



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Michael A. Urgo, First Selectman
Bob Carlson, Selectman
Nita Kinkaid, Selectwoman
Town of North Stonington
40 Main Street
North Stonington, CT 06359
btalbott@northstoningtonct.gov

RE: **PETITION NO. 1443** - SR North Stonington, 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 9.9-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility on five parcels located north and south of Providence New London Turnpike (State Route 184), west of Boombridge Road and north of Interstate 95 in North Stonington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear North Stonington Board of Selectman:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of the Town of North Stonington's correspondence dated March 26, 2021, concerning the above-referenced petition. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with your comments.

This petition will be placed on a future Council meeting agenda for discussion and decision. Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this petition on our website at portal.ct.gov/csc under the "Pending Matters" link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Before reaching a final decision on a petition, the Council carefully considers all of the facts contained in the record that is developed by the Council, the petitioner, parties and intervenors to the petition, and all of the concerns received from members of the public who submit written statements to the Council.

Your comments shall become part of the official record in this matter in the form of a limited appearance defined under subsection (f) of Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n. Copies of your correspondence will be distributed to the petitioner and parties and intervenors to the petition.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this matter.

Sincerely,

s/Melanie A. Bachman

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/MP/lm

c: Service List dated February 26, 2021
Council Members



Town of
North Stonington, Connecticut

March 26, 2021

Dear Siting Council,

Re: Petition No. 1443 - SR North Stonington, LLC, Providence New London Turnpike (Rte. 184) and Boom Bridge Rd.

On February 23rd notice was sent to the town about the above referenced 9.9 MW solar facility being planned on Route 184. On March 4th the public was noticed at the regular Planning and Zoning meeting about this project and at the March 11th Planning and Zoning meeting, the petitioners were invited to discuss the project and answer questions. During that meeting, residents and commission members raised several concerns. We would like to bring some of these concerns to your attention for your consideration. When the DEEP originally approved the location for this project, there were no panels proposed for the north side of Route 184. The project now incorporates the 31 acre wooded parcel north of Rte. 184 which will directly affect several abutting residential neighbors.

The southern portion of the project area features a former gravel pit and this area is not being used for panels. We understand the reasoning was due to environmental concerns due to vernal pools, however, we would argue that the health of these pools may not be as strong as other pools in the area. . Since this part of the property would be the most environmentally suitable vs. clear cutting trees on the 31 acre undisturbed parcel, we would request the council propose the majority of the panels be placed in this southern area of the property to minimize the impact to currently undisturbed areas and therefore maintain the wildlife habitat and forest that currently exists there.

We are concerned that some of this property is core forest and thus should not be used for a project such as this.

We are especially concerned for the historic value of the northern portion of the property. The Old Providence-New London Turnpike once ran through the northern portion of the property. Many original stone walls remain along with remains of buildings and other artifacts may remain that have not been fully documented.

There is currently an effective buffer between residents to the north of the project area as well as those within the project area in general from Interstate 95 formed by the many healthy trees throughout the 5 parcels that make up the project area – particularly the 31 acre parcel north of Route 184. Maintaining this buffer needs to be a priority as it will not only impact the residents with respect to noise, but there will be an extreme visual impact as well.

There are several neighbors whose properties are adjacent the project (which is within a residential zone) who are concerned about the setback from their property line to the clearing limit for the project. We urge the council to require an adequate buffer utilizing appropriate trees or bushes so the abutting property owners can maintain their quality of life they have become accustomed to in the area.



Town of
North Stonington, Connecticut

The project calls for a high perimeter fence with barbed wire on top. In keeping with our rural character, we would oppose a chain link fence or any fencing that does not match the character of the rural area this project is located in.

We were encouraged to hear that SR North Stonington LLC was willing to listen to the Town and neighbors' concerns. We would urge the Siting council to give considerable attention the above mentioned issues prior to any approval. Furthermore, the town is attempting to hire a soil scientist to provide an opinion on the suitability of locating panels in the proposed locations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Urgo
First Selectman

Bob Carlson
Selectman

Nita Kincaid
Selectwoman