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February 11, 2021

ELECTRONIC MAIL & U.S. MAIL

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director/Staff Attorney
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Petition 1347A - GRE GACRUX LLC Petition for a Declaratory Ruling, Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the Proposed Construction, Maintenance and Operation of a 16.78 MW AC Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility Located at 117 Oil Mill Road and Associated Electrical Interconnection to Eversource Energy's Existing Substation at 325 Waterford Parkway North in Waterford, Connecticut. Reopening of this Petition Based on Changed Conditions Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-181a(b).

Dear Ms. Bachman:

I am writing on behalf of my client, GRE GACRUX LLC ("Greenskies"), in connection with the above-referenced Petition. With this Letter, I am enclosing Greenskies' Motion requesting that the Council: (i) permit the Project to undertake tree clearing activities, consistent with the Project's February 3, 2021 D&M Plan submission while the Council completes its review of that submission; and (ii) permit tree clearing activities to continue through March 31, 2021, consistent with the Project's D&M Plan submission.

Should you have any questions concerning this submittal, please contact me at your convenience. I certify that copies of this submittal have been made to all parties on the Petition's Service List as of this date.

Sincerely,



Lee D. Hoffman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

GRE GACRUX LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 16.78-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 117 Oil Mill Road and associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy's existing substation at 325 Waterford Parkway North in Waterford, Connecticut. Reopening of this petition based on changed conditions pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-181a(b)

PETITION NO. 1347A

February 11, 2021

**GRE GACRUX LLC'S MOTION TO MODIFY COUNCIL'S DECISION AND ORDER
AND PERFORM TREE CLEARING AT THE SITE**

The Siting Council provided GRE GACRUX LLC ("Greenskies") with a favorable ruling for the construction, maintenance, and operation of an approximate 15.3 MW AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located in Waterford, Connecticut (the "Project") by Decision and Order of the Council dated November 5, 2020. Pursuant to the Council's Decision and Order, the Project must complete Pre-Construction Site Protection Sequence site clearing work ("Tree Clearing") before March 1, 2021 due to wildlife concerns. However, as Greenskies explained in the Project's (partial) Development and Management plan ("D&M Plan") submission on February 3, 2021, further analysis on the potential impacts to wildlife demonstrates that this work can take place without adverse impact to wildlife through March 31, 2021.

This was explained by VHB in its *Seasonal Tree Clearing Restrictions* letter to the Council (D&M Plan, Attachment 3). In that letter, VHB noted that the Project could undertake Tree Clearing activities through the end of March without adversely impacting the wildlife that occurs at the property. In light of this new information, Greenskies therefore requests that the Council allow for Tree Clearing to continue up to and including March 31, 2021. In addition, Greenskies respectfully requests that the Council expedite its review and approval of the Tree Clearing component of the D&M Plan, and only the Tree Clearing component of the D&M Plan, such that Greenskies may perform and complete such work by the March 31st deadline.

Greenskies understands that this is the sort of request that the Council takes seriously, but Greenskies is not making such a request lightly. Greenskies recognizes that the Council requires

time to evaluate the construction specifications of Greenskies' stormwater systems, and Greenskies welcomes such review. However, if the Council delays Tree Clearing activities until such time as the Council's review of the entire D&M Plan submission is complete, such review period may take longer than March 31, 2021, which would be beyond the length of time appropriate for tree clearing before certain species might be adversely affected.

More importantly, Greenskies estimates that such Tree Clearing activities will take approximately five weeks. Thus, for Greenskies to complete such Tree Clearing by March 31^s, it would need a decision from the Council at its next meeting, which is currently scheduled for February 25, 2021.

To be clear, Greenskies would only perform the necessary Tree Clearing for the Project which includes stabilization of the construction access entrance and stabilization of and installation of silt fence along onsite access road to the laydown area to allow for vehicle access; no other work would be undertaken. Greenskies would not engage in any other work contemplated under the D&M Plan, including inter alia the construction and installation of stormwater controls onsite, until such time as the Council finishes its review of the D&M Plan and grants Greenskies permission to do so. Greenskies remains committed to the completion of the Project and is working diligently to complete the Project as expeditiously as possible.

WHEREFORE, Greenskies respectfully requests that the Council (i) permit Tree Clearing to continue up to and including March 31, 2021 and (ii) permit the Project to undertake Tree Clearing activities while the Council completes its review of the D&M Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

GRE GACRUX LLC



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