



COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Executive Director

May 27, 2020

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

RE: PETITION NO. 1398 - LSE Pictor, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.99-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility on an approximately 104 acre parcel located off of Platt Hill Road, Winchester, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

The Council on Environmental Quality (“the Council”) supports the development of clean, renewable energy technologies on appropriate sites in Connecticut. The Council offers the following comments with regard to Petition No. 1398 (Petition):

1. Proposed Project Site

The Council commends the Petitioner for their efforts to preserve portions of the site from any future development donating seventy-five (75) acres of the Site to the Winchester Land Trust, conditioned upon approval of this project and commencement of the site lease.

2. Stormwater and Erosion Controls

The Council urges strict adherence to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) “General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities”. In areas where the construction is planned for slopes, adherence to the procedures described in Appendix I of DEEP’s proposed revisions to that permit would best prevent unnecessary erosion.

3. Wildlife

The Petitioner also indicated that approximately 1,900 trees will be removed for the proposed project. To protect Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB) and other bat species that may be seasonally present on the proposed project site, the Council recommends that, if approved, no tree clearing activities be allowed during bat roosting periods.

4. Wetlands

The Petitioner has identified several large wetlands along the northern, eastern, and western portions of the proposed project site. The Council has reviewed the wetland delineation maps and the site plans and questions whether it would be feasible to access the proposed project site from Dayton Road (Vicinity Map, Sheet 8 of 13) in the northeast corner of the property to avoid crossing any wetlands.

The Council recommends that the Petitioner maintain a 100-foot buffer or setback from wetland resource areas where feasible. In addition, the Council recommends that if there are any mature trees within the suggested 100-foot buffer or setback that require clearing for shading abatement only, that the stumps be left to stabilize the soils and reduce possible erosion and sedimentation of the wetlands.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact the Council if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Hearn". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Peter Hearn
Executive Director