

**Petition No. 1310A
Connecticut Siting Council
Late-Filed Exhibits**

January 28, 2020

- a) Provide a sign affidavit.

Company's Response:

A notarized sign affidavit is attached.

- b) Indicate whether or not the Collector Substation is included in the decommissioning plan under Exhibit K of the Petition, and if not, provide relevant information on the topic

Company's Response:

At the end of the Project life, all Project equipment, including the Collector Substation, will be removed in accordance with the Decommissioning Plan in Exhibit K.

- c) Indicate whether the power purchase agreements (PPAs) allow any flexibility in the AC MW capacity of the project in the event that the size of the project is altered during the permitting process.

Company's Response:

The power purchase agreements (PPAs) allow up to ten percent (10%) reduction of Nameplate Capacity if:

- The Project is capable of regular commercial operation in accordance with Good Utility Practice;
- The manufacturer's guidelines for all material components of the Facility, and all requirements of the ISO-NE Rules and ISO-NE Practices for the delivery of the Products to the Buyer have been satisfied; and
- All performance testing for the Facility has been successfully completed, provided Project has satisfied several conditions precedent specified in the PPAs.

Quinebaug Solar would not be able to satisfy these conditions precedent if the project Nameplate Capacity were reduced.

- d) Please explain why there are areas where the proposed wetland buffers would be less than 50 feet.

Company's Response:

The only wetland areas that have setbacks less than 50-feet are located along existing roads. No new Project infrastructure is proposed to be within 50 feet of any resource. Leveraging the existing road infrastructure at the site is a key tenet of resource avoidance and impact minimization.

- e) Referencing Exhibit F of the Petition — Solar Module Specifications, define the acronyms STC and NOCT. Which of these two ratings is more applicable to the project?

Company's Response:

STC stands for Standard Testing Conditions and NOCT stands for Normal Operating Cell Temperature. Both are industry standard manufacturer data points to compare module efficiency. NextEra generally uses STC to base our module wattage.

- f) Referencing Exhibit L of the Petition — Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Assessment, page 1, explain why simple-cycle natural gas generation (i.e. combustion turbine) was chosen for the emissions comparison purposes.

Company's Response:

Natural gas generation was chosen as the comparison because it is a representative fossil-fuel based electricity generation alternative for what might be added to ISO-NE generation mix to expand generation capacity. ISO-NE's site notes that, by far, the largest single generation means used is Natural Gas - 48% of New England's energy was supplied from this source in 2019.¹ Further, ISO-NE notes that, of the conventional electricity generation options, coal, oil and nuclear plants are closing in the region, while new natural gas fired plants are coming online.² When compared to oil or coal generation, on an emissions basis, natural gas generation is the most conservative (least emitting) power source.

In addition, the simple-cycle natural gas power generation is compared to other form of natural gas power generation (e.g. combined cycle) in Petition Exhibit L, Greenhouse Gas Assessment.

- g) Referencing Petition No. 1310 Finding of Fact #100, and the response to Council interrogatory number 3 dated January 7, 2020, explain why the distance from the limits of construction at the existing access drive to the Sposato residence increased from 55 feet to 98 feet?

Company's Response:

The distance between the limits of construction at the existing access drive and the Sposato residence is approximately 98 feet. The 55-foot distance that was provided previously is incorrect and was based on the distance between the limits of construction at the existing access drive and a non-residential structure located further north within the 192 Wauregan Road Sposato parcel.

- h) At the evidentiary hearing held on January 14, 2020, Quinebaug noted that it would consider planting pollinator species. Where could such pollinator species be planted, e.g. under the solar arrays and/or around the solar arrays? If pollinator species are to be planted under the solar arrays, would such species be tolerant of the shading caused by the solar panels?

Company's Response:

The meadow habitat proposed under and around the solar arrays will primarily serve the purposes of soil stabilization and stormwater control, but may have ancillary pollinator benefits depending on the final seed mix. The Petitioner has proposed to install tiered landscaping to establish a dense and diverse visual buffer to the Project in certain locations along the Project's boundary, as shown in Petition Exhibit A – Figure 6. The plantings are proposed to consist of the species listed in Table

¹ See https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/2019/02/2019_energy_peak_by_source.xlsx.

² See <https://www.iso-ne.com/about/key-stats/resource-mix/>

1 below, with pollinator-friendly species noted. Based on the plan, a majority of the proposed plantings are considered pollinator friendly.

Table 1: Quinebaug Solar Proposed Landscaping

Species	Listed as pollinator-friendly?¹
PERENNIALS	
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Yes
<i>lobelia cardinalis</i>	Yes
<i>monarda didyma</i>	Yes
<i>coreopsis grandiflora</i>	
<i>rudbeckia hirta</i>	Yes
SHRUBS	
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Yes
<i>aronia melanocarpa</i>	
<i>ilex verticillata</i>	Yes
TREES	
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	
<i>juniperus communis</i>	

Sources: New England Wildflower Society; United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service; University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that on January 28, 2020, the foregoing was delivered by electronic mail and regular mail, postage prepaid, in accordance with § 16-50j-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, to all parties and intervenors of record, as follows:

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