



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

December 18, 2025

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
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PETITION NO. 1696 – Terryville Solar One, LLC (Petitioner) notice of election to waive exclusion from Connecticut Siting Council jurisdiction, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §16-50k(e), and petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the construction, maintenance and operation of a 0.975-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at 270 Preston Road, Plymouth, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection

Dear Attorney Bachman,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) supports the development of clean energy facilities on appropriate sites in Connecticut. The Council offers the following comments regarding Petition 1696.

Prime Farmland Soils

The Petitioner notes that “the Project area contains approximately 2.24 acres of prime farmland soils.” The Council recommends that the Petitioner incorporate agrivoltaic practices and low-impact development to enable agricultural co-use including, but not limited to, installing the solar panels higher above the ground and spaced farther apart than conventional systems to allow in enough sunlight to grow crops for harvesting or grazing. In addition, the Council recommends that best practices be employed during construction that might allow for the future restoration of farmland soils to more productive agricultural use by retaining the topsoil on the proposed site and minimizing grading, trenching, and compaction of farmland soils.

Visibility

The Petitioner states that “potential visibility of the Project from the residential properties to the west will be mitigated through the transplanting of the evergreen trees along the eastern Property line (where the adjacent property is wooded) to the western Property line, supplementing existing evergreen and deciduous trees that are to be preserved.” The Council suggests that the Petitioner analyze the visibility of the proposed project, especially north and west of the proposed project area, and, if warranted, develop a plan to minimize the visual impact of the proposed facility from residents located north and west of the proposed site.

Wildlife and Vegetation

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Information for Planning and Conservation (IPAC) tool indicates that there is the possibility that tricolored bat (TCB), a species proposed for official listing as endangered, might occur in the vicinity of the proposed project area. The Petitioner notes that the project proposes the removal and/or relocation of

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Aimee Petras

Denise Rodosevich

William Warzecha

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

several trees within the project area. The Council recommends that the Petitioner 1) minimize tree removal to the extent practicable, and 2) consult with DEEP's Wildlife Division regarding protective measures, such as time of year restrictions on tree clearing/relocating, to better protect TCB and other tree nesting bat species.

Water Quality and Spill Prevention

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) identifies the groundwater quality within the proposed project area as "GA", which is defined as "existing private and potential public or private supplies of water suitable for drinking without treatment". The Petitioner states that "to safeguard water resources from potential impacts during construction, the Petitioner is committed to implementing protective measures in the form of a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan ("SWPCP")." The Council supports the proposed implementation of a SWPCP and recommends that the Petitioner also develop and implement a spill prevention plan for construction of the proposed facility, with specific procedures and contact information, as an additional measure to minimize potential adverse impacts to groundwater resources.

Given that a portion of the proposed work site is a former orchard, the Council suggests that the Petitioner assess the soils within the orchard area for the presence of chemicals and pesticides, which might have been used within the orchard area, to protect worker safety. If chemicals and/or pesticides are found, the Council further suggests that the Petitioner assess whether soil disturbances during site work could release such chemicals and/or pesticides to the groundwater.

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, appearing to read "Paul Aresta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul Aresta
Executive Director