



**Lee D. Hoffman**  
90 State House Square  
Hartford, CT 06103-3702  
p 860 424 4315  
f 860 424 4370  
lhoffman@pullcom.com  
www.pullcom.com

August 8, 2023

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Melanie Bachman  
Executive Director/Staff Attorney  
Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

**Re: Docket No. 492 - Gravel Pit Solar Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 120-megawatt-AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility on eight parcels generally located to the east and west of the Amtrak and Connecticut Rail Line, south of Apothecaries Hall Road and north of the South Windsor town boundary in East Windsor, Connecticut and associated electrical interconnection.**

Dear Ms. Bachman:

I am writing on behalf of my client, Gravel Pit Solar, in connection with an incident that occurred in connection with the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) that was occurring on the project site. Late in the afternoon on August 4, 2023, there was a limited, inadvertent release of native sediment and bentonite mud used for drilling at the site that occurred while drilling the HDD bore. Gravel Pit Solar was informed of this release at 5:37 PM on August 4, 2023. Although bentonite mud is a naturally occurring clay substance, drilling will not resume at the site until all cleanup is completed.

By way of further detail regarding the release, the site was monitored by the drilling contractor. The contractor noticed a drop in pressure and immediately stopped drilling. The contractor further determined that the release occurred approximately 500ft southwest from entry bore pit. Saturated sediment and turbid water was observed at the ground surface.

On Saturday, August 5, 2023, the project's contractors examined the full extent of the release. The release was determined to be in a wetland area associated with Ketch Brook and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, North Central Conservation District, and the US Army Corps of Engineers were notified of the release on August 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the

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project's independent inspector, VHB, inspected the release area on the afternoon of August 5<sup>th</sup>. VHB also collected six water samples to monitor turbidity in the area.

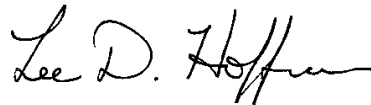
By August 5, 2023, the release was contained through the use of mulch, silt fence, filter socks, and erosion control blankets. The release site continues to be monitored and containment remains in place. Cleanup was mobilized today, and cleanup will continue tomorrow morning using a vacuum truck.

The vacuum truck has approximately 600 feet of hose to conduct the cleanup. It will be located at the entry bore location, which is within currently approved property lines and limits of work. The release, containment, and clean-up area is located approximately 500 ft to the southwest of the entry pit and outside of the project's work limit. Using a vacuum truck with 600 feet of hose will allow for the release to be cleaned up while avoiding tree clearing and additional earth disturbance within the Ketch Brook area.

VHB will continue to monitor the area, and drilling will not resume until all cleanup activities have been completed in accordance with the remediation plans the project has in place to address inadvertent releases of bentonite mud from HDD activities.

Should you have any questions concerning this submittal, please contact me at your convenience. I certify that copies of this submittal have been made to all parties on the Certificate's Service List as of this date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee D. Hoffman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "H".

Lee D. Hoffman