

1
2 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
3 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
4

5 Docket No. 514

6 Application from Glenvale LLC, d/b/a Glenvale
7 Solar, for a Certificate of Environmental
8 Compatibility and Public Need for the Construction,
9 Maintenance and Operation of a 4-Megawatt AC Solar
10 Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility Located at
11 56 River Road in Putnam, Connecticut
12

13 Zoom Remote Council Meeting (Teleconference),
14 on Thursday, June 15, 2023, beginning at 2 p.m.
15

16 H e l d B e f o r e :

17 JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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**

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 (Begin: 2 p.m.)

2
3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good afternoon ladies and
4 gentlemen. Can everyone hear me okay?

5 Very good, thank you.

6 I'd like to call this remote public hearing
7 to order this Thursday, June 15th, 2023 at 2 p.m.
8 My name is John Morissette, member and presiding
9 officer of the Connecticut Siting Council. Other
10 members of the Council are Brian Golembiewski,
11 designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes of the
12 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection;
13 Quat Nguyen, designee for Chairman Marissa Paslick
14 Gillett of the Public Utilities Regulatory
15 Authority; and we have Robert Silvestri; and
16 Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

17 We also have Melanie Bachman, Executive
18 Director and staff attorney; Robert Mercier,
19 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
23 their telephones now.

24 This hearing is held pursuant to the
25 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General

1 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
2 Procedure Act upon an application from Glenvale
3 LLC, d/b/a Glenvale Solar, for a certificate of
4 environmental compatibility and public need for
5 the construction and maintenance and operation of
6 a four-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric
7 generating facility located at 56 River Road in
8 Putnam, Connecticut.

9 This application was received by the Council
10 on March 8, 2023. The Council's legal notice of
11 the date and time of this remote public hearing
12 was published in the Norwich Bulletin on April 5,
13 2023.

14 Upon the Council's request, the Applicant
15 erected a sign in the vicinity of the proposed
16 site so as to inform the public of the name of the
17 Applicant, the type of facility, the remote public
18 hearing date, and contact information for the
19 Council, including the website and phone number.

20 As a reminder to all, off-the-record
21 communication with a member of the Council or a
22 member of the Council's staff upon the merits of
23 this application is prohibited by law.

24 The parties and intervenors of the proceeding
25 are as follows. The Applicant, Glenvale LLC,

1 d/b/a Glenvale Solar; its representative, Lee D.
2 Hoffman, Esquire, of Pullman and Comley, LLC.

3 We will proceed in accordance with the
4 prepared agenda, a copy of which is available on
5 the Council's Docket 514 webpage, along with a
6 record of this matter, the public hearing notice,
7 instructions for public access to this remote
8 public hearing, and the Council's citizen's guide
9 to siting council's procedures.

10 Interested persons may join any session of
11 this public hearing to listen, but no public
12 comments will be received during the 2 p.m.
13 Evidentiary session. At the end of the
14 evidentiary session, we will recess until 6:30
15 p.m. for the public comment session. Please be
16 advised that any person may be removed from the
17 remote evidentiary session or the public comment
18 session at the discretion of the Council.

19 The 6:30 p.m. public comment session is
20 reserved for members of the public who sign up in
21 advance to make brief statements into the record.
22 I wish to note that the Applicant, parties, and
23 intervenors, including their representatives,
24 witnesses, and members are not allowed to
25 participate in the public comment session.

1 I also wish to note to those who are
2 listening and for the benefit of your friends and
3 neighbors who are unable to join us for the remote
4 public comment session, that you or they may send
5 written statements to the Council within 30 days
6 of the date hereof, either by mail or by e-mail,
7 and such written statements will be given the same
8 weight as if spoken during the remote public
9 comment session.

10 A verbatim transcript of this remote public
11 hearing will be posted on the Council's Docket
12 Number 514 webpage and deposited in the town
13 clerk's office in Putnam for the convenience of
14 the public.

15 Please be advised that the Council does not
16 issue permits for stormwater management. If the
17 proposed project is approved by the Council, the
18 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
19 stormwater permit is independently required. DEEP
20 could hold a public hearing on any stormwater
21 permit application.

22 Please be advised that the Council's project
23 evaluation criteria under the statute does not
24 include consideration of property value.

25 We will take a 10 to 15-minute break at a

1 convenient juncture around 3:30 p.m.

2 We will now move on to administrative notices
3 taken by the Council. I wish to call your
4 attention to those items --

5 MR. LYNCH: Excuse me, Mr. Morissette?

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, Mr. Lynch?

7 MR. LYNCH: If I may have a point of personal
8 privilege?

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, Mr. Lynch. Go right ahead.

10 MR. LYNCH: I'd like to address Attorney Hoffman.

11 I'm going to have to refresh your memory a
12 little bit, Mr. Hoffman. Going back, I think, two
13 summers ago there was an article in the Hartford
14 Business Journal on fuel cells. And you had some
15 comments and they were very supportive of the fuel
16 cell industry here in Connecticut.

17 And I read it, and I showed it to the
18 Congressman who's a very big proponent of fuel
19 cells. And he wanted me to thank you for your
20 support.

21 Thank you, Mr. Morissette.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Lynch.

23 We will now continue with the administrative
24 notices. I wish to call your attention to those
25 items shown in the hearing program marked as Roman

1 numeral 1B, items 1 through 99. Does the
2 Applicant have an objection to the items that the
3 Council has administratively noticed?

4 Good afternoon, Attorney Hoffman.

5 MR. HOFFMAN: Good afternoon, sir.

6 No, there are no objections.

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. Thank you.

8 Accordingly, the Council hereby
9 administratively notices these existing documents.
10 We'll now move on to the appearance by the
11 Applicant.

12 Will the Applicant present its witness panel
13 for the purposes of taking the oath? And we'll
14 have Attorney Bachman administer the oath.

15 Attorney Hoffman?

16 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Mr. Morissette.

17 So I'm not exactly sure what the Council
18 might ask today. So we brought a full panoply of
19 witnesses for the Council. With us today are Lisa
20 Raffin, who's the project executive for Glenvale.
21 And with her is Joseph Pereira and Ajay Aravindan,
22 also of Glenvale Solar. Joseph is the project
23 manager, and Ajay is the development manager for
24 Glenvale.

25 In addition, we're joined by our engineering

1 and consulting team at All-Points Technology.
2 They are Jennifer Young-Gaudet, who's the project
3 manager at All-Points. And we also have Eric
4 LaBatte, civil engineer at All-Points; and Dean
5 Gustafson, who is the senior wetland scientist and
6 also a professional soil scientist at All-Points.

7 And those are our witnesses today. I'd ask
8 that Attorney Bachman swear them in at this point.

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Attorney Hoffman.

10 Attorney Bachman, please administer the oath?

11 L I S A R A F F I N,

12 J O S E P H P E R E I R A,

13 A J A Y A R A V I N D A N,

14 J E N N I F E R Y O U N G - G A U D E T,

15 E R I C L A B A T T E,

16 D E A N G U S T A F S O N,

17 called as witnesses, being sworn remotely by
18 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, were examined and
19 testified under oath as follows:

20
21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Attorney Bachman.

22 Attorney Hoffman, please begin by verifying
23 all the exhibits by the appropriate sworn
24 witnesses.

25 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Mr. Morissette. So what we'll

1 do is we'll go through -- we have no additional
2 pre-filed testimony or other exhibits other than
3 what's already on the hearing program. So
4 referring to page 11, item -- Roman numeral 2,
5 item B, there are the following exhibits for
6 identification. There is the application itself
7 with all the exhibits and appendices thereto, as
8 well as the bulk-filed exhibits that are listed in
9 B1, A through D.

10 There is also the April 25, 2023, responses
11 to the Council's interrogatories, the protective
12 order that was signed on May 11, 2023, and the
13 signposting affidavit that was dated June 13,
14 2023.

15 And so what I will do is I will try to do
16 this as quickly as possible so we can get to
17 cross-examination. So just looking at my screen,
18 Ms. Gaudet, are you familiar with the exhibits
19 that I just listed in Roman numeral 2B?

20 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): I am.

21 MR. HOFFMAN: And are they accurate to the best of your
22 knowledge and belief?

23 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): They are.

24 MR. HOFFMAN: And do you have any changes to them?

25 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): I do not.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: And do you adopt them as your sworn
2 testimony today?

3 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): I do.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: Ms. Raffin, I will ask the same questions
5 of you. Are you familiar with the exhibits that I
6 just listed in Roman numeral 2B?

7 THE WITNESS (Raffin): I am.

8 MR. HOFFMAN: And are they accurate to the best of your
9 knowledge and belief?

10 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Yes.

11 MR. HOFFMAN: And do you have any changes to those
12 exhibits?

13 THE WITNESS (Raffin): No.

14 MR. HOFFMAN: And do you adopt them as your sworn
15 testimony?

16 THE WITNESS (Raffin): I do.

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. LaBatte, are you familiar with the
18 items that were listed in Roman numeral 2B?

19 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): I am.

20 MR. HOFFMAN: And are they accurate to the best of your
21 knowledge and belief?

22 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): Yes, they are.

23 MR. HOFFMAN: And do you have any changes to them?

24 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): No, I don't.

25 MR. HOFFMAN: And do you adopt them as your sworn

1 testimony today?

2 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): Yes, I do.

3 MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. Gustafson, you will see where this is
4 going. I will ask you the same questions. Are
5 you familiar with the items in Roman numeral 2B?

6 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: And are they accurate to the best of your
8 knowledge and belief?

9 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes, they are.

10 MR. HOFFMAN: And do you have any changes to them?

11 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): No.

12 MR. HOFFMAN: And do you adopt them as your sworn
13 testimony here today?

14 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes, I do.

15 MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. Pereira, are you familiar with the
16 items listed in Roman numeral 2B?

17 THE WITNESS (Pereira): I am.

18 MR. HOFFMAN: And are they accurate to the best of your
19 knowledge and belief?

20 THE WITNESS (Pereira): They are.

21 MR. HOFFMAN: Do you have any changes to them?

22 THE WITNESS (Pereira): I do not.

23 MR. HOFFMAN: And do you adopt them as your sworn
24 testimony today?

25 THE WITNESS (Pereira): I do.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: And Mr. Aravindan, are you familiar with
2 the items listed in Roman numeral 2B?

3 THE WITNESS (Aravindan): I am.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: And are they accurate to the best of your
5 knowledge and belief?

6 THE WITNESS (Aravindan): Yes.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: And do you have any changes to them
8 today?

9 THE WITNESS (Aravindan): None.

10 MR. HOFFMAN: And do you adopt them as your sworn
11 testimony?

12 THE WITNESS (Aravindan): I do.

13 MR. HOFFMAN: With that, Mr. Morissette, I would ask
14 that all of the exhibits listed in item 2B in the
15 hearing program be admitted as full exhibits for
16 this hearing?

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Attorney Hoffman.

18 The exhibits are hereby admitted. Thank you.

19 We will now begin with cross-examination of
20 the Applicant by the Council, starting with
21 Mr. Mercier, followed by Mr. Silvestri.

22 Mr. Mercier?

23 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. I was going to begin by
24 reviewing the site plans that were in the
25 application.

1 And if you're following along the Council's
2 website, it will be at the top of the page under
3 application that was exhibit A. And I'm referring
4 to site plan EC-3, which I believe is PDF page
5 number 11 if you're using the website.

6 EC-3, the site plan is also known as the
7 sedimentation and erosion control plan, sheet one
8 of two.

9 Now, looking at the site plan here, it shows
10 two main phases of construction. As I understand
11 the plan, phase one is limited to tree clearing
12 and grubbing necessary to construct temporary
13 sediment traps and installation of erosion control
14 measures. Is that correct?

15 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** This is Eric LaBatte from
16 All-Points Technology. Yes, that is correct.
17 The -- the initial phase will be the perimeter
18 clearing that's needed to install the -- the
19 swales and the ponds, or sediment trap and
20 sediment basin that's needed.

21 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. So that would be all the sediment
22 traps and all the swales to begin with?

23 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** Correct.

24 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. Now would the gravel access drive
25 shown on this plan be installed as part of phase

1 one?

2 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** Yes, it would have to be. It
3 would probably be the first thing, one of the
4 first things that they would install.

5 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. Now at the end of this gravel
6 access drive that's shown, it kind of terminates
7 at a stormwater -- and on this plan, a temporary
8 basin. But then there's, like, it looks like a
9 road extension that extends up towards the
10 northern portion of the property.

11 What is this feature and what's its function?

12 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** It's a turnaround for -- for
13 construction vehicles.

14 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. I guess I'm talking about where
15 the gravel access road actually ends, and then
16 there's -- it looks like a road extension that
17 runs between a steep slope that you're going to
18 construct and a basin that you're going to
19 construct.

20 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** If you look just to the north,
21 there's a call-out that -- that points to that
22 item, and it's -- it's an overflow weir for the
23 trap.

24 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. Keep going. There's a flat area.
25 Is that a berm? Is that a road?

1 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): It's -- no, it's not a road.
2 It's going to be stone associated with the
3 overflow weir of -- of the trap.

4 MR. MERCIER: Okay. East of the overflow weir there's
5 a flat -- it looks like a road going up the slope
6 and bends to the north and terminates at note
7 7DN-1.

8 I'm trying to determine what that feature is?

9 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): Well, it's just a general flat
10 berm area.

11 MR. MERCIER: It's a berm?

12 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): Yeah. If you will, yes.

13 MR. MERCIER: Okay. So it's not going to be a road
14 where a vehicle can drive on. Is that correct?

15 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): That's not the intention, no.

16 MR. MERCIER: Now, looking at this plan, there's a the
17 rock-lined ditch. There's two rock-lined ditches,
18 one along the berm we just spoke about on the
19 northern part, and then one along the eastern
20 property boundary.

21 Since those descend a slope at, you know, a
22 pretty good grade, are there plans for check
23 basin, check dams in those rock-lined ditches?

24 And if so, at what interval would they be
25 installed?

1 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): We were not calling for any
2 check dams within those ditches.

3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. LaBatte, could you please
4 state your name --

5 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): Yes, I'm sorry. This is Eric
6 LaBatte --

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: For the Court Reporter. Thank
8 you.

9 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): Yes, sir.

10 MR. MERCIER: Are check dams required to slow down the
11 water velocity?

12 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): This is Mr. LaBatte with
13 All-Points.

14 The check dams are -- are not required or
15 were not required. We have the overflow weir
16 that's stone, and then the water will proceed to
17 go down that embankment and into that rock-lined
18 ditch for additional, I guess you would -- for
19 erosion purposes.

20 The water will go, I guess, perpendicular to
21 the contours.

22 MR. MERCIER: Okay. I'm just looking at the eastern
23 rock line ditch or swale for that matter. And you
24 know, it's pretty extensive. It goes downhill
25 quite a ways.

1 So I was under the impression that check dams
2 are required under certain intervals to slow the
3 water velocity down. So you're just saying the
4 stone itself is going to serve in that capacity,
5 to slow the water velocity down before it reaches
6 the basin?

7 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Mr. LaBatte, I think you were
8 muted on your response. We didn't hear you.

9 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** I'm sorry. This is Mr. LaBatte
10 again with All-Points. The -- the ditch itself
11 would act as like one contiguous check dam.

12 There's a detail of it on sheet DN-2. I don't
13 know if you had a chance to look at that detail.

14 **MR. MERCIER:** I have. I've also seen other projects in
15 the past that had check dams.

16 That's why I'm asking the question.

17 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** Understood.

18 **MR. MERCIER:** But thanks for your response.

19 Once the features are constructed in phase
20 one, and it looks like it also includes the open
21 field area as part of phase one, what would be the
22 next step?

23 So you did all the construction. You have
24 raw earth sitting there disturbed.

25 What would be the next step?

1 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): They need to seed that area and
2 then proceed with the phase two, which is the
3 cross hatching that would be on, I guess, the
4 eastern side of the -- the site.

5 MR. MERCIER: Can you see the cross hatch that's on
6 the -- on the plans there?

7 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): I do.

8 MR. MERCIER: So when you seed the disturbed areas for
9 phase one, do you have to wait until they're
10 stabilized before you proceed with phase two?

11 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): I don't believe that you --
12 this is Mr. LaBatte with All-Points Technology
13 Corporation. I do not believe that you need to
14 wait for that area to be stabilized to proceed
15 with phase two.

16 MR. MERCIER: How would the phase one areas that are
17 disturbed function as erosion control if they're
18 not stabilized, however?

19 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): The perimeter controls would be
20 in place at that time.

21 MR. MERCIER: So if there's a heavy rain event, there's
22 no stabilization of the raw earth. It's just
23 going to run off and then you're just going to
24 rely on the perimeter's controls to contain any
25 sediment that flows?

1 If you're building berms that are not
2 stabilized or swale sides that are not stabilized,
3 how would they function if they're not stabilized,
4 all that water?

5 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** This is Mr. LaBatte with APT
6 again. The -- those perimeter controls would be
7 installed. They'd be seeded.

8 If they needed to be considered stabilized,
9 that is something that could be noted and we could
10 work with the client to figure out a way to make
11 that happen before proceeding with phase two.

12 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. We'll move on to phase two, and
13 that is clearing and site grubbing for the
14 remainder of the site. Is that correct?

15 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** Yes, sir.

16 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. But it appears you're going to
17 have to clear and grub about twelve acres. I'm
18 leaving out the other portion where their stumps
19 remain, but about twelve acres have to be grubbed.

20 And once you remove the trees and the stumps
21 and other material, what happens to that material?

22 Is it shipped off-site, or is it going to be
23 used on-site?

24 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** That's -- this is Mr. LaBatte
25 with APT again. That's a question that would also

1 need to be answered by Ms. Raffin or Mr. Pereira.

2 It's my understanding that they most likely
3 would want to remove that material from the site.
4 There's no real place to put it, per se, other
5 than the stockpiled areas.

6 **THE WITNESS (Pereira):** If I may? Joseph Pereira from
7 Glenvale. The intention would be to remove those
8 items from site and have them disposed of in a
9 proper stump dump that would be contracted for.

10 **MR. MERCIER:** Thank you. After grubbing is, you know,
11 conducted and the site is all disturbed and
12 irregular, will it be resurfaced with a smooth
13 kind of topography so you can then move to
14 installing racking posts and things?

15 **THE WITNESS (Pereira):** Mr. Pereira with Glenvale. The
16 site would be graded and -- and smooth-finished,
17 if you will, before any -- any construction or
18 installation of equipment would begin.

19 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. I didn't see much grading on the
20 site plan except maybe up in the northern portion.
21 So is the intent kind of to maintain the existing
22 topography and just kind of, you know, grade it
23 out on the surface a little bit to prepare it for
24 the post?

25 Or are you going to do extensive grading to

1 reduce certain slopes elsewhere on the property?

2 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** This is Lisa Raffin with -- with
3 Glenvale. The intention is to only do minimal
4 grading. There's -- there's not extensive grading
5 planned for, so it's -- it's really a fine grading
6 to -- to smooth over, you know, pits, you know,
7 from stump removals, for example.

8 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. Now so you'll have a twelve-acre
9 area roughly of exposed soil. Is it a requirement
10 of the DEEP General Permit to do this type of
11 activity in five-acre increments?

12 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** This is Mr. LaBatte. Yes, that
13 is the intent, five-acre increments.

14 **MR. MERCIER:** So would you have to stabilize a
15 five-acre area before you move down to the next
16 five-acre area? Is that how that works?

17 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** Yes, you would only want to be
18 working in one five-acre area at a time. I think
19 the -- as Ms. Raffin noted, the amount of grading
20 to be proposed is minimal.

21 So the likelihood is there won't be massive
22 areas of disturbed earth with free -- free dirt
23 being able to sort of flow around the site, if you
24 will.

25 **MR. MERCIER:** But I think we just spoke that the whole

1 site will have to be, you know, resurfaced because
2 of the irregularity. You're tearing out stumps
3 and removing logs and driving tractors over it, so
4 you're going to have a pretty extensive area
5 that's disturbed. So I didn't see any
6 stabilization notes on this plan, so that's why
7 I'm asking this question.

8 So the intent would be to divide it up into
9 five-acre areas, which will be stabilized, before
10 you move to the next one.

11 Is that what was stated earlier?

12 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): That is the intention, yes.

13 MR. MERCIER: Now does stabilization mean, you know,
14 seeding and have to let it sit until it stabilizes
15 the soil, you know, the vegetative growth before
16 you can proceed putting posts in that area?

17 The site would have to be stabilized, and so
18 I'm assuming that's seeding -- unless it's another
19 way to do it. Please elaborate.

20 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): This is Mr. LaBatte. Yes, that
21 is the intention. As -- as you noted, that is.

22 That is the intention.

23 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Also on the site plan, especially
24 up in the north, northern portion, kind of near
25 that berm area, and along the east side, the

1 southeast side, you know, there's some steeper
2 slopes there. For steep slopes, do you have to do
3 intermediary measures, you know, put erosion
4 control, sometimes fencing or other types of
5 features along the slope so it doesn't run off
6 during rain events?

7 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): This is Mr. LaBatte. If you
8 look at the plans, there are -- there is a silt
9 fence located along the perimeter of the site.

10 MR. MERCIER: Right. I'm talking about the slopes
11 themselves within the site. Now would you have
12 to, according to erosion control guidelines,
13 stabilize slopes additionally by putting
14 intermediary measures, you know, along the slope
15 as you're doing construction or in case it rains
16 on the steep slopes and it causes erosion?

17 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): This is Mr. LaBatte. Could you
18 please reiterate the areas in question?

19 MR. MERCIER: Sure. I mean, the area near the berm,
20 those steep slopes, kind of where the electrical
21 line is shown, that area in there. And there's
22 another area along these property lines that kind
23 of, I would say around elevation 350 down to 340
24 and a little bit south of there.

25 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): Okay. This is Mr. LaBatte --

1 MR. MERCIER: Is that kind of like a stockpile area?

2 There's, you know, kind of a steeper slope along
3 that southern portion.

4 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): The intent of the design was
5 that the controls that are outlined on the plans
6 would be adequate based on the site conditions.

7 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. The environmental report
8 stated there was bedrock on the site under a thin
9 layer of glacial till throughout most of the site.

10 Do you anticipate any kind of blasting to
11 install the swales, or detention basins?

12 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): This is Mr. LaBatte. No. That
13 was not expected, no.

14 MR. MERCIER: If you encounter a ledge when you're
15 constructing a basin or swale, how would that be
16 removed?

17 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): This is Mr. LaBatte.

18 I don't know if Mr. Pereira would like to
19 answer that question regarding means and methods
20 during construction?

21 THE WITNESS (Pereira): Yes, Joseph Pereira, Glenvale.

22 We're going to have to determine at the time.
23 Blasting has not been intended. If anything, this
24 may be a situation of rock hammer if we have to
25 cut down into some of the bedrock in order to

1 create the swales. That is to be determined.

2 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you. Has a geotechnical
3 study been conducted on this site yet?

4 THE WITNESS (Pereira): Pereira, Glenvale. No, we do
5 not have a full geotechnical survey at this point.

6 MR. MERCIER: Is the intent to do one eventually before
7 construction begins?

8 THE WITNESS (Pereira): Mr. Pereira, Glenvale. Yes, it
9 is our intention to perform a geotech survey.

10 MR. MERCIER: If this project was approved by the
11 Council, would that be conducted before the
12 development and management plan is submitted to
13 the Council?

14 THE WITNESS (Pereira): Mr. Pereira, Glenvale. Yes,
15 that would be standard procedure, to do so at that
16 point.

17 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Just for informational purposes,
18 what type of equipment would be used out on the
19 site during the geotech survey? And also, would
20 there be, you know, trees, you know, large tree
21 cutting to get whatever access you need?

22 THE WITNESS (Pereira): Mr. Pereira, Glenvale.

23 Typically, when geotech is -- is performed,
24 you're using a small tracked vehicle with a drill
25 rig on it; minimal width, minimal size. Some

1 trees may have to be taken down, but that would
2 only be for -- for access for the -- the drill rig
3 itself, and would not be broad swaths of -- of the
4 trees being taken down.

5 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. I had a few questions on site
6 plan EN. That's the fifth sheet from the
7 beginning of the whole set that was submitted.
8 It's the environmental notes.

9 In the upper right corner of the sheet, there
10 is a vernal pool enhancement planting schedule.
11 There are several species of shrubs listed.

12 I just want to confirm that there'll be 150
13 each, of each type, 150 of each type planted as
14 it's shown. I wasn't sure if that was the right
15 amount.

16 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes, Dean Gustafson from
17 All-Points. Yeah, based on the area of
18 enhancement and the -- the proposed planting
19 densities for the spacing, those are the required
20 amounts.

21 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. On the bottom right of the
22 sheet, there's a detail for the animal exclusion
23 fencing. Now is this the fencing that's proposed
24 around the stormwater basin to keep out vernal
25 pool species?

1 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes, again, Dean Gustafson.

2 This is for the southernmost basin that's in
3 proximity to the vernal pool habitat. So that
4 would exclude out that basin so it doesn't act as
5 a possible decoy pool.

6 MR. MERCIER: Mr. Gustafson, have you seen this type of
7 fencing used elsewhere in the state?

8 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes, I have. Not always for
9 the purposes of excluding out of a basin, but
10 I've -- I've seen it for exclusion for roadways
11 for major developments. I've seen it applied in a
12 couple of different applications.

13 MR. MERCIER: I was just wondering if it was actually
14 effective. You know, would it keep species,
15 vernal pool species out of the basin? Or serve to
16 trap them in there if they somehow got in?

17 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): No, it's pretty effective.
18 Again, Dean Gustafson, All-Points. It's pretty
19 effective at keeping them out of the pool, or out
20 of the basin.

21 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you.

22 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): You're welcome.

23 MR. MERCIER: My next question had to do with the
24 environmental report, attachment G. Basically, it
25 was about the northern long-eared bat. You know

1 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service submitted a
2 letter to Glenvale on May 26th of 2022, and
3 obviously the bat was relisted from threatened to
4 endangered in late 2022.

5 It stated something, that there may be some
6 type of upgraded tool you could use to determine
7 if the project would affect the now federally
8 threatened northern long-eared bat.

9 Has there been any further correspondence or
10 use of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife --

11 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes, there --

12 MR. MERCIER: -- for the long-eared --

13 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes. I'm sorry to cut you
14 off, Mr. Mercier. Yes, there has been. Again,
15 Dean Gustafson, All-Points.

16 So with the release of the interim range-wide
17 northern long-eared bat determination key by the
18 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a couple of months
19 ago in March, we recently reran the project on
20 June 13th using the new determination key, or the
21 D key, and we -- it resulted in a consultation
22 letter, a final determination of no effect on
23 northern long-eared bat.

24 So we can -- we can certainly follow up and
25 provide you with that documentation, but the

1 project will have no effect on northern long-eared
2 bat.

3 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you. Also in attachment G,
4 there was some recommendations proposed to avoid
5 tree clearing during certain intervals. One of
6 them was from June 1st to July 31st to protect bat
7 pups that may be potentially on the site in the
8 forest. The other one was a more expansive
9 restriction from April 1st to October 31st to
10 protect roosting bats.

11 Does Glenvale intend to follow one of these,
12 or any of these?

13 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): If I could just jump in on
14 that one first, Mr. Mercier? Again, Dean
15 Gustafson from All-Points.

16 With the release of the new determination key
17 for northern long-eared bat, there is more
18 detailed habitat modeling built into that program
19 by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and when we ran that
20 determination key earlier this month, it noted
21 that this isn't an area of the state of potential
22 habitat for northern long-eared bat.

23 So with that determination and conclusion,
24 the conservation measures that were in our
25 original memo dated July 5th, 2022, those

1 conservation measures really aren't necessary any
2 longer with respect to protecting northern
3 long-eared bat because the site isn't considered a
4 habitat for that species.

5 MR. MERCIER: Oh, thank you for that clarification.

6 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yeah, you're welcome.

7 I'll just -- one more follow-up again, Dean
8 Gustafson. You know, through our consultation
9 with Connecticut DEEP Natural Diversity Database,
10 which their determination was that there was no
11 effect to state-listed rare species, you know, the
12 northern long-eared bat is also considered a
13 state-listed species.

14 So if the wildlife division folks at DEEP had
15 a particular concern with the project with respect
16 to northern long-eared bat, they would have noted
17 it in their report as well. Even with the
18 up-listing from, you know, threatened to
19 endangered at the federal level, they still made
20 that recommendation.

21 So based on -- on those facts, I don't think
22 it's warranted that there's any type of seasonal
23 restriction for tree clearing with respect to no
24 long -- northern long-eared bat for this project.

25 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you. I am going to move on

1 to site plan SP-1. This is the site utility plan
2 towards the end of the site plan set, if you're
3 following along on the website.

4 I'm looking at the proposed fence line along
5 the access drive. And the fence line includes the
6 access drive. It has a gate, you know, towards
7 the river -- River Road, and a gate leading to a
8 basin.

9 Is it possible to move the gate -- excuse me,
10 move the fence so it excludes the road? I'm not
11 sure the reason you need to have the road within
12 the fenced area. I guess I'm asking this question
13 just trying to get the fencing away from the
14 abutting property line as much as possible. Is
15 that something that could be done?

16 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** This is Lisa Raffin with
17 Glenvale. We originally had the road inside the
18 fence. The access road -- I'm sorry, the access
19 road on the exterior of the fence in our original
20 design and then we relocated it to the inside of
21 the fence.

22 We thought that that was a better design from
23 the perspective of, you know, the abutting
24 neighbor visibility. We put a screen of plantings
25 in between -- on the exterior of the fence in

1 between the property boundary line and the fence
2 to create a screen. And that was the reason for
3 that.

4 It also made for a more efficient access into
5 the project area. And I think we were able to
6 have more, more efficiency around the layout as
7 well. All-Points may have some additional
8 comments to this.

9 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): This is Mr. LaBatte from
10 All-Points. The fence, you know, pending
11 Ms. Raffin and Mr. Pereira's decision, can we just
12 show it on the inside of the property, if that's
13 what you would prefer?

14 MR. MERCIER: Yes, I was just asking why that was
15 included within the fence line, the road. I'm
16 just trying to get the fence away from the
17 neighbor.

18 Yeah, I understand it's more efficient for
19 you.

20 Seeing the landscaping in the corner there,
21 is it possible to move it, to extend it to the
22 east a little bit, that was maybe to block the
23 turnaround area a little bit more. And the gate
24 on the other side?

25 THE WITNESS (Pereira): Joseph Pereira from Glenvale.

1 I see no problem with extending the vegetative
2 area to help block the -- the turnaround.

3 MR. MERCIER: Looking at the plan, I see the inverter
4 transformer pad up in the corner there, you know,
5 east of the stormwater basin.

6 How would a vehicle reach that area, if
7 that's necessary? That is, how would that area be
8 accessed, you know, after construction, or
9 maintenance, or placement?

10 THE WITNESS (Raffin): This is Lisa Raffin from
11 Glenvale. My understanding is the space in
12 between the -- the northern section of the panels
13 and the fence would be wide enough to drive a
14 truck out to the inverter.

15 It's not -- it's not planned to be graveled,
16 but it would be grassed area and it could -- we
17 travel that route to get access to the inverter.
18 That was -- yeah, that was discussed during
19 design.

20 MR. MERCIER: Okay. The reason I was asking about that
21 berm, whether it was a road is because you have,
22 at the terminus, the northeast terminus of that
23 berm, is there a gate there? So again, is the
24 intent to drive on top of that berm? Or is that
25 just a berm for stormwater control?

1 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): This is Mr. LaBatte. It's --
2 it's a berm for stormwater control. You wouldn't
3 want to drive over that outfall stoned area. That
4 The point of it is that is the outlet of the pond.
5 So it would not be the intention to have anyone
6 traverse that in a vehicle.

7 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you. Looking at the
8 proposed concrete equipment pads, this would be
9 just near the entrance, the gravel access drive
10 entrance off River Road. That's where the
11 electrical line comes in.

12 I believe there's one utility pole proposed.
13 Or is there two? I can't see the plan clearly.
14 Is there two poles proposed here, or one utility
15 poles once the -- after the concrete pads?

16 THE WITNESS (Pereira): Hi. Joseph Pereira with
17 Glenvale. I guess as recently as yesterday, there
18 were conversations with Eversource -- because they
19 kind of drive the -- the final action here.

20 The -- the intent at the time of application
21 was a single pole. The pads would house a
22 ground -- a ground-mounted meter as well as a
23 transformer. We will work through the final
24 aspects of that with a field engineer from
25 Eversource. And if there are changes from this,

1 we would be back to you with an amendment to the
2 plan, but this is the plan at this point in time.

3 MR. MERCIER: Would those, would the pole and those two
4 pads be in that location? Or can they be, you
5 know, moved slightly? You know, maybe more
6 parallel to the River Road, you know, on the
7 opposite side of the gravel drive to get it away
8 from the neighbor's house? Or it's just the
9 design they're pressing you to?

10 THE WITNESS (Pereira): Mr. Pereira, Glenvale. Again,
11 we've got the screening in there. There's a
12 pretty good amount of distance. If we tried to
13 pull it down closer to the panel arrays, there
14 really would not be adequate room for it.

15 If your wish is to pull it closer to the
16 turnaround -- is -- is that what you're saying,
17 Mr. Mercier?

18 MR. MERCIER: Actually, I was just hopefully trying to
19 get it next to the access drive itself. You know,
20 maybe let's move it directly south, or even
21 parallel to River Road in that open space between
22 the small swale that's shown just south of the
23 access drive.

24 We have all this frontage on River Road.
25 It's just everything's kind of jammed in that

1 corner. So I was trying to just move it away from
2 this person's property line.

3 THE WITNESS (Pereira): Mr. Pereira, again, from --
4 from Glenvale. Moving it down to the River Road
5 side, bringing it to the south side of the access
6 drive may cause difficulties in trying to line
7 everything up. The transformer has to -- there,
8 there are certain positions that everything kind
9 of needs to be in order coming back from the
10 inverter.

11 We can certainly look into it, and if -- if
12 it's a requirement set by the -- the Council, we
13 can look at it, but we're -- we're better keeping
14 it to the north side of the access drive
15 currently, and -- and keeping it as close to the
16 access drive as -- as is practical.

17 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you. I'm going back to the
18 other concrete pad up by east of the stormwater
19 basin on this diagram. That's your main
20 transformer pad. I think you called it the medium
21 voltage power station in one of the
22 interrogatories.

23 I understand that it has a transformer and an
24 inverter component. Are there also string
25 inverters associated with this project, or is this

1 one central inverter?

2 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** Yes. Lisa Raffin with Glenvale.
3 One central inverter. It's a 4,000, 4,000
4 kilowatt central inverter.

5 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. Thank you. Looking at the
6 property frontage along River Road, there's a
7 stone wall that's shown just outside the limit of
8 disturbance. I'm assuming that that stone wall is
9 staying. Is that correct? Except where you need
10 to move it for the access drive.

11 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** This is Mr. LaBatte with APT.
12 Yes, that's the intention. It's outside of the
13 limit of disturbance.

14 **MR. MERCIER:** Thank you. In application attachment C,
15 there was an e-mail from the Town. It may have
16 been the town engineer. He was concerned about
17 the overflow discharge of the basin along River
18 Road.

19 And his concern was that the discharge point
20 was in a poor drainage area along the road. So he
21 didn't want stormwater making an existing problem
22 worse. Do you recall that e-mail?

23 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** This is Mr. LaBatte. Yes, we
24 do.

25 **MR. MERCIER:** Now I see the overflow weir. It's

1 pointed right at the stone wall.

2 Would the stone wall itself and any
3 vegetation around there kind of serve to block
4 water or redirect it along the wall, rather, to
5 the road? I'm not sure of the condition of that
6 wall, stone wall.

7 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** This is Mr. LaBatte. The --
8 the amount of flow that's leaving the basin in
9 that area where -- it's minimal. A hundred-year
10 storm event only creates 1.5 cubic feet per second
11 of volume runoff.

12 And we're reducing, based on the model that
13 we ran that's included in the stormwater report,
14 we're reducing the two-year peak flow by a hundred
15 percent, and the hundred-year peak flow by 75
16 percent. And the other storm events in between
17 were all equally high reduction in peak flow
18 runoff.

19 So it's not anticipated that there's going to
20 be a large volume of water exiting that basin and
21 heading towards that wall and the street.

22 **MR. MERCIER:** True, I agree with you. What would the
23 circumstances be, like you know, a four-inch
24 rainfall and, you know, severe thunderstorm over
25 several hours? Or some type of a hurricane event,

1 for lack of a better storm size?

2 When do you anticipate it would ever -- would
3 it ever overflow? And if so, like, under what
4 type of circumstances?

5 MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. LaBatte, I think you were muted when
6 you were answering.

7 THE WITNESS (LaBatte): This is Mr. LaBatte. You are
8 correct, Mr. Hoffman, and I apologize for that.

9 The -- the model we ran was 7.9 inches of
10 rain over a 24-hour period for the hundred-year
11 storm event. And in that scenario, the peak water
12 surface elevation -- if you give me one second I
13 can tell you exactly what that is in relation to
14 the basin itself.

15 So that the overflow weir is set at elevation
16 329.5, and that peak water surface elevation for a
17 hundred-year storm event will be .09 feet above
18 that weir. So it's only during the hundred year
19 storm event, the 7.9 inches, that we saw, you
20 know, even the slightest bit of water getting over
21 it.

22 And like I said before it's -- it's a peak
23 flow reduction of 75 percent for the hundred-year
24 storm.

25 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you. Regarding the site

1 itself, you know, the transformer pad or the
2 Eversource pad area, is there any lighting
3 proposed for this site, permanent lighting?

4 **THE WITNESS (Pereira):** Mr. Pereira from Glenvale.

5 There will be no lighting required at that pad
6 space.

7 **MR. MERCIER:** I was reviewing the application. I came
8 across two different time periods for the
9 operational life of the facility. One said, you
10 know, about 30 years. One said about 40 years.

11 What is the anticipated operational life of
12 the entire facility?

13 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** This is Lisa Raffin with
14 Glenvale. The useful life of the facility could
15 be 40 years. It all depends on its -- its
16 operation and maintenance. So that's why there's
17 probably a range of 30 to 40 years, so.

18 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. Thank you. The inverter, the
19 inverter that will be on site, will that have to
20 be replaced at a 10 or 15-year interval?

21 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** Again, that -- well, the answer
22 is yes. Again, the predictability of the
23 inverter's useful -- end of useful life is -- is
24 15 years, plus or minus a few years.

25 **MR. MERCIER:** Thank you. I am going to move on to

1 interrogatory responses that were submitted on
2 April 25th.

3 I'm having issues with the computer, but I'll
4 just read the question.

5 In the response to interrogatory 21, the
6 first paragraph of the response mentions
7 retirements from the period of 2013 to 2022 --
8 that's power plant retirements. Does Glenvale
9 know of any recent ISO New England reports that
10 contains updated power plant retirement
11 information for the time period beyond 2022?

12 Essentially, were there any updates that
13 you're aware of since, since this information was
14 presented?

15 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** So that would be essentially the
16 first quarter of 2023, and ISO New England does --
17 does not report out on that frequency. They have
18 an annual report.

19 But we could -- we could probe the EIA, the
20 federal government EIA database to see if there
21 are any other retired plants, but at the time of
22 this response, we had not. So if -- if you're --
23 if you're interested in that, we could follow up
24 with any additional plants that have been retired
25 in 2023.

1 MR. MERCIER: Yes, if that's something that you have
2 easily obtainable by today, it would be helpful.

3 But if not, I guess that's okay.

4 Referring to the response to interrogatory
5 28, this had to do with emergency response at the
6 site, and it then referred to an emergency action
7 plan that was included in Exhibit E. I wasn't
8 really sure what the emergency action plan was
9 supposed to represent, since it had to do with a
10 building. I wasn't sure that was applicable to
11 this project.

12 THE REPORTER: This is the Reporter.

13 I don't hear anyone.

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: We're waiting for a response.

15 THE WITNESS (Raffin): This is Lisa Raffin with
16 Glenvale. If it's -- if it's satisfactory to the
17 Council, we'll have to look into this and -- and
18 provide a response, perhaps after a break in the
19 session so that we can -- we can determine whether
20 the wrong exhibit, or whether this is the correct
21 exhibit or not.

22 So if that's acceptable, we'd like to defer
23 on this question.

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, that's acceptable. If you
25 could look at it during the break and get us a

1 response after, that would be appropriate.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. I'll move on to the response
4 of interrogatory 32. This had to do with the
5 information from the State Historic Preservation
6 Office.

7 And in their letter they submitted to
8 Glenvale, it recommended a phase 1B professional
9 cultural resources assessment for certain areas of
10 the site. Now would these surveys be completed as
11 part of the application for the chief general
12 permit?

13 THE WITNESS (Raffin): This is Lisa Raffin with
14 Glenvale. I'd like to direct the question to
15 All-Points. Jennifer, could you speak to that?

16 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes. This is Jennifer Gaudet,
17 All-Points. Yes, they will be completed. The
18 Phase 1B will be completed, and in connection with
19 the general permit application, that information
20 would be required and submitted to DEEP.

21 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. And I'm going to go to
22 interrogatory 33, which has to do with livestock
23 grazing. And the response basically states that
24 sheep would be grazed at the site from a local
25 grazer on a seasonal basis.

1 Just out of curiosity, is it more cost
2 effective to maintain the vegetation within the
3 solar array using livestock grazing, or is
4 standard mowing?

5 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** This is Lisa Raffin with
6 Glenvale. It -- it depends on the site, the size
7 of the site. Our estimates for this, for this
8 specific site, given the estimates that we got
9 from one local farmer, it's about equal to -- to
10 conventional mowing.

11 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. You would still have to go to the
12 site, however, to mow areas outside, such as the
13 basin. Is that correct?

14 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** Yes, areas outside of the
15 perimeter fence would, would require conventional
16 mowing.

17 **MR. MERCIER:** When you were doing the consultation with
18 the Town and notification of the abutters, did you
19 indicate that there might be livestock grazing at
20 the site during that outreach?

21 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** I believe we indicated verbally
22 to the Town that we were investigating options for
23 agricultural co-use, one of them being sheep
24 grazing.

25 I -- I did not personally speak with the

1 neighbors. A colleague of mine spoke with the
2 neighbors, but I would -- I would anticipate that
3 we did not discuss sheep grazing with the -- with
4 the two abutting neighbors.

5 MR. MERCIER: Okay. You know, looking at the fence
6 design, you know, the site plan, it called out a
7 40-inch gap at the bottom of the fence to allow
8 for small animal passage. Would the fence have to
9 be lowered?

10 That means, eliminate the gap at the bottom
11 to protect the sheep from coyotes or others, a fox
12 or something of that nature?

13 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Yeah, so --

14 MR. MERCIER: (Unintelligible) -- go ahead.

15 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Sorry. Sorry about that,
16 Mr. Mercier. This is Lisa Raffin again. So
17 the -- the gap at the bottom of the fence was --
18 is a standard design perimeter fence for -- for
19 solar fields to allow small animals to pass
20 through.

21 We have since received the Department of
22 Agriculture's guidance on -- on agricultural
23 co-use and -- and sheep grazing, and they have --
24 they recommend fencing that goes down to the
25 ground to protect, to protect the sheep from

1 predators. So we would be complying with that.

2 MR. MERCIER: Okay. For the livestock grazing, you
3 know, for the perimeter fence did you consider
4 having a farm-style fence, or an agricultural
5 fence? These are typically, you know, wire fence
6 with more 6-inch mesh or maybe slightly smaller to
7 be installed around the site.

8 You know, I understand along River Road you
9 intend to put privacy slats, so maybe. Maybe a
10 farm-style fence could be used along the east,
11 north, and south sides of the array area to
12 contain the livestock, number one; and number two,
13 to allow small wildlife passage.

14 And I believe the small wildlife passage was
15 a part of the DEEP National Diversity Database
16 determination letter. So we have competing
17 interests here. So I wasn't sure if there was
18 another style of fence that could be installed to
19 meet all the needs.

20 THE WITNESS (Raffin): So, this is Lisa Raffin with
21 Glenvale. We're -- we're open to -- to a
22 different style of fencing and would like to make
23 the best, you know, the best selection for all
24 interested parties.

25 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. Quickly, for response 37,

1 there was an acronym, S-O-M. I just wasn't sure
2 what that represented. It was listed throughout
3 the response. It had to do with soil restoration
4 after the site was decommissioned.

5 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** This is Lisa Raffin from
6 Glenvale -- being that nobody else is raising
7 their hand. I -- I don't have an answer for the
8 SOM. I think we could take that question away as
9 well. Perhaps All-Points can give us some support
10 here and come back with an answer.

11 **THE WITNESS (Gustafson):** Yeah, this is Dean Gustafson
12 from All-Points. I believe SOM is an acronym for
13 Soil Organic Matter -- but we can verify that.

14 **MR. MERCIER:** Okay. Thank you.

15 **THE WITNESS (Pereira):** Mr. Mercier, if I may
16 interrupt? I believe Mr. Gustafson is correct.

17 **MR. MERCIER:** Great. Thank you very much. And my
18 final question is, if required by pending state
19 legislation could Glenvale furnish a
20 decommissioning bond and engage a qualified soil
21 scientist to assess and assure the restoration and
22 suitability of prime farmland at the site?

23 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** So my understanding that that is
24 recently passed legislation as a requirement to
25 provide decommissioning bond assurance. Glenvale

1 did not contemplate that with -- with this
2 project. It certainly can be provided if
3 required.

4 MR. MERCIER: And I assume the other portion about the
5 qualified soil scientist you could also commit to?

6 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Yes, if required.

7 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. I have no other questions at
8 this time. Thank you very much.

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Mercier.

10 We will now continue with cross-examination
11 of the applicant by Mr. Silvestri, followed by
12 Mr. Nguyen. Mr. Silvestri?

13 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you, Mr. Morissette, and good
14 afternoon to everyone. I have two follow-ups to
15 begin with from what Mr. Mercier was questioning
16 before. And Ms. Raffin, I want to bring up that
17 emergency action plan again, because that was one
18 of the things I was going to pick on.

19 During the break, if you look at it, you're
20 going to see that it's more geared to Edison, New
21 Jersey. It contains the Edison office floor and
22 evacuation plans, the police, fire, hospital
23 department, and utility contacts down in New
24 Jersey.

25 It also mentions elevator entrapment, rust

1 prevention paint, sprinkler protection systems, et
2 cetera. So hopefully you could digest that part
3 of it during the break and get back, get back to
4 us on that one.

5 And Mr. Pereira, I had a question for you as
6 well as a followup to Mr. Mercier's question. You
7 had mentioned rock hammer when you were talking
8 about potential ways that might be used to
9 penetrate the ground, if you will, to put in the
10 posts. Is a rock hammer the same as a jackhammer?

11 **THE WITNESS (Pereira):** Mr. Pereira from Glenvale.

12 Typically it would be -- it is similar. It would
13 usually be on the arm of an excavator, excavation
14 machine. I'm sure you've seen them, yeah.

15 **MR. SILVESTRI:** Okay. I'm familiar with the jackhammer
16 aspect of it. The rock hammer, not so much. But
17 the question I'd raise is, as that goes into the
18 ground it usually doesn't give you a perfect hole.
19 So it might be more or less v-shaped, if you will.

20 And I'm curious if that would be the case
21 with the rock hammer, and if you would have to do
22 any backfilling with that hole?

23 **THE WITNESS (Pereira):** Backfilling may be required.

24 You can usually control these pretty well, and you
25 know.

1 MR. SILVESTRI: And you don't anticipate that any soils
2 would be needed from offsite or otherwise, other
3 wheres to backfill a hole?

4 THE WITNESS (Pereira): At this point in time, I would
5 have no reason to think we'd be pulling in
6 additional soils for that purpose.

7 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you. Then I wanted to get
8 back to the environmental assessment that's in
9 Exhibit G. And the question I have is with the
10 third paragraph, to try to clear up some confusion
11 in my head. This is under Section 3.9, third
12 paragraph.

13 It basically says once operational, noise
14 from the facility will be minimal. The facility's
15 only noise-generating equipment are the inverters
16 and transformers -- and both inverters and
17 transformers are plural.

18 So let me ask, will there be more than one
19 inverter? I'm still not clear about that.

20 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): This is Jennifer Gaudet from
21 All-Points. The answer is that that plural should
22 be singular, Mr. Silvestri.

23 MR. SILVESTRI: For both the inverter and the
24 transformer?

25 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes.

1 MR. SILVESTRI: Very good. Thank you.

2 Thanks for clearing up my confusion.

3 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): I apologize for the extra S's.

4 MR. SILVESTRI: Understood, thank you. Let me stay
5 with the topic of the inverter, if I may? And
6 when I read the application, it comments that the
7 proposed facility would have a single central
8 inverter "limiting" -- and I'm going to emphasize
9 that word -- the facility to four megawatts AC.

10 Could you explain why the facility is being
11 limited to four megawatts AC?

12 THE WITNESS (Raffin): I can take that question. This
13 is Lisa Raffin with Glenvale. The Shared Clean
14 Energy Facility Program, which is the state
15 program that this project has an energy contract
16 awarded from, limits projects to 4.0 megawatts AC.

17 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you. Thank you for that
18 response.

19 THE WITNESS (Raffin): You're welcome.

20 MR. SILVESTRI: And should the contract somehow change
21 in the future -- and again, this is hypothetical,
22 but I'm still curious, could additional inverters
23 be added to increase the megawatt production?

24 THE WITNESS (Raffin): It could. It would be
25 inefficient because we're limited in area. So it

1 would only increase the AC power if you had
2 additional panels to then flow energy through --
3 or create energy from, excuse me.

4 MR. SILVESTRI: I copy that. Thank you. All right.
5 Let me move to drawing EN-1. And if you go look
6 at that, some of the numbers are a little
7 confusing -- but I'm looking at what I call item
8 number three, which is the petroleum material
9 storage and spill prevention narrative; a couple
10 of questions I have on that.

11 Is it your intention to store fuels on-site?

12 THE WITNESS (Raffin): This is Lisa Raffin with
13 Glenvale. There's no intention to store any fuels
14 on-site.

15 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you. And with that
16 section, is it your intention to amend that part
17 of it with, say, contact information for spill
18 response contractors, or disposal contractors, the
19 phone numbers for appropriate agencies, et cetera?

20 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean Gustafson from
21 All-Points. Yes, we can provide the Council with
22 that information with the submission of the
23 development management plan.

24 MR. SILVESTRI: Yeah, should the project be approved.
25 Thank you.

1 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Correct. Thank you.

2 MR. SILVESTRI: On the same drawing -- and I'll move to
3 item number four, which is the wetland and vernal
4 pool protective measures. Paragraph C on that
5 states that erosion control measures will be
6 removed no later than 30 days following final site
7 stabilization.

8 Could you define what final site
9 stabilization means, and who decides if the site
10 is stabilized?

11 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): For this particular project,
12 final site stabilization is going to be dictated
13 under Appendix I of the Connecticut DEEP
14 stormwater general permit. So that determination
15 will come from the local conservation district
16 who -- that performs these inspections on behalf
17 of Connecticut DEEP.

18 MR. SILVESTRI: Very good. Thank you, Mr. Gustafson.

19 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): You're welcome.

20 MR. SILVESTRI: Then if I move to the decommissioning
21 plan, it states that the PV modules would be
22 either reused or recycled. And I'm curious, in
23 your history so far have you recycled any PV
24 modules thus far?

25 THE WITNESS (Raffin): This is Lisa Raffin with

1 Glenvale. In -- in the history of Glenvale, we
2 have not recycled any PV modules. Is that -- is
3 that responsive to your question?

4 **MR. SILVESTRI:** Yeah, I was curious. Like I say, I'm
5 not quite sure how long Glenvale has been around,
6 but I was curious on that question.

7 So thank you for your response.

8 I'd like to move back to the single
9 transformer that you have, and I do have a couple
10 questions on that. Do you know how much oil that
11 transformer will hold?

12 **THE WITNESS (Pereira):** This is Joe Pereira from
13 Glenvale. I can obtain that information, but I do
14 not know that.

15 **MR. SILVESTRI:** Okay. Do you -- well, let me preface.
16 Transformers typically do not have secondary
17 containment. So do you know if that transformer
18 will be equipped with low-level oil alarms?

19 **THE WITNESS (Pereira):** Again, I do not know that
20 specification, but I'll be more than happy to --
21 to look into that. And if required, we
22 certainly -- we would certainly look at complying
23 with that.

24 **MR. SILVESTRI:** Yeah, what I'm trying to get at, sir,
25 is how would you know if the transformer is

1 leaking? That's why I'm asking that particular
2 question.

3 **THE WITNESS (Pereira):** A fair question.

4 **MR. SILVESTRI:** Then related to that, with the
5 transformer and the pad that's there, do you know
6 if the ground adjacent to or around the
7 transformer and the pad would be sloped, if you
8 will, or somehow designed to impede any oil flow,
9 should there be a leak?

10 **THE WITNESS (Pereira):** I don't have that specific --
11 Yeah, I'm flipping through the plans right now. I
12 do not have that specification. I know that that
13 is typical from other installations that I've
14 worked on.

15 And especially with some of the wetland
16 around this, that would be probably be advisable,
17 but we'll certainly -- certainly consider and take
18 that as constructive -- a constructive question.

19 **MR. SILVESTRI:** As well as a couple of homework
20 assignments that I gave you already. Thank you.

21 Let me move on now to the single access
22 trackers. And I do have a few set of questions on
23 those. First off, do the trackers emit any noise?

24 **THE WITNESS (Pereira):** This is Lisa Raffin with
25 Glenvale. I do not know the decibel level of the

1 tracker motors, but my understanding is very low.

2 We can get that decibel level for you.

3 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Do you know how they're powered?

4 THE WITNESS (Raffin): They are powered from parasitic
5 power from the -- from the array.

6 MR. SILVESTRI: So if I understand right, if the sun
7 doesn't provide enough power, the trackers would
8 not move. Would that be correct?

9 THE WITNESS (Raffin): No. Perhaps I can be more
10 explicit about what parasitic means. If -- if
11 it's a very cloudy day and -- and the trackers are
12 tracking, if there's not enough energy from the --
13 the panels, then it would be parasitic, meaning it
14 would come from the grid.

15 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay.

16 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Energy would be coming from the
17 grid.

18 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. So somehow with the electrical
19 connection, you would be able to pull whatever
20 type of power you would need to keep those
21 trackers operating?

22 THE WITNESS (Raffin): That's right.

23 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Do you know offhand how many
24 kilowatt hours that the tracking system would
25 typically use?

1 THE WITNESS (Raffin): I don't know that.

2 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Related to that, when you came
3 up with an estimate as far as what the proposed
4 arrays could produce as far as power, did you take
5 into account any negative aspect of it? Any draw
6 that the trackers would take from that estimate?

7 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Yeah. So we hired a
8 professional engineer to model the energy, and in
9 the system modeling they include all losses,
10 including energy required to motor the trackers.

11 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. All right. Thank you. Then
12 staying with the trackers, the rotating mechanism,
13 is it internal to the racks that the panels are
14 fastened to? Or is there something external that
15 rotates?

16 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Internal to the rack. So my
17 understanding is the motor is -- is mounted at the
18 end of -- of the pole that runs north-south, and
19 then the -- the panels are mounted to that pole.

20 So that, that motor drives what we call a
21 table, which is X, X panels on that table. So
22 the -- the motor would be, I guess, external to
23 the racking.

24 MR. SILVESTRI: Then connected to some type of axle or
25 shaft that would go into the racking, and then

1 thereby turn the panels?

2 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** Yes.

3 **MR. SILVESTRI:** Do you have any idea if the rotating
4 mechanism or the motor itself require any periodic
5 maintenance?

6 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** So we haven't selected the --
7 the final manufacturer for the -- for the tracker
8 system, and my understanding is they have a
9 variety of different maintenance requirements.

10 **MR. SILVESTRI:** Any idea at what frequency they'd have
11 to be maintained?

12 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** I think it -- I do not
13 explicitly, but I would expect, you know, one to
14 four times a year.

15 **MR. SILVESTRI:** Okay. Then do you know what the degree
16 of rotation would be with the panels in the
17 tracking system -- or I'll put it simplistically.

18 Could they actually approach being
19 perpendicular to the ground on one side, and then
20 rotate 180 degrees to the other side?

21 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** It can, but they're typically
22 programmed to -- to, I think, max at 60 degrees,
23 but that the tracking manufacturers can program
24 the -- the maximum swing.

25 **MR. SILVESTRI:** Okay. So roughly 60 degrees, possibly?

1 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Yeah.

2 MR. SILVESTRI: All right. If there's a forecast for
3 snowfall, could the panels be rotated, say,
4 further than 60 degrees to maybe be as
5 perpendicular as possible to the ground to prevent
6 snow buildup?

7 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Yes, they can.

8 MR. SILVESTRI: Would that be something that's
9 automatic, or something that you would have to do
10 remotely or through some type of system to make
11 them move yourself?

12 THE WITNESS (Raffin): It's dependent on the
13 manufacturer.

14 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. So I'm aware that some type of
15 trackers have, shall we say, a built-in mechanism
16 that could actually determine if there's snowfall
17 precipitation versus pollen or rain, and they kind
18 of move automatically.

19 So depending on the manufacturer, that could
20 be included in the system. Or you might have to
21 do it manually.

22 Correct?

23 THE WITNESS (Raffin): That is correct.

24 MR. SILVESTRI: Very good. Thank you. I think I only
25 have one or two more questions. Oh, if you could

1 turn to the response to interrogatory number 36?
2 It states that Glenvale intends to adhere to the
3 Department of Agriculture standards for sheep
4 grazing, and you included Exhibit G in that
5 response.

6 The standard actually mentions guardian dogs.

7 Is your intention to follow that and use
8 guardian dogs?

9 THE WITNESS (Raffin): It is not our intention to have
10 guardian dogs on site.

11 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you. And this might be my last
12 question, although I'm going to check my notes
13 before I say it is. What's the status of the
14 phase 1B assessment?

15 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Jennifer Gaudet from All-Points.
16 That will be scheduled later this year. The
17 fieldwork has not been done at this point, but
18 will be.

19 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you. And Mr. Morissette, that's
20 all I have at this time. Thank you.

21 MR. MERCIER: Very good. Thank you, Mr. Silvestri.

22 At this time, we will take a 10-minute break,
23 and we will come back at 3:35, and we'll commence
24 with the cross-examination by Mr. Nguyen, followed
25 by Mr. Golembiewski.

1 So the 10-minute break, 3:35. We'll see
2 everybody then. Thank you.

3
4 (Pause: 3:25 p.m. to 3:35 p.m.)

5
6 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, everyone.

7 Is the Court Reporter back?

8 **THE REPORTER:** I am back, and on the record.

9 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Very good. Thank you.

10 Attorney Hoffman, are you back with us?

11 **MR. HOFFMAN:** I am, but I just realized that you
12 couldn't see me -- because I was too stupid to
13 turn on my camera.

14 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** We see you now. We probably
15 should have gave you a little bit more time to
16 follow up on your questions, but let's see what
17 you got. If you could --

18 **MR. HOFFMAN:** Yeah, I was wondering if you wanted us
19 to -- we can either answer now. We're perfectly
20 prepared to do that, or if there are other
21 questions that come up, we may want to break again
22 and then come up with answers for all of them.

23 But we're happy to answer the questions that
24 are here now.

25 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Okay. Why don't we knock the

1 ones off that we have open now, and we'll address
2 the others as they come up later.

3 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Happy to do that, but in order to
4 do that we need all of the witnesses present.

5 Well, Ms. Raffin is here, and I think she's
6 taken the lead on some of them. So we can start
7 with her and go from there.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. Thank you.

9 Please continue.

10 MR. HOFFMAN: So Mr. Morissette, maybe the best way to
11 do this is for me to ask her a couple of questions
12 so that she can explain what we did and go from
13 there. And if that's not --

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: That will work. Thank you.

15 MR. HOFFMAN: Certainly.

16 So Ms. Raffin, there was discussion about the
17 interrogatory response which was, I believe,
18 interrogatory response 21 related to ISO New
19 England and retirements.

20 While I recognize that ISO doesn't formally
21 figure out retirements, except for on the schedule
22 that you mentioned, were you able to find any
23 estimates from ISO regarding retirements in the
24 future?

25 THE WITNESS (Raffin): So ISO does have -- they look at

1 estimates in bag 2027. They anticipate an
2 additional 3700 megawatts of retirements in the
3 region; and 2100 megawatts of that being oil, 700
4 nuclear resources, and then 900 megawatts of coal
5 that will be retired.

6 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

7 And then there was a question around the CS
8 Energy emergency response and the response to
9 interrogatory -- I'm sorry, the CS Energy
10 emergency action plan and the response to response
11 28 from our interrogatories -- just checking my
12 notes.

13 Can you talk about exactly what the facility
14 intends to do with respect to emergency response
15 and clarify the answer to response 28 on the
16 interrogatory?

17 THE WITNESS (Raffin): So the plan is, in fact, you
18 know, a sample plan or example plan, and it -- and
19 it does refer to elements that would not be
20 required for emergency action response to a solar
21 field. Our intention is to provide a more
22 site-specific emergency action plan as -- as a
23 replacement and followup to this.

24 MR. HOFFMAN: And in looking at the response to 28, did
25 you intend to provide that merely as a template of

1 what would eventually be presented?

2 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** That's correct.

3 **MR. HOFFMAN:** And then lastly, on some of the specifics
4 of the equipment, have you -- has Glenvale
5 actually spec'd out any of the equipment such that
6 you've purchased, panels, inverters, trackers?

7 Any of that sort of thing yet?

8 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** The only equipment that we have
9 specified is the SMA 4000 inverter. That's a
10 power station.

11 The modules and racking have not been spec'd.

12 **MR. HOFFMAN:** Okay. So for the remainder of that
13 equipment, would you be willing to provide spec
14 sheets once you made your selection to the Council
15 as part of a D and M plan, or as part of a
16 compliance filing?

17 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** Yes, we would.

18 **MR. HOFFMAN:** Mr. Morissette, I believe that that was
19 all the homework assignments that we were given.
20 If there's another assignment outstanding, I
21 missed it in my notes, and I'll take full blame
22 for that.

23 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** I have two other items, Attorney
24 Hoffman. I have one -- is the oil. How much oil?
25 And is there any containment for low-level oil

1 alarms?

2 MR. HOFFMAN: Again, Mr. Morissette, subject to check
3 with Ms. Raffin, that that equipment, the
4 transformer, has also not been spec'd out. So we
5 would provide that as a spec sheet with everything
6 else.

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. Okay.

8 And the tracker DB levels and kilowatt hours?

9 MR. HOFFMAN: Again, the same, same answer. We have
10 not -- I specifically asked Ms. Raffin if Glenvale
11 had selected a tracker, and the answer is no.

12 So we can provide that to the Council, either
13 as a compliance filing or as part of a D and M
14 plan, should the Council so choose.

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. Thank you.

16 So going back to the emergency action plan,
17 is your intent to file that as part of the D and M
18 plan if this is approved? Or keeping the docket
19 open until such time that that is complied with?

20 MR. HOFFMAN: I think it's the Siting Council's
21 preference, Mr. Morissette. I believe that we can
22 either file that as a -- that was just an
23 indicative plan.

24 We don't have the site-specific, so we can
25 either file that as a precondition to

1 construction, much as we would the stormwater
2 general permit. Or if a D and M plan is required,
3 it would be very easily inserted into a D and M
4 plan, and it would be site specific at that time.

5 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. I think if the
6 project's approved, part of the D and M plan would
7 be appropriate.

8 I will go back to Mr. Mercier and
9 Mr. Silvestri to see if the responses meet their
10 needs. Mr. Mercier?

11 MR. MERCIER: Yes, thank you for the responses.

12 I have no other questions.

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Mr. Silvestri?

14 MR. SILVESTRI: I'm good with that so far,
15 Mr. Morissette. I thank the panel for getting
16 back to us. And again, it depends on where we go
17 with approval on the application. So thank you.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. Thank you,
19 Mr. Silvestri, and thank you, panel, for taking up
20 your break in obtaining those responses.

21 Okay. With that, we'll continue with
22 cross-examination by Mr. Nguyen, followed by
23 Mr. Golembiewski. Mr. Nguyen?

24 MR. NGUYEN: Thank you, Mr. Morissette, and good
25 afternoon to everyone.

1 Ms. Raffin, if I might start with you
2 regarding the emergency plans? And I understand
3 that it's going to be Connecticut-specific in the
4 D and M plan.

5 I just want to confirm that the specific
6 contact list for local contact in Putnam would be
7 part of that plan as well?

8 THE WITNESS (Raffin): So if I understand the question
9 you're asking, if the contact list for the owner
10 represent -- representatives for emergency would
11 be provided as local contacts? Is that -- is that
12 the question you're asking?

13 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah. The emergency plan that's submitted
14 has a list of all the contacts -- but it's in New
15 Jersey, and I just want to make sure that part of
16 the plan that would be submitted would be local
17 contacts.

18 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Yes. Yes. So, they would be
19 local contacts. They -- they may not be
20 Putnam-based contacts, but they're going to be
21 local to the area and be able to be responsive and
22 timely.

23 MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, Putnam. That's where you have the
24 project. Regarding the selection of inverter and
25 trackers and you indicated that the company has

1 not made the final selection. Is that right?

2 THE WITNESS (Raffin): That's correct.

3 MR. NGUYEN: Now considering that the company has done
4 this type of project in the past, does the company
5 have, like, regular manufacturers of equipment
6 that they have done business with in the past?

7 Or is it -- so, I guess the question is, what
8 contributes into the selection of equipment?

9 THE WITNESS (Raffin): So what contributes to the
10 selection of the equipment is availability, cost.
11 The -- the markets are very dynamic for solar
12 panel manufacturers, and as far as the racking
13 goes, different manufacturers have characteristics
14 that are more suitable for certain site
15 conditions.

16 So we would be looking to ensure that we
17 chose a racking manufacturer that was suitable for
18 this site, given the slopes. I'm specifically
19 referring to the slopes on the site.

20 So we have a selection of we -- we typically
21 go with tier one, and that, that's a Bloomberg
22 rating, tier one solar panel manufacturers that
23 have reliability, and their companies are
24 investment-grade companies. There, you know,
25 they're going to be compliant with TCLP.

1 And so selection of these manufacturers will
2 happen during the -- the process of securing a
3 contractor. So we expect that to happen this
4 fall.

5 MR. NGUYEN: And then I guess the same question
6 regarding the selection of panels. Has the
7 company made the final selection of panels since
8 they responded to number 49? Has it been
9 considered? And what's the status on that?

10 THE WITNESS (Raffin): So we have not made the final
11 panel selection. There's a number of panel
12 manufacturers that would -- would be suitable, and
13 those, that selection would be made, again,
14 around -- concurrent with the -- the finalization
15 of the contract with -- with the construction
16 company.

17 MR. NGUYEN: The current project is expected to
18 utilize -- it's about 8,925 panels.

19 Is that right?

20 THE WITNESS (Raffin): That's correct.

21 MR. NGUYEN: And from now until the final selection is
22 made, would there be any chance that the number of
23 panels will be reduced while accomplishing the
24 same energy output objective?

25 THE WITNESS (Raffin): It is entirely possible that

1 that quantity of panels were based on a lower
2 wattage of panels at the time of the estimate. I
3 would have to run a calculation, but it wouldn't
4 go -- it wouldn't go down significantly.

5 So that estimate was based on a 485-watt
6 module. We think that the market -- we can
7 readily get available a 560-watt module, so.

8 MR. NGUYEN: Okay. But I'm not sure this question now
9 would be addressed to you regarding the facility
10 that will be monitored remotely, and it has the
11 ability to de-energize in the case of an
12 emergency. Now where is that monitored from? Is
13 it in Connecticut, or is it out of state?

14 THE WITNESS (Raffin): The operation and maintenance
15 provider has not yet been selected, but likely
16 their control center is likely out of state.

17 MR. NGUYEN: So the control center will be contracted
18 out? It's not by Glenvale itself?

19 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Glenvale does not have a remote
20 operations center. It -- the remote operations
21 center is typically the -- the resource of the
22 operation and maintenance provider.

23 MR. NGUYEN: Now moving on to the maintenance system
24 plan, page 6 of Exhibit F indicated that the grass
25 mowing will be three times per year.

1 Did you see that?

2 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** Yes, this was the -- the
3 maintenance plan at the time contemplated -- had
4 not contemplated the sheep grazing. We were at
5 the time in discussions with the Department of
6 Agriculture and not -- not yet certain that we
7 would be using sheep grazing. So that's why it
8 references mowing three times a year.

9 **MR. NGUYEN:** So it could be more if it needed?

10 Is that fair to assume?

11 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** It could be more. It will
12 likely be less if there are sheep.

13 **MR. NGUYEN:** Referencing response to number 30, there
14 was a question regarding the 366 feet where the
15 inverter will be located. And the Respondent
16 indicated that the revised location is 137
17 plus-minus feet.

18 My apology. I'm still unclear on that 366
19 number, in reference to what's the context of that
20 366. Are we talking about the same property
21 owner?

22 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** If I'm not mistaken, and we
23 could -- we could confirm this by -- by doing the
24 measurements, but my understanding is 137 feet is
25 the distance from the inverter to the nearest

1 boundary line of adjacent parcels. And the 366
2 feet, it's my understanding that that is from --
3 from the road.

4 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): That that's correct. Jennifer
5 from All-Points. The 366 feet is the measurement.
6 It -- it was an increase from the earlier location
7 in a preliminary design for the -- the pad and the
8 inverter. And the 137 feet is to the nearest
9 property line.

10 MR. NGUYEN: Thank you.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Anything else, Mr. Nguyen?

12 MR. NGUYEN: Yes, I am -- I am looking at that. Give
13 me one second. Let me make sure that I don't have
14 anything else.

15 Yeah, I believe that's all I have,
16 Mr. Morissette. And thank you very much.

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Nguyen.

18 We'll now continue with cross-examination of
19 the Applicant by Mr. Golembiewski, followed by
20 Mr. Lynch. Mr. Golembiewski?

21 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Morissette, and good
22 afternoon, everyone. I guess I'll start my
23 questioning with essentially the narrative,
24 starting with the site selection part of it on
25 page -- essentially starting on page 3, but really

1 on page 4.

2 I guess I had a question on, it talks about
3 the criteria that were used to, I guess,
4 essentially determine this site, to find this
5 site. And I'm looking at the criteria on page 4.
6 There's bullets, four bullets there. And I guess
7 my question initially is, as I read those, I don't
8 necessarily understand all of them.

9 And I guess, first of all -- I guess my first
10 question is, why? Why Putnam? Why this site?
11 Was there a search area that you had identified in
12 a certain part of the state, or?

13 THE WITNESS (Raffin): So Lisa Raffin with Glenvale.

14 We, when we -- when we search for areas of the
15 state, or areas of a state -- we do work in other
16 states -- we -- we look for a number, and
17 depending on, you know, specific conditions. It
18 could be federal, federal support or state support
19 for a program. We will take that sort of search
20 criteria and apply it.

21 So for example, how we landed in -- in Putnam
22 is we believed that the -- the distribution lines
23 to the east of the property were transmission
24 lines, and that this property could support a
25 transmission level project.

1 We learned through the interconnection
2 application process that this is the site -- that
3 those are distribution lines, and that that is
4 part of a loop coming out of the Tracy Substation
5 to the south of -- of the parcel. And it's a 23
6 kV loop that would support up to 5 megawatts. So
7 during our pre-application process, we learned
8 that it -- that that circuit would support five
9 megawatts.

10 We then look at the characteristics of the
11 land, the proximity of various features. There's
12 a wastewater treatment plant. There's a gravel
13 pit to the south. There are two industrial
14 plants. The -- the general area is supportive of
15 kind of sensitive siting with respect to -- with
16 respect to siting solar.

17 And then we'll kind of drill in and look more
18 closely at attributes of the land, wetlands,
19 agricultural and core forest primarily as those
20 three screens, and we'll make a determination as
21 to whether it's -- it's an appropriate site to
22 locate a solar field.

23 And then finally, we look at, you know,
24 does the -- does the landowner have -- is the
25 landowner interested in entering into an agreement

1 to either lease the land or, in -- in some cases,
2 sell the land?

3 And in this case, the landowner was --
4 they -- they own several parcels. They own a
5 parcel across the street, a parcel to the north.
6 It's been in the family for generations. They had
7 no plan for this land.

8 Three out of the 32 acres are -- are leased
9 out to a local dairy farmer. Those three acres
10 are used for feed corn. And the dairy farmer, the
11 dairy farmer plants about 1,200 acres a season to
12 support their -- their heads of cow. And so loss
13 of those three acres was not impactful to that
14 dairy farmer.

15 So a long-winded answer for, you know,
16 several screens that start from kind of a higher
17 zoomed-out level down to very site-specific
18 characteristics and concerns that we look for.

19 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: So if I understand, the first sort
20 of screen is to be somewhat close to that, that
21 23kv line or a similar type of transmission
22 situation.

23 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Yeah.

24 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: So how far would you look beyond?

25 How far of a connection, I guess, is feasible or

1 prudent?

2 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Right. That's a good question.

3 So for lower voltage lines, you want to get as
4 close as possible. We -- we, you know, we think
5 it's most cost-effective and least impactful to
6 not have to run new distribution lines back to
7 existing distribution lines.

8 All of our projects have transmission and/or
9 distribution lines running adjacent to or through
10 the sites. I know that developers sometimes will,
11 you know, run some, you know, up to a mile or half
12 a mile, or whatever.

13 But we tend to look for interconnection that
14 is -- that is going to be on site so that we don't
15 have to -- yeah, we don't have to run new lines.

16 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Can I ask a question? In
17 your search criteria, existing, developed and/or
18 disturbed sites, like say, such as Brownfields, do
19 you look for those first?

20 THE WITNESS (Raffin): We do. They -- that they're
21 more difficult to -- to develop. Glenvale has, in
22 its existence in four years, has not developed on
23 any Brownfields or landfills.

24 I have experience developing on landfill, but
25 we -- we do look for sites that have, you know, an

1 industrial loose -- or industrial use or some --
2 some, you know, non-greenfield, non-greenfield
3 purpose or use.

4 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: So say like in this situation, like
5 Day Kimball Hospital is to the northwest. The
6 town sewage treatment facility site is to the
7 east. Did you even consider those? Or were those
8 too far, or?

9 THE WITNESS (Raffin): We -- we did look at those.
10 The -- the development on the -- on the hospital
11 site would have been primarily rooftop and
12 carport, and that would have been cost
13 prohibitive.

14 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay.

15 THE WITNESS (Raffin): The wastewater treatment plant,
16 I don't think that we saw a feasible area to be
17 able to develop four megawatts on that site.

18 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. I think that answers that
19 question well. I guess my only thought is, so,
20 you know, you -- as you drill down into, like you
21 said, the slope, the environmental, you know,
22 aspects, you know, as I look at this, as far as I
23 can tell there will be a loss of prime farmland
24 soils -- I don't know if somewhere around three
25 acres. There will be some loss of core forest. I

1 think it's about eight acres.

2 How does that fit into your, I guess, search
3 criteria? Because is that -- in your opinion, in
4 this business, is that an average impact or not?
5 You know, is that a common impact?

6 THE WITNESS (Raffin): As I understand the question,
7 you're asking me if it's a common impact? In
8 other words, would -- it's not something we
9 specifically target.

10 Is it common to see use of agricultural land
11 or forest for -- re-purposed for renewable energy,
12 whether it be wind or solar? It is but, you
13 know -- and "common" is kind of a broader term.
14 You know, I think the tendency we've seen and what
15 we look for is low impact. So the tendency is to
16 kind of avoid use of agricultural land as much as
17 possible.

18 When we saw on this site, in particular,
19 specifically we saw three acres being currently
20 used out of five acres of state prime farmland.
21 And we looked to various ways in which we could
22 mitigate that impact, including preparing and
23 providing replacement acreage across the street
24 that is not currently being farmed. And -- and we
25 felt that that would be an appropriate option.

1 So is it? Is it common in New England? It
2 tends to be kind of common when you look at
3 developers around the region. We don't target it,
4 and we look to avoid it.

5 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Yeah, okay. Because, I mean, as I
6 see it, about -- I think about 12 acres of the 16
7 or so of the development will be cleared and
8 grubbed forest. Is that accurate?

9 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Yeah, it's my understanding that
10 it was a small core forest. Maybe Dean has it. I
11 see Dean is coming up.

12 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yeah, I can. I can provide
13 some clarification on this. So with respect to
14 core forest impacts, the majority of the forest on
15 the property is classified as edge forest.

16 And the actual small core forest, there is a
17 small core forest component that is on the project
18 site and would be impacted by the actual project
19 clearing, but that only equates to about two acres
20 of actual small core forest habitat impact.

21 And that core forest block, as it currently
22 stands today, is approximately 34 acres. So we'll
23 reduce that to about 32 acres. When you take into
24 account some of the edge forest, the effect that
25 you would have, it reduces it to 26 acres, the

1 edge forest being 300 feet from the edge of the
2 clearing into the core forest.

3 So that reduction in core forest size won't
4 change the small core forest category and will
5 still remain and function as a small core forest
6 block.

7 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

8 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): You're welcome.

9 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: So I know that sheep grazing is
10 being proposed at the site, but that is not being
11 required as part of some type of Department of
12 Agriculture review of the project.

13 Is that correct?

14 THE WITNESS (Raffin): My understanding is that it's --
15 it's not required.

16 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: So my question, why do it then?

17 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Our thinking is that the
18 Department of Agriculture and the State have a
19 desire to not have a loss of agricultural land to
20 solar, and we considered several options.

21 We felt that sheep grazing was the preference
22 that the State would have. And so we pursued
23 that. Other -- other options such as -- yeah,
24 other options could still be considered and we're
25 open to that.

1 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: But that wouldn't change their
2 determination on the farmland soils.

3 THE WITNESS (Raffin): It did not change their
4 determination. We -- we got a letter, an impact
5 letter, and then we had two meetings with the
6 Department of Ag -- Agriculture, in which we
7 endeavored to understand the best solution for
8 this, for this project and this site.

9 And we submitted a sheep grazing, seasonal
10 sheep grazing plan. And we received a letter of
11 impact, an impact letter upon the -- the
12 completion of that as well, so.

13 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: So you're trying to get as close to
14 what would be expected to offset that loss of
15 farmland soil? Is that sort of, you're trying to
16 get as close as you can?

17 THE WITNESS (Raffin): We're trying to submit an
18 acceptable plan.

19 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay, but that messes up the fencing
20 issue. Doesn't it to some extent? If you don't
21 have to do it -- right? Then so there's a
22 different fencing scenario that if you do that,
23 you would have to use. Correct?

24 THE WITNESS (Raffin): I -- I believe you're correct,
25 that there are different fencing solutions based

1 on desired outcomes, depending on who's occupying
2 inside the fence and who -- who needs to get in
3 and through the site from outside of the fence,
4 who being animals.

5 And -- and you know, I think it would be our
6 expectation that we'll be able to find a fencing
7 solution should we move forward with the sheep
8 grazing. We are -- we are committed to providing
9 the sheep grazing if that is what is, you know, if
10 that is what is the best solution for this
11 project.

12 And if the Council has a direction, or even
13 the Town has some preference that is acceptable to
14 the Council and acceptable to the State, then we
15 would entertain a different solution. We are, you
16 know, we are -- we are committed to providing a
17 solution that's acceptable for all constituents.

18 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. I know at least the spec on
19 the plan shows a seven-foot high, I guess, metal
20 fence. And I know it might have been Mr. Mercier
21 talked about essentially some type of wildlife
22 friendly fence that would allow, I think, small
23 mammals and such through.

24 I know that is -- I think that's sort of a
25 recommended wildlife BMP. Does that create a

1 conflict with the sheep grazing?

2 THE WITNESS (Raffin): I think we'd have to consult the
3 sheep -- sheep farmer. I'm, you know, not an
4 expert in that, but that could.

5 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay.

6 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yeah, and if I can just jump
7 in real quick. Dean Gustafson from All-Points.
8 I'm certainly not a sheep expert, but with respect
9 to fencing, you know, typical farm fencing, if
10 we're using a four- to six-inch mesh, then that
11 would effectively allow for a four-inch gap at the
12 bottom of the fence for small wildlife,
13 particularly herpetofauna.

14 We know that there's vernal pool habitat to
15 the south. So we expect some migration,
16 particularly in the southern part of the project.
17 That would not impede, particularly turtles as
18 well, it wouldn't impede any of those wildlife
19 movements.

20 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. And I guess once -- you
21 brought it up, so I'm going to talk about it, the
22 vernal pool. So as I understand it, the vernal
23 pool is at the southern limits of the property.
24 And that the forestland that would be cleared to
25 the north for the panels, much of it is within

1 that 750-foot, I guess, plus hundred vernal pool,
2 if you want to call it, evaluation area.

3 Is that true?

4 **THE WITNESS (Gustafson):** Dean Gustafson from
5 All-Points. That's correct. So we did -- and we
6 provided this in the Applicant Exhibit 1, in
7 attachment -- attachment G, which is our
8 environmental assessment.

9 We provided a full analysis of the project's
10 potential impacts to that vernal pool habitat, as
11 well as the associated terrestrial conservation
12 zones, both the hundred-foot terrestrial habitat,
13 the vernal pool envelope zone, as well as the
14 larger critical terrestrial habitat zone, a
15 hundred to 750 feet away from the site.

16 And through that analysis, we determined that
17 the proposed development would only result in a 6
18 percent increase in the developed habitat within
19 the CTH, which resulted in a total of 23 percent
20 of development within the CTH at project
21 completion.

22 So we're -- we're below the 25 percent
23 developed threshold that's recognized under the
24 Calhoun-Klemens best development practices, and is
25 also compliant with the Army Corps New England

1 district's vernal pool best management practices.

2 But a significant portion of the projects --
3 project will be located within the agricultural
4 field, the cultivated field, which is included
5 within that analysis. And that cultivated field
6 is considered suboptimal habitat for those
7 obligate vernal pool species.

8 You know, typically you would see wood frog
9 and spotted salamander. We only saw spotted
10 salamander usage, and that species requires usage
11 of, you know, well-forested upland habitat as part
12 of its life cycle.

13 So we feel the project will not have a
14 significant adverse effect to that breeding
15 population, but we have incorporated some
16 conservation measures, including some plantings as
17 well as a restrictive barrier along the southern
18 basin so it doesn't become a decoy pool.

19 And we also have a resource protection plan
20 that will be implemented during construction so
21 that there isn't any incidental take of those
22 species during construction of the facility.

23 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. The barrier that would be
24 around the southern detention basin, is that going
25 to be spec'd out as the permanent fencing?

1 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That's correct. It's
2 permanent restrictive barrier fencing.

3 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay.

4 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): And it's constructed -- it's
5 manufactured specifically for this usage.

6 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: What about during construction? How
7 would you -- I mean, clearly you can't avoid -- I
8 mean, I can't imagine you could avoid migration,
9 the spring migration season.

10 And then, you know, I guess if you want to
11 call it -- I'm not sure if it's a fall, you know,
12 juvenile migration also. How would you handle
13 actual during construction? And there will be, I
14 guess, temporary sediment traps and such.

15 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes. No, that's a great
16 question. So as -- as Eric LaBatte kind of talked
17 about some of the project phasing, answering some
18 of the questions from Mr. Mercier, you know,
19 initially the site would -- they would clear, do a
20 limited clearing around the project perimeter.
21 And that is initially to install the perimeter
22 controls, sill fencing. And that will
23 essentially -- will effectively create a barrier
24 for any species to move in or out of the facility.

25 Once that barrier is constructed and fully

1 envelops the project site, before they start
2 mobilizing for full site clearing activities and
3 grubbing activities, we would sweep the area.
4 Assuming that we're within the active, you know,
5 active season, we would sweep the entire project
6 area, move any animals out of that, and -- and
7 then allow them to start the clearing/grubbing
8 activities.

9 Once -- as they're doing that, and if
10 we're -- we are within a particularly sensitive
11 period, as you mentioned, the early spring
12 migration or the late summer emigration out of the
13 pools, you know, we would -- we would tailor some
14 of our monitoring to ensure that any movements
15 that are occurring, you know, if there are any
16 late dispersal species or whatnot that are still
17 within the project perimeter, we would move those
18 species out of the way, and also monitor those
19 perimeter controls that are isolation barriers to
20 ensure that they're being properly maintained,
21 that there aren't breaches in them that allow
22 animals to get in while the construction is
23 ongoing.

24 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Question for you. I know you
25 had mentioned something about some multiple means

1 or multiple paths for the salamanders to get to
2 the vernal pool. One path could be through the
3 proposed project area. Is that correct?

4 **THE WITNESS (Gustafson):** That's -- that's correct. I
5 mean, so what we would expect post-development, it
6 would be kind of similar to what we're
7 anticipating for the current major migratory
8 routes for these species.

9 You know, there's fairly -- the wetland
10 system that occurs south of the property -- on the
11 property boundary and then extends further south
12 is all a forested wetland system. There's some
13 forested terrestrial habitat, obviously on our
14 property, but also to the south on the adjacent
15 parcel. And then that corridor extends eastward
16 across the airline trail.

17 And what we anticipate today is that the
18 major migratory vectors that are moving in and out
19 of this pool are coming from mainly the forested
20 habitat on the property, kind of on the eastern
21 end. And because you have a cultivated field that
22 is pretty suboptimal habitat, so we wouldn't
23 expect.

24 And as you go further north and also west of
25 that field, you have residences, you have existing

1 other agricultural fields. So it's -- we're not
2 expecting a lot of movement from those directions.

3 And then we'd obviously expect directions
4 from offsite, from the south, which we wouldn't
5 impede, as well as movement from the east, which
6 this project wouldn't impede.

7 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Would you object to monitoring the
8 pool for a couple seasons after to see the egg
9 mass numbers -- because I think you said there was
10 maybe, I forget, 55 maybe egg masses?

11 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yeah, your memory is correct.
12 We -- we had noted 55 spotted salamander egg
13 masses.

14 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Would you expect an immediate drop,
15 potentially, the year after construction?

16 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): We wouldn't, but just keep in
17 mind that we just have one data point from one
18 season, and then that there's natural variations
19 in breeding density from year to year.

20 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Sure.

21 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): So we could conceivably, you
22 know, if -- and this would be up to Glenvale
23 whether they would agree to.

24 You know, let's say this is a condition or a
25 suggestion from you, but if we do monitor it for,

1 let's say, two years post-construction, you know
2 we only have one data point pre-construction. So
3 we may see a drop to -- let's just throw out a
4 number -- to 45. You know that's certainly within
5 the realm of natural variations from season to
6 season, but it could provide some -- some insight.

7 If we continue to see a drop, say, a year
8 after we're down to 40, and then a year after that
9 we're down to 20, then we know something is going
10 on and that the facility may have had an effect,
11 but we still have limited data from
12 pre-construction. So it would be difficult to
13 draw some real good conclusions, but it -- it
14 would have -- would be able to provide some data.

15 And we could draw some, some conclusions out
16 of that, but like I said, with just one season of
17 monitoring it's -- it would be difficult.

18 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Would any of the other stormwater
19 basins or swales cause any decoy effect or inhibit
20 migration?

21 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Again, another great
22 question. And with respect to post-construction
23 monitoring, that would -- from a potential effect
24 of this breeding population, that would -- that
25 would be the biggest benefit, is to see if some of

1 these other basins -- the basin that's out by the
2 road on the west side of the project and then the
3 smaller one on the far north end just to see if
4 for some reason those are being -- are capturing
5 some type of migration. That I would see as the
6 biggest benefit of doing some post-construction
7 monitoring.

8 That being said, because of the existing
9 suboptimal habitat in those zones of the project,
10 we wouldn't anticipate those would function as
11 decoy pools. That's why we focused in on the
12 southern basin. It's the one that's closest to
13 the vernal pool, and it's also situated within
14 current forested habitat.

15 And it is within a zone of vector migration
16 that we anticipate currently exists.

17 **MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI:** I know there's an area, an
18 additional area that needs to be cleared close to
19 the vernal pool that's not going to be stumped.
20 And my understanding, as I read the plan, is that
21 it's going to be converted to a scrub-shrub sort
22 of situation, or habitat type.

23 Is there any potential for shading impacts to
24 the pool from clearing that area, clearing the
25 trees from that area?

1 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): So again, Dean Gustafson,
2 from All-Points. With respect to, let's -- let's
3 say, shading or thermal effects to the vernal
4 pool, I would be most concerned if we were
5 altering any of the habitat, the forest habitat
6 within the vernal pool envelope, within 100 feet
7 of the vernal pool.

8 That area which is, again, is being
9 selectively cleared because it has a shading
10 effect on the -- the solar facility, we don't feel
11 that that area will have a significant effect on
12 the -- the chemistry or water temperature of the
13 nearby vernal pool, particularly since we're
14 outside the vernal pool envelope.

15 But it is a reason why we did -- one of the
16 main reasons why we did want to provide additional
17 cover with using native shrubs, because it -- it
18 is within a relatively close proximity to that
19 vernal pool. It's within an existing terrestrial
20 habitat.

21 So by providing, you know, a fairly dense
22 planting of native shrubs we're still going to
23 provide good cover habitat within that zone, and
24 that would also help mitigate any possible
25 secondary effects with respect to, you know, water

1 chemistry or temperature within the nearby vernal
2 pool.

3 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Would sort of -- I don't want to say
4 creating forest litter, but could -- as part of
5 the planting also you could bring in some, maybe
6 some leaf litter from some of the areas that were
7 going to be grubbed?

8 Because my understanding with salamanders --
9 and I'll ask you the question -- when they're
10 outside of the pool, do they inhabit moist areas
11 under the leaf litter and around trees?

12 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes. Yeah, so there their
13 preferred habitat -- and spotted salamanders are a
14 group of mole salamanders. And there they're
15 aptly named because they spend a significant part
16 of their life cycle underground. But they do
17 prefer, you know, moist soils within a forested,
18 terrestrial forested habitat that has, you know, a
19 significant duff layer; and so leaves, needle
20 covering, whatnot.

21 We can certainly import some material in that
22 area, make sure that that duff layer is -- is at
23 least staying consistent with the current
24 conditions. Right now, today, there isn't a
25 significant duff layer in that area, and they're

1 not particularly moist soils, but there they could
2 be utilized. We can't discount them entirely.

3 And so we could move some of the leaf litter
4 out of that area once they -- as part of the
5 clearing operation. And also as part of that
6 mitigation area, we would also retain some stumps
7 and branches and to provide additional cover
8 habitat for -- for both mole salamanders as well
9 as other small wildlife as habitat enhancement.

10 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: All right. Thank you. I probably
11 have spent a lot of time on that.

12 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Oh, you're welcome.

13 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: I had one last question, and that's
14 sort of -- I guess it's similar to maybe some of
15 the other questions on the decommissioning plan.

16 I noticed that in the decommissioning plan,
17 there was an expectation that the salvage value
18 would exceed the cost of decommissioning, and I
19 was wondering where that statement came from, and
20 are there studies that support that?

21 THE WITNESS (Raffin): So there there's quite a
22 variety. This is Lisa Raffin with Glenvale.
23 There's quite a variety of forecasting around this
24 for a smaller field. The cost to decommission is
25 going to be much lower. It's just by virtue of

1 having less to do.

2 The expectation that there's salvage value in
3 terms of glass, aluminum, copper, steel, that
4 that's a forecast. We -- I don't have any
5 specific source to cite that, except that our
6 internal calculations and expectations around
7 salvage value and costs 30 years out indicate
8 that.

9 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. And would that, I guess,
10 accounting, does that take into account the -- is
11 the stormwater, the new stormwater system going to
12 be removed essentially, or left in place, or?

13 THE WITNESS (Raffin): My understanding is that the
14 traps will be converted to -- to features that
15 they're supportive of an agricultural use. They
16 won't be completely moved.

17 I'd look to All-Points for some sort of
18 clarification on this response.

19 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. That's all I have,
20 Mr. Morissette.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Golembiewski.

22 We'll now continue with cross examination by
23 Mr. Lynch, followed by myself. Mr. Lynch?

24 MR. LYNCH: Mr. Morissette, can you hear me?

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: I can hear you.

1 Thank you, Mr. Lynch.

2 MR. LYNCH: Because I'm having a hard time hearing
3 everybody else. So I didn't know whether it was
4 my computer or not.

5 First off, Mr. Silvestri and I have been on
6 this Council way too long. So we have a lot of
7 the same questions -- but he asks them much better
8 than I do with my speech problems, but I do want
9 to follow up on a couple of his questions. One
10 was a maintenance issue.

11 I just want to get a clarification. Did I
12 hear right that the maintenance would all be done
13 internally or, you know, as far as the
14 transformers and inverters and stuff? Now is that
15 internally by employees, or do you subcontract
16 out?

17 THE WITNESS (Raffin): So I believe the question is
18 referring to maintenance of the -- the
19 photovoltaic system itself. The plan is to have
20 an operations and maintenance provider, that a
21 subcontractor provide maintenance to the system.

22 MR. LYNCH: All right. Thank you. I kind of thought
23 that was going to be the case.

24 As far as the rotary tracking system,
25 Mr. Silvestri asked you about that also. I pretty

1 much got the snow part of it, but my question
2 follows up with if it's just extreme heat, either
3 too cold or too hot, does that impact the system?

4 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Lisa Raffin from Glenvale, not
5 to my knowledge.

6 MR. LYNCH: Pardon?

7 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Not to my knowledge, that
8 extreme temperatures impact --

9 MR. LYNCH: I'm just going to follow up again with
10 that.

11 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Okay.

12 MR. LYNCH: If it's extremely cold and we've had a lot
13 of rain, can the system ice up and be unable to
14 rotate?

15 THE WITNESS (Raffin): That is possible. And it
16 would -- it would go into stow mode. So the
17 trackers would go into a stow mode. If there were
18 a storm, the panels would be placed in stow mode.

19 MR. LYNCH: Now how would you be notified of that?
20 Would someone be on site? Or is there an internal
21 system that would tell you they're not operating?

22 THE WITNESS (Raffin): So there's a data acquisition
23 system, that the monitoring of which would signal
24 to this remote operation center that there, the
25 trackers were in stow mode. So they would know

1 that remotely.

2 MR. LYNCH: Thank you. I'm going to come back to the
3 equipment for a second. I think Attorney Hoffman
4 made a good suggestion on getting the spec sheets
5 for some of these equipment, but I want to turn to
6 you mentioned in the introduction -- I mean, in
7 the docket that the -- well, I can't read my own
8 notes here.

9 That the market for panels is -- it's my
10 understanding that it used to be a volatile
11 market. Now is that still the case, or has it
12 calmed down? And where are these? You know, how
13 difficult is it for you to order in advance these,
14 these panels?

15 THE WITNESS (Raffin): It's not difficult to order the
16 panels in advance, but we order sort of just in
17 time for the -- for the panels to arrive in
18 tractor trailers for the project.

19 So it's premature to order the panels now,
20 but with, you know, two- to six-month lead time,
21 we would get panels on site.

22 MR. LYNCH: Now, is it first order, first served?

23 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Always.

24 MR. LYNCH: All right. Has the market calmed down, or
25 is it still a volatile market?

1 THE WITNESS (Raffin): I would say that the market
2 is -- still has some disruption considering the --
3 the impact of COVID as well as the Auxin petition,
4 which subjected panels to -- to import tariffs.

5 However, Biden put a 24-month extension on
6 waiving those import tariffs, and I believe this
7 project would not have -- not have any difficulty
8 getting panels for the project.

9 MR. LYNCH: Okay. Now as far as some of the other
10 equipment is concerned, the transformer inverters,
11 with all the storms throughout Texas, Oklahoma,
12 Alabama, and Georgia, there's going to be a big
13 demand for a lot of this electrical equipment, and
14 also part of COVID.

15 Does that impact your scheduling?

16 THE WITNESS (Raffin): I'm not sure if that region has
17 a direct impact on our scheduling, but we -- we
18 are making plans for longer lead electrical
19 equipment, such that we're going to be releasing
20 limited notices to proceed to our contractor to
21 procure equipment, specifically inverter and
22 transformer lead times.

23 Those are the longest lead equipment.

24 MR. LYNCH: Now just another clarification from
25 Mr. Silvestri. Did I hear you -- I probably

1 didn't. Did I hear you that the control of the
2 transformer and the inverters would all be by your
3 company, and you wouldn't need the power company
4 to come in and do any service?

5 THE WITNESS (Pereira): I can jump in on that.

6 Joseph Pereira from Glenvale.

7 The inverters -- or the inverter, the single
8 inverter at this site is ours. It's our
9 responsibility to maintain. And the transformer
10 as well because of the nature of this type of
11 installation is also ours and Eversource's to
12 provide.

13 MR. LYNCH: Thank you.

14 Mr. Gustafson, you have a seven-foot fence
15 surrounding the facility, and my question
16 concerns -- and you're going to have livestock
17 within the facility certain times of the year.
18 What would prevent -- and I speak from experience
19 here from a lot of my beekeeper friends who have
20 bears break right through their fence, and coyotes
21 crawl under their fence to get to it, and these
22 fences are electrified. Do you foresee a problem
23 with bears or coyotes?

24 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Well, there certainly could
25 be an issue with those, those predatory species,

1 you know, particularly with bears. If they want
2 to get in through a fence, they can easily take
3 down some of the strongest fences out there. So
4 there's not much you're going to be able to do
5 about bear or coyote.

6 You know, the standard farm fencing, as long
7 as it's installed correctly will be a deterrent,
8 but certainly whoever's managing the sheep herd
9 will be monitoring, you know, those -- those
10 potential intrusions and incursions from those
11 species.

12 MR. LYNCH: Just to follow up on the sheep for a
13 second? In one of the interrogatories, it says
14 it's going to be -- sheep are going to be on site
15 seasonally. What is the season?

16 THE WITNESS (Aravindan): This is Ajay Aravindan from
17 Glenvale. We have a proposal from this company
18 called Lambscaping Rhode Island, and they
19 mentioned the season as May 1st to November 15th.

20 MR. LYNCH: I'm just wondering. You also mentioned in
21 the interrogatory -- I don't remember which one --
22 that you may in the future look to the ISO for the
23 forward capacity market.

24 What would be the circumstances that would
25 have you participate in the forward capacity

1 auction?

2 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Lisa Raffin from Glenvale.

3 We -- we have a 20-year contract tariff with
4 Eversource that is for bundled energy and -- and
5 attributes. So after 20 years the project, unless
6 there's an extension of that contract, the project
7 could sell energy and unbundled attributes.

8 In other words, it could participate in the
9 forward capacity market at that point in time.

10 MR. LYNCH: I just didn't hear the last part.

11 Say that again?

12 THE WITNESS (Raffin): After the 20-year term it could
13 participate in the forward capacity market.

14 MR. LYNCH: Also -- I forget which interrogatory. I
15 should have written down the numbers here. You
16 say that you are not going to use battery power as
17 backup, but you do leave it open sometime in the
18 future, you know, to possibly use batteries.

19 What would be, again, the circumstance that
20 would cause you to, you know, to use batteries as
21 storage, rather? Not backup storage, but
22 batteries?

23 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Correct. Thank you, Mr. Lynch.

24 It's Lisa Raffin with Glenvale. So the State of
25 Connecticut is considering a front-of-the-meter

1 storage procurement, and has, I believe -- we
2 expect to see a procurement by DEEP in the future.
3 We don't have a timeline on that.

4 So in the event there is a procurement for
5 front-of-the-meter battery storage and if there is
6 appropriate conditions on-site, we -- we would
7 entertain adding battery storage to this, to this
8 site.

9 MR. LYNCH: All right. Thank --

10 THE WITNESS (Raffin): It would be --

11 MR. LYNCH: No -- go.

12 THE WITNESS (Raffin): My last sentence is, it would be
13 a sort of stand-alone project. In other words,
14 the battery storage would be AC-coupled.

15 MR. LYNCH: I'm going to come a little bit to your
16 emergency plan for fire. I should know the answer
17 to this, but I don't. Does Putnam have a
18 volunteer fire department, or a paid fire
19 department?

20 ELAINE SISTARE: Hello. It's Elaine Sistare from the
21 town of Putnam. Can I answer that question?

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Unfortunately, you cannot. This
23 is the evidentiary hearing and only witnesses that
24 are sworn in can.

25 MR. LYNCH: Elaine, maybe you could submit that

1 tonight.

2 My other question would be as far as any
3 damage to the panels from storms, you know,
4 whether wind, rain, snow, whatever. A lot of the
5 individual panels could be damaged.

6 My question is, how long would it take for
7 these panels to be swapped out and back in
8 operation? And if the whole site for some reason
9 went down, how long would it be before you could
10 then get everything back up and operating again?

11 What's the timeframe we're looking at?

12 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** Lisa Raffin from Glenvale. For
13 a handful of panels, that they would be replaced
14 probably within a week. There will be attic stock
15 stored offsite for replacement of damaged panels,
16 and that's in the, you know, two to a couple dozen
17 kind of quantity for, you know, a catastrophic
18 event where the -- the whole field or a major
19 portion of the solar field was -- was damaged.

20 I would expect, barring delays from insurance
21 providers, that the field could -- could be
22 restored in -- within six months.

23 **MR. LYNCH:** Now would the time of year, the season of
24 the year impact, you know, getting everything back
25 online?

1 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Lisa Raffin from Glenvale. We
2 here in New England have installed solar fields
3 year-round. So you know, except for, like, the
4 most severe storms like the storm of 1978, we
5 would -- we would be able to work right through
6 all four seasons.

7 MR. LYNCH: Okay. Getting back to the fire department
8 for a second, your site is pretty tight. They
9 wouldn't be able to get any of their big truck --
10 or they couldn't get some of their big trucks in
11 there, not the big ladder truck.

12 But you know, that their concern is not being
13 trapped inside a one-gate facility, and they need
14 room to turn around. And it doesn't seem to me
15 that they have enough room. It looks from the
16 sites here that you've given us, it doesn't look
17 like there's much room for these trucks to move
18 around.

19 The big ladder truck would operate from
20 outside the facility, but there is a lot of trees,
21 and they wouldn't be able to get the hose up high
22 enough to spray the whole facility. So I think
23 that's a concern you have to look at.

24 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Lisa Raffin from Glenvale. The
25 Putnam Fire Department is a volunteer fire

1 department. So that answers a prior question.

2 The emergency action plan will cover this,
3 but an electrical fire is not going to be fought
4 with water. That the --

5 MR. LYNCH: No, go. Finish it. Then I'll come back.

6 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Okay. So fire is going to be
7 contained. It will just -- it will just -- it
8 will go out. The surrounding grass around the
9 exterior of the site, that would be, you know,
10 that would be -- that would be handled by the fire
11 department.

12 And if it were a dry, hot August and -- and
13 needed to be put out, then that could be reached.

14 MR. LYNCH: My follow-up question is, you said it
15 wouldn't be fought with water. What are they
16 going to use, foam or CO2?

17 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Most fire departments just let
18 it burn out, I mean, if it's an electrical fire.

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Lynch, anything else?

20 MR. LYNCH: I didn't hear the answer.

21 If they weren't going to use water, which
22 they will use, what other source would they use to
23 stop the fire? Either some type of foam or a CO2
24 compound.

25 THE WITNESS (Raffin): (Inaudible.)

1 MR. LYNCH: Am I not getting through here?

2 MR. HOFFMAN: I don't think he heard your prior
3 response, is the problem. He's having problems
4 with his speakers.

5 THE HEARING OFFICER: And it appears that Ms. Raffin is
6 having trouble with her audio.

7 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): If anyone would like, this is
8 Jennifer Gaudet, I can repeat what I heard her
9 say.

10 MR. HOFFMAN: Actually, did the Court Reporter get it?
11 Because if so, I'd rather just have the transcript
12 read back.

13 THE REPORTER: Yes, I did.

14 If you'll wait one moment, I believe it was a
15 brief answer.

16 Answer, most fire departments just let it
17 burn out. I mean, if it's an electrical fire.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Did you get that, Mr. Lynch?

19 MR. LYNCH: I got that. Thank you.

20 Two more quick questions. So Ms. Raffin is
21 offline, is that correct?

22 MR. HOFFMAN: Ms. Raffin, can you hear us?

23 THE WITNESS (Raffin): (Inaudible.)

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: I believe she is offline.

25 MR. HOFFMAN: May I make a suggestion? Ms. Raffin,

1 could you perhaps log off and then log back on?

2 MR. LYNCH: Oh, it's not necessary. I have one other
3 question. She doesn't have -- I think I know the
4 answer anyhow. She doesn't have to do that,
5 Attorney Hoffman.

6 But my other question would be, you know,
7 sometime in the future, I've been told that a lot
8 of these small --

9 THE WITNESS (Raffin): I had a message to unmute. But
10 I'm -- I lost audio, so I don't know if you can
11 hear me.

12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Go ahead and ask your question,
13 Mr. Lynch.

14 MR. LYNCH: Is she back?

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: It's not clear whether she's back
16 or not, but please ask your question.

17 MR. LYNCH: My last question would be, I've heard that
18 sometime in the future, a lot of these small
19 little solar fields will be up for future sale.
20 You know, is this something that this company is
21 entertaining in the future?

22 And if so -- maybe this is an Attorney
23 Hoffman answer -- would all the contracts and
24 stuff still be the same?

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Ms. Raffin, did you hear the

1 question?

2 THE WITNESS (Raffin): I just got audio back. Could
3 you repeat the question?

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: The question is, is that
5 Mr. Lynch understands that some of these smaller
6 facilities can go up for sale? And what's the
7 plan for that? And if it does, what happens to
8 the contracts associated with the facility?

9 Does it transfer with the sale?

10 Mr. Lynch, does that adequately --

11 MR. LYNCH: That's correct, Mr. Morissette.

12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Lynch.

13 Did you get that, Ms. Raffin?

14 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Thank you. Thank you,
15 Mr. Morissette. I did hear the question.

16 The -- the project is owned by a project
17 company, a special purpose entity. All contracts
18 are with that project company. And if ownership
19 changes from Glenvale to a different owner, then
20 all contracts and agreements will -- will go with
21 the project company.

22 MR. LYNCH: Mr. Morissette, I'm all set.

23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Great. Thank you, Mr. Lynch.

24 Okay. We're getting late here. I'm going to ask
25 my questions and we'll end this hearing when I

1 complete my questions. Hopefully, we can get
2 through them rather quickly.

3 I would like to turn everyone's attention to
4 Exhibit A, map sheet -- or drawing sheet SB-1,
5 please? What I'd like to do is start, start out
6 with the landscaping plan that I understand.

7 Now I understand based on what we've
8 discussed today that privacy fencing will now
9 extend beyond the turnabout, and it also extends
10 along parallel with River Road.

11 How far along River Road does it go? Does it
12 go from north to the corner, or does it make the
13 corner and continue?

14 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** This is Mr. LaBatte with
15 All-Points Technology Corporation. Yes, per the
16 plan that the fence currently sort of hugs the --
17 the panels.

18 Is that what you were just trying to get
19 clarification on, or did you want more
20 information?

21 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** No, I want to know how far south
22 they go on in the front, parallel with River Road.

23 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** Okay. You want a distance?

24 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Well, does it go to the corner?

25 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** Can you be more specific when

1 you refer to the corner?

2 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Okay.

3 You've got the entrance gate.

4 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** Yeah?

5 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** If you go south, that's all going
6 to be privacy fence along the front of the
7 facility.

8 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** Correct.

9 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** And then down the end there's a
10 corner and it goes east.

11 Does the privacy fence end there?

12 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** I believe that was the
13 intention. It would end at that southern
14 arrowhead.

15 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Great. Thank you. That's what I
16 figured. Okay. River Road is -- my understanding
17 is a pretty well-traveled road, that it's a road
18 that, to get to Putnam you would have to travel.

19 Was there any discussion or thought putting
20 landscaping in the front, parallel along River
21 Road in addition to the privacy fence?

22 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** We -- this is Lisa Raffin from
23 Glenvale. We met with the Town in June of 2022,
24 and at the time we -- they had expressed interest
25 in -- in screening the solar fields from -- from

1 the road. We -- there's also a concern for, you
2 know, plantings dying off and maintaining
3 plantings.

4 So rather than -- rather than plantings, we
5 went with the privacy slats.

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Is the Town okay with that? Or
7 would they prefer landscaping, or do they have an
8 opinion?

9 THE WITNESS (Raffin): They -- they had not
10 expressed -- they had seen these plans, the
11 submission. They hadn't expressed any follow-up
12 requests. So we're -- we're not -- we're not
13 aware of any further requests, but certainly it's
14 not built yet and the plans are not final, and we
15 certainly would be open see something from the
16 Town and to some further requests.

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Given the exposure
18 along that road, it may be something that we may
19 want to look into as part of this project.

20 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Yeah, and so -- I mean, we may.
21 I should look for followup here from All-Points
22 regarding any impact on the stormwater features in
23 that area. They maybe have additional context as
24 to why we didn't choose to put plantings there.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Mr. LaBatte, do you

1 want to follow up on that?

2 **THE WITNESS (LaBatte):** Sure thing. This is
3 Mr. LaBatte with All-Points Technology
4 Corporation. You really wouldn't want to try to
5 place any plantings of scale for screening
6 purposes in the area of the basin.

7 The treeline itself, if you look at on SP-1,
8 if you're still looking at that drawing, you can
9 see where the treeline is in there. You don't
10 want to run any -- any large planting in the
11 basin. It wouldn't be able to support it with the
12 slopes.

13 You could -- you could do some plantings, I
14 guess, on the south side of the basin or perhaps
15 north of it, just south of the entrance drive, but
16 it wouldn't make sense, like I said before, to put
17 them within the basin confines.

18 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Okay. Very good. Thank you.

19 Now I know where the single inverter is in the
20 center of the drawing on the concrete, proposed
21 concrete equipment pad. Could you point out to me
22 where the transformer is?

23 **THE WITNESS (Raffin):** So the SMA 4000 is a power
24 station that has the inverter and transformer
25 packaged. So they'll go on the same pad.

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: I see. Okay. Good. And to the
2 left of the proposed equipment pad there's a
3 little box.

4 What is that proposed to be? To the left?

5 THE WITNESS (Raffin): I'm not certain what that is. I
6 think that's probably a representation of -- of
7 where the transformer is.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

9 THE WITNESS (Raffin): But it's not specific. It
10 wouldn't be anything different than that.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. So all the noise from
12 the facility will be coming from this location,
13 given that both the transformer and the inverter
14 will be located here. Is that correct?

15 THE WITNESS (Raffin): That's correct.

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. So then we're going to go
17 23 kV underground and out to the two meter pads.
18 One meter pad will be the utilities, and one meter
19 pad will be the customer side. Is that correct?

20 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Yeah, we don't have a final
21 configuration from Eversource as of yet -- but
22 we're waiting on Eversource for that.

23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. But essentially, that's
24 the intent. And by the way, nice job on the
25 interconnection going underground and using

1 pad-mount meter enclosures. This is what I would
2 like to see for solar facilities going forward.

3 Okay. I would like to turn to question 15 in
4 the interrogatory responses. And the question has
5 to do with moving the access road to the south.
6 And I'd like to explore that a little bit more.

7 And what is said in the response is, that
8 north of the property to avoid wetland area in the
9 southwestern portion of the parcel and achieve the
10 most efficient use of space on the site by
11 minimizing road length and shading structures such
12 as new utility poles.

13 Could you explain to me what that means,
14 please?

15 THE WITNESS (Raffin): So if we were to -- this is Lisa
16 Raffin from Glenvale. If we were to site the
17 access road to the south and the interconnection
18 facility and equipment to the south, there would
19 be -- there would be shading impact from the
20 utility pole. And there would also be a need to
21 set back the field from the wetland buffer.

22 So we tried to put equipment to the north of
23 the field so that there's no shading impact.

24 That's essentially -- that's essentially it.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. I don't understand the

1 shading impact, because you have one pole that's
2 parallel to the street. And to the extent that
3 that's going to provide or impede any shading
4 is -- I don't really see that it would do that.

5 But there seems to me that there's ample
6 space to the south to put an access road with a
7 turnaround and also have your pad-mounted
8 equipment, which would be a great distance away
9 from the property owner at 34 River Road. So I'm
10 not convinced that you can't do it.

11 And that the impact, I don't see the impact
12 on wetlands either, because you're a good distance
13 from the wetlands. However, does it impact the
14 CTH calculation? Maybe Mr. Gustafson would
15 provide guidance on that.

16 THE WITNESS (Raffin): So prior to Dean responding,
17 Pole 1184, and then there's 1186. And then as
18 you -- our interconnection point was with 1184.
19 So that would require a change of interconnection
20 with Eversource.

21 So that that's just one -- one consideration.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Does the primary go that far down
23 River Road? Or does it end?

24 THE WITNESS (Raffin): I think it continues, but.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: So I don't see that as a problem

1 either.

2 All right. Well, that's certainly getting it
3 away from 34 River Road. It would enhance the
4 project, in my opinion.

5 But anyways. Mr. Gustafson, maybe you want
6 to provide some information on wetland impacts and
7 CTH impacts, if there are any?

8 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Just so I'm clear, you're
9 looking at sheet SP-1?

10 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

11 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): And the area you're
12 contemplating for an alternate access would be at
13 the southern end. And on that sheet, there's the
14 label River Road?

15 THE WITNESS (Raffin): Correct.

16 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): So just north of the "d" in
17 River Road, you would be contemplating an access
18 at that point?

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

20 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Okay. Great. Just want to
21 make sure I was clear on the location.

22 So that particular area, it's -- it's within
23 the LOD of the facility. We -- although right now
24 it's not showing any development in that area, we
25 did include that in our calculations because it's

1 within the facility's LOD with respect to impact
2 to the -- the vernal pool critical terrestrial
3 habitat conservation zone.

4 So whether that remains vegetated in some
5 fashion, it certainly wouldn't be optimal
6 terrestrial habitat. It's not going to remain
7 forested, but if you convert it from, let's say, a
8 grass habitat to, you know, the gravel and some
9 equipment pads, with respect to our analysis on
10 the CTH it would have essentially no effect.

11 With respect to wetlands, yeah, you're
12 getting closer to the most northwestern projection
13 of that wetland system. You can see at the bottom
14 of the corner of that page.

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Uh-huh.

16 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): And then that dashed line
17 represents the hundred-foot upland review area,
18 the local buffer zone. You know certainly, we're
19 outside of that area.

20 So from a wetland impact perspective,
21 obviously it wouldn't result in direct wetland
22 impacts. From a secondary effect, it would have
23 minimal effect, in my opinion.

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Gustafson.

25 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): You're welcome.

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: So it appears to me that that
2 could be an alternative for access to the site and
3 something for us to consider in our deliberations
4 here.

5 I just want to confirm that the noise
6 calculations were calculated; we see 137 feet from
7 16 River Road, and that appeared to be the closest
8 resident. It wasn't 28 River Road?

9 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Mr. Morissette. Jennifer Gaudet
10 for All-Points. The 137-foot distance is to the
11 property line associated with -- with 16 River
12 Road.

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Uh-huh.

14 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): But the nearest residence is
15 actually on 34 River Road.

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

17 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): As distinguished from the
18 property line itself.

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes. And what was the distance
20 to the residence of 34?

21 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Give me just a moment to
22 double-check that.

23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Was that the 92?

24 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): No, I believe it's -- you're
25 asking to the house itself?

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

2 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): If you'll give me just a moment,
3 I will -- will bring that up.

4 (Pause.)

5 I believe that's 416 feet to the nearest
6 residence, which is located at 34 River Road.

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. Thank you for that
8 response.

9 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): I apologize for the delay.

10 THE HEARING OFFICER: No problem. Okay. One final
11 question. Given my questions along moving the
12 access road to the south, I mean, is Glenvale
13 amenable to doing that? Or is that something that
14 you're totally against?

15 THE WITNESS (Raffin): We would be amenable to it, as
16 long as it did not require Eversource restudying
17 the project.

18 The project has a commitment for a commercial
19 operation date in November of 2024. We -- we
20 expect to meet that with the current -- the
21 current schedule. So if there were -- Eversource
22 or ISO required a restudy of the project because
23 we moved two poles to the south, that would be a
24 significant issue that we would -- we would need
25 to take under advisement.

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you for that
2 response.

3 Okay. That concludes my questions for today.
4 What I'm going to do quickly, if we could, is see
5 if there's a question from any of the
6 Councilmembers or Mr. Mercier that's hanging out
7 there. I know we're running a little late, but
8 we'll wrap this up here shortly. We'll go through
9 and ensure that all questions have been asked.

10 Mr. Mercier, do you have any follow-up
11 questions?

12 MR. MERCIER: No, I do not. Thank you.

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

14 Mr. Silvestri, any follow-up questions?

15 MR. SILVESTRI: I'm fine, Mr. Morissette.

16 Thanks for asking.

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

18 Let me see. Mr. Nguyen, any follow-up
19 questions?

20 MR. NGUYEN: I have no follow-up. Thank you.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

22 Mr. Golembiewski, any followup?

23 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: No followup. Thank you,
24 Mr. Morissette.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

1 Mr. Lynch, any followup?

2 MR. LYNCH: Negative.

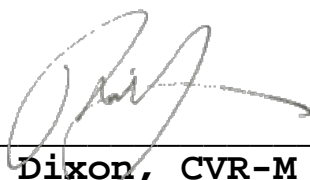
3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. And I have no
4 followup. Thank you. All right. With that, that
5 concludes our hearing for this afternoon. The
6 Council will recess until 6:30 p.m., at which time
7 we will commence with the public comment session
8 of this remote public hearing. So thank you,
9 everyone for your participation and your responses
10 this afternoon, and we'll see you at 6:30.

11 Thank you.

12
13 (End: 5:14 p.m.)
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 124 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the remote teleconference meeting of THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL 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

INDEX

WITNESSES

PAGE

Lisa Raffin
Joseph Pereira
Ajay Aravindan
Jennifer Young-Gaudet
Eric LaBatte
Dean Gustafson 10

EXAMINERS

By Mr. Hoffman 11, 64
By Mr. Mercier 14
By Mr. Silvestri 50
By Mr. Nguyen 68
By Mr. Golembiewski 74
By Mr. Lynch 98
By The Hearing Officer 112