# RESOLUTION CONFIRMING SEQR DETERMINATION CLEARPATH ENERGY LLC (ZEHR) PROJECT

A regular meeting of County of Lewis Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") was convened in public session at the Lewis County Jefferson Community College Education Center located at 7395 East Road in the Town of Lowville, Lewis County, New York on July 1, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., local time.

The meeting was called to order by the (Vice) Chairman of the Agency and, upon roll being called, the following members of the Agency were:

# PRESENT:

Joe Lawrence Gagan Singh

Gagan Singh Ronald Burns Tom Gillette

McKenzie Lehman Darlene Rowsam Chairman

Vice Chairman Member

Member Member

Member

### ABSENT:

Jerry Cayer

Member

# AGENCY STAFF PRESENT INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

**Brittany Davis** 

Executive Director of Economic Development

Cheyenne Steria

Director of Finance and Incentives Economic Development Specialist

Jenna Kraeger Kevin McArdle, Esq.

Agency Counsel

A. Joseph Scott, III, Esq.

Special Agency Counsel

The following resolution was offered by McKenzie Lehman, seconded by Darlene Rowsam, to wit:

Resolution No. 0721-04

RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE DETERMINATION BY TOWN OF NEW BREMEN TOWN BOARD, AS LEAD AGENCY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE CLEARPATH ENERGY LLC PROPOSED PROJECT.

WHEREAS, County of Lewis Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") is authorized and empowered by the provisions of Chapter 1030 of the 1969 Laws of New York, constituting Title 1 of Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law, Chapter 24 of the Consolidated Laws of New York, as amended (the "Enabling Act") and Chapter 62 of the 1973 Laws of New York, as amended, constituting Section 902 of said General Municipal Law (said Chapter and the Enabling Act being hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Act") to promote, develop, encourage and assist in the acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, improving, maintaining, equipping and furnishing of commercial facilities, among others, for the purpose of promoting, attracting and developing economically sound commerce and industry to advance the job opportunities, health, general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of the State of New York, to improve their prosperity and standard of living, and to prevent unemployment and economic deterioration; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish its stated purposes, the Agency is authorized and empowered under the Act to acquire, construct and install one or more "projects" (as defined in the Act) or to cause said projects to be acquired, constructed and installed, and to convey said projects or to lease said projects with the obligation to purchase; and

WHEREAS, ClearPath Energy LLC, a State of Delaware limited liability company (the "Company"), submitted an application (the "Application") to the Agency, a copy of which Application is on file at the office of the Agency, requesting that the Agency consider undertaking a project (the "Project") for the benefit of the Company, said Project consisting of the following: (A) (1) the acquisition of an interest in a portion of an approximately 186.80 acre parcel of land located at 7057 Brewery Road (tax map no. 147.00-01-22.100) in the Town of New Bremen, Lewis County, New York (the "Land"), (2) the construction on the Land of an approximately 3 MW ground-mounted solar energy generating facility, related access, security and utility infrastructure (collectively, the "Facility") and (3) the acquisition and installation therein and thereon of related fixtures, machinery, equipment and other personal property (the "Equipment"), all of the foregoing to constitute a solar energy generating facility to be owned and operated by the Company (the Land, Facility and the Equipment being collectively referred to as the "Project Facility"); (B) the granting of certain "financial assistance" (within the meaning of Section 854(14) of the Act) with respect to the foregoing, including potential exemptions from certain sales and use taxes, real property taxes, real estate transfer taxes and mortgage recording taxes (collectively, the "Financial Assistance"); and (C) the lease (with an obligation to purchase) or sale of the Project Facility to the Company or such other person as may be designated by the Company and agreed upon by the Agency; and

WHEREAS, by resolution adopted by the members of the Agency on July 1, 2021 (the "Public Hearing Resolution"), the Agency authorized a public hearing to be held pursuant to Section 859-a of the Act with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, Chapter 43-B of the Consolidated Laws of New York, as amended (the "SEQR Act") and the regulations (the "Regulations") adopted pursuant thereto by the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York (collectively with the SEQR Act, "SEQRA"), the Agency has been informed that (1) the Town of New Bremen Town Board (the "Town Board") was designated to act as "lead agency" with respect to the Project, and (2) the Town Board issued a Determination of Non Significance on December 18, 2020 (the "Negative Declaration"), attached hereto as Exhibit A, determining that the acquisition, construction and installation of the Project Facility will not have a "significant effect on the environment"; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is an "involved agency" with respect to the Project and the Agency now desires to concur in the determination by the Town Board, as "lead agency" with respect to the Project, to acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Negative Declaration and to indicate whether the Agency has any information to suggest that the Town Board was incorrect in determining that the Project will not have a "significant effect on the environment" pursuant to SEQRA and, therefore, that no environmental impact statement need be prepared with respect to the Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF COUNTY OF LEWIS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Agency has received copies of, and has reviewed, the Application, the environmental assessment form and the Negative Declaration (collectively, the "Reviewed Documents") and, based upon said Reviewed Documents, the Agency hereby ratifies and concurs in the designation of the Town Board as "lead agency" with respect to the Project under SEQRA (as such quoted term is defined in SEQRA).

Section 2. The Agency hereby determines that the Agency has no information to suggest that the Town Board was incorrect in determining that the Project will not have a "significant effect on the environment" pursuant to the SEQRA and, therefore, that environmental impact statement need not be prepared with respect to the Project (as such quoted phrase is used in SEQRA).

Section 3. The members of the Agency are hereby directed to notify the Town Board of the concurrence by the Agency that the Town Board shall be the "lead agency" with respect to the Project, and to further indicate to the Town Board that the Agency has no information to suggest that the Town Board was incorrect in its determinations contained in the Negative Declaration.

# Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Joe Lawrence	VOTING	YES
Gagan Singh	VOTING	YES
Ronald Burns	VOTING	YES
Jerry Cayer	VOTING	ABSENT
Tom Gillette	VOTING	YES
McKenzie Lehman	VOTING	YES
Darlene Rowsam	VOTING	YES

The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

STATE OF NEW YORK	)
	) SS.:
COUNTY OF LEWIS	)

I, the undersigned (Assistant) Secretary of County of Lewis Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency"), DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the foregoing annexed extract of the minutes of the meeting of the members of the Agency, including the resolution contained therein, held on July 1, 2021 with the original thereof on file in my office, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original and of such resolution contained therein and of the whole of said original so far as the same relates to the subject matters therein referred to.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that (A) all members of the Agency had due notice of said meeting; (B) said meeting was in all respects duly held; (C) pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (the "Open Meetings Law"), said meeting was open to the general public, and due notice of the time and place of said meeting was duly given in accordance with such Open Meetings Law; and (D) there was a quorum of the members of the Agency present throughout said meeting.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that, as of the date hereof, the attached resolution is in full force and effect and has not been amended, repealed or rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Agency this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2021.

(Assistant) Secretary

(SEAL)

KRISTEN F. AUCTER Notary Public, State of New York Reg. No. 01AU6384577 Qualified in Lewis County Commission Expires 12/17/2022

# EXHIBIT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION - SEE ATTACHED -

01/29/2021 03:33 3153762576 TOWN OF NEW BREMEN

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Project: Ruly Saler Energy Proje Date: 12/15/2020

#### Full Environmental Assessment Form Part 3 - Evaluation of the Magnitude and Importance of Project Impacts and Determination of Significance

Part 3 provides the reasons in support of the determination of significance. The lead agency must complete Part 3 for every question in Part 2 where the impact has been identified as potentially moderate to large or where there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action will not, or may, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.

Based on the analysis in Part 3, the lead agency must decide whether to require an environmental impact statement to further assess the proposed action or whether available information is sufficient for the lead agency to conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse environmental impact. By completing the certification on the next page, the lead agency can complete its determination of significance.

# Reasons Supporting This Determination:

## To complete this section:

- Identify the impact based on the Part 2 responses and describe its magnitude. Magnitude considers factors such as severity, size or extent of an impact.
- Assess the importance of the impact. Importance relates to the geographic scope, duration, probability of the impact occurring, number of people affected by the impact and any additional environmental consequences if the impact were to occur.
- The assessment should take into consideration any design element or project changes.
- Repeat this process for each Part 2 question where the impact has been identified as potentially moderate to large or where there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action will not, or may, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.
- Provide the reason(s) why the impact may, or will not, result in a significant adverse environmental impact
- For Conditional Negative Declarations identify the specific condition(s) imposed that will modify the proposed action so that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result.
- Attach additional sheets, as needed.

Identify portions of EAF completed for this Project; Part 1

The Board foresess no sign with all NYS DEC regulation construction.	nificant adverse impacts ns (including those receiv	on the environment for this project because the applicant has assured the board that they will comply red on November 30, 2020 and December 1, 2020) and will work with NYS Ag & Markets prior to
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		+
-	D	
Determination of Significance - Type 1 and Unlisted Actions		
SEQR Status:	✓ Type I	Unlisted

Part 2

Part 3

Upon review of the information recorded on this EAF, as noted, plus this additional support information
and considering both the magnitude and importance of each identified potential impact, it is the conclusion of the as lead agency that:
A. This project will result in no significant adverse impacts on the environment, and, therefore, an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. Accordingly, this negative declaration is issued.
B. Although this project could have a significant adverse impact on the environment, that impact will be avoided or substantially mitigated because of the following conditions which will be required by the lead agency:
There will, therefore, be no significant adverse impacts from the project as conditioned, and, therefore, this conditioned negative declaration is issued. A conditioned negative declaration may be used only for UNLISTED actions (see 6 NYCRR 617.7(d)).
C. This Project may result in one or more significant adverse impacts on the environment, and an environmental impact statement must be prepared to further assess the impact(s) and possible mitigation and to explore alternatives to avoid or reduce those impacts. Accordingly, this positive declaration is issued.
Name of Action: Zahr Solar Energy Project - Site Plan Review Zoning Permit App 5-2020
Name of Lead Agency: Town of New Bremen
Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: Peter J. Keys
Title of Responsible Officer: Supervisor
Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: Date: 12/18/20
Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)
For Further Information:
Contact Person: Greg Hering - ClearPath Energy LLC
Address: 358 Chestrut Hill Avenue, Suite 302, Brighton, MA 02135
Telephone Number: 774-270-1936
E-mail:
For Type 1 Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a copy of this Notice is sent to:
Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the action will be principally located (e.g., Town / City / Village of) Other involved agencies (if any) Applicant (if any) Environmental Notice Bulletin: <a href="http://www.dec.ny.gov/cnb/cnb.html">http://www.dec.ny.gov/cnb/cnb.html</a>

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