

TOWN OF
EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT
SELECTBOARD

Casey Northrup (2014 – 2017)
Gene Troia (2015 – 2016)

Kim Swasey (2015 – 2017)
Carl Etnier (2013 – 2016)

Chair, Seth Gardner (2015 – 2018)

February 2, 2016

Vermont Public Service Board
Judith Whitney, Acting Clerk of the Board
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: CPG #16-0001-NMP
BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar, LLC PSB CPG Proceedings

Dear Ms. Whitney:

On January 25, 2016 the East Montpelier Planning Commission filed a Motion to Intervene in the proceedings of the BDE East Montpelier Lazar Solar Project. The East Montpelier Selectboard is in full support of the issues raised by the Planning Commission. In particular, the concerns expressed regarding the conceivable effects of the project on the orderly development of East Montpelier Village warrant thoughtful consideration.

Viable housing lots and available wastewater capacity are at a premium in the village. Since the early 2000s the town, with considerable assistance from the state, has expended and continues to expend a great deal of effort to revitalize the historic village area. The elimination of four fully permitted parcels and an additional two possibly buildable lots is a significant blow.

The town continues to support investment in renewable energy projects, both large and small, and does not take lightly its responsibility to facilitate the installation of such systems throughout the town. The town, however, also supports the long-standing state mandate that communities plan for and manage growth responsibly. We simply ask that the Public Service Board carefully weighs the obvious benefits of adding another 500 kW solar array to the state's renewable energy portfolio against the less apparent, but very real costs to the village's development potential before it decides whether to issue a certificate of public good for this project.

Sincerely,



Seth B. Gardner
Chair, East Montpelier Selectboard