



## STATE OF CONNECTICUT

# COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 24, 2024

Keith Ainsworth  
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PETITION NO. 1627 – LSE Libra LLC (Lodestar Energy) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.5-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at 410 Denslow Hill Road, Hamden, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Attorney Bachman,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) offers the following comments regarding Petition 1627.

### 1. Core Forest

The Petitioner notes that trees on approximately 7.9 acres would be removed for the development of the proposed facility and that a portion of the upland forested area along the property's west-central boundary could be characterized as a small core forest. Although the Petitioner notes that recent development on the abutting Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) property to the west "has created a perforation within the center of the mapped core forest habitat", the Council does not support the destruction of the remaining core forest.

### 2. Visibility

The Petitioner states that "the surrounding area includes a mix of farming and residential development" and the Existing Conditions Plan, Sheet 2 of 6 from Exhibit 1, Site Plan depicts residential development along the north and east sides of the proposed site. The Petitioner also states that approximately 7.9 acres of tree clearing is proposed for the proposed project. The Council recommends that the Petitioner limit tree removal/trimming along the northern and eastern edges of the proposed site to minimize any potential visual impacts to the nearby residential properties.

### 3. Groundwater and Spill Prevention

The Petitioner states that the proposed site falls within an area classified as 'GA' groundwater quality, and that Wilmot Brook, located approximately 125 feet west and downgradient from the proposed site, is classified as a Class A surface waterbody by DEEP. Consequently, the Council recommends that the Petitioner develop and implement a spill prevention plan for construction of the proposed facility, with specific procedures and contact information, as a precaution to minimize potential impacts on water resources.

The Council's comments above address only certain elements of the materials provided by the Petitioner at the time of the filing. Additional information can become evident through comments offered by other parties and during the Siting Council's administrative hearing process. The absence of comment(s) by this Council about any Petition or Application, or any aspects thereof, may not be interpreted as an endorsement of a proposed project, or its components or that this Council might not have comments or concerns on more specific issues raised during the hearing process.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Aresta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Paul Aresta  
Executive Director