

Attachment E

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July 28, 2020

Ref: 42496.00

Jean-Paul La Marche
Development Director
Greenskies Clean Energy
363 Centennial Parkway, Suite 105
Louisville, CO 80027

Re: CT Siting Council Petition No. 1347A - GRE GACRUX LLC
Vernal Pool & Wet Pond Monitoring Protocol
16.78 MW-AC Solar Project
117 Oil Mill Road, Waterford, Connecticut

Mr. Jean-Paul La Marche,

In response to the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) memorandum, dated July 16, 2020, which documented additional late-filing exhibits to be submitted, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) is pleased to provide the following details on a monitoring protocol for the vernal pools on site and proposed stormwater wet ponds 1 and 16.

Stormwater Wet Pond Monitoring Protocol

- I. In order to preclude access for amphibians to the stormwater wet ponds 1 and 16 that are within the 750-foot Critical Terrestrial Habitat (CTH) of Vernal Pools (VP) 1 through 3, the following monitoring protocol is to be implemented and included in the project construction documents:
 1. Installing a permanent wildlife exclusion fence around the stormwater ponds 1 and 16 to preclude potential breeding, and
 2. Monitoring stormwater ponds 1 and 16 for 3 years to determine if breeding amphibians are observed within these ponds during the amphibian breeding season.
 3. Monitoring detailed in this protocol shall be by a qualified biologist that is experienced with the identification and classification of amphibian species that breed in vernal pools. This includes the identification of amphibian egg masses to adult stages.

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Jean-Paul La Marche
Ref: 42496.00
July 28, 2020
Page 2



II. The following actions will be taken during the monitoring period:

1. No breeding observed: Continuing monitoring through the 3-year period.
2. Breeding Observed: Translocate egg masses to Vernal Pools 1 through 3 and evaluate the effectiveness of the permanent exclusionary fence and provide maintenance measures to eliminate amphibian access. This could include closing off any potential accessway found under or through the fence or installing a secondary fence for example.
3. Provide a Vernal Pool Monitoring Report following each monitoring event that will include methods, observations and actions taken. If state listed species as endangered, threatened or special concern, the biologist will document and submit a formal reporting form to the CTDEEP NDD office.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.R. Shamas".

Jeffrey R Shamas

Director of Environmental Services
jshamas@vhb.com