



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Office of the Commissioner

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



July 12, 2024

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: DOCKET NO: 522
APPLICATION OF STAFFORD SOLAR ONE FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND
MAINTENANCE OF A 4.0 MW AC GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT
LOCATED AT 92 UPPER ROAD, STAFFORD, CONNECTICUT

Dear Executive Director Bachman:

The Department of Agriculture (DOAG) offers the following comments for consideration by the Connecticut Siting Council.

DOAG released updated guidance in December 2023 for solar development on prime farmland. That guidance includes submission of an Agrivoltaics Farm Plan, a vegetation and soil management plan, and a soil health assessment. The current application does not meet the revised standard and we respectfully ask that the applicant be required to provide these documents to ensure that farmland is treated as a valuable environmental resource in the state and be in compliance with the required procedures.

Protecting existing farmland is a state priority, and placing solar on agricultural land, especially farmland classified as having prime, statewide, or locally important farmland soils, should be avoided or minimized.

The Agency appreciates the opportunity to provide information to the Siting Council related to solar production activities that would affect farmland in Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Carole W. Briggs
Carole Briggs
Staff Attorney

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that on this day, the foregoing document was filed with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, and copies of the foregoing document were served upon each person designated on the Authority's official service list in this proceeding in accordance with R.C.S.A. § 16-1-15.

By: /s/ Carole W. Briggs
Carole Briggs