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The Town of Windsor Locks
Home of Bradley International Airport

October 13, 2022

Ms. Melanie Bachman
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Subject: Proposed Solar Facility at Collins Aerospace

Dear Ms. Bachman,

I was first made aware of Collins Aerospace's intent to construct a solar farm within their facility in August of this year. The project team of VHB and Earthlight have remained in contact since and, most recently, provided me and Town Planner Jen Valentino with an informative presentation of the proposed solar farm project on October 13, 2022.

It is my understanding that the project team intends to file a Petition for Declaratory Ruling to the Connecticut Siting Council in the coming weeks, with an expected goal of constructing the project next spring/summer. I am personally an avid supporter of renewable energy in general, in the Town of Windsor Locks, in the State of Connecticut, and also had solar panels installed atop my own residence a number of years ago. My position is of support for this project and I am excited to hopefully see the final product some day in the future.

Thank you for your assistance in siting and permitting this project on behalf of the Town of Windsor Locks.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Harrington
First Selectman
Town of Windsor Locks

Steve Kochis

From: Milne, Beatriz <Beatriz.Milne@ct.gov> on behalf of DEEP OPPD <DEEP.OPPD@ct.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 9:14 AM
To: Steve Kochis; Jake Schneider; Brian Murtha; Eric Virkler
Cc: DEEP OPPD; Decker, Annie; Fontanella, Camille; Richardson, Amy; Mirza, Akhila; Stone, Chris; Hall, Ivonne; Riese, Frederick; Brunza, Linda; Kearney, Shannon; Davis, Abigail
Subject: [External] RE: Request for meeting - Windsor Locks -Collins Aerospace Solar project; Meeting Held on 9/8/22

It was a pleasure to meet with you regarding your current proposed activity. Thank you to all who attended.

In summary, Earthlight is proposing to construct a +/- 1.5 MW-AC ground-mounted solar farm at 1 Hamilton Road in Windsor Locks, CT. The project limits are approximately 9 acres in size and some tree clearing is proposed. Roughly half of the solar project is sited on an existing parking lot (northerly portion) and the other half in a wooded area (southerly portion). Some tree clearing is proposed in the southerly areas of the project. Stormwater basins and associated swales are included in the design. Piles/screws will be driven into the ground supporting racking and solar panels (southerly portion of the project) or concrete ballasts atop pavement (northerly portion of the project).

Based upon the information presented at the meeting, a summary of the possible permitting requirements is as follows:

Stormwater Program: your contact is Chris Stone.

- A stormwater construction general permit registration is required to be submitted for this proposal. The applicant will need to submit their registration through ezFile. Refer to the following link for instructions: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Stormwater/Construction-Stormwater-GP>. Please refer to the [Stormwater Quality Manual](#) and stormwater guidance for solar projects in the [construction stormwater general permit](#) (Appendix I) to address specific details on your plans.
- Multiple letters of credit totaling the full required amount should be submitted simultaneously and then may be released individually upon reaching the appropriate milestones in Appendix I; the project name and project site address should be clearly indicated on each letter of credit.
- Additional Notes:
 - Collins Aerospace are owners of the property and will be using most of the power generated; they will connect to the grid to sell back power if needed.
 - There is very minor amount of prime farmlands on the site- site has not been farmed in over 50 years; since the solar farm proposed is under 2 MWs, a letter from the Department of Agriculture is not required; there are no core forests on site; no flood hazards, no aquifer protection areas, FAA determined no hazards or glare for the nearby airport, Bradley International Airport; SHPO determined through a Phase 1A that there are no artifact disturbances; wetlands delineation determined no vernal pools on site; no wetlands are impacted from the project; very minimal visual impacts.
 - Solar panels are 460 watt panels, 14 ft. spacing
 - Northern portion: no slopes; no disturbance to underground; ballasted foundation; existing stormwater catch basins for parking lot will be used;

- Southern middle portion: 15% grade at very north of this portion; then decreases to 5% grade towards the south of this portion;
- Basins: riprap will be placed across basins to protect roads from minimal disturbance if the basins should fail;
- Drainage: one culvert on the southwest portion – outside of property boundary; second culvert located on the southeast; most of the drainage from the southern middle and southern lower farms will drain towards the southwest culvert; remaining will drain towards the southeast;
- Groundwater classification is GB; soils are “A” type; further geotechnical investigation will confirm this.

Environmental Review: your contacts are Fred Riese and Linda Brunza.

- Applicant will be applying to the Siting Council in early October and registering under the Construction stormwater general permit shortly thereafter.
- The connection to the grid will be underground to one of the existing power lines on site; applicant has an application in with Eversource for that connection; Note: If there is no connection to the grid; no siting council approvals are needed.
- The culvert located at the southeast may have had historical issues; applicant should check with the owner on this to confirm the outfall is in good condition.

Dam Safety program: your contact is Akhila Mirza.

- Since the basins are designed for impoundment of less than three acre-feet of water (when assuming the water level at the crest of the dam), a Dam Safety Construction Permit will not be required, although the basins will still need to be registered. Contact the DEEP Dam Safety Regulatory Program at (860) 424-3706 or by email at DEEP.DamSafety@ct.gov to receive a dam registration form. Once the basins are constructed and a registration form is submitted for each basin, then DEEP will assign each one a hazard class; in this case most likely a hazard classification of AA-negligible hazard. For further information, refer to the DEEP webpage: [Dam Registration and Dam Recordation \(ct.gov\)](#)

NDDDB program: your contact is Shannon Kearney.

- A final determination from the NDDDB program has been received by the applicant. One of the recommendations was mentioned at the meeting: “Create a site management plan to promote native vegetation growth in the area under the solar panels. Restoring native vegetation will attract pollinators and avoid the need for constant mowing. When considering native vegetation suitable for this site, you should consider the potential to augment nearby Sand Barren Critical Habitat. “

Remediation Division: your contact is Abby Davis.

- This site is under the RCRA Corrective Action and Property Transfer Programs. There is an Engineered Control on site. Please reach out to Abby for further possible recommendations and requirements from the Remediation Division on the project layout of this proposal.
- It was recommended to also reach out to the LEP in charge of remediation at this site.
- Monitoring wells located on the southerly portion of the site are assumed to be part of the remediation occurring at this site- please confirm that the project layout does not interfere with ongoing remediation efforts.

Please contact us if you have further questions. I have copied everyone who was in attendance at the meeting.

Meanwhile, if you could help us improve our pre-application process, we would appreciate it! Please complete a quick [follow-up survey](#) of 5 questions!

Thank you!

Beatriz Milne, P.E.
Office of Planning and Program Development
Commissioner's Office
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
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Ensuring a clean, affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy supply.***

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Milne, Beatriz **On Behalf Of** DEEP OPPD

Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 3:49 PM

To: DEEP OPPD; 'Steve Kochis'; Jake Schneider; Brian Murtha; Eric Virkler; Milne, Beatriz; Allen, Karen; Stone, Chris; Hall, Ivonne; Riese, Frederick; Brunza, Linda

Cc: Decker, Annie; Fontanella, Camille; Richardson, Amy; Gaughran, Laura; Mirza, Akhila

Subject: Request for meeting - Collins Aerospace Solar project

When: Thursday, September 8, 2022 10:00 AM-11:00 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: zoom details below

Look forward to meeting on Thursday, September 8th at 10 am.

Zoom details below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/85633287031>

Meeting ID: 856 3328 7031

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Join by H.323

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 - 115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)
 - 115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)
 - 213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)
 - 213.244.140.110 (Germany)
 - 103.122.166.55 (Australia Sydney)
 - 103.122.167.55 (Australia Melbourne)
 - 149.137.40.110 (Singapore)
 - 64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
 - 149.137.68.253 (Mexico)
 - 69.174.57.160 (Canada Toronto)
 - 65.39.152.160 (Canada Vancouver)
 - 207.226.132.110 (Japan Tokyo)
 - 149.137.24.110 (Japan Osaka)
- Meeting ID: 856 3328 7031

Join by Skype for Business

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/skype/85633287031>

From: Steve Kochis <skochis@VHB.com>

Sent: Monday, August 15, 2022 10:25 AM

To: DEEP OPPD <DEEP.OPPD@ct.gov>

Cc: Jake Schneider <jake@earthlighttech.com>; Brian Murtha <bmurtha@earthlighttech.com>; Eric Virkler <eric@earthlighttech.com>

Subject: Request for meeting - Collins Aerospace Solar project

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

We would like to request the earliest available day/time to give a 1 hour presentation/questions on this proposed solar project at Collins Aerospace in Windsor Locks, CT. Any questions, let me know. Thank you!



Steve Kochis, PE
Senior Project Engineer
CT - Land Development
Licensed in CT



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