SEE BACK FOR DEED RESTRICTION & TOWN WATERLINE OMITTED FROM LAYOUT

# STOP SHAFTSBURY SOLAR.org WRONG FOR SHAFTSBURY. WRONG FOR VERMONT.

# IS THE SHAFTSBURY SOLAR PROJECT RIGHT FOR OUR TOWN?

#### What has been proposed by Freepoint Solar (see map on reverse side)?

- The largest solar power plant in Vermont (matched only by the plant in Ludlow)
- 65 football fields of solar panels, ignoring the North Bennington waterline and a deed restriction.
- A new exit off Super 7 (not yet approved) that presents its own safety issues.
- Circuitous delivery routes on local roads whether or not the new Super 7 exit is approved.
- A hilltop substation, transformers, new power lines, new on-site roads, new fencing.
- No staging area for the many kilotons of construction material to be delivered.

#### **How will this impact the Shaftsbury community?**

- The project will be visible from Rt 7 and 7a, from Holy Smoke and Trumbull Hill Roads, from all hiking trails to the north and from Mt Equinox and parts of the Green Mountain National Forest.
- Extreme disruption and likely damage to Route 7 and local roads during construction.
- Permanent degradation of the scenic, rural/residential community along Holy Smoke Rd.

#### Will the developer work with the Shaftsbury community?

- They have yet to publicly acknowledge the ePUC comments or incorporate any changes.
- They have submitted an Advanced Notice for another 20MW project in Fair Haven, Vermont, with another 50MW project in Panton yet to be announced.

#### Can we trust this company to honor the interests of the community?

- Reed Wills and Peter Ford made false and misleading comparisons of the Shaftsbury and Ludlow projects in public forums. The two solar arrays are roughly equal in size.
- The company's Advance Notice did not acknowledge known unresolved issues with the site.
- Freepoint has a record of questionable business practices.

## Is the proposed Shaftsbury array the best way to mitigate climate change?

- This massive, environmentally-destructive array would feed power to the New England grid for remote distribution, incurring transmission losses and requiring always-on transformers and a step-up substation:
- Less destructive arrays close to load, that provide locally distributed energy to minimize losses, would be a more efficient and effective way to meet renewable energy needs;
- We will not save the natural world by destroying the natural world.

# <u>Isn't it likely that Shaftsbury financial "benefits" will be similar to Ludlow's?</u>

- Reported Ludlow benefits: \$100,000 to the town when construction complete and \$75,000 to the
  elementary school. Going forward, the town will receive \$35,000 a year for the first 5 years and then
  \$25,000 a year after that.
- The Ludlow renewable energy credits go to Connecticut utility companies.

# THE ANSWERS ABOVE HAVE LED US TO TAKE A FIRM STAND SAYING NO TO THIS PROJECT.

## Therefore, we ask the Select Board and Planning Commission of Shaftsbury to:

- acknowledge that the State PUC wants to hear from town officials;
- assert their right to file recommendations and intervene with the PUC to protect our town;
- fulfill their public servant role and represent strongly the interests of the vast majority of Shaftsbury residents who oppose this project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.STOPSHAFTSBURYSOLAR.ORG

