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April 4, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. 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, LLC (“GPS”), in connection with the above-referenced Docket. As you are aware, on February 25, 2021, the Council granted the Certificate for the application referenced above. Subsequent to that approval, the Council granted GPS’s request for an extension of time to complete the construction of this facility until September 1, 2025.

As my client continues with the construction of this facility, GPS had determined that some slight changes in the vegetation and landscape plans would be beneficial to the overall project and satisfy attempts to make vegetation at the project more aesthetically pleasing and efficient for privacy screening. After consultation with some of the landscaping and vegetation contractors my client has employed, it has been determined that some minor changes could have some major positive impacts to the project, as described below.

GPS proposes a minor shift of the vegetation screening berm, incorporating an approximate one-hundred-foot realignment of the Mitigation Module 1 Plantings located along Apothecaries Hall Road as shown in the attached Exhibit 1. This minor shift will allow the Module I Plantings to better align with existing vegetation to minimize vegetation gaps for the small cluster of residence located directly across the road. In addition, GPS proposes to substitute two types of vegetation in the plan. This includes a proposal to switch *Juniperus Virginiana* for *Juniperus Chinensis*.

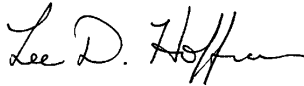
Such a switch of species would keep the planting selections in the same family, but would be preferable for the following reasons: (1) The *Juniperus Chinensis* grows wider and more evenly so it will be more aesthetically pleasing for privacy screening than *Virginiana*; and (2) *Chinensis* is also very hearty and produces the same juniper berry that birds and other animals can benefit from. In addition, GPS would like to swap *Picea Glauca* for *Thuja Occidentalis Elegantissima*, because the *Picea Glauca* is very susceptible to pests, mainly the Spruce Budworm. Additionally, *Thuja Occidentalis Elegantissima* is the most deer resistant variety in the *Arborvitae* family and is more resistant to pests. I have also attached a letter from

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Jason Nikitas, Vice President of Distinctive Tree Care, attesting to the benefits of the proposed substitute vegetation as Exhibit 2 for your review.

I am enclosing an original and fifteen copies of this letter via U.S. Mail. If you have any questions concerning this submittal, please contact me at your convenience. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Lee D. Hoffman

cc: Service List, Docket 492

Exhibit 1

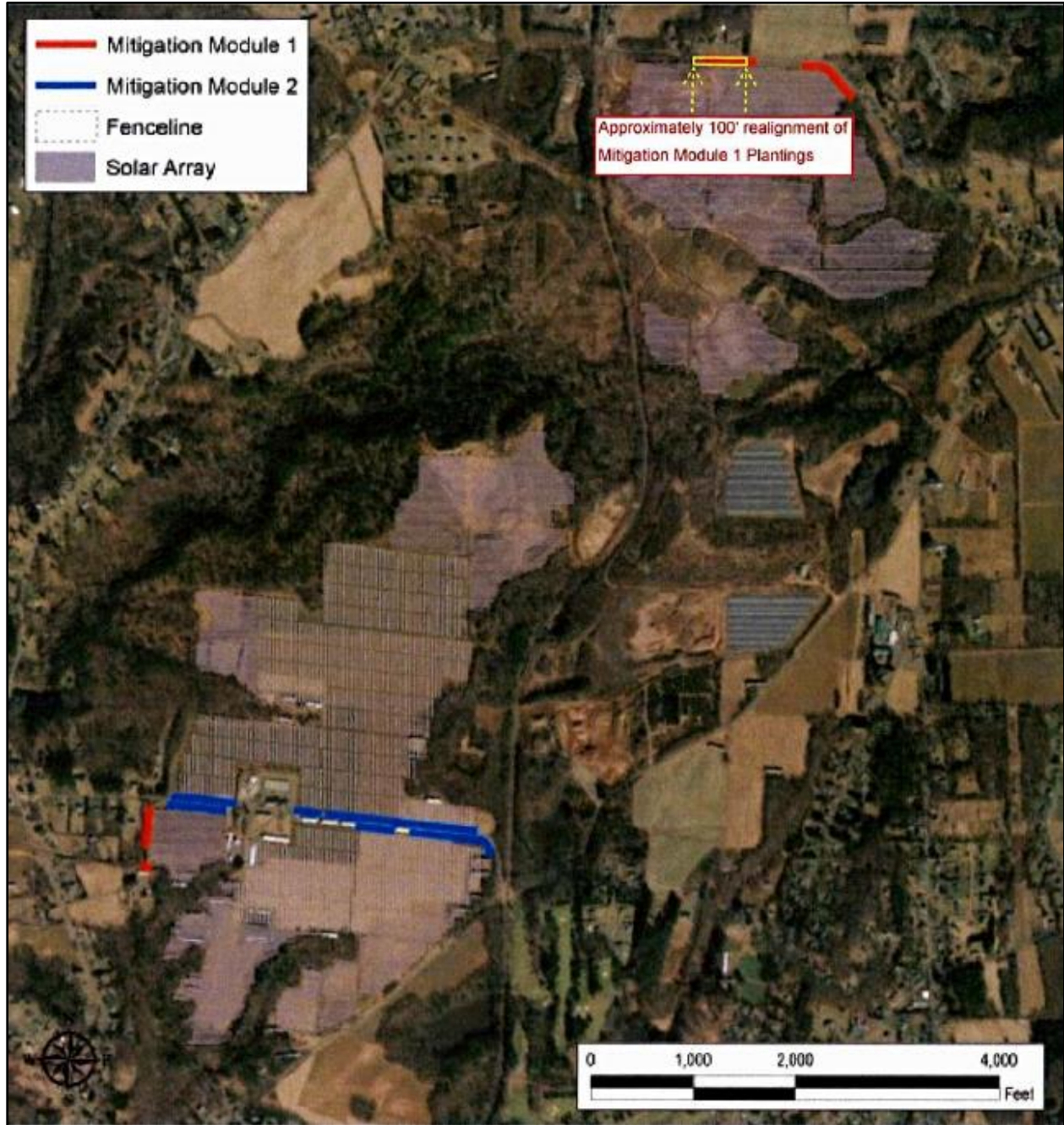


Exhibit 2



595 Nutmeg rd north
South Windsor, CT 06074
860-528-TREE (8733)
860-528-8734 (Fax)

Gravel Pit Solar Evergreen Substitutions

Regarding the Schedule 1 Plant Stock for the Gravel Pit Solar Planting Project on Apothecaries Hall Rd and Plantation Rd, East Windsor. Distinctive Tree Care is asking for substitution approval for 2 species on the plan. We would suggest swapping Juniperus Virginiana for Juniperus Chinensis, keeping it in the same family but slightly changing the shape and maturity height. Juniperus Chinensis grows wider and more evenly and is more aesthetically pleasing for privacy screening than Virginiana. Chinensis is also very hearty and produces the same juniper berry that birds and other animals can benefit from. Secondly, swapping Picea Glauca for Thuja Occidentalis Elegantissima. The main reason here is that Picea Glauca is very susceptible to pests, mainly the Spruce Budworm. Thuja Occidentalis Elegantissima is the most deer resistant variety in the Arborvitae family and is more resistant to pests. With no plan in place for future care and maintenance for the plantings called for per the project plans. We feel more confident warranting the plant stock with the approval of these substitutions.

Jason Nikitas
Vice President
Distinctive Tree Care