

**Witness:** Marc Bergeron

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**Question:**

EFSB-SS-1 Refer to Exh. MS-1, at 18. The Company ruled out Candidate Site 2, citing only the lack of previously developed areas as the reason. While the Preferred Site was formerly a junk yard, it appears that the proposed BESS layout is located largely on an undeveloped and forested area within the Project parcel. Based on the above, elaborate on the advantage of the Preferred Site over Candidate Site 2.

**Response:**

As shown on Attachment EFSB-SS-1(1), large portions of Candidate Site 2 are identified as Farmland of Statewide Importance. Per the Company's response to EFSB-LU-4, construction on the Preferred Site would result in the removal of existing early successional forest within the southeast corner of the Project Site; however, a review of aerial photographs publicly available through MassGIS data layers show that this entire forested portion had been previously disturbed and was clear cut and devoid of trees in 2001. On the other hand, forested portions of Candidate Site 2 have not been previously disturbed, other than for agricultural purposes, in this same time frame. The additional advantage of the Preferred Site over Candidate Site 2, beyond reuse of former junk yard, is that construction of a BESS project on the Preferred Site would not result in a loss of Farmland of Statewide Importance as would be the case with Candidate Site 2.