

STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Petition of Vermont Department of Public Service to open )  
an investigation pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 30, 209, 247, 248 )  
and 8010 into the manner in which SolarCity Corporation )  
conducts its business in Vermont )

**PETITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
FOR INVESTIGATION OF SOLARCITY CORPORATION**

The Vermont Department of Public Service (“DPS” or “Department”), by its Director for Public Advocacy and undersigned attorney, hereby petitions the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“PUC” or “Commission”) for an investigation into certain activities of SolarCity Corporation (“SolarCity”). In particular the Department has information indicating that SolarCity has constructed electric generating facilities in Vermont without approval by the PUC as required by Vermont law.

1. Petitioner Department of Public Service is the statutory public advocate, charged with supervising and directing the execution of all laws relating to utility facilities and service. 30 V.S.A. § 2.
2. SolarCity Corporation is a company doing business in Vermont, engaged in the business of selling and installing photovoltaic electric generating systems, also known as net metering systems. As such it is subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 203, 209, 248 and 8010, and PUC Rule 5.100.
3. SolarCity engages in the marketing and installation of photovoltaic systems for net metering by residential customers in Vermont. These systems meet the statutory definition of “net metering systems.” 30 V.S.A. § 8002(16).
4. Net metering systems are subject to the provisions of 30 V.S.A. §§ 248 and 8010, and pursuant to those statutes require approval by the PUC prior to beginning construction of such facilities.
5. Depending on size, net metering systems may obtain PUC approval by registration or by application. PUC Rule 5.100.
6. SolarCity promotes itself as a “full service solar company” and represents to customers that it will take care of obtaining permits on their behalf.

7. In a number of cases Solar City has installed net metering facilities on behalf of customers without obtaining PUC approval, i.e. without filing the required registration or application forms with the Commission.
8. Net metering systems installed by SolarCity on behalf of customers are currently operating without the regulatory approvals required by Vermont law. 30 V.S.A. §§248, 8010.

Wherefore, the Department of Public Service respectfully requests that the Public Utility Commission:

(a) open an investigation pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 30, 209, 247, 248 and 8010 into the manner in which SolarCity Corporation conducts its business in Vermont, specifically with respect to its marketing, installation, and permitting of net metering systems, and

(b) promptly schedule a prehearing conference to identify issues and set a schedule for investigation of SolarCity's activities as described above, and

(c) impose penalties as shown to be warranted after investigation and opportunity for hearing, and

(d) grant such other and further legal and equitable relief as the Commission deems appropriate.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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