

**Petition 1056: GRE 314 East Lyme LLC
East Lyme, Connecticut**

Responses to Development and Management Plan Questions

August 15, 2013

1. Q: The site plan (SP drawing series) shows a cul-de-sac and a conservation easement extending into the solar field area. Please explain these features and indicate if the total number of solar panels for the project has changed.

A: There are certain property easements that need to be avoided during the development of the solar project due to the prior permitting of a residential subdivision. Part of the residential subdivision remains, and as a result, the cul-de-sac must also remain. As a result, the total number of solar panels for the project has decreased slightly by nearly 1,000 panels. Despite decreasing the total panels in the project from 17,842 to 16,874, the total anticipated output of the project remains unchanged. The reason for this is that solar technology continues to improve, and the panels that are now being selected for the solar project will allow for a lower number of panels to achieve the same energy output in this revised configuration.

2. Q: Several Drawing series (SP, EC) depict the construction access road extending from Walnut Hill Road. Is it possible to re-locate the construction access to the existing driveway extending from #40 Grassy Hill Road? (refer to Council Decision and Order Item 1f)

A: The construction access, as well as final access can, and will, be relocated so that it extends from 40 Grassy Hill Road. This relocation of the construction access is now shown on the enclosed revisions to Drawings SP-2 and EC-2, and this is the anticipated construction access route for the project. The Siting Council should be aware, however, that the overhead electrical line from the solar project will remain at the Walnut Hill Road location, due to interconnection requirements. As a result, there will be some clearing and grading to allow for this interconnection, but there will not be an access road from Walnut Hill Road to the project.

3. Q: Can the berm located in the southeast corner of the project area be reduced in height or pulled back from the adjacent property line?

A: Unfortunately, this slope cannot be reduced in height, nor can the berm be pulled away from the adjacent property line. This area needs to be graded with relatively flat contours with appropriate clearances to be usable for the solar project. Any diminution in height or adjustment away from the property lines will not allow for proper clearances.

4. Q: Can trees and/or shrubs be planted along the fence line on the east side of the project area where it abuts residences?

A: A variety of shrubs, evergreen and deciduous trees are contemplated for where the project abuts nearby homes. These plantings are detailed in the revisions to the Landscape Plan (Drawings LL-0 through LL-4), which are included with these responses.

5. Q: Please submit a copy of the bat study conducted at the site (bulk file if necessary). Were there any concerns regarding bat species on the property?

A: A Pre-Construction Bat Risk Assessment was completed on May 18, 2013 by D. Scott Reynolds, Ph.D. of North East Ecological Services. A copy of that Assessment is enclosed with these responses for the Siting Council's review.

6. Q: Please indicate the significance of the solar panels marked with hatching on Sheet SE -1.

A: The hatching indicates that a specific panel type will be used on a portion of this project. That panel type is specifically indicated on Note #1 on Drawing PV-2A of the original D&M Plan submission.

7. Q: When does GRE intend to commence construction? Does GRE intend to cease construction activities at sunset if no work area lighting is planned?

A: GRE intends to begin constructing the project as soon as it receives approval from the Siting Council of its D&M Plan. GRE believes that it has all other permits and approvals necessary to begin construction of the solar project. GRE will cease construction activities at sunset, since no work lighting is planned for the construction of this project.