

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 525

Greenskies Clean Energy, LLC Application for a
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
Public Need for the Construction, Maintenance, and
Operation of a 4.75-megawatt-AC Solar Photovoltaic
Electric Generating Facility and Associated
Equipment Located on Two Parcels at 54 Jeremy Hill
Road, North Stonington, and Parcel No. 90-1-1 Jeremy
Hill Road, Stonington, Connecticut and Associated
Electrical Interconnection.

Zoom Remote PUBLIC HEARING (Teleconference),
on Tuesday, October 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 Designees

QUAT NGUYEN,

PURA Designee

KHRISTINE HALL

BILL SYME

Council Staff:

MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,

Executive Director and Staff Attorney

ROBERT MERCIER,

Siting Analyst

LISA FONTAINE,

Administrative Support

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

2 **For GREENSKIES CLEAN ENERGY, LLC:**

3 **PULLMAN & COMLEY, LLC**

4 **90 State House Square**

5 **Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3702**

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

7 **LHoffman@pullcom.com**

8 **860.424.4315**

9
10 **Also Present:**

11 **GABRIEL RUSK,**

12 **Greenskies Clean Energy, LLC**

(Begin: 6:30 p.m.)

THE HEARING OFFICER: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. This hearing is called to order this Tuesday, October 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 Brian 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 Khristine Hall and Bill Syme.

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 your computer audio and/or telephones now. Thank you.

This is a continuation of a public hearing that began at 2 p.m. this afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is available on the Council's Docket Number 525 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 the
3 Siting Council's 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 Greenskies
8 Clean Energy, LLC, for a certificate of
9 environmental compatibility and public need for
10 the construction, maintenance, and operation of a
11 4.75-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric
12 generating facility and associated equipment
13 located on two parcels at Jeremy Hill Road in
14 North Stonington and Stonington, Connecticut, and
15 the associated electrical interconnection.

16 This application was received by the Council
17 on July 25, 2024. The Council's legal notice of
18 the date and time of this public hearing was
19 published in The Day on August 17, 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 phone number.

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

5 This public comment session is reserved for
6 members of the public who have signed up in
7 advance to make brief statements. These limited
8 appearance statements are not subject to questions
9 from the parties or the Council, and members of
10 the public making statements may not ask questions
11 of the parties or the Council.

12 In accordance with the public hearing notice,
13 and in fairness to everyone who has signed up to
14 speak, the public statements will be limited to
15 three minutes. Please be advised that written
16 comments may be submitted by any person within 30
17 days of this public hearing.

18 I wish to note that parties and interveners,
19 including their representatives, witnesses, and
20 members are not allowed to participate in the
21 public comment session.

22 I also wish to note for those who are
23 listening, and for the benefit of your friends and
24 neighbors who are unable to join us for the public
25 comment session, that you or they may send written

1 statements to the Council within 30 days of the
2 date hereof by mail or by e-mail.

3 Please be advised that any person may be
4 removed from the public comment session at the
5 discretion of the Council. We ask each person
6 making a limited appearance statement in this
7 proceeding to confine his or her statements to the
8 subject matter before the Council, and to avoid
9 unreasonable repetition so that we may hear all of
10 the concerns you and your neighbors may have.
11 Please be advised that the Council cannot answer
12 questions from the public about the proposal.

13 A verbatim transcript will be made available
14 of this hearing, and will be deposited in the
15 Stonington and North Stonington Town Clerk's
16 office for the convenience of the public.

17 At this time, I request the Applicant to make
18 a brief, very brief presentation to the public
19 describing the proposed facility. I understand
20 Gabe Rusk will be making that presentation.

21 Mr. Rusk, good evening.

22 GABRIEL RUSK: Good evening, Mr. Morissette. Thank
23 you. Hello, my name is Gabriel Rusk. I am a
24 solar developer at Greenskies Clean Energy, and
25 I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you a

1 little bit about the solar project that we are
2 hoping to develop on Jeremy Hill Road.

3 This project is a 4.75-megawatt solar project
4 that occupies 21.57 acres. The project will
5 interconnect through the access road that connects
6 to Jeremy Hill Road.

7 As you can probably see, the project is
8 surrounded on all sides by woods. We believe this
9 will help immensely in keeping both the visual and
10 noise impacts to a minimum. However, to be sure
11 this is the case, we have conducted visual impact
12 assessments or -- I'm sorry, we conducted a noise
13 study to measure impact on the surrounding area.

14 That study was designed to calculate the
15 maximum amount of noise that could possibly be
16 emitted from the site and takes into account the
17 absence of leaves during the winter. Based on
18 that study, we do not believe the sound emitted
19 from the project will negatively impact
20 neighboring residents.

21 Finally, parts of the project will be erected
22 on land noted by the U.S. Department of
23 Agriculture as prime farmland. We recognize the
24 values of these soils and commit to protecting
25 these soils for future use.

1 Overall, we believe we have designed a good
2 project that will not negatively impact our
3 neighbors, and look forward to being good
4 residents of Stonington and North Stonington.

5 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Rusk.

6 We will now call upon Joseph Oddo to make a
7 public statement, followed by Patty and Eric
8 Taylor.

9 Joseph Oddo, please? Good evening.

10 JOSEPH ODDO: Hi, good evening. This is Joe Oddo. I
11 own the property of Lot 1 off of 184 Jeremy Hill
12 Road. My only couple concerns were the sheet
13 runoff from the property where the solar panels
14 would be on, if it would impact the surrounding
15 areas and also the properties, my wife and I's
16 property that's on -- abutting the existing
17 properties. Also, the environmental impact.

18 I really wasn't -- didn't know anything about
19 the noise impact that would come from this. The
20 other thing that I was interested in, where the
21 transmission line would be overhead or if it would
22 be underground. And would it be interconnection
23 on Jeremy Hill Road, or on 184?

24 The other thing was if there was going to be
25 any vegetation or tree -- that were trees

1 boundary-ing the lines where the surrounding
2 neighbors wouldn't be visually seeing the impact
3 from the solar panels. And also what the life
4 expectancy of the solar panels would be, and what
5 the future of replacements would be of the solar
6 panels.

7 I don't know if anybody can answer that, but
8 that was my concerns.

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Oddo,
10 for bringing up your concerns.

11 We cannot address your questions this
12 evening. However, the developer now has your
13 contact information and I hope they would reach
14 out to you and have a discussion about your
15 concerns. Thank you.

16 JOSEPH ODDO: Okay. Thank you very much.

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'll now call upon Patty and Eric
18 Taylor, please.

19 ERIC TAYLOR: Hi, this is Eric Taylor here.

20 My wife Patty is sitting next to me.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good evening.

22 ERIC TAYLOR: And good evening to everyone. Good
23 evening to my neighbor, Mr. Oddo.

24 And you know, Patty and I, when we were -- we
25 bought the land, there was a fully approved

1 20-house lot subdivision on this portion of land.
2 And our goal first and foremost was to see, you
3 know, how we could possibly afford the land and
4 keep it long-term, open.

5 But we understood that at some point in time
6 we would have to cross the bridge of, you know, if
7 we couldn't afford the entire hundred and -- it's
8 an over 160-acre piece now, that the logical thing
9 would be to sell what we call the south end, that
10 lower end where the 20-house lot subdivision was
11 fully approved.

12 That said, you know, when you put in a
13 subdivision like that, you know, out goes the
14 prime ag soils. So the first thing we did is go
15 to the Stonington Town Hall and ask like, gee, how
16 can we mothball this thing? And how can we, you
17 know, that's not our goal.

18 So you know, fast forward five years or
19 thereabout, and Patty and I are looking at the
20 land and we really aren't in a position at this
21 point in our lives to turn that all into farmland.
22 But at the same time, we need the land to do
23 something to help provide for the future of our
24 farm and our kids.

25 So the solar project does a lot of things.

1 It effectively would keep that land in the form of
2 open space for -- I think the contract is up to 40
3 years. And long term, that makes for a really
4 great neighbor in terms of if you live next to
5 that because of the trees and because of the
6 location. It really doesn't negatively impact
7 anyone.

8 And when you consider 20-house lots along
9 with dogs and children and, you know, cars
10 starting up and whatever else being behind
11 somebody's home, that's a dramatic change. And
12 that's still a very viable option for somebody.
13 It's not what we want, but if we sold it certainly
14 somebody would be able to do whatever they wanted
15 with it.

16 The solar project is one way for us to keep
17 the land in the family and to keep it in long term
18 open space, and provide some income to the farm.
19 It's not a windfall, but it's something. And I
20 hope the community sees that and understands that,
21 and understands our goals.

22 Thank you for your time.

23 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, Eric, and thank you,
24 Patty, for coming out this evening.

25 **ERIC TAYLOR:** Thank you.

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: That concludes our speakers for
2 this evening.

3 But before closing this hearing, the
4 Connecticut Siting Council announces that briefs
5 and proposed findings of fact may be filed with
6 the Council by any party or intervener no later
7 than November 21st, 2024. The submission of
8 briefs and proposed findings of fact are not
9 required by this Council. Rather, we leave it to
10 the choice of the parties and interveners.

11 Anyone who has not become a party or
12 intervener, but who desires to make his or her
13 views known to the Council may file written
14 statements with the Council within the 30 days of
15 the date hereof.

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

23 A copy the transcript of this hearing will be
24 filed in the Stonington and North Stonington Town
25 Clerk's Office.

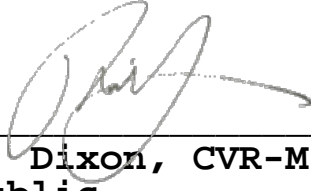
1 I hereby declare this hearing adjourned.

2 And thank you, everyone, for your
3 participation. Thank you and have a good evening.
4

5 (End: 6:43 p.m.)
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 14 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. 525, GREENSKIES CLEAN ENERGY, LLC APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A 4.75-MEGAWATT-AC SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT LOCATED ON TWO PARCELS AT 54 JEREMY HILL ROAD, NORTH STONINGTON, AND PARCEL NO. 90-1-1 JEREMY HILL ROAD, STONINGTON, CONNECTICUT AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer, on October 22, 2024.



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