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John Medeiros  
Chair of Westminster Planning Commission  
PO Box 147  
Westminster VT 05158

Nov, 21, 2013

Dear John,

Thank you for the Town's speedy and encouraging response to the proposed Solar Farm at the Westminster Business Park.

To answer the questions you posed:

1. We are projecting a lifespan of the panels and ground mounts of at least 50 years. Industry standard galvanization is g-90 which protects for about 45 years. We treat our materials to g-360 – 4 times as much coating that should render the ground mounts usable into the next century. Best guess is that when the solar panels wear out, they will be replaced by newer more efficient ones and the solar farm will go right on producing electricity. The panels are under warranty to produce 80% of their nameplate rating after 25 years, but all evidence suggests that they will continue to produce useful electricity for at least twice that amount of time. And if electric rates go up at anywhere near their historical average, the energy generated in 50 years will be significantly more valuable than it is right now! The solar panels are recyclable and the metal of the ground mounts is also. The ground mount posts are easily removed with a mini-excavator pulling the poles out of the ground. The entire construction has minimal ground disturbance, with about 300 6" posts driven 6' into the ground and a single 400' trench 1' wide and 2' deep.
2. Soveren is not required by the Public Service Board to submit a decommissioning plan. We are only the developer and installer of the system. Operations and Maintenance will be the responsibility of the ultimate owners of the system.

We would be most happy to bring a presentation about what we are doing and how it could be of even more benefit to the Town to the Westminster Selectboard in January. I will be away for the December meeting. Can you put Soveren on the agenda for January, or should I do that through the town offices?

All the best,

Peter

Peter Thurrell  
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