



TOWN OF STRAFFORD
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July 1, 2015

To Whom It May Concern—

We, the undersigned members of the Strafford Conservation Commission, support in concept the construction of the 4.99 megawatt solar energy facility proposed for the remediated area of the Elizabeth Mine, formerly known as the tailings pile, which is located partly in Strafford and partly in Thetford.

Further, we recognize that this project is to be constructed entirely on private property, in a remote location with limited visual impact, on land with severely restricted potential for other uses and, significantly, that both landowners have agreed to make this land available for this purpose.

Additionally, we understand that the project will be developed entirely with private funds, that it will generate property tax revenue for the two communities and that it will reduce the State of Vermont's perpetual financial obligation to maintain this remediated Superfund site.

The Strafford Conservation Commission is also pleased that this project will generate clean energy, will help reduce Vermont's dependence on carbon emissions from coal-fired energy sources and that it will as a consequence help the State of Vermont attain its renewable, alternative energy goals with minimal effect on the natural environment.

While we are aware that there are a number of unanswered questions about this project, we have been given to understand, and it is our expectation, that these questions will be formally addressed in the Section 248 proceedings before the Public Service Board.

On the basis of the foregoing, we support this project.

Respectfully submitted,

The Strafford Conservation Commission

Charles R. Sherman
[Signature]
John Hennebury
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