

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
3

4 Docket No. 550

5 Brookfield Husky Solar, LLC d/b/a Verogy
6 application for a Certificate of Environmental
7 Compatibility and Public Need for the
8 construction, maintenance, and operation of a
9 50-megawatt-AC solar photovoltaic electric
10 generating facility and associated equipment on 9
11 parcels generally located east and west of
12 Sterling Road (Route 14) along the Plainfield
13 municipal boundary in Sterling, Connecticut; north
14 of Sterling Hill Road along the Sterling municipal
15 boundary and west of the intersection of Sugar
16 Brook Road and Black Hill Road (Route 14) in
17 Plainfield, Connecticut and associated electrical
18 interconnection.
19

20 Public Hearing (Public Comment Session) held on
21 Thursday, June 4, 2026, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
22 via Zoom.
23

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

25 JOHN MORISSETTE, Vice Chair

Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061

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

2

 Council Members:

3

 BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI

4

 Designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes,
 Department of Energy and
 Environmental Protection

5

 QUAT NGUYEN

6

 Designee for Chairman Elect Thomas Wiehl,
 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

7

8

 CHANCE CARTER

9

 KHRISTINE HALL

10

 BILL SYME

11

 DR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS

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 Council Staff:

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 LISA FONTAINE

 Administrative Support

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

2

3 **For the Applicant Brookfield Husky Solar, LLC**
4 **d/b/a Verogy:**

5

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23 **Intervenor:**

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37 **For Intervenor Sterling Property LLC and Pure**
38 **Hedge LLC:**

39

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48 **BY: BRUCE L. MCDERMOTT, ESQ.**

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54 **Also present: Ian Gottheim, Verogy**

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57 **Public speaker: Kimberly Gunn**

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1 (Commenced at 6:30 p.m.)

2 THE VICE CHAIR: Good evening, ladies
3 and gentlemen. This hearing is called to order
4 this Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. My name
5 is John Morissette, Vice Chair of the Connecticut
6 Siting Council. Other members of the Council are
7 Chance Carter; Khristine Hall; Dr. Scott Williams;
8 Bill Syme; Brian Golembiewski, designee for
9 Commissioner Katie Dykes of the Department of
10 Energy and Environmental Protection; and Quat
11 Nguyen, designee for Chairman Thomas Wiehl of the
12 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.

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

16 If you haven't done so already, I ask
17 that everyone please mute their computer audio
18 and/or telephones now. Thank you.

19 This is a continuation of the public
20 hearing that began at 2 p.m. this afternoon. A
21 copy of the prepared agenda is available on the
22 Council's website, along with the record of this
23 matter, the public hearing notice, instructions
24 for public access to this public hearing, and the
25 Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council

1 Procedures .

2 This hearing is held pursuant to the
3 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
4 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
5 Procedure Act upon an application from Brookfield
6 Husky Solar, LLC d/b/a Verogy for a Certificate of
7 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for
8 the construction, maintenance, and operation of a
9 50-megawatt-AC solar photovoltaic electric
10 generating facility and associated equipment on 9
11 parcels generally located east and west of
12 Sterling Road, which is Route 14, along the
13 Plainfield municipal boundary in Sterling,
14 Connecticut; north of Sterling Hill Road along the
15 Sterling municipal boundary and west of the
16 intersection of Sugar Brook Road and Black Hill
17 Road, also Route 14, in Plainfield, Connecticut
18 and the associated electrical interconnection.
19 This application was received by the Council on
20 February 20, 2026.

21 The Council's legal notice of the date
22 and time of this public hearing was published in
23 the Norwich Bulletin on March 25, 2026. Upon this
24 Council's request, the applicant erected signs in
25 the vicinity of the proposed site host parcels so

1 as to inform the public of the name of the
2 applicant, the type of facility, the public
3 hearing date, and contact information for the
4 Council, including the website and phone number.

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

9 This public comment session is reserved
10 for members of the public who signed up to make
11 brief statements. These limited appearance
12 statements are not subject to questions from the
13 parties or the Council, and members of the public
14 making statements may not ask questions of the
15 parties or the Council.

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

22 I wish to note that 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, for those who are
2 listening and for the benefit of your friends and
3 neighbors who are unable to join us for the public
4 comment session, that you or they may send written
5 statements to the Council within 30 days of the
6 date hereof, by mail or by email.

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

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

18 A verbatim transcript will be made of
19 this hearing and will be deposited at the Sterling
20 and Plainfield Town Clerk's Office for the
21 convenience of the public.

22 At this time, I request the applicant
23 to make a brief presentation to the public
24 describing the proposed facility. I believe Ian
25 Gottheim is going to be making that presentation.

1 Good evening, Ian.

2 IAN GOTTHEIM: Good evening,
3 Mr. Morissette. One thing before I start. Oh, I
4 was just making sure -- thank you, Attorney
5 Bachman -- when that gets shared.

6 Can you all see that figure? I just
7 can't see it yet. Cool. Great. I'll begin.

8 So, good evening, Council members and
9 members of the public. My name is Ian Gottheim.
10 I represent Brookfield Husky Solar, Verogy, here
11 to present our Husky Solar project.

12 Husky Solar has been submitted to the
13 Connecticut Siting Council as an application for a
14 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
15 Public Need for the construction, operation, and
16 maintenance of a solar photovoltaic electric
17 generating facility. Husky Solar will generate 50
18 megawatts of alternating current through a
19 ground-mounted solar photovoltaic system,
20 including an associated project substation and a
21 required Eversource 3-breaker ring bus switchyard
22 on a total of 9 parcels in Plainfield and
23 Sterling, Connecticut.

24 As you can see on the screen, the
25 majority of the development is centered around

1 Sterling Hill Road in Plainfield and Sterling Road
2 in Sterling with an additional area of 6 miles to
3 the west for our required Eversource 3-breaker
4 ring bus switchyard on Sugar Brook Road which is
5 off Black Hill Road in Plainfield.

6 Husky Solar will generate 50 megawatts
7 of clean renewable energy. It will not result in
8 significant environmental harm and will meet a
9 public need, namely the need for additional zero
10 carbon energy. The project will generate enough
11 renewable energy to power approximately 7,000
12 homes.

13 Husky Solar was submitted into the 2025
14 Expedited Zero Carbon Energy Procurement issued by
15 Connecticut DEEP in September of 2025, and was
16 subsequently selected in December of 2025 to
17 provide power to the States of Connecticut,
18 Massachusetts and Maine. Per Connecticut DEEP,
19 "These selections, which are designed to take
20 advantage of federal clean energy tax credits
21 before they expire, will improve the reliability
22 of the state and region's electrical grid, save
23 Connecticut ratepayers money on energy supply and
24 capacity market costs by bringing new affordable
25 generation online, and increase the state's

1 electricity supply with clean emission-free
2 resources."

3 The Husky Solar project also has a
4 large generator interconnection agreement with
5 Eversource and ISO New England. It is located
6 adjacent to existing Eversource transmission
7 infrastructure.

8 Husky Solar will provide new municipal
9 tax revenues to Sterling and Plainfield with no
10 additional burden on town services. Husky Solar
11 will pay approximately \$250,000 per year in taxes
12 to Sterling, becoming Sterling's number one
13 taxpayer, and pay \$350,000 per year in taxes to
14 Plainfield, becoming one of the top ten taxpayers
15 in town.

16 The majority of the Husky Solar
17 development, as you can see on the screen, is on a
18 continuous 460, approximately 460-acre block of
19 land owned by one family, the Bellavance family.
20 In existing conditions, this is mostly farmland
21 and forestlands. This continuous block of acreage
22 has been subject to many different development
23 interests in the past 35 years.

24 Solar presents a nonintensive use that
25 does not permanently alter the land. In addition,

1 Husky Solar is required to post a decommissioning
2 bond to bring the land back to similar condition
3 upon end of operations.

4 The project team is working with local
5 farmers on agrivoltaics on land designated as
6 prime farmland within the limits of disturbance.
7 Within land designated as small core forest within
8 the limits of disturbance, the project team has
9 carefully selected forestland in locations that
10 have been previously clearcut by the property
11 owner from 2009 to 2017.

12 Finally, the project's current
13 schedule. The project is currently slated to come
14 online in spring of 2029. Thank you.

15 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr.
16 Gottheim.

17 I'll now call on Kim Gunn to make a
18 public statement.

19 Kimberly Gunn? Good evening. Kimberly
20 Gunn, please. There you go.

21 KIMBERLY GUNN: Can you hear me?

22 THE VICE CHAIR: We hear you. Thank
23 you.

24 KIMBERLY GUNN: I don't know if you can
25 see me but --

1 THE VICE CHAIR: No, but we can hear
2 you. That's fine.

3 KIMBERLY GUNN: All right. My name is
4 Kimberly Gunn. I live in Sterling. I've lived in
5 Sterling almost my whole life. I'm very familiar
6 with the project areas.

7 My biggest concern is to the impact of
8 our public benefit being we're the last green
9 valley in Connecticut. And it is a great public
10 benefit, priceless really, in my opinion, that we
11 can drive through this area and see fields and
12 forestland and just beautiful scenery. And I
13 believe that's available to all of our public.
14 And to impact it by taking 200 acres and putting
15 solar panels, and a good portion of those being
16 visible to the road, is a sacrifice I don't
17 believe we as the public benefit.

18 Also, at the end of Sterling Hill Road
19 is a historical district, including Sterling
20 Baptist Church which was built in the late 1700s,
21 and several other homes that were built in the
22 1800s. So, about a half mile from that historical
23 district will be probably the most visible amount
24 of solar panels. I feel that it takes away
25 adversely to our environment by taking away the

1 significance of that historical district and our
2 identity as a town in the state.

3 I also believe that there's a huge
4 impact to our endangered plant and wildlife
5 species in the area and that, as DEEP reports have
6 pointed out, there's many of them. And there will
7 be a significant loss due to the development of
8 over 200 acres.

9 I also believe the forestland, there's
10 going to be a significant loss in forestland, and
11 not all of that will be what Bellavance has
12 already clearcut. It actually will be a
13 significant amount of acreage of forestland that
14 we'll be losing, which also, you know, reduces our
15 carbon footprint. So to clearcut forestland
16 that's already providing fresh air and water and
17 wildlife habitats and biodiversity in order to
18 build solar panels just doesn't make a lot of
19 sense to me.

20 Also, the loss of farmland, which is
21 very important. We're quickly losing our farmland
22 and our ability to feed ourselves, quite
23 basically. And to risk giving up that farmland
24 for 20 years, with the chance of having
25 contaminants and possibly just solar panels left,

1 basically, because I know after 20 years the
2 company is not going to come in with new solar
3 panels to replace that, so basically they are
4 going to be abandoning that in 20 years. And so
5 to risk losing that valuable land while also
6 putting that electricity on the grid and sending
7 it to Massachusetts and Maine, it just doesn't,
8 for me, make sense that that's a public -- a
9 benefit that outweighs the environmental impact.

10 I don't know if I got that all in, in
11 three minutes.

12 And I caught most of the hearing. And
13 I'm just amazed at the amount of material you are
14 all going through. It's amazing. So thank you
15 very much.

16 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Gunn,
17 and thank you for coming out this evening.

18 KIMBERLY GUNN: Thank you.

19 THE VICE CHAIR: The Council announces
20 that it will continue the evidentiary session of
21 this public hearing on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at
22 2 p.m., via Zoom remote conferencing. A copy of
23 the agenda for the continued evidentiary session
24 will be available on the Council's website, along
25 with the record of this matter, the public hearing

1 notice, instructions for public access to the
2 evidentiary hearing session, and the Council's
3 Citizens Guide to Siting Council Procedures.

4 Please note that anyone who has not
5 become a party or intervenor, but who desires to
6 make his or her views known to the Council, may
7 file written statements to the Council until the
8 public comment period closes.

9 Copies of the transcript of this
10 hearing will be filed at the Sterling and
11 Plainfield Town Clerks' Office.

12 I hereby declare this hearing
13 adjourned. And thank you, everyone, for your
14 participation. Have a good evening. Thank you.

15 (Whereupon, the public comment session
16 adjourned at 6:45 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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I hereby certify that the foregoing 15 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original stenotype notes taken of the Public Comment Session held before the Connecticut Siting Council in Re: DOCKET NO. 550, BROOKFIELD HUSKY SOLAR, LLC d/b/a VEROGY APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A 50-MEGAWATT-AC SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT ON 9 PARCELS GENERALLY LOCATED EAST AND WEST OF STERLING ROAD (ROUTE 14) ALONG THE PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY IN STERLING, CONNECTICUT; NORTH OF STERLING HILL ROAD ALONG THE STERLING MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY AND WEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF SUGAR BROOK ROAD AND BLACK HILL ROAD (ROUTE 14) IN PLAINFIELD, CONNECTICUT AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, VICE CHAIR, via Zoom, on June 4, 2026.



Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061
Notary Public
My commission expires:
May 31, 2028

&	250,000 10:11	9	advised 6:19
& 3:4	265 3:17	9 1:7 5:10 8:22	7:7,15
0	3	16:7	affordable 9:24
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1	350,000 10:13	14:4	agrivoltaics
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<p>area 9:2 12:11 13:5 areas 12:6 associated 1:7 1:10 5:10,18 8:20 16:7,11 attorney 8:4 audio 4:17 authority 2:7 4:12 available 4:21 12:13 14:24 avoid 7:13</p>	<p>benefit 7:2 12:8 12:10,17 14:9 biggest 12:7 bill 2:10 4:8 biodiversity 13:17 black 1:10 5:16 9:5 16:10 block 10:18,21 bmcdermott 3:19 bond 11:2 boucher 3:6 boundary 1:8,9 5:13,15 16:9 16:10 breaker 8:21 9:3 brian 2:3 4:8 brief 6:11 7:23 bring 11:2 bringing 9:24 brook 1:10 5:16 9:4 16:10 brookfield 1:4 3:2 5:5 8:10 16:5 bruce 3:18 build 13:18 built 12:20,21 bulletin 5:23 burden 10:10 bus 8:21 9:4</p>	<p>c</p> <p>c 2:1,11 3:1 call 11:17 called 4:3 capacity 9:24 carbon 9:10,14 13:15 carefully 11:9 carter 2:8 4:7 caught 14:12 centered 8:25 certificate 1:5 5:6 8:14 16:1,5 certify 16:2 chair 1:18 4:2,5 11:15,22 12:1 14:16,19 16:12 chairman 2:6 4:11 chance 2:8 4:7 13:24 church 3:17 12:20 citizens 4:25 15:3 clean 9:7,20 10:1 clearcut 11:10 13:12,15 clerk's 7:20 clerks 15:11 closes 15:8</p>	<p>come 11:13 14:2 coming 14:17 comley 3:4 commenced 4:1 comment 1:13 6:9,25 7:4,8 15:8,15 16:4 comments 6:20 commission 16:18 commissioner 2:4 4:9 communication 6:6 company 14:2 compatibility 1:5 5:7 8:14 16:6 complete 16:3 computer 4:17 16:3 concern 12:7 concerns 7:14 condition 11:2 conditions 10:20 conferencing 14:22 confine 7:11 connecticut 1:1 1:2,8,10 3:5,11 3:17 4:5 5:3,14 5:17 8:13,23</p>
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<p>b 1:4,17 3:3 5:6 16:5 bachman 2:14 4:14 8:5 back 11:2 baptist 12:20 basically 13:23 14:1,3 beach 3:16 beautiful 12:12 becoming 10:12,14 began 4:20 beginning 1:14 believe 7:24 12:13,17 13:3 13:9 bellavance 10:19 13:11</p>			

<p>9:15,17,18,23 12:9 16:4,9,11 construction 1:6 5:8 8:15 16:6 cont'd 3:1 contact 6:3 contaminants 13:25 continuation 4:19 continue 14:20 continued 14:23 continuous 10:18,21 convenience 7:21 cool 8:7 copies 15:9 copy 4:21 14:22 core 11:7 costs 9:24 council 1:2 2:2 2:13 4:6,6,25 5:19 6:4,6,13 6:15 7:5,9,13 7:16 8:8,13 14:19 15:3,6,7 16:4 council's 4:22 4:25 5:21,24 6:7 14:24 15:2</p>	<p>credits 9:20 csr 1:25 16:17 cullina 3:16 current 8:18 11:12 currently 11:13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">d</p> <p>d 1:4,17 3:3,6 5:6 16:5 date 5:21 6:3 7:6 days 6:21 7:5 december 9:16 declare 15:12 decommissio... 11:1 deep 9:15,18 13:5 department 2:4 4:9 deposited 7:19 describing 7:24 designated 11:5,7 designed 9:19 designee 2:4,6 4:8,11 desires 15:5 development 8:25 10:17,22 13:7 different 10:22</p>	<p>director 2:14 4:14 discretion 7:9 district 12:19 12:23 13:1 disturbance 11:6,8 docket 1:3 16:4 dr 2:11 4:7 drive 12:11 due 13:7 dykes 2:4 4:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">e</p> <p>e 1:17,17,17 2:1 2:1 3:1,1 east 1:7 5:11 16:8 elect 2:6 electric 1:6 5:9 8:16 16:7 electrical 1:10 5:18 9:22 16:11 electricity 10:1 14:6 email 7:6 emission 10:1 endangered 13:4 energy 2:4 4:10 9:7,10,11,14,20 9:23</p>	<p>england 10:5 environment 12:25 environmental 1:5 2:5 4:10 5:7 8:14 9:8 14:9 16:5 equipment 1:7 5:10 16:7 erected 5:24 esq 2:14 3:6,6 3:18 evening 4:2 8:1 8:2,8 11:19 14:17 15:14 eversource 8:21 9:3 10:5,6 evidentiary 14:20,23 15:2 executive 2:14 4:13 existing 10:6 10:20 expedited 9:14 expire 9:21 expires 16:18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">f</p> <p>f 1:17 facility 1:7 5:10 6:2 7:24 8:17 16:7 fairness 6:17</p>
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<p>familiar 12:5 family 10:19,19 farmers 11:5 farmland 10:20 11:6 13:20,21 13:23 february 5:20 federal 9:20 feed 13:22 feel 12:24 fields 12:11 figure 8:6 file 15:7 filed 15:10 finally 11:12 fine 12:2 floor 3:17 fontaine 2:17 4:15 footprint 13:15 foregoing 16:2 forest 11:7 forestland 11:9 12:12 13:9,10 13:13,15 forestlands 10:21 free 10:1 fresh 13:16 friends 7:2</p>	<p>generally 1:7 5:11 16:8 generate 8:17 9:6,10 generating 1:7 5:10 8:17 16:7 generation 9:25 generator 10:4 gentlemen 4:3 giving 13:23 gmail.com 3:12 go 11:20 going 7:25 13:10 14:2,4 14:14 golembiewski 2:3 4:8 good 4:2 8:1,2 8:8 11:19 12:15 15:14 gottheim 3:22 7:25 8:2,9 11:16 great 8:7 12:9 green 12:8 grid 9:22 14:6 ground 8:19 guide 4:25 15:3 gunn 3:24 11:17,19,20,21 11:24 12:3,4 14:16,18</p>	<p>h</p> <p>h 1:17 habitats 13:17 half 12:22 hall 2:9 4:7 harm 9:8 harris 3:16 harrisbeachm... 3:19 hartford 3:5 haven 3:17 hear 7:14 11:21 11:22 12:1 hearing 1:13 4:3,20,23,24 5:2,22 6:3,16 6:21 7:19 14:12,21,25 15:2,10,12 hedge 3:15 held 1:13 5:2 16:4,11 hereof 7:6 hill 1:9,10 3:11 5:14,16 9:1,5 12:18 16:9,10 historical 12:19 12:22 13:1 hoffman 3:6 homes 9:12 12:21 host 5:25</p>	<p>house 3:4 huge 13:3 husky 1:4 3:2 5:6 8:10,11,12 8:17 9:6,13 10:3,8,10,16 11:1 16:5</p> <p>i</p> <p>ian 3:22 7:24 8:1,2,9 identity 13:2 impact 12:7,14 13:4 14:9 important 13:21 improve 9:21 including 6:4 6:23 8:20 12:19 increase 9:25 inform 6:1 information 6:3 infrastructure 10:7 instructions 4:23 15:1 interconnecti... 1:11 5:18 10:4 16:11 interests 10:23 intersection 1:9 5:16 16:10</p>
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