From: Commwtr
To: SMART, DOER (ENE)
Subject: 400 MW Review Public Comments
Date: Friday, September 27, 2019 2:52:07 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,
I offer the following comments on the draft 400 MW Solar restrictions that the state is considering:

- the proposal indicates that the state would like to "stretch out" the timing for larger solar projects (solar farms) that are currently in the pipeline as well as those that will be entering the queue shortly. It is important to get ahead of climate change and to ensure that Massachusetts is a leader in alternative energy. Stretching out the timing is contrary to the state's goals.

- currently, National Grid has a moratorium on solar farms and is engaged in a Cluster Study of their substations, distribution lines and transmission lines. That study is slated to be completed by the end of March 2020. There is NO incentive for National Grid (or any of the other energy supplies in the Commonwealth) to work diligently to see that solar farms are expedited so that we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. National Grid loses money on every solar project that is constructed. The state needs to oversee the results of this study and ensure that the energy supplies do not delay in upgrading any of their infrastructure so that solar construction can begin, once again, in earnest.

- the proposed regulations for the Greenfield sites are unduly restrictive. Certainly, the state would prefer old landfills and/or brownfield sites to be home to solar farms, but there is considerable land (Greenfield land) that should be used for these projects. The land will have a solar farm on it for 20 years or so and then be decommissioned. The site will then be a meadow and eventually the trees and forest will take over and the site will go back to being what it was before the solar farm was built. This option is far better than the land being sold to housing developers or others that would encourage sprawl. The Greenfield restrictions in this proposal make no sense at all.

- solar farms are a way for rural communities (particularly those with large numbers of low-income residents) to generate money for the town via the TIP program. This money would go a long way in helping rural communities fund important portions of their yearly town budgets and/or capital budget programs. Most of these communities would depend on the Greenfield land being developed - another reason to ease the restrictions on these lands that this proposal is advocating.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this draft proposal.

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