



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

450 Columbus Blvd, Suite 701 | Hartford, Connecticut 06103 | 860.713.2500
Office of the Commissioner
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December 13, 2022

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

Re: LSE Hercules LLC Solar Project – 95, 99, 113 Raffia Road, Enfield

Dear Executive Director Bachman:

Pursuant to 16-50k(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, we have reviewed the above cited project with respect to agricultural impacts, specifically, to determine whether "...such project will not materially affect the status of such land as prime farmland..."

LSE Hercules LLC is proposing to construct a 4.0-megawatt solar photovoltaic electric generating facility to be located on an active wood processing and storage yard at 95, 99 and 113 Raffia Road in Enfield owned by Raffia Farms, Inc. Our Department has reviewed a project proposal dated November 11, 2022, as well as follow-up correspondence dated November 18, 2022.

Based on statements provided in LSE Hercules LLC's correspondence enclosed, the parcel contains 10.8 acres of statewide important farmland soils that are impacted by the operation of a wood processing and storage yard. There is no active farming on the Property. In 2020, a 3-acre field was used for growing hay but has since been converted to further storage areas for the wood-processing done on the property.

The project will not remove any soils on the property and grading will be minimal. LSE Hercules LLC will return the project site to a grassy meadow following the project's deconstruction.

Based on preliminary information provided to DoAg (enclosed), and assuming the project is constructed according to the representations made by the applicant in its correspondence, the Department of Agriculture concludes there will be no further material impact, beyond the existing impact.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Holly Lalime of my staff. Holly can be reached at Holly.Lalime@ct.gov or at (860) 969-7053.

Sincerely,

Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

Enc.

Cc: Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Carrie L. Ortolano, Lodestar Energy