

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

**GRE GACRUX LLC petition for a declaratory ruling for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 16.78-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility in Waterford, Connecticut. Reopening of this petition based on changed conditions.**

**Petition No. 1347A**

**June 24, 2020**

**SUPPLEMENTAL PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF DONALD J. DANILA**

**Q20. Why are you submitting supplemented testimony?**

A20. After I submitted my pre-filed testimony and Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc. (“STR-STH”) submitted its responses to interrogatories issued by the Council, including comments on a February 2020 letter issued by the Connecticut Council of Trout Unlimited (“Trout Unlimited”) in correspondence to Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) with respect to DEEP’s Proposed Reissuance with Modifications of its Construction. I understand there were some issues about STR-STH’s reliance on a letter from Trout Unlimited dated June 18, 2020 and that letter will not come into evidence before the Council. I therefore offer this testimony to comment on Trout Unlimited’s February 2020 letter in response to the Council’s interrogatory question.

**Q21. What is your opinion about that February 2020 letter?**

A21. Generally, I think Trout Unlimited’s request that coldwater fish resources (“CFRs”) be considered in the Construction General Permit by the inclusion of a 100-foot buffer is a good idea. That permitting process, like too many in this state, does not currently consider proximity to CFRs at all, which is a problem because CFRs are so sensitive to increases in turbidity and temperature that can come with increased runoff. Adding a required minimum buffer to that permitting process would promote the health of CFRs that are present on or adjacent to development sites, and so I support that Trout Limited’s request. I do not, however,

believe that a 100-foot buffer is enough for all development projects, and I think it would be a mistake for the Council to construe Trout Unlimited's comments in response to DEEP's solicitation as endorsing a one-size-fits-all approach to protecting CFRs. A perfect example is the project proposed in this petition. Buffers of 100 feet for a development like this, which involves significant slopes, significant clear cutting, and significant grading would be a disaster to the adjacent CFRs. As I and other STR-STH witnesses have stated in our prefiled testimony, the buffers currently proposed by GRE are not enough to protect the CFRs at issue here.

The statements above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.



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Donald J. Danila

6/23/20

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Date

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was delivered by first-class mail and e-mail to the following service list:

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