



THE LAW OFFICE OF
DOUGLASH. ZAMELIS



April 15, 2020

Hon. Richard F. Kauffman, Chair
& Members
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-6399

Re: Oak Hill 1 Solar LLC and Oak Hill 2 Solar LLC, Duanesburg (T), Schenectady County

Dear Chairman Kauffman and Members of the Authority:

This office represents Ms. Susan Biggs and Ms. Lynne Bruning in connection with two community solar projects identified as Oak Hill 1 Solar and Oak Hill 2 Solar (the “Projects”) in the Town of Duanesburg, Schenectady County, with listed addresses at 13590 Oak Hill Road and 13686 Duanesburg Road, Delanson, New York, respectively. Ms. Biggs and Ms. Bruning reside at 13388 Duanesburg Road, adjacent to the Projects, and are petitioners in a proceeding pursuant to CPLR Article 78 entitled *Biggs, et al. v. Eden Renewables LLC et al.* presently pending in Schenectady County Supreme Court (Index Number 2019-2217) which seeks invalidation and annulment of the Projects’ local land use approvals.

The Authority has awarded funds for the Projects totaling \$7,713,456.00 based on representations by Eden Renewables LLC (and/or a successor-in-interest) concerning the size and capacity of the Projects approved by the Town of Duanesburg Planning Board, and the purported approval of energy storage facilities by that Planning Board. This correspondence clarifies that the combined size and capacity of the Projects approved by the Town of Duanesburg Planning Board is only 65.2 acres and 10 MW, not 95 acres and 15 MW as reportedly represented to the Authority. This correspondence further confirms that, notwithstanding what has been represented to the Authority, the Town of Duanesburg Planning Board did not actually review or approve any energy storage facilities in connection with the Projects.

The Duanesburg Planning Board’s September 19, 2019 “Resolution Approving Special Use Permit and Subdivision and Site Plan Approval for the Eden Renewables Oak Hill Solar Energy Projects – 1206 Oak Hill Road” (the “Local Approval Resolution”), a copy of which is attached herewith as Exhibit “A”, purported to approve the two 5 MW Projects, for a combined generation capacity of 10 MW. Because Ms. Biggs and Ms. Bruning brought to the Duanesburg

Planning Board's attention that the Local Approval Resolution overstated the size of the Projects, the Local Approval Resolution was amended by resolution embodied in the minutes of the Duanesburg Planning Board's October 17, 2019 meeting, a copy of which are attached herewith as Exhibit "B", which set forth the correct "coverage" for the Projects as "32.8 acres" and "33 acres" for a combined total of 65.8 acres. The Duanesburg Planning Board therefore approved two solar projects with a combined generation capacity of 10 MW to cover a combined +/-65.8 acres.

The combined coverage of +/-65.8 acres for the Projects is consistent with the "Proposed Site Plan for Oak Hill Solar 1&2, Sheets 1 through 11" dated February 8, 2019 (the "Approved Site Plan") prepared by Environmental Design Partnership, LLC resubmitted to the Duanesburg Planning Board on June 6, 2019 which indicates "proposed coverage" of "32.2 acres" and "33 acres" for a combined coverage of +/-65.2 acres.

Sheets 9 and 10 of the Approved Site Plan show site plan details for limited use pervious access roads, limited use pervious wetland crossings, solar field fences, silt fences, construction entrance, trenches, spare parts containers, DC to DC converters, PV tracker systems, CCTV poles, transformer stations, and inverters on poles, the Approved Site Plan does not provide any details for any type battery or energy storage system facilities. Likewise, neither the State Environmental Quality Review Act Full Environmental Assessment Form, Negative Declaration, nor the Local Approval Resolution, as amended, references battery storage anywhere in their texts. The only reference to battery storage in the record of the Duanesburg Planning Board's proceedings is in the minutes of the board's March 21, 2019 meeting where it is indicated "There will be battery storage proposed in ten (10) small enclosures with containment and fire protection". Such facilities were never actually proposed or reviewed though, and both the Approved Site Plan and the Local Approval Resolution, as amended, fail to show, discuss or approve any energy storage facilities in connection with the Projects.

Notwithstanding the omission of energy storage facilities from the Approved Site Plan and absence of any mention of energy storage facilities in the SEQRA documents or Local Approval Resolution, Town of Duanesburg Planner/Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Dale R. Warner somehow acknowledged and confirmed to the Authority on "Confirmation of Local Land Use Approval" forms dated September 23, and 26, 2019 copies of which are attached herewith as Exhibit "C", that "Required Energy Storage Land Use Approvals" had in fact been granted on September 19, 2019, i.e., the date of the Local Approval Resolution which makes no mention of energy storage facilities. Thereafter, Officer Warner acknowledged and confirmed to the Authority on "Presentation to Planning/Zoning Board for Energy Storage" forms dated October 4, 2019 attached herewith as Exhibit "D" which provide "NYSERDA respectfully requests that the municipality sign a copy of this form acknowledging receipt of the below information as part of the Applicant's presentation to the Planning/Zoning Board" for projects of "Energy Storage Size, MW (AC): 5MW AC" and "Solar Project Size, MW (DC) (if applicable): 7.5MW DC". Officer Warner, who is not a member of the Duanesburg Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals, acknowledged and confirmed the Authority's "Presentation to Planning/Zoning Board For Energy Storage Facilities Forms" despite the clear indication on the form that they were to be "ACKNOWLEDGED & CONFIRMED BY

MUNICIPALITY Planning/Zoning Board Member”. The Duanesburg Planning Board approved no energy storage facilities, and approved only two 5 MW DC community solar projects.

Records obtained from the Authority pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law and filed on the New York State Department of Public Service Document and Matter Management system for matter number 17-02273 indicate that substantial financial incentives by the Authority were contingent and conditioned upon the a) Projects actually comprising a total of 15 MW; and b) approval of associated commercial battery storage facilities by the Duanesburg Planning Board.

By way of demonstration, correspondence from the Authority to Oak Hill Solar 1, LLC dated October 31, 2019 attached herewith as Exhibit “E” states that “Your award in the amount of \$1,498,728 is contingent upon the installation and grid interconnection of a 7,493.64 kW solar electric system for: Oak Hill Solar 1, LLC at 13590 Duanesburg Rd., Delanson, NY 12053 as outlined in the project application. Virtually identical correspondence for Oak Hill Solar 2 LLC of the same date which states that “Your award in the amount of \$1,498,728 is contingent upon the installation and grid interconnection of a 7,493.64 kW solar electric system for: Oak Hill Solar 2, LLC at 13686 Duanesburg Rd., Delanson, NY 12053 as outlined in the project application” is also included herewith as Exhibit “E”. Therefore, while awards by the Authority totaling \$2,997,456.00 are contingent on the interconnection of a combined 15 MW of solar electrical systems, the Duanesburg Planning Board’s Local Approval Resolution only authorizes the construction of a combined 10 MW.

The “Salesforce” printout for Oak Hill Solar 1, LLC filed with the Authority, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit “F”, represents that Oak Hill Solar 1 “Total System Size” is “7,493.640” kW and indicates “Total Number Acres: 46.00”. The “Salesforce” printout for Oak Hill Solar 2, LLC filed with the Authority, a copy of which is included in Exhibit “F”, represents that Oak Hill Solar 2 “Total System Size” is also “7,493.640” kW and indicates “Total Number Acres: 49.00”. These records, filed *after* the issuance of the Duanesburg Planning Board’s Local Approval Resolution which authorized a combined 10 MW on only +/-65.2 acres, purport to represent to the Authority that the Projects would have a combined generation capacity of 15 MW on 95 acres.

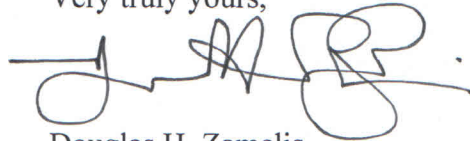
In addition to the \$2,997,456.00 awarded by the Authority for the Projects under the “NY-Sun Program”, according to correspondence from the Authority dated October 28, 2019 attached herewith as Exhibit “G” indicates the Authority awarded \$2,358,000.00 each for Oak Hill 1 Solar and Oak Hill 2 Solar under the “Retail Energy Storage Incentive Program” which funds were “contingent upon the installation and grid interconnection of a 5,000.00 kW/11,790.00 kWh (useable installed energy capacity measured in AC) energy storage system”. However, as established above, neither the SEQRA EAF, Negative Declaration, Approved Site Plan, nor the Local Approval Resolution reference any energy storage facilities in connection with the Projects, and therefore such storage facilities were never in fact reviewed or approved by the Duanesburg Planning Board. The Authority has therefore granted \$4,716,000.00 in incentives for energy storage systems for the Projects when Eden Renewables LLC never obtained approval from the Duanesburg Planning Board for any energy storage facilities in connection with the Projects.

Please be advised Ms. Biggs and Ms. Bruning reserve all their statutory and common law rights and remedies to enforce the Town of Duanesburg Zoning Law and Final Approval Resolution in a Declaratory Judgment Action in Schenectady County Supreme Court in the event Eden Renewables LLC (or its successor-in-interest) constructs the Projects in excess of 10 MW, 65.8 acres, and/or attempts to install any energy storage facilities.

On behalf of Ms. Biggs and Ms. Bruning, we respectfully request that this matter be investigated, and if the Authority determines that the Projects do not satisfy the contingencies of the \$7,713,456.00 in incentives as set forth above, that it revoke or withhold such incentives as appropriate.

Thank you very much for the Authority's careful consideration of this important matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. H. Zamelis', written over a horizontal line.

Douglas H. Zamelis

cc:

Alicia Barton, NYSEDA President & CEO
Hon. Letitia James, NYS Attorney General
Hon Letizia Tagliaferro, NYS Inspector General
Hon. Thomas DiNapoli, NYS Comptroller
Hon. Roger Tidball, Supervisor, Town of Duanesburg
Teresa M. Bakner, Esq., Counsel to Town of Duanesburg
Daniel A. Spitzer, Esq., Counsel to Eden Renewables LLC