

# BCRC Regional Energy Committee

## MINUTES

December 20, 2018 - 4:00 PM  
BCRC Offices – 111 South Street, Bennington

Present: Wayn Goodman, Chair, Rob Costantino, Barbara True-Weber, David Durfee  
Jim Sullivan (BCRC Staff)  
Brad Wilson (ECOS Energy)

I. Introductions

II. Stark and Warner Solar Projects

Presentation by Brad Wilson of ECOS Energy. Main points included:

- Battle Creek 1 project is located nearby; has been permitted and to be built this spring.
- Site plans described in detail; slight modifications from earlier versions previously reviewed by the Energy Committee.
- Each project has capacity of 2.2 MW.
- Presented a letter from the Town of Bennington indicating that both projects are on “preferred sites” and meet all screening and land conservation measures required by the Town. The Town will not be intervening.
- The presence of agricultural soils was noted; the developer is working with the Department of Agriculture.
- Next steps: petitions will be filed with the PUC, probably Warner first.
- Viewshed assessment indicates limited off-site visibility. Noted particular concerns from owners of the Publyk House restaurant and an adjacent motel. Screening will be provided between those properties and the projects as well as along Rice Lane. There will be some filtered views from the Publyk House, but those views will not interfere with the distant mountain views seen from the restaurant.
- The energy committee noted that reducing the project area to maximize screening necessitated lowering the tilt angle of the panels – having the effect of reducing productivity, although the effect during peak generation periods in the summer is not great.
- Green Mountain Power line upgrades to 3-phase and interconnection agreement reviewed.

- Discussed clearing and removal of wood. The energy committee urged coordination with local schools, chipping, and use of biomass for fuel in local institutional biomass heating systems.
- The developer plans to control vegetation with groundcover plantings and offering the land as grazing area for sheep for a local farmer.

After discussion with particular emphasis on the importance of local renewable generation, opportunities to support local agriculture and to make use of wood chips, Goodman motioned and Costantino seconded to support the project. The motion passed unanimously.

Sullivan will forward comments to ECOS.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.