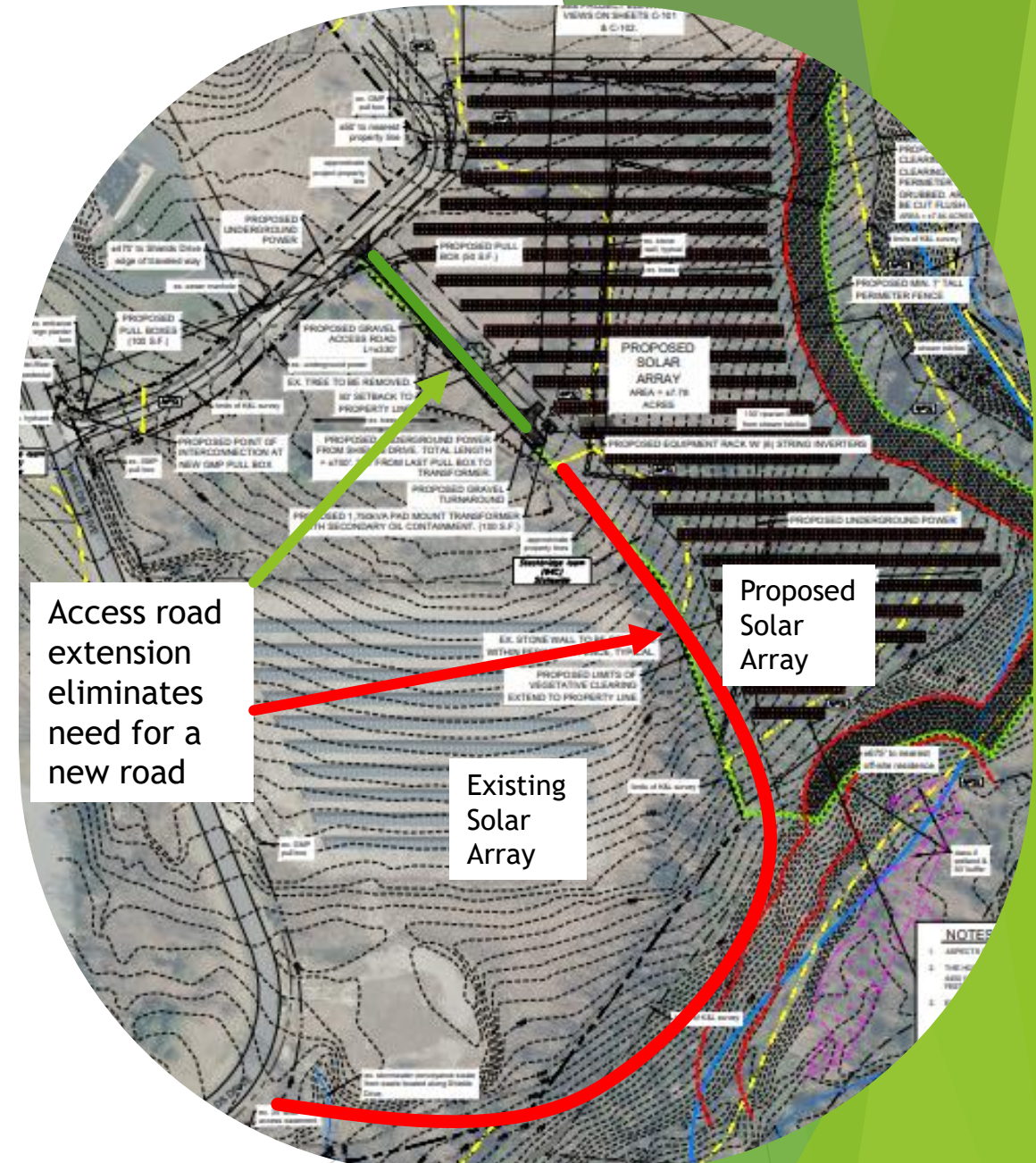


H.710 Will Lower the Cost of Co-Located 1-5MW Solar Projects

Under the existing “single” plant definition, the developer had to commit to building a new 1,500’ access road (in red) rather than extend an existing access road to demonstrate the project did not share common infrastructure with another solar project on the same parcel.

Under H.710 it’s now possible to build a short 332’ extension to an existing access road (in green) saving over \$50,000 and reducing the total road surface area on the site by 16,515 ft².

In addition, the ability to utilize existing power lines on the site saves \$10,000 for every 100’ of avoided new power line construction.



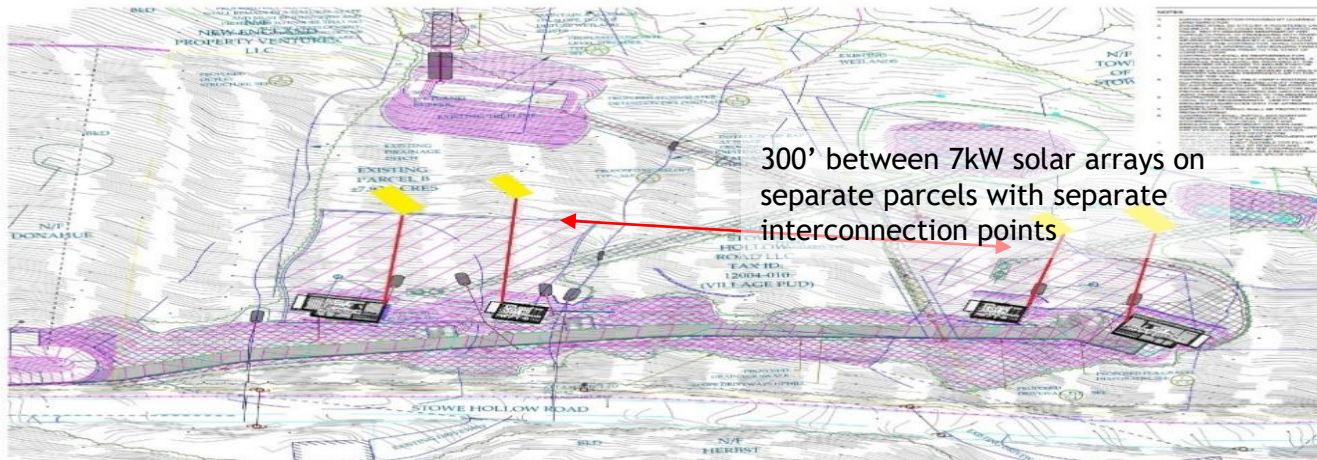
1.65MW Furnace Brook solar project in Bennington



H.710 Will Save Time and Money for Homeowners Co-Locating Net Metering Projects

A residential developer working with a solar developer designed individualized solar and battery storage systems for four new residential units on two separate parcels. Each unit was metered separately and does not share any solar infrastructure or interconnection points.

The PUC initially stated that all four projects should be considered a single plant, initiating an unexpected eight month review process



Under H.710, “single” plant review no longer applies to PPA’s between a developer and a utility when co-located with:

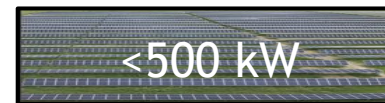
Another Power Purchase Agreement



A Standard Offer Project



A Net Metering Project



Co-location of net metering arrays and Standard Offer arrays still subject to “single” plant rulings!

Questions ?

