

**State of Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission**

**In re: Hexagon Energy, LLC Petition for Declaratory Judgment**

**Docket No. 5060**

**Pre-Filed Testimony of**

**Buzz Becker**

**September 4, 2020**

**I. Introduction and Qualifications**

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. My name is William (Buzz) Becker and my business address is 722 Preston Ave,  
3 Suite 102 Charlottesville, Virginia 22903.

4 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

5 A. I am a Development Manager at Hexagon Energy, LLC (“Hexagon”).

6 **Q. What was your professional background before starting at Hexagon?**

7 A. I joined Hexagon upon graduation from business school. Previous experience includes  
8 interning with a renewable energy consulting firm and working in the marketing division  
9 of a large energy company. Additionally, I have served in the Army National Guard and  
10 Army Reserves since 2010.

11 **Q. What is your relationship with the proposed projects?**

12 A. I am the originator and lead developer for both projects.

13 **II. Direct Questions**

14 **Q1. Describe the parcels where the solar projects are proposed to be located and**  
15 **attach copies of maps and diagrams showing the layout, configuration, and location**  
16 **of the two solar facilities, including the location of pre-existing parking lot(s) and**  
17 **any buildings on the site, as well as the boundaries of the parcels owned by the**  
18 **petitioner. Attach an aerial photograph of the parcels.**

19 A. Hexagon is proposing two projects in Burrillville, Rhode Island. The first project  
20 (d/b/a Superior Solar LLC), located on the eastern parcel (AP 113, Lot 012 – 0 Victory  
21 Hwy), is a 991 kW, ground-mounted solar array. On December 23, 2019, National Grid

1 awarded Superior Solar a Certificate of Eligibility in the third enrollment period of the  
2 2019 Renewable Energy Growth (“REG”) program. Pursuant to the Certificate, Superior  
3 Solar was selected to generate electricity at a price of 20.44¢/kWh for a 20-year term.  
4 The Certificate designated Superior Solar’s renewable energy class as CRDG  
5 Commercial Solar. On June 2, 2020, the Commission approved Superior Solar’s  
6 Certificate, effective January 15, 2020. *See* PUC Order No. 23833.

7         The second project (d/b/a Semistream Solar LLC, a/k/a Sparrow Solar) is planned  
8 to be sited on the western parcel (AP 113, Lot 011 – 2205 Bronco Hwy). Semistream  
9 Solar will be a 991 kW carport constructed over the landowner’s existing truck parking  
10 location. Semistream Solar intends to pursue the carport adder under the new pilot  
11 program incorporated into the 2020 REG program. The Town of Burrillville property  
12 cards and aerial photographs depicting the site layouts of the parcels were provided to the  
13 Commission via electronic service on September 3, 2020. *See* Folder 1.

14 **Q2. Identify the owner(s) of the two parcels of property where the projects are**  
15 **proposed to be located.**

16 A. Parcel 1 is owned by Going Green Realty LLC. Parcel 2 is owned by Montigny  
17 Enterprises Inc.

18 **Q3. Describe the type of parking lot surface that exists today in the location**  
19 **proposed for the carport (i.e., is it gravel or some type of hard surface)?**

20 A. The current surface is comprised of hard packed dirt and limited gravel, similar to the  
21 customer parking surface for the Pool Pirate retail building on site and access road from

1 Broncos Highway. Hexagon anticipates minimal augmentation to the site area with  
2 pervious stone parking surface materials.

3 **Q4. Identify the owner(s) of the trucks that are parked or are planned to be parked**  
4 **on the parking lot.**

5 A. It is Hexagon's understanding that the trucks on the property belong to Northwest  
6 Trucking LLC, a venture owned by the property landowner.

7 **Q5. Are any of the trucks that are or will be parked on the parking lot electric**  
8 **vehicles?**

9 A. Hexagon is not aware whether any of the trucks are electric vehicles.

10 **Q6. How long are trucks typically parked on the parking lot? For example, of the**  
11 **trucks parked on the parking lot as of the date of the filing of the Petition, how long**  
12 **were they parked on the lot?**

13 A. It is Hexagon's understanding that the trucks are used primarily for pool  
14 service/supply delivery as well as other seasonal delivery operations. Loading and  
15 unloading occurs offsite from the property and the trucks are stored onsite when not  
16 actively employed.

17 **Q7. If the owner of the trucks is not the owner of the parking lot, please describe the**  
18 **general terms of the lease agreement that allows the trucks to be parked at the**  
19 **location and indicate whether it is in writing or an oral agreement.**

20 A. Not applicable, please see my response to Question 4.

1 **Q8. Identify any building(s) located on either property, the purpose(s) of the**  
2 **building(s), the building(s) owner, the nature of the business with which the**  
3 **building(s) are associated, and how far away the buildings would be from the**  
4 **proposed carport**

5 A. There are no buildings on Parcel 2, Lot 012. Please see Folder 1 for the town property  
6 card for Parcel 1, Lot 011. As indicated on the property card, there is one main building  
7 that serves as a pool retail service store. This building is approximately 175 feet away  
8 from the nearest point of the proposed carport location.

9 **Q9. Why did the Petitioner choose to limit the size of the CRDG Commercial Solar**  
10 **facility to 991 kW?**

11 A. The size of the solar facility is limited by the allowable lot coverage set by a local  
12 solar ordinance at the time of design.

13 **Q10. Could the property, Lot 012, have reasonably accommodated a CRDG Solar**  
14 **facility that was 1 MW or greater? How large of a CRDG Solar Facility could the**  
15 **property have realistically accommodated, physically?**

16 A. No. Due to the Town of Burrillville's 20% tree clearing limitation for solar arrays, the  
17 approximate 4.4 acre site layout is the maximum allowed on the property. Additionally,  
18 the unique shape of the property and emphasis from local planning and zoning officials  
19 on maintaining the current vegetative buffering for abutter viewsheds restrict the site size  
20 and location. See Folder 1 for layout.

21 **Q11. How close are both of properties, Lot 012 and Lot 011, to other distribution**  
22 **customers on that National Grid's distribution system?**

1 A. See Folder 11 for identified abutters to each property. Hexagon assumes most of these  
2 properties are National Grid customers but does not have access to that information.

3 **Q12. Is there any physical limitation on the property of the proposed carport, Lot**  
4 **011, that requires the Petitioner to build a carport instead of building more ground-**  
5 **mounted solar?**

6 A. The limited acreage on Parcel 1, Lot 011 and local lot coverage constraint make solar  
7 development impractical if not infeasible without the dual-usage quality of a carport. The  
8 landowner's ability to increase the utilization of the property was a key component in  
9 pursuing a project and would not have done so with the vastly limited scope of a  
10 comparable ground-mount project.

11 **Q13. Is the gravel parking lot capable of supporting a facility that is greater than 1**  
12 **MW? If so, why did the Petitioner limit the size of the carport to 991 kW?**

13 A. No, please see my response to question 9. The maximum lot coverage for solar arrays  
14 within the Town of Burrillville at the time of project design restricts supporting a larger  
15 facility.

16 **Q14. Did the Petitioner choose to site two separate projects instead of one larger**  
17 **project in order to have each project fall under smaller-size project classifications**  
18 **under REG program?**

19 A. No. The size of each project reflects the local land development constraints to include  
20 property boundary setbacks and lot coverage maximums. Additionally, the nature of the  
21 currently existing trucking business on Parcel 1 (Lot 11) makes the dual-use nature of  
22 carport desirable whereas such use would not be feasible on Parcel 2 (Lot 12).

1 **Q15. Has financing been obtained and/or construction commenced for the CRDG**  
2 **Commercial facility? If so, when did it occur? If not, what is the schedule for**  
3 **obtaining financing and commencing construction?**

4 A. Financing has not yet been obtained nor has construction commenced. Hexagon is  
5 anticipating financing to be obtained between Q4 2020 and Q1 2021. Hexagon  
6 anticipates construction to commence in Q2 2021.

7 **Q16. Please identify the number of customers enrollments that Superior Solar has**  
8 **secured.**

9 A. Hexagon has not yet begun enrolling National Grid subscribers for Superior Solar.

10 **Q17. Identify which class Superior Solar bid into and which class Semistream Solar**  
11 **intends to bid into.**

12 A. Semistream Solar intends to bid into the Commercial-Scale Solar (251-999 kW DC) +  
13 Solar Carport Incentive (Parcel 1). Superior Solar bid into, and was awarded a certificate  
14 of eligibility in, the CRDG Commercial Solar (251-999 kW DC) (Parcel 2).

15 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

16 Yes.

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