

DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

**Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic System
200 Route 15
Sturbridge, Massachusetts**

Applicant & Responsible Party

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Prepared By:

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I. FACILITY DESCRIPTION

This Decommissioning Plan has been prepared for the proposed solar photovoltaic facility to be constructed at the property located at 200 Route 15 in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. This plan describes the process for decommissioning the facility in accordance with state requirements and the Town of Sturbridge Site Plan review process. The facility will consist of a ± 1.3 MW (DC) solar array and accompanying equipment secured within a 7-foot-high chain-link fence and accessed via a 15-foot-wide locked swing gate on the proposed paved access drive off Route 15.

The Facility will include the following site features which will require decommissioning at the end of the life of the project:

- An approximate 8-acre array of photovoltaic (PV) modules and racking system.
- Screw anchor or driven pile foundations supporting the PV modules and racking system.
- Transformers, electrical equipment/cabinets & concrete pads
- 7-foot chain-link security fence.
- Underground conduit and wires.
- Six (6) above ground wooden utility poles.
- Underground wires.
- A 20' wide locking chain link security gate at the entrance to the solar array.

II. DECOMMISSIONING PLAN

The decommissioning of the facility will be a two-stage process consisting of Dismantling, Demolition and Disposal/Recycling followed by Site Restoration. The following is a description of each process.

Dismantlement, Demolition, and Disposal or Recycling

A sizable portion of the components that comprise the facility will include recyclable or re-saleable components including copper, aluminum, galvanized steel, and the modules. Due to their re-sale monetary value, these components will be dismantled, disassembled, and recycled rather than being demolished and disposed of.

All electrical connections to the system will be disconnected and all connections will be assessed locally to confirm that no electric current is running through them before proceeding. The facility will be dismantled following coordination with the utility company regarding timing and required procedures for disconnecting the facility from the utility distribution network. All electrical connections to the PV modules will be severed at each module, and the modules will then be removed from their framework by cutting or dismantling the connections to the supports. Modules will be removed and sold to a purchaser or recycler. In the event of a total fracture of any modules, the interior materials are silicon-based and are not hazardous. Disposal of these materials at a landfill is permissible.

The PV mounting system framework will be dismantled and recycled. The foundation system will be removed and recycled if feasible. All other associated structures will be demolished and removed from

the site for recycling or disposal. This will include the site fence and gates, which will likely be reclaimed or recycled.

Concrete equipment slabs will be broken and removed to a depth of one foot below grade and clean concrete will be crushed and disposed of off-site or recycled (reused either on or off-site). The paved driveway will remain in place.

Aboveground utility poles owned by the project operator will be completely removed and disposed of off-site in accordance with utility best practices. Any overhead wires owned by the project operator will be removed from the facility and will terminate at the utility-owned connections. The utility company (currently National Grid) will be responsible for dismantling the overhead wires and poles under its ownership. The decommissioning contractor will coordinate with the utility company personnel to facilitate the utility company's removal of any poles and overhead wires located on the site.

Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste shall be in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations.

The Infiltration Basins and subsurface drainage facilities will remain in place.

Site Restoration

Immediately following the complete dismantlement, demolition & disposal or recycling of the PV and accessory equipment, as described above, a final walkthrough inspection will be conducted to ensure that all debris and/or trash generated during the decommissioning process has been removed. Any debris that may have been wind-blown to areas outside the immediate footprint of the facility. Sanitary facilities will be provided on site for the workers performing the decommissioning of the facility. Areas of the parcel that are disturbed during decommissioning will be re-seeded, as necessary, with 4" loam and seed or hydro-seed, using a fast-growing seed mix.

Permitting Requirements

Several approvals will be obtained prior to initiation of the decommissioning process. Permitting requirements will be determined at the time of decommissioning and updated based on then current local, state, and federal regulations. The decommissioning process is anticipated to take approximately six to eight weeks and is intended to occur outside of the winter season. The owner/operator of the facility shall notify the Planning Board by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and the decommissioning will be completed no more than 150-days after the date of discontinued operation. Absent notice of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of extenuating circumstances, the solar photovoltaic installation shall be considered abandoned when it fails to operate for more than one year without the written consent of the Planning Board. Based upon current regulations, a building/demolition permit will be required from the Town of Sturbridge Building Department for the decommissioning of this site because a building/demolition permit must be obtained for any demolition or change to the use of a structure.

III. DECOMMISSIONING COST ESTIMATE

BSC has prepared the following detailed cost estimate of the decommissioning cost for the 200 Route 15 Solar Project as follows:

Removal Cost Estimate				
Item	Quantity	Rate/ea.	Days	Amount
Laborers	6	\$250	35	\$52,500.00
Heavy Equipment & Operator	2	\$1,200	15	\$36,000.00
Debris Container/Disposal*	30	\$950		\$28,500.00
Site Repair (re-seed as necessary)	1			\$2,500.00
Mobilize/Demobilize	1			\$5,000.00
Sub-Total				\$124,500.00
25-Year Total (assuming 2% Inflation)				\$204,255.00

*Cost of trucking included

In summary, for the proposed 1.3± MW Solar Project, we have **estimated a net present value decommissioning cost of \$124,500.00**. Assuming a 2% yearly inflation for the 25-year project life span, **the proposed financial surety amount is \$204,255.00**.