

Single Plant Testimony
Peter Sterling, Renewable Energy Vermont
Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee
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Old gravel pit
potentially
off-limits for
solar because
of "single
plant"

2.3 MW solar
array on an
old gravel pit

In 2025, the Vermont General Assembly passed Act 38 directing the PUC to recommend changes to the definition of “plant” in 30 V.S.A. § 8002(18).

REV supports the language in the PUC’s report to the General Assembly because it helps:

- Avoid unnecessary costs associated for bringing new sources of electricity online
- Preserve open spaces by encouraging solar development on already developed sites
- Avoid unnecessary construction, conserving natural resources on the sites that are being developed
- Streamline the application process for bringing new renewables online, and
- Remove costly legal uncertainty that hinders investment in co-locating renewables; and
- Towns have responded to the State’s enhanced energy planning requirements and have clustered solar development in their land use planning. Single “plant” rulings run counter to a Town's ability to manage development

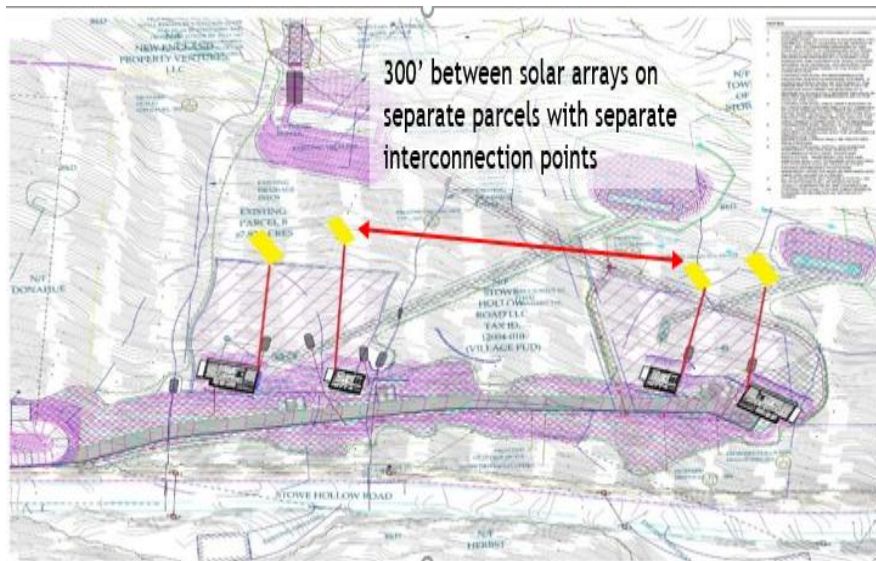


PUC's Recommendation Should Lower Costs and Speed Up Distributed Solar Deployment

The PUC's suggested new definition applies to solar projects under 5MW (~25 acres or less)

H.710 with the PUC's suggested language passed the House 108-30

Should help meet Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard Tier 2 requirements more affordably and lower the cost for Vermonters in new developments who want to go solar at home



A residential developer working with a solar developer designed four individualized solar and battery storage systems for four new residential units on two separate parcels.

Each unit was metered separately and didn't share any solar infrastructure or interconnection points. The PUC initially ruled that all four projects should be considered a single plant, initiating an unexpected eight month review process

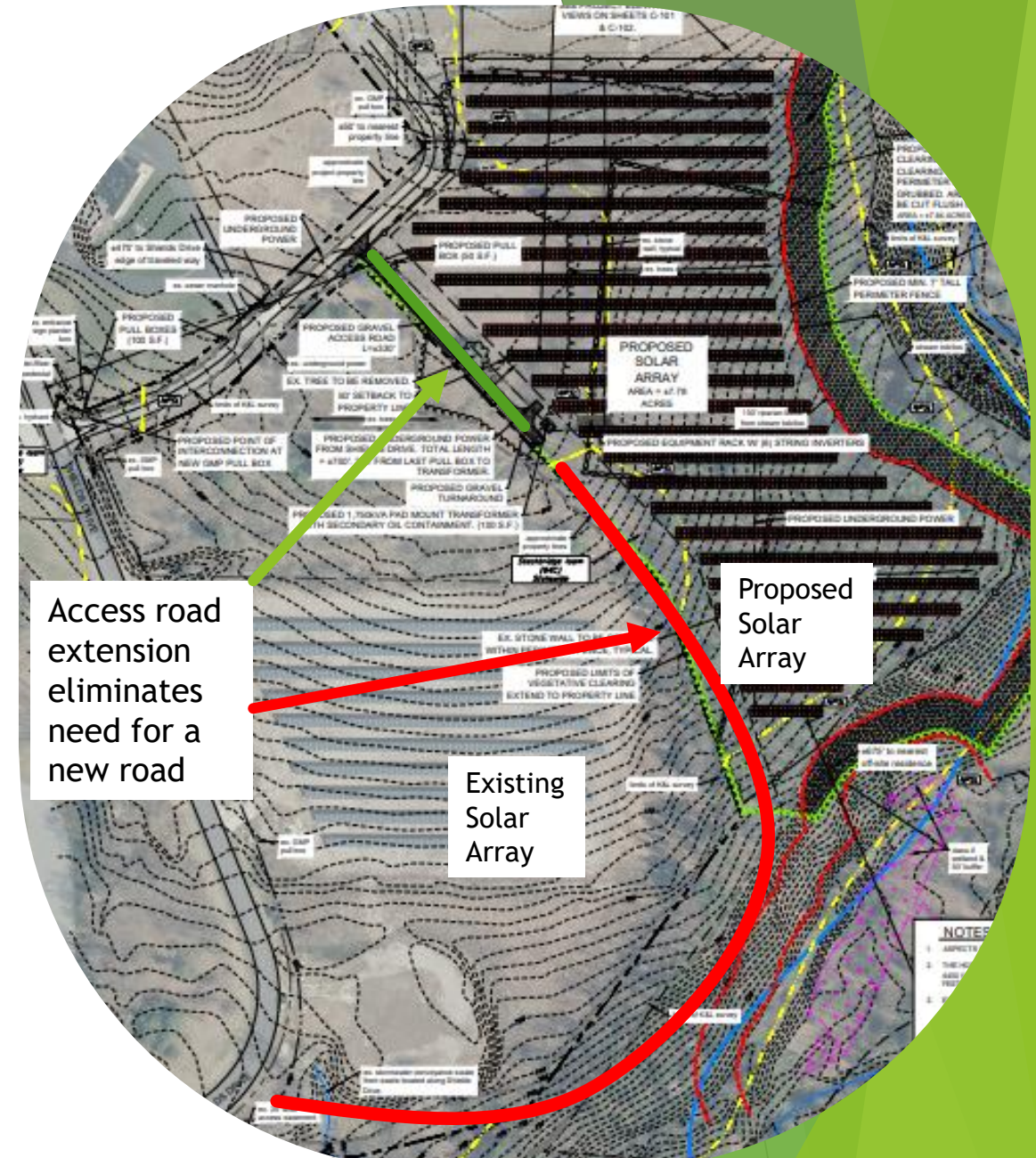
PUC's Recommendation Will Lower Costs and Preserve Open Spaces and Natural Resources

Under the existing single plant definition, a developer had to commit to building a new 1,500' access road rather than extending an existing access road to demonstrate the project did not share common infrastructure with another solar project on the same parcel.

Under the PUC's proposed language, MHG would be able to build a short 332' extension to an existing access road saving over \$50,000.

This change would also reduce the total road surface area on the site by from 16,515 ft².

Similarly, the ability to utilize existing power lines on the site would save \$10,000 for every 100' of new line construction that can be avoided.



Access road extension eliminates need for a new road

Proposed Solar Array

Existing Solar Array



1.65MW Furnace Brook solar project in Bennington