

BELKNAP COUNTY

Proudly serving the communities of:

*Alton, Barnstead, Belmont, Center Harbor, Gilford, Gilmanton, Laconia, Meredith,
New Hampton, Sanbornton, and Tilton*

May 13, 2024

Board of Commissioners

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Molly M. Lynch
Staff Attorney/Hearings Examiner
Department of Energy
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Dear Attorney Lynch,

We write to provide public comment on docket CPT 2024-005 Kearsarge Solar LLC, ReWild Renewables, LLC and Lodestar Energy LLC Complaint Against Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy.

After conducting a thorough request for proposals process, Belknap County (the “County”) awarded Kearsarge Solar LLC (“Kearsarge”) the rights to develop, construct, and operate a municipal net metering facility on County land on August 28, 2023. This is an exciting project for the County. The project—located on previously unproductive land—will provide the County over \$9.9 million dollars in lease revenues and electricity bill savings all while producing clean, local energy to benefit New Hampshire’s electric grid. The project will also offer four paid electrician internships for Lakes Region Community College students during construction, enabling a valuable workforce development opportunity for the local community.

All these benefits are on hold, however, because the project is stuck in Eversource’s interconnection queue. Kearsarge submitted the project’s required pre-application on August 30, 2023, only two days after the County awarded Kearsarge the project. Eversource returned the project’s pre-application report in October 2023, and then, after working through the necessary engineering process, Kearsarge submitted the project’s interconnection application on November 3, 2023 (ESNH-00545)—over six months ago now.

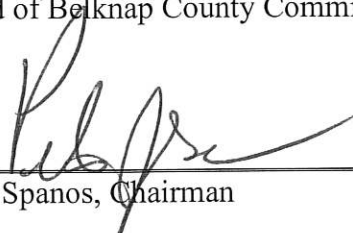
Given this delay, the County contacted Eversource to inquire as to when the project’s interconnection study might begin. On May 1st, Eversource informed the County that the project would not enter study for *at least another year*, which likely means that the project will not receive its interconnection agreement for *at least eighteen months—if not more*.

This is entirely unacceptable. Eversource’s failure to move projects through the interconnection queue within a reasonable timeframe is singlehandedly preventing the County and its residents from accessing the many benefits

Kearsarge's project will offer. The County fully understands that Eversource cannot offer special treatment to any one project in its interconnection queue; Eversource must improve for all municipal net metering projects in its queue.

The County looks forward to the Department of Energy (the "Department") taking swift action in this important matter to achieve a solution to this pressing problem.

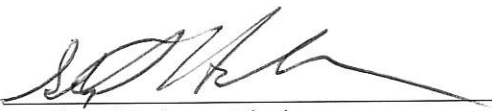
Sincerely,
Board of Belknap County Commissioners



Peter Spanos, Chairman



Glen Waring, Vice-Chairman



Stephen Hodges, Clerk