

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

3  
4 Petition No. 1443

5 SR North Stonington, LLC petition for a  
6 declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut  
7 General Statutes Section 4-176 and Section 16-50k,  
8 for the proposed construction, maintenance and  
9 operation of a 9.9-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic  
10 electric generating facility on five parcels  
11 located north and south of Providence New London  
12 Turnpike (State Route 184), west of Boombridge  
13 Road and north of Interstate 95 in  
14 North Stonington, Connecticut, and  
15 associated electrical interconnection.

16  
17 VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE

18  
19 Remote Public Comment Session held on Tuesday,  
20 June 8, 2021, beginning at 6:30 p.m.  
21 via remote access.

22  
23 H e l d B e f o r e:

24 EDWARD EDELSON, Presiding Officer  
25

1   **A p p e a r a n c e s:**

2  
3   **Council Members:**

4       **ROBERT HANNON**  
5        Designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes  
6        Department of Energy and Environmental  
7        Protection

8       **QUAT NGUYEN**  
9        Designee for Chairman Marissa Paslick  
10       Gillett  
11       Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

12       **ROBERT SILVESTRI**

13       **DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.**

14       **LOUANNE COOLEY**

15  
16   **Council Staff:**

17       **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.**  
18        Executive Director and  
19        Staff Attorney

20       **MICHAEL PERRONE**  
21        Siting Analyst

22       **LISA FONTAINE**  
23        Fiscal Administrative Officer

24       **For SR North Stonington, LLC:**

25        **ROBINSON & COLE LLP**  
      280 Trumbull Street  
      Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597  
      BY:   **KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ.**  
          **JONATHAN H. SCHAEFER, ESQ.**

1   **A p p e a r a n c e s: (Cont'd)**

2  
3       **For Town of North Stonington:**

4           **SUISMAN, SHAPIRO, WOOL, BRENNAN, GRAY &  
5           GREENBERG, P.C.**

6           **20 South Anguilla Road**

7           **P.O. Box 1445**

8           **Pawcatuck, Connecticut 06379**

9           **BY: ROBERT A. AVENA, ESQ.**

10       **Also Present:**

11           **ALI WEAVER, Silicon Ranch**

12       **Public Speaker:**

13           **PRISCILLA LEWIS**

14       **Zoom Co-host: Aaron Demarest**

15  
16  
17       **\*\*All participants were present via remote access.**

1           MR. EDELSON: Good evening, everyone.  
2 My name is Ed Edelson. This hearing is called to  
3 order this Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.  
4 Again, my name is Ed Edelson. I'm a member and  
5 the presiding officer of the Connecticut Siting  
6 Council for this meeting. Other members of the  
7 Council are Robert Hannon, designee for  
8 Commissioner Katie Dykes of the Department of  
9 Energy and Environmental Protection; Robert  
10 Silvestri; Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.; and Louanne  
11 Cooley.

12           Members of the staff are Melanie  
13 Bachman, executive director and staff attorney;  
14 Michael Perrone, siting analyst; and Lisa  
15 Fontaine, the fiscal administrative officer.

16           Please note there is currently a  
17 statewide effort to prevent the spread of the  
18 Coronavirus. This is why the Council is holding  
19 this remote public hearing, and we ask for your  
20 patience. If you haven't done so already, I ask  
21 that everyone please mute their computer audio  
22 and/or telephone now.

23           This is a continuation of a remote  
24 public hearing that began at 2 p.m. this  
25 afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is

1 available on the Council's Petition 1443 webpage,  
2 along with the record of this matter, the public  
3 hearing notice, instructions for public access to  
4 this remote public hearing, and the Council's  
5 Citizens Guide to Siting Council Procedures.

6 This hearing is held pursuant to the  
7 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General  
8 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative  
9 Procedure Act upon a petition from SR North  
10 Stonington, LLC for a declaratory ruling, pursuant  
11 to Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-176 and  
12 Section 16-50k, for the proposed construction,  
13 maintenance and operation of a 9.9-megawatt AC  
14 solar photovoltaic electric generating facility on  
15 five parcels located north and south of Providence  
16 New London Turnpike, also known as State Route  
17 184, west of Boombridge Road and north of  
18 Interstate 95 in North Stonington, Connecticut,  
19 and the associated electrical interconnection.  
20 This petition was received by the Council on  
21 February 25, 2021.

22 The Council's legal notice of the date  
23 and time of this remote public hearing was  
24 published in The Day on April 28, 2021. Upon this  
25 Council's request, the petitioner erected a sign

1 near the proposed access road off the southern  
2 side of the Providence New London Turnpike so as  
3 to inform the public of the name of the  
4 petitioner, the type of facility, the remote  
5 public hearing date, and the contact information  
6 for the Council, including the website and phone  
7 number.

8           Please be advised that the Council does  
9 not issue permits for stormwater management. If  
10 the proposed project is approved by the Council, a  
11 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
12 Stormwater Permit is independently required. DEEP  
13 could hold a public hearing on any stormwater  
14 permit application.

15           Please be advised that the Council's  
16 project evaluation criteria under the statute does  
17 not include consideration of property values.

18           This remote public comment session is  
19 reserved for members of the public who signed up  
20 in advance to make brief statements into the  
21 record. These public statements are not subject  
22 to questions from the parties or the Council, and  
23 members of the public making statements may not  
24 ask questions of the parties or the Council.  
25 Public statements will become part of the record

1 for Council consideration. Please be advised that  
2 written comments may be submitted by any person  
3 within 30 days of this public hearing.

4 As a reminder to all, off-the-record  
5 communication with a member of the Council or a  
6 member of the Council staff upon the merits of  
7 this petition is prohibited by law.

8 I wish to note that the parties and  
9 intervenors, including their representatives and  
10 witnesses, are not allowed to participate in the  
11 public comment session. I also wish to note for  
12 those who are here and for the benefit of your  
13 friends and neighbors who are unable to join us  
14 for the public comment session that you or they  
15 may send written comments to the Council within 30  
16 days of the date hereof, and such written  
17 statements will be given the same weight as if  
18 spoken at the hearing. Please be advised that any  
19 person may be removed from the remote public  
20 comment session at the discretion of the Council.

21 We ask each person making a public  
22 statement in this proceeding to confine his or her  
23 statements to the subject matter before the  
24 Council and to avoid unreasonable repetition so  
25 that we may hear all of the concerns you and your

1 neighbors may have. Please be advised that the  
2 Council cannot answer questions from the public  
3 about the proposal.

4 A verbatim transcript will be made of  
5 this hearing and deposited at the North Stonington  
6 Town Clerk's Office for the convenience of the  
7 public.

8 At this time, I request the petitioner  
9 to make a very brief presentation to the public to  
10 describe the proposed facility. And I believe,  
11 Ms. Weaver, you'll be doing that.

12 MS. WEAVER: Yes, sir. Thank you,  
13 Mr. Edelson, I appreciate it.

14 My name is Ali Weaver, and I'm the  
15 director of project development for Silicon Ranch.  
16 A bit about Silicon Ranch. The company was  
17 founded in 2010 and based in Nashville, Tennessee.  
18 Our founders come from state government, the  
19 former governor of Tennessee, Phil Bredesen, and  
20 then two of his commissioners of staff, Reagan  
21 Farr and Matt Kisber. Over the last 11 years as a  
22 company, we've been able to amass a portfolio 140  
23 projects that spans 15 states from coast to coast,  
24 and have over 3 gigawatts of projects in our  
25 pipeline.



1           We are very unique to the solar  
2 industry in that we own and operate all of our  
3 projects. We have never sold a project and do not  
4 intend to. We also do everything in the project  
5 life cycle starting in development to financing,  
6 construction and long-term O&M.

7           For this specific project we were  
8 awarded this project through the small scale  
9 energy resource 2016 CT DEEP RFP for 9.9-megawatts  
10 AC, which is shown before you, I believe, on this  
11 map here. The petitioner, we filed the petition  
12 for permitting to be in front of the Siting  
13 Council on February 25th, and have since  
14 significantly redesigned the original filing map  
15 which is shown on the screen here. The redesign  
16 was based off of many conversations with our  
17 neighbors, public officials and town officials  
18 that we were able to incorporate over several  
19 months from February till this was filed in June  
20 that you see before you here.

21           As a part of the effort of the  
22 redesign, the biggest change I would say is the  
23 module update. The module that's been procured  
24 now is now the Hanwha bifacial module, which is an  
25 increase in wattage as well now to a 475 wattage

1 panel which has allowed us to reduce our  
2 footprint, our overall footprint, by three acres.  
3 The project you see before you is a 44 acre  
4 project across five parcels that total 157 acres.

5 Construction is expected to start in  
6 early 2022 after we finish our permitting process  
7 which we expect to remain through the duration of  
8 the year. The project is expected to achieve  
9 commercial operation by the end of June of 2022,  
10 and then will be in long-term operations for the  
11 next 40 years. Thank you, Mr. Edelson.

12 MR. EDELSON: Thank you again. Just a  
13 note on remote public hearings. Remote public  
14 hearings are quite different from in-person public  
15 hearings. For in-person public hearings members  
16 of the public could sign in, step up to the podium  
17 and offer their comments. For remote public  
18 hearings the public is required to sign up to  
19 speak in advance in order to provide Council staff  
20 with the time necessary to facilitate connection  
21 precautions to prevent interruption, or, in common  
22 terms, bombings of the proceedings. These are  
23 protocols, procedures and consistency measures  
24 that are followed as part of the remote public  
25 hearing process. Written comments may be

1 submitted, as I mentioned, within 30 days of this  
2 public hearing.

3 So now I will call on from that list  
4 the first person who signed up for public comment,  
5 and that was Priscilla Lewis. And I just want to  
6 see if she is here. I don't see her so far.  
7 There she is, okay. So let's make sure we unmute  
8 you. I'm not sure if I need to do that or if  
9 Aaron does that. There we go. Thank you.

10 PRISCILLA LEWIS: Okay. The first  
11 comment I wanted to make was tonight our town is  
12 having a selectmen's meeting which has a lot on  
13 the agenda. Unfortunately, it was scheduled  
14 tonight at the same time this public hearing was  
15 scheduled. So there were a lot of people who did  
16 the walk-through at that time that I'm sure will  
17 be at that meeting, again on Zoom, to participate  
18 in some thoughts about the upcoming agenda, which  
19 includes a lot of items on the budget. So the  
20 attendance tonight at this hearing may not be as  
21 well as it could be because of that situation.

22 My first comment has to do with in this  
23 updated design did you have to -- did you go out  
24 and put new -- well, I guess you can't ask  
25 questions. So my concern is, I saw where the

1 flags were before from the old design, and I was  
2 wondering whether the new design, if they've been  
3 placed in a different spot on the abutting  
4 property to me. I own the property exactly, I'm  
5 exactly above the north side of the north parcel,  
6 and all of my southern boundary goes across the  
7 total northern boundary of that north parcel, so I  
8 probably have the biggest impact of any abutting  
9 property owner facing anybody who abuts this solar  
10 array project.

11 My concern, again, has to do with how  
12 far from my -- how far away from my boundaries  
13 will the fence start, and where will the -- I know  
14 you can't answer questions, but these are my  
15 concerns. Where will the panels start? When I  
16 looked at some of the pictures on the -- it took  
17 me a long time to go through all this material,  
18 and I haven't finished yet, but when I looked at  
19 the pictures, the camera on photo 9 and photo 8  
20 were placed on the northern parcel and faced  
21 towards my field. And, you know, I can't really  
22 place where this is on your parcel. So I have a  
23 hard time understanding where the flags are and  
24 where the markers are. But as you can see in  
25 those photos, you can see my open field. So when

1 the parcel is cleared below me on your north  
2 parcel, that's going to be the same scene that I'm  
3 going to see facing it from my porch. So that was  
4 one of the factors.

5 The other thing is, on a number of your  
6 pictures, like the soil scientist one and the  
7 general layout and the flood one, it had pictures  
8 of the different parcels, and each of the northern  
9 boundaries, because this is so close to my parcel,  
10 it was hard for me to depict how close it is to my  
11 boundary.

12 MR. EDELSON: Ms. Lewis, as you know,  
13 we try to -- our rule is three minutes for the  
14 public.

15 MS. LEWIS: Oh, I didn't know that.  
16 All right. I've got some more questions. The  
17 survey needs to be re-looked at.

18 MR. EDELSON: Could I just encourage  
19 you, because you have some very specific  
20 questions, to reach out to the petitioner, and I  
21 think they can clarify some of these questions  
22 that you have about the revision. So I think you  
23 would find that more satisfying than just raising  
24 questions. I would encourage you to contact them.

25 But thank you for your comments. And

1 if you want to expand upon these by providing  
2 written comments so that we have those in front of  
3 us, please feel free to do that. And thank you  
4 for your participation.

5 MS. LEWIS: Okay. I've only touched on  
6 a few aspects of my concerns.

7 MR. EDELSON: I understand. So I  
8 believe the next person on the list was Ms.  
9 Fitzgerald, Alice Fitzgerald. I see one phone  
10 number down here without a name, so I'm not sure  
11 if that is her. And if so, it's phone number  
12 860-599-5731. Is that Ms. Fitzgerald? If so, if  
13 you could unmute yourself; but if not, we may  
14 never know who 860-599 is.

15 And Ms. Bachman, am I missing anything?  
16 I think there are only 16 people on the call, so  
17 they're all on my gallery. I don't think there's  
18 anyone else out there. Am I reading it correctly?

19 MS. BACHMAN: Yes, Mr. Edelson, you are  
20 reading that correctly. We did have a second  
21 speaker, but she didn't appear based on the  
22 information that she provided.

23 MR. EDELSON: Okay. Well, then we have  
24 exhausted our list. Again, I'll repeat the  
25 Council -- well, I should say the Council

1 announces that it will continue the evidentiary  
2 session of this public hearing on Thursday, July  
3 8, 2021, at 2 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.  
4 A copy of the agenda for the continued remote  
5 evidentiary hearing session will be available on  
6 the Council's petition, and that's Number 1443,  
7 webpage, along with the record of this matter, the  
8 public hearing notice, instructions for public  
9 access to the remote evidentiary hearing session,  
10 and the Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council  
11 Procedures.

12 Please note that anyone who has not  
13 become a party or intervenor, but who desires to  
14 make his or her views known to the Council, they  
15 may file written statements with the Council until  
16 the public comment record closes.

17 Copies of the transcript of this  
18 hearing will be filed at the North Stonington Town  
19 Clerk's Office.

20 And with that, I hereby declare this  
21 hearing adjourned. And I want to thank everyone  
22 for their participation. And have a good safe  
23 evening. Thank you.

24 (Whereupon, the above proceedings  
25 adjourned at 6:46 p.m.)

1 CERTIFICATE FOR REMOTE HEARING

2  
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 15 pages  
4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided  
5 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken  
6 of the REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION IN RE:  
7 PETITION NO. 1443, SR NORTH STONINGTON, LLC  
8 PETITION FOR A DECLARATORY RULING, PURSUANT TO  
9 CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 4-176 AND  
10 SECTION 16-50k, FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION,  
11 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A 9.9-MEGAWATT AC  
12 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY ON  
13 FIVE PARCELS LOCATED NORTH AND SOUTH OF PROVIDENCE  
14 NEW LONDON TURNPIKE (STATE ROUTE 184), WEST OF  
15 BOOMBRIDGE ROAD AND NORTH OF INTERSTATE 95 IN  
16 NORTH STONINGTON, CONNECTICUT, AND ASSOCIATED  
17 ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION, which was held before  
18 EDWARD EDELSON, PRESIDING OFFICER, on June 8,  
19 2021.

20  
21 

22 -----  
23 Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061  
24 Court Reporter  
25 BCT REPORTING SERVICE  
55 WHITING STREET, SUITE 1A  
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06062