

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 514

Application from Glenvale LLC, d/b/a Glenvale
Solar, for a Certificate of Environmental
Compatibility and Public Need for the Construction,
Maintenance and Operation of a 4-Megawatt AC Solar
Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility Located at
56 River Road in Putnam, Connecticut

Zoom Remote Public Hearing (Teleconference),
on Thursday, June 15, 2023, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s :**

2 **Council Members:**

3 **JOHN MORISSETTE, (Hearing Officer)**

4
5 **BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI,**

6 **DEEP Designee**

7
8 **QUAT NGUYEN,**

9 **PURA Designee**

10
11 **DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.**

12 **ROBERT SILVESTRI**

13
14 **Council Staff:**

15 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,**

16 **Executive Director and Staff Attorney**

17
18 **ROBERT MERCIER**

19 **Siting Analyst**

20
21 **LISA FONTAINE,**

22 **Fiscal Administrative Officer**

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s:(cont'd)**

2 **For GLENVALE LLC, d/b/a GLENVALE SOLAR:**

3 **PULLMAN & COMLEY**

4 **90 State House Square**

5 **Hartford, Connecticut 06103**

6 **By: LEE D. HOFFMAN, ESQ.**

7 **lhoffman@pullcom.com**

8 **860.424.4315**

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1 (Begin: 6:30 p.m.)

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3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good evening, ladies and
4 gentlemen. Can everyone hear me okay? Very good,
5 thank you.

6 This hearing is called to order. It is
7 Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. My name is
8 John Morissette, member and presiding officer of
9 the Connecticut Siting Council.

10 Other members of the Council are Brian
11 Golembiewski, designee for Commissioner Katie
12 Dykes of the Department of Energy and
13 Environmental Protection; Quat Nguyen, designee
14 for Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillett of the Public
15 Utilities Regulatory Authority. We have Robert
16 Silvestri and Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

17 Members of the staff are Melanie Bachman,
18 Executive Director and Staff Attorney; Robert
19 Mercier, siting analyst, and Lisa Fontaine, fiscal
20 administrative officer.

21 If you haven't done so already, I ask that
22 everyone please mute their computer audio and/or
23 telephones now.

24 This is a continuation of the remote public
25 hearing that began this afternoon at 2 p.m. A

1 copy of the prepared agenda is available on the
2 Council's Docket Number 514 webpage, along with
3 the record of this matter, the public hearing
4 notice, instructions for public access to this
5 remote public hearing, and the Council's Citizens'
6 Guide to Siting Council's Procedures.

7 This hearing is held pursuant to the
8 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
9 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
10 Procedure Act upon the application from Glenvale
11 LLC, d/b/a Glenvale Solar, for a certificate of
12 environmental compatibility and public need for
13 the construction, maintenance, and operation of a
14 four-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric
15 generating facility located at 56 River Road in
16 Putnam, Connecticut.

17 This application was received by the Council
18 on March 8, 2023. The Council's legal notice of
19 the date and time of this remote public hearing
20 was published in the Norwich Bulletin on April 5,
21 2023.

22 Upon this Council's request, the Applicant
23 erected a sign in the vicinity of the proposed
24 site so as to inform the public of the name of the
25 Applicant, the type of the facility, the remote

1 public hearing date, and contact information for
2 the Council, including the website and phone
3 number.

4 Please be advised that the Council does not
5 issue permits for stormwater management. If the
6 proposed project is approved by the Council, a
7 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection,
8 DEEP stormwater permit is independently required.
9 DEEP could hold a public hearing on any stormwater
10 permit application.

11 Please also be advised that the Council's
12 project evaluation criteria under the statute does
13 not include consideration of property value.

14 As a reminder to all, off-the-record
15 communication with a member of the Council or a
16 member of the Council staff upon the merits of
17 this application is prohibited by law.

18 This remote public comment session is
19 reserved for the public who have signed up in
20 advance to make brief statements. These limited
21 appearance statements are not subject to questions
22 from the parties or the Council. The members of
23 the public making statements may not ask questions
24 of the parties or the Council.

25 In accordance with the public hearing notice

1 and in fairness to everyone who signed up to
2 speak, these public statements will be limited to
3 three minutes. Please be advised that written
4 comments may be submitted by any person within 30
5 days of this public hearing.

6 I wish to note that parties and interveners,
7 including their representatives, witnesses, and
8 members are not allowed to participate in the
9 public comment session. I also wish to note for
10 those who are listening and for the benefit of
11 your friends and families who are unable to join
12 us in the remote public comment session, that you
13 or they may send written statements to the Council
14 within 30 days of the date hereof, by mail or by
15 e-mail.

16 Please be advised that any person may be
17 removed from the remote public comment session at
18 the discretion of the Council. We ask that each
19 person making a limited appearance statement in
20 this proceeding confine his or her statements to
21 the subject matter before the Council and to avoid
22 unreasonable repetition so that we may hear all
23 the concerns you and your neighbors may have.
24 Please be advised that the Council cannot answer
25 questions from the public about the proposal.

1 A verbatim transcript will be made of this
2 hearing and will be deposited at the Putnam Town
3 Clerk's Office for the convenience of the public.

4 At this time, I request the Applicant to make
5 a brief presentation to the public describing the
6 proposed facility. I believe Lisa Raffin is going
7 to be making that presentation. Lisa?

8 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Morissette.

9 Will there be an image that is shared?

10 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

11 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Thank you. So the project that
12 is proposed is located at 56 River Road in Putnam.
13 Surrounding that area are, to the north, Day
14 Kimball Hospital and an industrial park.

15 To the east, there is a 23 kV distribution
16 line, wastewater treatment plant, the Quinebaug
17 River, Route 395, and another industrial park. To
18 the south is a gravel pit.

19 There are four residential properties to the
20 north and one residential property to the south.

21 To the west of the project site is River Road
22 and a parcel across the street, which is owned by
23 the same owner as the project site.

24 The site was selected as it's -- with its
25 proximity to electrical infrastructure.

1 Considerations were given to slope, wetlands, and
2 natural conditions and any potential effects to
3 the local community.

4 The site is a 31-acre parcel, 17 acres of
5 which will be used for the project. Three acres
6 in the northwest corner of the site are currently
7 leased to a local farmer for feed corn.

8 And then the site itself, the project
9 elements are, it's a four-megawatt AC solar
10 photovoltaic plant. There will be approximately
11 8,900 panels which will be mounted on trackers
12 that will track with the sun in one single axis.

13 The project will generate 6,700 megawatt
14 hours in the first year approximately. That
15 energy will be delivered to Eversource utility via
16 a 20-year power purchase agreement. This project
17 was part of the 2021 Shared Clean Energy Facility
18 Program, which was a competitive procurement and
19 it was selected under that procurement.

20 There is an access road proposed that would
21 enter the site at the northwest corner. That
22 access road is approximately 350 feet long and
23 would enter inside the perimeter fence. That
24 perimeter fence would be seven feet high around
25 three sides of the project, with the side along

1 the west being eight feet high. That eight-foot
2 high fence along the west side would have privacy
3 screening along River Road.

4 There are wetlands and a vernal pool to the
5 south of the project, and the project is set back
6 to allow for wetlands and habitat buffer.
7 Plantings will be put in place between that vernal
8 pool and the project to promote habitat, the
9 habitat in the vernal pool area.

10 There are several stormwater control features
11 designed for this project with retention basins to
12 address stormwater runoff.

13 The electrical interconnection is proposed
14 and then reviewed by both Eversource and ISO New
15 England with an overhead tap from the northwest
16 corner from an existing pole that comes across
17 River Road to another pole. And then there will
18 be a pad-mounted meter and electrical equipment
19 from there.

20 I think that completes my description of the
21 project.

22 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, Mr. Raffin.

23 We will now call on Tim Taft, followed by
24 Elaine Sistare, to make a public statement.

25 Tim Taft, please?

1 TIMOTHY TAFT: Yes, good evening. Thank you for the
2 opportunity to let me speak. My name is Tim Taft.
3 I live at 50 Mantup Road, Putnam, Connecticut,
4 one-half mile from this proposed facility.

5 My wife and family drive by this area many
6 times. We chose to live here 28 years ago for its
7 natural beauty and surrounding woodlands and
8 wildlife.

9 I'm not against green energy proposed
10 solutions, provided they make sense. I honestly
11 do not feel as though this proposal makes much
12 sense at all.

13 Based on the diagram that I saw today, it's
14 clear to me that the land for this proposal is
15 approximately three quarters wooded and one
16 quarter cornfield.

17 On a daily basis, it's very common to see
18 eight to ten deer and wild turkeys grazing in the
19 cornfield. Hawks and coyotes have been spotted
20 there, and there's also a black bear in this exact
21 location that was recently spotted on Quinebaug
22 and posted on the WINY Radio Facebook page on June
23 9th with photographic proof. So to deforest this
24 area, I feel as though it would be a travesty.

25 Much of the wildlife has already been

1 displaced by the neighboring Putnam ash landfill
2 expansion and the daily barrage of ash landfill
3 trucks. The landfill was recently expanded from
4 60 acres to 120.

5 Additionally, there is an adjacent 267-acre
6 vacant, might I say, technology park in Putnam's
7 expanded wastewater treatment facility. It's
8 worth noting that the Town built the neighboring
9 technology park 20 years ago and has not had one
10 tenant since. All of that open land is sitting
11 vacant. There's also an expanded gravel pit
12 facility down the road where blasting occurs on a
13 weekly basis.

14 I live a mile away from that facility and I
15 feel the blast at my house, and I've been told
16 that there's a lot of ledge veins and that's why I
17 experience that. I've had seismic measuring
18 devices put outside my house to measure that, and
19 that's a mile away.

20 My point with a lot of this is that all this
21 adjacent deforestation is pushing wildlife out of
22 their habitat. I've witnessed this firsthand in
23 my 28 years living here. This proposal literally
24 is going to destroy green forest ecosystems to put
25 up a, quote-unquote, green energy solution. To

1 me, that's an oxymoron.

2 One may argue that some of the proposed land
3 is already farmland for growing corn, but I can
4 tell you in the 25 years of watching wildlife in
5 that area, they come out of the woods in the
6 winter to feed on kernels of corn left in the
7 ground from the farmer's harvesting process.

8 This is a vital food source for these
9 animals, especially during winter months. Field
10 mice eat the leftover corn; the hawks fly above,
11 eat the mice; deer and turkeys eat the corn. To
12 me, it's nature at its finest.

13 This once pristine area of Connecticut,
14 affectionately known as the last green valley, has
15 become a dumping ground of the state and I say
16 that literally because the ash landfill
17 facilitates all of Connecticut and New York, and
18 parts of Massachusetts.

19 I heard Ms. Raffin state earlier that
20 Glenvale looks for brownfield first, but I
21 question why not the landfill cells that was
22 recently closed by Wheelabrator, or the adjoining
23 closed Putnam ash landfill, the municipal ash
24 landfill on River Road, or the Town's 20-year
25 vacant technology park, or even the brownfield

1 landfill on neighboring Modoc Road down --

2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Taft.

3 Unfortunately, your three minutes has expired.

4 Thank you for coming out this evening.

5 We'll now continue with Elaine Sistare.

6 Elaine?

7 ELAINE SISTARE: Good evening, everyone. Elaine

8 Sistare. I'm the Town Administrator in the Town

9 of Putnam. Putnam's land use agent, Bruce

10 Fitzback, and I both attended the evidentiary

11 hearing earlier today.

12 I will say both of us were very pleased to
13 see that the Connecticut Siting Council appears to
14 have done a thorough review of the project.

15 As part of Glenvale's preliminary
16 information, they did ask the Town for input and
17 we did collect information and input from our
18 wetlands agent, our aquifer protection agent, our
19 planning and zoning officers, our building
20 department, our fire marshal, and our highway
21 superintendent. So lots of folks that work for
22 the Town of Putnam were able to review and provide
23 input during the creation of these documents.

24 And again, I thank the Siting Council for
25 what I was very impressed with for their review.

1 Thank you.

2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Elaine. Thank you for
3 coming out this evening. Okay. That concludes
4 our public comment session for this evening.

5 And before closing this hearing, the
6 Connecticut Siting Council announces that briefs
7 and proposed findings of fact may be filed with
8 the Council by any party or intervener no later
9 than July 15, 2023.

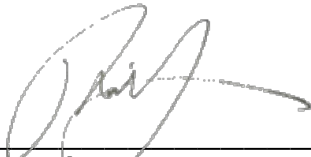
10 The submission of briefs or proposed findings
11 of fact are not required by this Council. Rather,
12 we leave it to the choice of the parties and
13 interveners. Anyone who has not become a party or
14 intervener but who desires to make his or her
15 views known to the Council may file written
16 statements with the Council within 30 days of the
17 date hereof.

18 The Council will issue a draft finding of
19 fact, and thereafter parties and interveners may
20 identify errors or inconsistencies between the
21 Council's draft findings of fact and the record.
22 However, no new information, no new evidence, and
23 no argument and no reply briefs without permission
24 will be considered by the Council.

25 Copies of the transcript of this hearing will

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 16 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL remote PUBLIC HEARING in Re: DOCKET NO. 514, APPLICATION FROM GLENVALE LLC, d/b/a GLENVALE SOLAR, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A 4-MEGAWATT AC SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY LOCATED AT 56 RIVER ROAD IN PUTNAM, CONNECTICUT, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer, on June 15, 2023.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857
Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025