1. Height. *You say that the solar panels will not exceed 9 feet 10 inches but I didn't see anything in there about buildings. Is that because the solar panels are the tallest infrastructure on the site? Just want to make sure the buildings are under 30 feet which I don't expect to be a problem.*

   Response: The proposed solar panels, noted above, will be the tallest infrastructure on the site. The proposed equipment (one (1) transformer and two (2) inverters) would be located on the equipment pads and would be less than the panel height. Components installed on the equipment pads would have a maximum height of six (6) to eight (8)-feet. There are no buildings proposed as part of the Project.

2. Glare. *The project isn't in the Airport Overlay but I didn't see anything specifically about minimizing glare to Riverside Drive or abutting properties. The buffers are well-established and I don't see this being an issue but can you just confirm?*

   Response: The solar panels are designed to absorb light instead of reflect light; minimizing glare. Additionally, the solar panels are at an inclined angle to sun and not in-line with ground level receptor. There is a significant mature vegetated buffer on southern end of parcel to further reduce potential glare on abutting properties. The panels will be oriented and inclined south, away from Riverside Drive, and thus would not project glare toward Riverside Drive.

3. Lighting. *The application materials say that no lighting is proposed, what about safety lighting for the buildings? Can you explain a little bit about what that will look like?*

   Response: There are no buildings proposed as part of the Project. The solar array will be fenced-in with locked gates and no on-site personnel is required. Therefore, no lighting is proposed.

4. Decommissioning. *I didn't see a cost-estimate for the decommissioning. Is this something you could provide?*

   Response: In developing the proposed amount of the decommissioning surety, Nexamp utilized recent decommissioning cost estimates from J & J Construction, one of New England's largest site development contractors. No salvage value is included. In addition to the decommissioning cost, Nexamp has included a five (5) percent contingency. A summary of the analysis is provided below:

Auburn Renewables Solar Capacity:	6.8	MW DC

Decommissioning Cost (No Salvage Value)	$	90,780
5% Contingency	$	4,540
Total Decommissioning Cost	**$**	**95,320**

5. Clearing. *This one is a little bit tricky because the standards created are vague to give the PB some leeway based on specific projects. The Application says you're proposing to clear 16.63 acres for construction/operation of the project. There are 27.30 acres of open field area existing now that you are proposing to occupy as well, minimizing the amount of clearing necessary.*

    - Is there a way to provide a breakdown of the thought-process behind how the solar installation was sited where it was? For example, there are prime soils on the site, you're clearing forestland and disturbing some of those prime soils. You state that you have minimized the amount of required clearing to the extent practicable by siting the project in existing, maintained open field habitat (which is not prime soil area). Can you explain how clearing will be limited to what is necessary for construction, operation and maintenance of the solar array and whether or not that clearing has the potential to open up prime soil areas?

Response: Nexamp designed the Project to utilize the existing open field area to the extent practicable. Areas to be cleared for operation of the Project were determined based on the Helios3D shading analysis and a treefall setback zone. The Helios3D shading analysis determines areas that require clearing for the Project to achieve the solar capture necessary to meet the Project objective, and the treefall line identifies trees that need to be removed to protect the solar array equipment from damage from falling trees. The Project design limits tree clearing to those areas required for installing the solar array, shade management, and treefall protection.

Approximately 0.49 acres of USDA NRCS Prime Farmland soils (AdB, Agawam fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes) would be cleared and has the potential to open up prime soil areas. This 0.49-acre area is located outside of the 100-foot stream buffer and will expand the existing field area in the northwest portion of the parcel.

6. How much grading is proposed to take place? You say the open field habitat will be restored to pre-construction grassed conditions following construction, is there a significant amount of grading needed to sink the posts for the panels?

Response: Grading for the Project is minimal. The panels will be mounted on metal rails supported by fixed vertical three (3)-inch diameter, screw driven piles; in some areas, screws, rock pins, ballasts, or other anchoring technologies may be used in lieu of posts (depending on site conditions). Existing topography will be maintained with the exception of an approximate one (1)- acre area depicted on the grading plan sheet C-300. The slope in this area will be reduced to accommodate panel installation. Minimal disturbance may also be necessary during restoration to loosen soils along existing topography for seeding and restoration. Also please note that stumps will remain in the ground within areas cleared five (5)-feet beyond the perimeter fence. In other words, only shrub and tree-cleared areas inside the fence, and five (5)-feet outside the fence will be grubbed.

7. I think this is assumed but where I didn't see it specifically mentioned I just wanted to make sure that the infrastructure will be installed in accordance with the NFPA and National Electrical Codes?

Response: Nexamp confirms that the infrastructure will be installed in accordance with the NFPA and National Electrical Codes.

8. The ordinance requires the least productive soils be considered first for solar. Thought process behind this? Why not more clearing to protect the prime farmland? Since there is non prime-farmland available on the site.

Response: In addition to local permitting, Nexamp is required to obtain state and federal permits for the Project. Standards and development requirements vary from agency to agency, resulting in development restrictions where the applicant may be left “threading the needle”. While local ordinances request protection of prime farmland, state and federal agencies require minimization of tree removal in an effort to preserve wildlife habitat and reduce ecological disturbance. Financial considerations are also part of the development balance, where Nexamp engineers design the array layout to maximize solar capturing irradiance. Designers will take advantage of optimal south-facing slopes requiring limited disturbance (e.g. clearing, grading). Various agency standards in combination with development requirements are often competing factors taken into consideration of design sequencing. Additional site-specific

constraints for clearing on the Project parcel include the riparian buffer and wetland areas regulated under the State of Maine Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA).

9. Prime Soils. The ordinance requires least productive soils be considered first. I see the prime soils are identified as AdB and EmB and it does not appear as though the solar panels themselves will be located on these soils. However, there will be disturbance/clearing in areas where there are prime soils. Do you happen to know how much prime soil will be disturbed? It looks like about 5 acres of the total site are comprised of prime soil areas but not all 5 acres are proposed to be disturbed during installation.

Response: Approximately 0.3-acre of the Prime Farmland soil type EmB (Elmwood fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent) underlies the Project access road where the existing access to the property is located (see grading sheet C-300). No change of use within this affected EmB soil type is anticipated from construction or operation of the Project.

Approximately 4.8 acres of the Prime Farmland soil type AdB (Agawam fine sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes) underlies the Project area. The Project components proposed within the AdB soil type are depicted on the grading plan sheet C-300. No Project components or disturbance are located within the AdB soil type on the portion of the parcel south of the Central Maine Power Line (grading sheet C-301).

Impacts in areas of EmB and AdB soils include installation of solar panels, installation of screw driven support posts, disturbance from construction equipment, and restoration activities including scarification as needed to establish meadow conditions post-construction. The small area of proposed grading to reduce slope depicted on the grading plan sheet C-300 is not located within Prime Farmland soils. Additionally, as described in Section 9.E. of Nexamp's application (Topsoil Maintenance), soils under the panels are not proposed to be degraded or removed from the Project site.

10. Can you provide a brief explanation for the PB about how you are trying to keep with existing contours of land in siting this project.

Response: The Project will maintain the existing contours of the land with the exception of the area noted above (1 acre). Nexamp's site selection criteria includes identifying sites where existing topography is level to gently sloping (slopes less than 13 percent), to minimize the amount of grading required to install a particular Project. Topography at the 1115 Riverside site is conducive to installing the array with only the minimal cut and fill proposed on grading sheet C-300. See attached picture for an example of a previous Nexamp project built to the existing contours.

11. I did not see a Vegetative Cover Plan. Vegetation removal, replanting, topsoil maintenance, etc. are discussed in detail throughout the application which I've highlighted in the Staff Report. I'm not sure where this is the first solar project in the Ag-Zone if the PB will want to see a specific vegetative cover plan to set the precedent. The only requirements for this plan is that it demonstrates (where feasible) the replanting of areas disturbed during construction, which I think you have demonstrated throughout the application.

Response: Nexamp has compiled the post-construction restoration and operational maintenance information provided in its Application into a comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan, provided under separate cover.

12. We did receive some comments from the Fire Prevention Officer:

- A vegetation Management Plan or noncombustible base needs to be added. Has a vegetation management plan been submitted? If not what will the surface be finished with? This is to prevent forest fires from damaging the system, or the system causing a forest fire. Damage from weeds and plants can also cause damage to the photovoltaic system, which in turn could create a fire. **11.12.3.2*** Vegetation Management Plan. A vegetation management plan or noncombustible base acceptable to the AHJ shall be approved and maintained under and around the installation where required by the AHJ (Authority having Jurisdiction).

  Response: Nexamp is providing a Vegetation Management Plan with this transmittal. The base underneath the solar panels will be grassed meadow, which will be maintained to ensure growth stays lows to ensure optimal operation of the system and avoid interference with the equipment.

- Clearance around the installation shall be 10 ft.

  Response: Clearance between the end of the panels and the Facility fence is approximately 20 feet and a minimum of five (5) feet will be maintained (mowed) outside the fence. Beyond the area mowed outside of the fence, Nexamp will maintain a treefall protection area where trees will be thinned or removed as needed to avoid tree damage to the Facility.

- Road access is too narrow (15 ft), requires 20 ft. If there was a forest fire we would not be able to gain access to the site. Also the road would need to support our vehicles.

  Response: See recent correspondence from Mr. O'Connell.

  A turnaround or hammerhead would be required. **18.2.3.5.4** Dead Ends. Dead-end fire department access roads in excess of 150 ft (46 m) in length shall be provided with approved provisions for the fire apparatus to turn around.

  Response: See recent correspondence from Mr. O'Connell.

13. And the Code Officer:

- Large-Scale (PV) Power Production Facilities is covered under the National Electrical Code Article 691 and requires a engineered designed. Will the project have plans submitted by an electrical PE? Yes
- Who is the PE/ firm providing the electrical drawings? The PE/firm providing electrical drawings have not been selected for the Project at this time.
- All applicable sections of the NEC shall be followed including listing/marking of all solar equipment Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). Nexamp confirms the Project will follow applicable sections of NEC.
- Who is the installing electrical contractor? The installing electrical contractor has not yet been selected for the Project.

Response: Nexamp has not selected the Maine Licensed PE or electrical contractor for the Project at this time. Electrical plans will be stamped by Maine licensed professional engineer and fully-licensed electrical contractor to operate in the State of Maine.