

**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.

The Joint Town of Spencer/Village of Spencer Planning Board, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed Alve 3 - 2MWac Community Solar Photovoltaic Arrays project, as proposed by SUN8 PDC LLC, will not have a significant adverse environmental impact (NEGATIVE DECLARATION.)

This Solar project will be located on a fenced-in project site of approximately 38 acres of a 111 acre parent parcel of mostly upland marginal farmland, woodland and brush, about 1.9 miles West of the Village of Spencer on NYS Route 34. The project involves construction of three 2 MWac Solar Arrays consisting of 29,016 solar panels supported by metal frames with a custom ground-mount racking system, supported by driven or screw pilings. The configuration of the panels and support system will result in an actual ground contact of less than 1.5 square feet per panel and allow for a full grassy vegetative covering of the soil under the structure.

The project involves minimal changes in hydrology from pre to post development conditions. Installation of the solar panels will follow the natural contour of the land and no major earth work is expected. Any wetlands identified during a required engineering study will be avoided and not disturbed by construction or operation.

A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) incorporates erosion and sediment control measures to prevent sediment-laden storm water from leaving the project site. The hydrology of the site will not be modified by significant grading or creation of new impervious surfaces. Temporary erosion and sedimentation control measures will be used on this project during construction, including stabilized construction entrances, silt fences and temporary stabilization measures. An access road along the property boundary will be used for site access and will be improved with a pervious open stone section wearing surface.

The only excavation required will be for installation of underground electrical cable and a small base slabs for related electrical equipment needed to connect to the NYSEG system. Disturbed areas of the project site will require preparation of the soil to allow the establishment of a permanent sod cover, seeded with a grass mixture that will provide a permanent dense sod to reduce runoff. The fenced-in grassed area will be used as pasture for a flock of sheep that will graze and maintain the vegetation, eliminating the need for chemical weed control.

About a third of the project area is within 1500 feet of the SVE High School, across the NYS RT 34 highway. Noise from construction equipment should not be significantly more than ambient highway traffic noise or noise from agricultural equipment.

**Determination of Significance - Type 1 and Unlisted Actions**

SEQR Status:  Type 1  Unlisted

Identify portions of EAF completed for this Project:  Part 1  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 JOINT TOWN OF SPENCER/VILLAGE OF SPENCER PLANNING BOARD 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.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: Alve 3 - 2MWac Community Solar Photovoltaic Arrays

Name of Lead Agency: Joint Town of Spencer/Village of Spencer Planning Board

Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: Michael Roy

Title of Responsible Officer: Chairman

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: *Michael Roy* Date: 1/23/2017

Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer) John G. Whitcomb *John G. Whitcomb* Date: 1/23/2017

**For Further Information:**

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**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: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/enb.html>

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