

April 27, 2020

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

cc: Steve Broyer, Senior Project Manager
Windham Solar LLC and Ecos Energy LLC
222 S 9th St, Suite 1600
Minneapolis, MN 55402

RE: Preliminary Review
Benz Solar
Windham Solar LLC and Ecos Energy LLC
Proposed 2.99 MW AC, to be developed as three (3) 999 KW AC facilities,
31 Benz Street, Ansonia, CT 06401

Dear Ms. Bachman,

Windham Solar LLC and Ecos Energy LLC. (“Petitioner”) has contacted the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) Bureau of Natural Resources and informed us of their intention to file a petition for a declaratory ruling with the Connecticut Siting Council. Petitioner proposes to construct a solar photovoltaic facility with a capacity of two or more megawatts, to be located at 31 Benz Street, Ansonia, CT 06401 (“Site”).

Approximately 10.68 acres of the Site would be impacted by the installation of the solar panels, associated systems and site work involved with this proposed project. Pursuant to Sec. 16-50k of the Connecticut General Statutes the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources staff have reviewed documents submitted by the Petitioner concerning this proposed project, which include a site map dated February 20, 2020 with a an email with additional site details received April 15, 2020 prepared by Steve Broyer, Senior Project Manager with Windham Solar LLC and Ecos Energy LLC.

In conducting such review of the proposed project, DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources has determined that such proposed project, as represented in the above mentioned documents **will not** materially affect the status of such Site as core forest.

The Petitioner used the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources screening tool the “Forestland Habitat Impact Map” to evaluate their design concept. The results of such screening and any Bureau of Natural Resources concurrence with aspects of the preliminary results do not, and are not intended to, supplant formal approval from the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources.

All final plans for such Site intended to be submitted by the Petitioner to the Connecticut Siting Council shall be submitted to the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources for review and approval 14 days prior to submission to the Connecticut Siting Council. Such submission shall be made to:

Rick Jacobson, Chief
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127
rick.jacobson@ct.gov

DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources retains the right to review and approve any changes to the design specifications including, but not limited to, final plans that are filed with the Connecticut Siting Council after the date of this letter.

Nothing in this letter relieves the Petitioner of other obligations under applicable federal, state, and local law that may be necessary as part of the proposed project design and implementation.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at 860-424-3010, or by mail at 79 Elm Street, Sixth Floor, Hartford, CT 06106-5127.

Connecticut is one of the most heavily forested states in America. Our forests clean our air and water, shelter our wildlife, sequester carbon, contribute tens of millions of dollars to our economy, and add immeasurably to the quality of our lives. Yet every day, our forests are under threat. Invasive insects and diseases and our dense and growing human population continue to stress our forests in unprecedented ways. Thank you for helping us to conserve a healthy core forest for future generations, providing public transparency and working to make thoughtful development choices.

Sincerely,



Rick Jacobson, Chief
Bureau of Natural Resources
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

CC: Bryan P. Hurlburt, Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Jenny Dickson, Director of Wildlife, Bureau of Natural Resources, DEEP
Christopher Martin, Director of Forestry, Bureau of Natural Resources, DEEP
DEEP.OPPD@ct.gov
siting.council@ct.gov