Inn by the River
c/o Freda Hollyer
223 Mill Street
Hardwick, VT 05843

TO: Persons and Entities Entitled to Notice Pursuant to Public Utility Commission Rule 5.106(C) (See Enclosed List)

RE: Inn by the River, owner Freda Hollyer, Proposed Net-Metered Solar Project in Hardwick, VT 45-Day Notice of Application to be filed with Vermont Public Utility Commission.

DATE: November 25, 2020

Dear Interested Persons and Entities,

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 8010 and 248 and Public Utility Commission Rule 5.106(C), Inn by the River and owner, Freda Hollyer, are pleased to submit the following pre-application notice concerning its proposed 34.22kW group net-metered solar project ("the Project"), to be sited on the property of Inn by the River located off Route 15 in Hardwick, Vermont.

I. Introduction

Inn by the River is preparing to file an application for a Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") with the Vermont Public Utility Commission ("Commission"), requesting approval to install and operate a 34.22kW solar electric generation facility in Hardwick, Vermont (the "Project"). Inn by the River is developing this group net-metering project on a "Preferred Site" under Commission Rule 5.103 (No. 9) because more than 50% the electrical output will be used on the host parcel and directly adjacent parcels.

The Project will be a group net-metered facility interconnected to the Hardwick Electric Department electric distribution system and will produce power to offset the electricity requirements of its group members.

The remainder of this letter briefly describes: (1) Inn by the River's plans for construction and operation of the Project, including how equipment and materials will be transported to the site; (2) expected benefits of the Project; (3) a preliminary assessment of impacts; (4) the expected date an application will be filed with the Commission; and (5) the rights of persons and entities receiving this notice to comment on the Project in accordance with Commission Rule 5.106(C).

II. Project Description and Construction Plans

The Project will be located on the land located at 223 Mill Street in Hardwick, Vermont. See Location Map and Site Plan, Attachment A.

The Hollyer's chose the site based upon its solar exposure, accessibility to existing roads and distribution lines, and its minimal impacts on natural resources and the character of the area. The proposed Project site is suitable for solar installation as it is uneven and currently unsuitable to develop for business purposes.

To the best of our knowledge, the Project parcels are not subject to any Act 250 land use permits.

The attached site plan represents the current preferred layout. The final layout to be applied for may vary somewhat based upon further engineering, environmental, and other siting considerations. However, the final layout will fall within the overall site area where environmental and other impacts have been evaluated for the purposes of this 45-day notice.

The basic parameters of the site plan include the following working assumptions:

• The parcel on which the solar site will be located can be accessed by Mill Street via an existing driveway with limited or no improvements required.

• Construction will be performed in accordance with the Vermont Standards & Specifications for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control (2006).

• Year-round daily access to the array is not required. No on-site septic or water supply systems will be constructed. The solar Project's energy production will be monitored remotely and, if any abnormal conditions are detected, technicians will be dispatched as required.

Site Access & Equipment Delivery

Standardized trucking methods will be used to transport the panels and other Project components (e.g. racking, wire, conduit, and construction materials) to the site. Typical enclosed trailer/box truck vehicles and/or pick-up trucks will be used to transport materials to the site for construction. The Project will not require any oversized loads. The Inn's existing parking lot will be used for bringing in and storing all construction-related equipment and machinery.

Construction equipment will likely include a post-pounding machine, small excavator with drilling attachments for securing the ground screws/trenching back to the business for underground electrical wiring.

Solar Panels and Electrical Collection System

The Project will consist of approximately 116 solar modules mounted on fixed metal racks; micro inverters; electrical conductor system components consisting of underground conduit, wire, AC combiner panel, and AC disconnects. The system disconnect and AC Combiner panel will be located on the array racking while upgraded service equipment and main disconnect will be located on a pedestal within 10ft of the utility pole. The Project will interconnect with Hardwick Electric Department's existing distribution lines existing or upgraded meters and potentially upgraded transformer (to be determined by Hardwick Electric Department).

The Project solar panels will be mounted at a fixed angle of 30 (±) degrees to maximize solar collection. The bottom of the solar panels will be at approximately three feet above existing grade and the top at approximately 16 feet above grade.

The system will be split into 3 smaller arrays, each comprised of approximately 4 rows running east-to-west. Electrical collector lines within the solar array will be primarily installed below ground to a combiner panel on the side of the racking, which will combine the total aggregate output of all the module level microinverters into a single combined output circuit.

From the AC Combiner panel, an unfused disconnect will be installed, then out of the unfused disconnect the electrical service will be run underground to the pedestal located within 10ft of the utility. On the pedestal will be mounted a fused disconnect and solar meter. The electrical interconnect will take place with a tap within the upgraded electrical service located on that pedestal.

The final selection of all equipment will be made after a CPG is issued and contractors and vendors are selected.

III. Project Benefits

The Project will provide several benefits to Hardwick and the state, including but not be limited to:

- Energy cost savings for net-metering group members.
- Payment of state educational and municipal property taxes.
- Purchasing equipment from Vermont businesses, when commercially feasible.
- Employing Vermont businesses for pre-application, construction, and operation and maintenance work, when commercially feasible.

In addition to these economic benefits, the proposed solar electric facility will also result in important environmental benefits. The 2016 Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan set a goal for the State to receive 90% of its energy from renewable resources by the year 2050, and solar power is needed to meet that goal. The solar energy produced by this Project will result in less electricity needed in the New England region from plants that likely use fossil fuel or nuclear energy. It will emit no air pollutants (including CO2) in generating electricity, and thus could help in a small but measurable way to reduce global climate change, acid rain, and the negative public health effects associated with the use of fossil fuel and the waste storage challenges presented by nuclear energy production.

IV. Preliminary Impact Assessment

Based upon Inn by the River's initial review including the use of the State's environmental databases, the Project will not cause undue adverse impacts to environmental resources and will not create public health or safety concerns. Key elements include the following:

- The Project will be located inside of a river corridor. Although the current solar array location is acceptable based on Appendix A of the Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Protection Procedure (2017).
- The Project will apply for a Flood Hazard & River Corridor General Permit based on the Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Rule.
- The Project will be designed to meet electric safety and utility interconnection standards for safe and reliable operation of solar electric facilities.
- The Project will require no new municipal services and will not pose undue burdens on town fire, police, or water/sewer services. The Project will not impact the ability of the town to provide educational services.

V. Expected Petition Filing Date with Vermont Public Utility Commission

Inn by the River and Ms. Hollyer intend to file a Section 8010 application and supporting materials with the PUC soon after the 45-day notice period expires, approximately January 9, 2020.

VI. Comments and Inquiries Concerning the Project

At this juncture, if you have any questions or comments concerning the Project please feel free to contact us as follows:

Paul Lesure, President
Green Mountain Solar
96 Commerce Street
Williston, VT 05495

(802) 369-9149

info@greenmtnsolar.com

On behalf of Inn by the River and Ms. Hollyer, we hope that you will support this Project, given the benefits it will provide to net-metering customers, the town, and the state, and given its extremely limited impacts. You will have an opportunity to file comments with the Public Utility Commission once the application for a certificate of public good is filed. In the meantime, I invite you to contact me with any questions or comments you have, as we welcome your input and suggestions to make this a successful project.

Sincerely,

Paul Lesure, General Manager
Green Mountain Solar
info@greenmtnsolar.com

Enclosures:

List of Persons and Entities Receiving Notice

Attachment A – Location Map, Site Plan Mowery/Gilman – Proposed Solar Project in Bethel, VT

List of Persons and Entities Receiving 45-Day Notice of the Application

By ePUC:

Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street, 4th floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701
(1 hard copy via first class mail)

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Hardwick Electric Department
P.O. Box 516
Hardwick, VT 05843

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
1 National Life Drive, # 6
Montpelier, VT 05620

Vermont Public Service Department
Commissioner's Office
112 State Street, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Secretary's Office
1 National Life Dr., Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

By Certified Mail:

Town of Hardwick
Selectboard
PO Box 523
Hardwick, VT 05843

Town of Hardwick
Planning Commission
PO Box 523
Hardwick, VT 05843

Northeastern Vermont Development Association
PO Box 630
Saint Johnsbury, VT 05819

Adjoining Landowners (by certified mail)

Inn by the River
223 Mill Street
Hardwick, VT 05843

April Christensen
PO Box 98
East Hardwick, VT
05836

Gail Leblanc and Elaine Farr
PO Box 563
Hardwick, VT 05843

Todd and Susan Holmes
173 Glenside Ave
Hardwick, VT 05843

Vermont State of Agency of Transportation
National Life Building
Drawer 33
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001

D&R Family Properties LLC
PO Box 169
Johnson, VT 05656

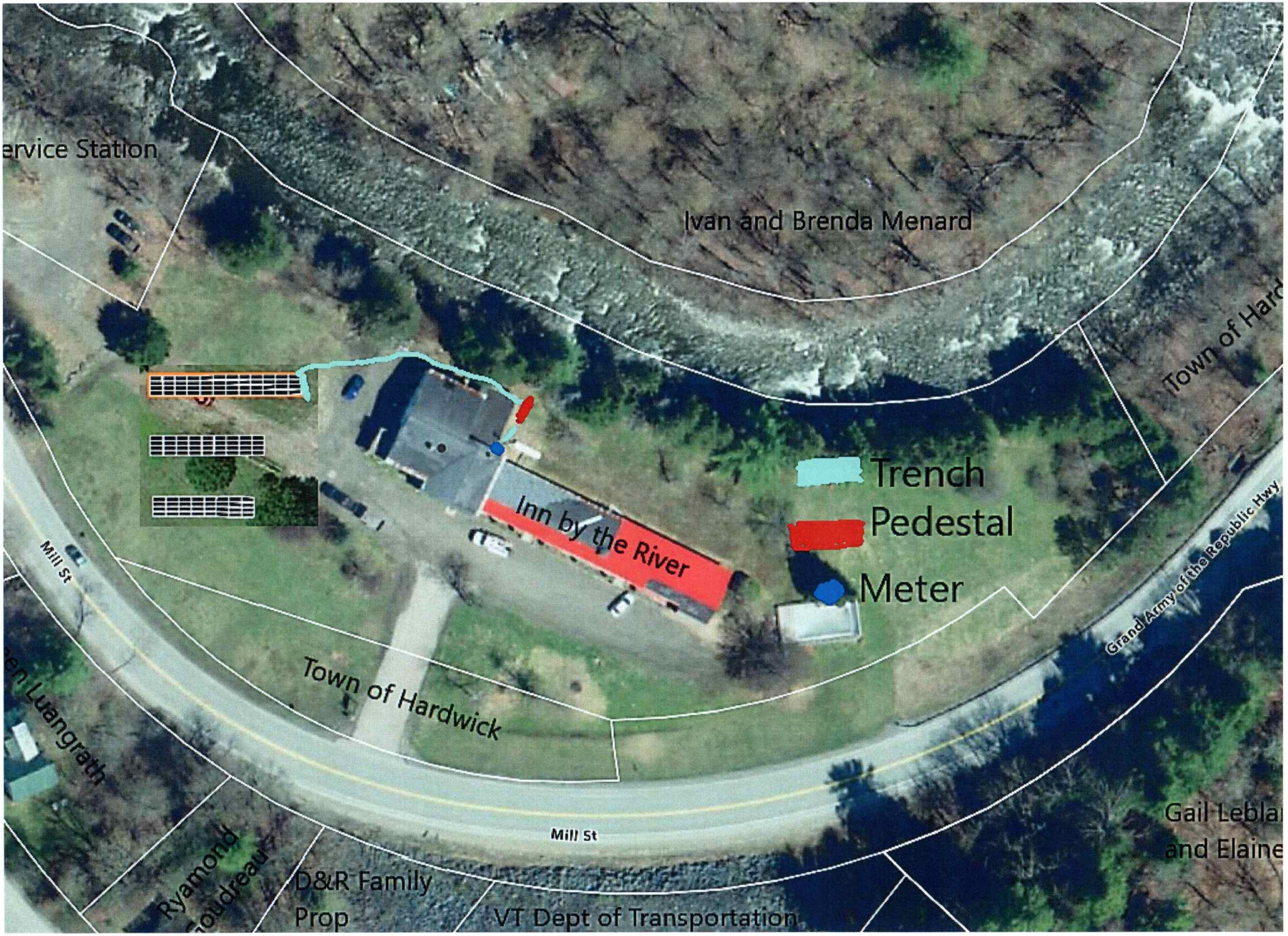
Raymond Goudreau
105 Glenside Ave
Hardwick, VT 05843

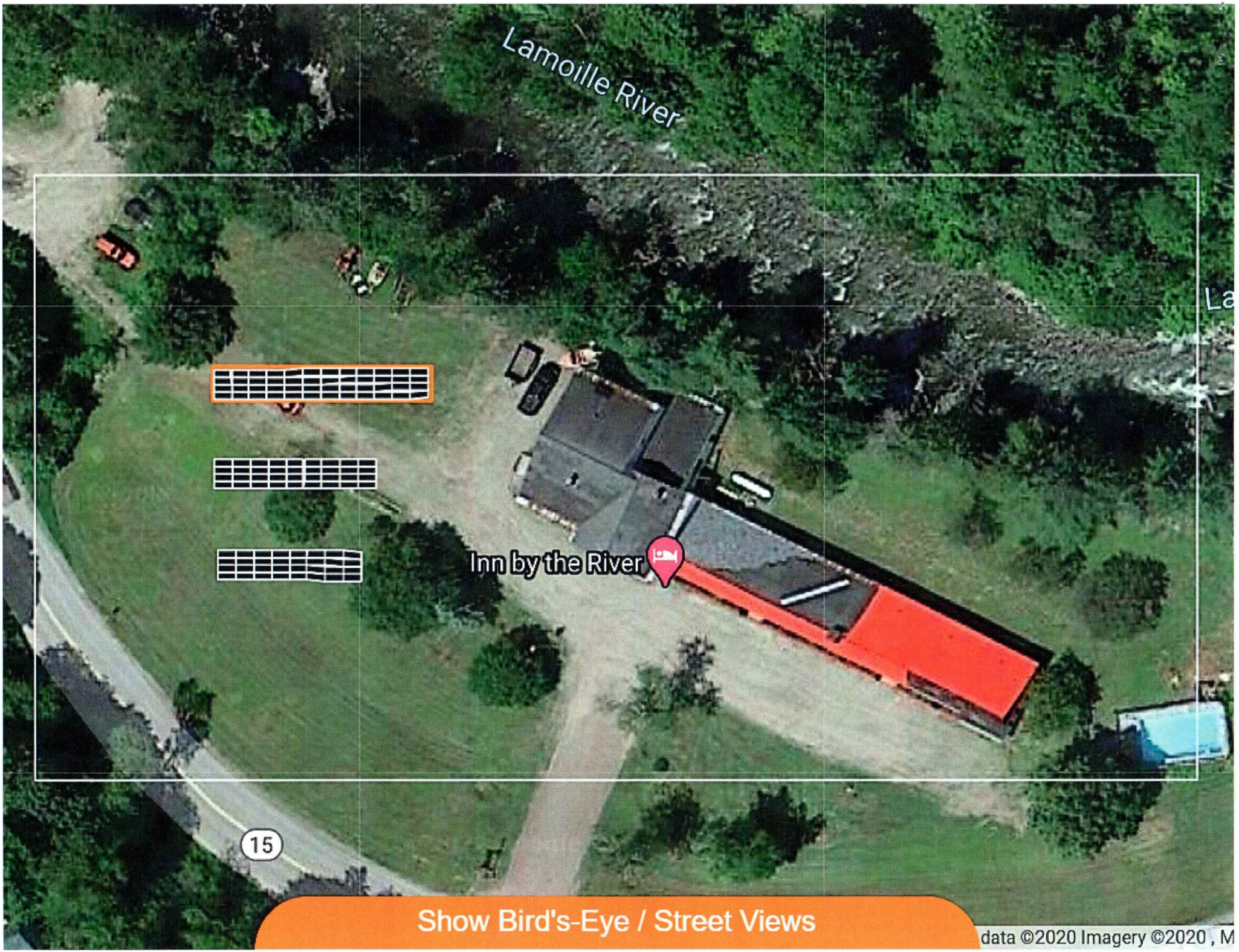
Kareen Luangrath
PO Box 812
Hardwick, VT 05843

Town of Hardwick
PO Box 523
Hardwick, VT 05843

Hay's Service Station Inc
PO Box 322
Hardwick, VT 05843

Ivan and Brenda Menard
PO Box 1274
Hardwick, VT 05843


ervice Station
Ivan and Brenda Menard
Town of Hard
Trench
Pedestal
Meter
Inn by the River
Mill St
Grand Army of the Republic Hwy
Town of Hardwick
en Luangrath
Mill St
Gail Leblan
and Elaine
Ryamond
oudreau
D&R Family
Prop
VT Dept of Transportation


Lamoille River
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Show Bird's-Eye / Street Views
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