

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 522

Stafford Solar One, LLC, Application for a  
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and  
Public Need for the Construction, Maintenance, and  
Operation of a 4.0-megawatt-AC Solar Photovoltaic  
Electric Generating Facility and Associated  
Equipment Located at 92 Upper Road, Stafford,  
Connecticut and Associated Electrical  
Interconnection.

Zoom Remote Public Hearing (Teleconference),  
on Thursday, August 22, 2024, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

H e l d   B e f o r e:

JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer

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

**Councilmembers:**

**JOHN MORISSETTE, (Hearing Officer)**

**BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI,**

**DEEP Designee**

**QUAT NGUYEN,**

**PURA Designee**

**CHANCE CARTER**

**KHRISTINE HALL**

**Council Staff:**

**MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,**

**Executive Director and Staff Attorney**

**ROBERT MERCIER,**

**Siting Analyst**

**LISA FONTAINE,**

**Fiscal Administrative Officer**

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

**For STAFFORD SOLAR ONE, LLC:**

**PULLMAN & COMLEY, LLC**

**850 Main Street**

**Bridgeport, Connecticut 06601-7006**

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

**LHoffman@pullcom.com**

**860.424.4315**

**For DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:**

**DOAG, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

**450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 701**

**Hartford, CT 06103**

**By: CAROLE BRIGGS, ESQ.**

**carole.Briggs.@ct.gov**

**860.883.8765**

**Also Present:**

**JAMES CERKANOWICZ,**

**Stafford Solar One**

(Begin: 6:30 p.m.)

THE HEARING OFFICER: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. This hearing is called to order this Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

My name is John Morissette, member and Presiding Officer of the Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of the Council are Bryan Golembiewski, designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Quat Nguyen, designee for Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillett of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; and we have Chance Carter and Khristine Hall.

Members of the staff are Executive Director Melanie Bachman, Siting Analyst Robert Mercier, and Administrative Support Lisa Fontaine.

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

This is a continuation of the public hearing that began at 2 p.m. This afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is available on the Council's Docket Number 522 webpage, along with a record of this matter, the public hearing notice,

1 instructions for public access to this public  
2 hearing, and the Council's citizens guide to  
3 Siting Council procedures.

4 This hearing is held pursuant to the  
5 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General  
6 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative  
7 Procedure Act upon an application from Stafford  
8 Solar One, LLC, for a certificate of environmental  
9 compatibility and public need for the  
10 construction, maintenance, and operation of a  
11 four-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric  
12 generating facility and associated equipment  
13 located at 92 Upper Road in Stafford, Connecticut,  
14 and the associated electrical interconnection.

15 This application was received by the Council  
16 on May 24, 2024. The Council's legal notice of  
17 the date and time of this public hearing was  
18 published in the Journal Inquirer on June 25,  
19 2024.

20 Upon this Council's request, the Applicant  
21 erected a sign in the vicinity of the proposed  
22 site so as to inform the public of the name of the  
23 Applicant, the type of the facility, the public  
24 hearing date, and contact information for the  
25 Council, including the website and telephone

1           number.

2           As a reminder to all, off-the-record  
3           communication with a member of the Council or a  
4           member of the Council's staff upon the merits of  
5           this application is prohibited by law.

6           This public comment session is reserved for  
7           members of the public who have signed up in  
8           advance to make brief statements. These limited  
9           appearance statements are not subject to questions  
10          from the parties or the Council, and members of  
11          the public making these statements may not ask  
12          questions of the parties or the Council. And  
13          according to the public hearing notice, and in  
14          fairness to everyone who signed up to speak, these  
15          public statements will be limited to three  
16          minutes.

17          Please be advised that written comments may  
18          be submitted by any person within 30 days of this  
19          public hearing.

20          I wish to note that parties and interveners,  
21          including their representatives, witnesses, and  
22          members are not allowed to participate in the  
23          public comment session. I wish to also note for  
24          those who are listening and for the benefit of  
25          your friends and neighbors who are unable to join

1 us for the public comment session, that you or  
2 they may send written statements to the Council  
3 within 30 days of the date hereof by mail or by  
4 e-mail.

5 Please be advised that any person may be  
6 removed from the public comment session at the  
7 discretion of the Council.

8 We ask each person making limited appearance  
9 statements in this proceeding to confine his or  
10 her statements to the subject matter before the  
11 Council, and to avoid unreasonable repetition so  
12 that we may hear all the concerns you and your  
13 neighbors may have. Please be advised that the  
14 Council cannot answer questions from the public  
15 about the proposal.

16 A verbatim transcript will be made of this  
17 hearing and will be deposited at the Stafford Town  
18 Clerk's office for the convenience of the public.

19 At this time, I request the Applicant to make  
20 a very brief presentation to the public describing  
21 the proposed facility, and I believe it's  
22 Mr. Cerkanowicz.

23 JAMES CERKANOWICZ: Thank you, Mr. Morissette. Good  
24 evening. Good evening, members of the Siting  
25 Council and all those in attendance for this

1 evening's hearing. My name is James Cerkanowicz  
2 and I'm the Manager of Permitting for Verogy, a  
3 West Hartford-based solar developer.

4 On screen you should be seeing figure number  
5 three, the proposed conditions map for the  
6 Stafford Solar One project, proposed to be located  
7 at 92 Upper Road in Stafford. In this brief  
8 presentation, I'll be speaking to this figure and  
9 providing a general overview of the project as  
10 more comprehensively described in the certificate  
11 materials that have been submitted and reviewed.

12 The project is located on a 59-acre parcel of  
13 land that is a mix of open hay fields and  
14 undeveloped forest. Most of the project will be  
15 constructed within the open fields with only a  
16 minor amount of tree removal occurring from the  
17 removal of a narrow windrow that separates two of  
18 the open fields. An existing front road leading  
19 from the site's frontage on Upper Road to the  
20 solar field will be upgraded to a gravel surface  
21 and will lead to the array, which will be located  
22 a significant distance from Upper Road.

23 The project is a proposed 4-megawatt AC  
24 fixed-tilt ground-mounted solar array consisting  
25 of 9,960 First Solar modules that are produced



1 here in the U.S., 32 string-level solar inverters,  
2 two transformers, and related service equipment.

3 Panels and equipment will be surrounded by an  
4 8-foot high agricultural-style fence that  
5 encompasses approximately 14.2 acres. Within the  
6 fence limits, the grass surface will be maintained  
7 by utilizing sheep grazing and agricultural co-use  
8 that Verogy has successfully employed at several  
9 locations throughout Connecticut, most recently in  
10 the nearby town of Enfield. It should also be  
11 noted that land outside of the fenced array will  
12 still be available to the property owner for the  
13 continuation of other agricultural uses.

14 Project development will require only minor  
15 regrading for the construction of the gravel road.  
16 In all other areas existing topography will be  
17 maintained to minimize earthwork, and existing  
18 surfaces will continue to promote infiltration  
19 such that no permanent stormwater basins are  
20 proposed.

21 The project also has minimal environmental  
22 impact, with no harm to native species per reviews  
23 conducted with the National Diversity Database and  
24 U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and an indication by  
25 Connecticut DEEP that there will be no material

1 impact to core forests.

2 In addition, solar projects of this nature do  
3 not produce any air emissions, do not require  
4 lighting, do not require water, and do not produce  
5 wastewater.

6 It is estimated that the system will produce  
7 approximately 6,000 -- 165,961 kilowatt hours of  
8 clean renewable energy annually, enough to power  
9 850 homes. This production will be sold to  
10 Eversource as part of a 20-year SCEF, or shared  
11 clean energy facility Program contract, sometimes  
12 referred to as community solar.

13 Eversource manages this program with bill  
14 credits, with 60 percent of the production of the  
15 system benefiting low and moderate income  
16 customers within Connecticut, as well as  
17 municipalities, small businesses, and other  
18 residences in accordance with the program rules.  
19 It is estimated this will result in approximately  
20 \$165,500 per year in savings to low and moderate  
21 income families.

22 The project will also aid in the State's  
23 overall goal of increasing renewable energy,  
24 reducing dependence on other less environmentally  
25 sensitive energy sources, and help to strengthen

1           the state's distribution grid.

2           Thank you very much for your time. That  
3           concludes my presentation.

4   THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. We will now call on  
5           Kevin Mordasky to make a public statement.

6           Mr. Mordasky, good evening.

7   KEVIN MORDASKY: (Inaudible.)

8   THE HEARING OFFICER: Hello, Mr. Mordasky.

9           Can you hear us? We cannot hear you.

10   KEVIN MORDASKY: (Inaudible.)

11   THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm sorry.

12           We still cannot hear you.

13   KEVIN MORDASKY: (Inaudible.)

14   THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Mordasky, unfortunately we  
15           cannot hear you.

16           Would you like to log off and log in again to  
17           see if we can get a better connection?

18   KEVIN MORDASKY: (Inaudible.)

19   THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Mordasky?

20           Okay. Mr. Mordasky, if you can hear me, you  
21           still have an opportunity to send written  
22           statements to the Council within 30 days of the  
23           date hereof by mail or by e-mail.

24           And since we can't hear you, I would suggest  
25           that if you have something you want to get onto

1 the record please send us an e-mail or a letter  
2 stating your statements that you wanted to convey  
3 this evening.

4 Thank you.

5 Okay. Unfortunately, we were unable to  
6 connect with Mr. Mordasky. So therefore, before  
7 closing this hearing, the Connecticut Siting  
8 Council announces that briefs and proposed  
9 findings of fact may be filed with the Council by  
10 any party or intervener no later than September  
11 23, 2024.

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

20 The Council will issue draft findings of  
21 fact, and thereafter parties and interveners --

22 KEVIN MORDASKY: (Unintelligible.)

23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Mordasky, are you there?

24 KEVIN MORDASKY: (Inaudible.)

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: The Council may issue draft

1 findings of fact, and thereafter parties and  
2 interveners may identify errors and  
3 inconsistencies between the Council's draft  
4 findings of fact and the record, however no new  
5 information, no new evidence, no argument, and no  
6 reply briefs without our permission will be  
7 considered by the Council.

8 Copies of the transcript of this hearing will  
9 be filed in the Stafford Town Clerk's office.

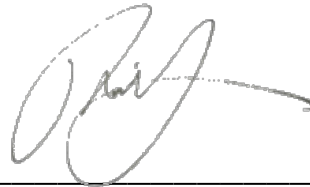
10 I hereby declare this hearing adjourned, and  
11 thank you everyone for your participation. Have a  
12 good evening, and enjoy the nice weather.

13 Thank you.

14  
15 (End: 6:41 p.m.)  
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 13 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the remote public hearing of THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING in Re: DOCKET NO. 522, STAFFORD SOLAR ONE, LLC, APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A 4.0-MEGAWATT-AC SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT LOCATED AT 92 UPPER ROAD, STAFFORD, CONNECTICUT AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer, on August 22, 2024.



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