

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

3
4 Docket No. 497

5 Burlington Solar One, LLC application for a
6 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
7 Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and
8 operation of a 3.5-megawatt-AC solar photovoltaic
9 electric generating facility located at Lot 33,
10 Prospect Street, Burlington, Connecticut, and
11 associated electrical interconnection.

12
13 VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE

14
15 Public Comment Hearing held on Tuesday,
16 March 23, 2021, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
17 via remote access.

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

21 JOHN MORISSETTE, Presiding Officer

22
23
24
25 Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061

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

2 **Council Members:**

3 **ROBERT HANNON**
4 Designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes
5 Department of Energy and Environmental
6 Protection

7 **QUAT NGUYEN**
8 Designee for Chairman Marissa Paslick
9 Gillett, Public Utilities Regulatory
10 Authority

11 **ROBERT SILVESTRI**

12 **MICHAEL HARDER**

13 **EDWARD EDELSON**

14 **Council Staff:**

15 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.**
16 Executive Director and
17 Staff Attorney

18 **MICHAEL PERRONE**
19 Siting Analyst

20 **LISA FONTAINE**
21 Fiscal Administrative Officer

22 **For Burlington Solar One, LLC:**
23 **PULLMAN & COMLEY, LLC**
24 90 State House Square
25 Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3702
 BY: LEE D. HOFFMAN, ESQ.

Verogy:

BRYAN FITZGERALD

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

2
3 **Public Speakers:**

4 **JON CRANE**

5 **MARK SMALDONE**

6 **CRAIG CARDER**

7 **ANIELLO DePASCALE**

8 **EWELINA CZERCZAK**

9 **ERIC BOSWELL**

10 **PAUL ROCHFORD**

11 **TOM DIAMANTES**

12 **JOHN HEBERT**

13 **JOEL MOLINSKY**

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17
18 **Also present: Aaron Demarest, Zoom co-host**

19
20 ****All participants were present via remote access.**

21
22 ***** (Inaudible) (AUDIO INTERRUPTION) - denotes**
23 **breaks in speech due to interruptions in audio or**
24 **echo.**

1 MR. MORISSETTE: This remote public
2 hearing is called to order this Tuesday, March 23,
3 2021 at 6:30 p.m. My name is John Morissette,
4 member and presiding officer of the Connecticut
5 Siting Council. Other members of the Council are
6 Robert Hannon, designee for Commissioner Katie
7 Dykes, the Department of Energy and Environmental
8 Protection; Quat Nguyen, designee for Chairman
9 Marissa Paslick Gillett, the Public Utilities
10 Regulatory Authority; Robert Silvestri; Michael
11 Harder; Edward Edelson and Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

12 Members of the staff are Melanie
13 Bachman, executive director and staff attorney;
14 Michael Perrone, siting analyst; Lisa Fontaine,
15 fiscal administrative officer.

16 As everyone is aware, there is
17 currently a statewide effort to prevent the spread
18 of the Coronavirus. This is why the Council is
19 holding this remote public hearing, and we ask for
20 your patience. If you haven't done so already, I
21 ask that everyone please mute their computer audio
22 and/or telephone now.

23 This is a continuation of a remote
24 public hearing that began today at 2 p.m. this
25 afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is

1 available on the Council's Docket No. 497 webpage,
2 along with the record of this matter, the public
3 hearing notice, instructions for public access to
4 this remote public hearing, and the Council's
5 Citizens Guide to Siting Council Procedures.

6 This hearing is held pursuant to the
7 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
8 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
9 Procedure Act upon an application from Burlington
10 Solar One, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental
11 Compatibility and Public Need for the
12 construction, maintenance, and operation of a
13 3.5-megawatt-AC photovoltaic electric generating
14 facility located at Lot 33, Prospect Street,
15 Burlington, Connecticut. This application was
16 received by the Council on January 22, 2021.

17 The Council's legal notice of the date
18 and time of this remote public hearing was
19 published in the Hartford Courant on February 18,
20 2021. Upon this Council's request, the applicant
21 erected a sign near the proposed access road
22 entering the subject property from Prospect Street
23 so as to inform the public of the name of the
24 applicant, the type of facility, the remote public
25 hearing date, and contact information for the

1 Council, including website and phone number.

2 This remote public comment session is
3 reserved for the public to make brief statements
4 into the record. These public statements are not
5 subject to questions from the parties or the
6 Council, and members of the public making
7 statements may not ask questions of the parties or
8 the Council. In fairness to everyone who has
9 signed up to speak, these public statements will
10 be limited to three minutes and will become part
11 of the record for Council consideration.

12 As a reminder, off-the-record
13 communication with a member of the Council or a
14 member of the Council staff upon the merits of
15 this application is prohibited by law.

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

20 I also wish to note for those who are
21 listening and for the benefit of your friends and
22 neighbors who are unable to join us for this
23 remote public comment session, that you or they
24 may send written statements to the Council within
25 30 days of the date hereof by mail or by email,

1 and such written statements will be given the same
2 weight as if spoken at the remote public comment
3 session.

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

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

15 A verbatim transcript of this remote
16 public hearing will be posted on the Council's
17 Docket No. 497 webpage and deposited in the
18 Burlington Town Clerk's Office for the convenience
19 of the public.

20 Please be advised that the Council does
21 not issue permits for stormwater management. If
22 the proposed project is approved by the Council, a
23 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
24 (DEEP) Stormwater Permit is independently
25 required. DEEP could hold a public hearing on any

1 stormwater permit application.

2 Please also be advised that the
3 Council's project evaluation criteria under the
4 statute does not include consideration of property
5 value.

6 Before I call on members of the public
7 to make statements, I request the applicant to
8 make a very brief presentation to the public
9 describing the proposed project.

10 Mr. Fitzgerald, would you please make a
11 presentation?

12 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
13 Morissette. Good evening, Siting Council staff
14 and members of the public. My name is Bryan
15 Fitzgerald, and I'm the director of development
16 for Verogy and Burlington Solar One. Verogy is a
17 Hartford based solar energy developer. Verogy
18 develops, finances, installs and operates solar
19 energy systems in the municipal commercial utility
20 scale markets with a primary focus in New England
21 and the mid-Atlantic regions.

22 Burlington Solar One is a 3.5 megawatt
23 solar photovoltaic electric generating array
24 located at Lot 33 on Prospect Street in
25 Burlington, Connecticut. Access to the proposed

1 project would originate from Prospect Street and
2 utilize an existing access road. The project
3 would occupy approximately 16 acres in total in
4 the northern section of the 62 acre parcel.

5 Burlington Solar One will consist of
6 approximately 12,662 solar modules to be mounted
7 on a fixed-tilt racking system. DC electricity
8 from these solar panels will be converted to AC
9 electricity via string level inverters. Renewable
10 energy produced will be delivered to a three-phase
11 23 kV distribution circuit located on Prospect
12 Street.

13 Burlington Solar One will help
14 diversify Connecticut's energy supply mix, and
15 anticipated annual electricity production is
16 expected to be approximately 6,266 megawatt hours
17 per year. For scale, that's enough electricity to
18 power about 763 average homes each year and offset
19 approximately 4,430 metric tons of carbon dioxide
20 emissions.

21 Throughout the development of the
22 project, the applicants completed a comprehensive
23 environmental assessment for the proposed project
24 and development area. These studies included but
25 were not limited to wetland delineations and

1 studies, comprehensive forestland analysis,
2 consultation and a final determination from the
3 Connecticut DEEP Natural Diversity Data Base, and
4 an FAA no hazard determination from that agency.
5 Additionally, the proposed project would comply
6 with the air and water quality standards of
7 Connecticut DEEP.

8 Lastly, feedback from neighboring
9 property owners and community organizations has
10 helped improve the design of Burlington Solar One.
11 Specifically, we have increased setbacks from the
12 northern and western property lines to leave more
13 forested buffers intact in these areas
14 specifically.

15 And I'll just note that the image up on
16 the screen right now does not reflect the new
17 proposed layout. That was the original.

18 But that's all. Thank you for your
19 time this evening. We appreciate it.

20 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr.
21 Fitzgerald.

22 Before we move on to the public
23 statements, just a note on remote public hearings.
24 Remote public hearings are quite different from
25 in-person public hearings. For in-person public

1 hearings members of the public could sign in, step
2 up to the podium and offer their comments. For
3 remote public hearings the public is required to
4 sign up to speak in advance in order to provide
5 Council staff with the necessary time to
6 facilitate connection precautions to prevent
7 interruption or in common terms "bombing" of the
8 proceedings. There are protocols, procedures and
9 consistency measures that are followed as part of
10 the remote public hearing process. Written
11 comments may be submitted within 30 days of the
12 public hearing, and we encourage you to do that.

13 We will now call on Jon Crane to make a
14 public statement, followed by Mark and Patricia
15 Smaldone.

16 Mr. Jon Crane.

17 MR. CRANE: Can you hear me?

18 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes, I can. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. CRANE: Thank you. Distinguished
21 members of the Connecticut Siting Council, my name
22 is Jon Crane, and I'm here representing the
23 Whigville Preservation Group. Our mission is to
24 preserve and to protect the heritage of Whigville,
25 its agricultural heritage in both its farmlands

1 and its woodlands. Whigville is a unique and
2 historic neighborhood.

3 As our State Senator, Derek Slap, said
4 about this proposed solar farm in a letter to the
5 Siting Council, "While this project is a welcome
6 addition to the Town of Burlington, the concerns
7 regarding the site line issues have merit." And
8 we agree.

9 Our group supports renewable energy,
10 and we realize that zero carbon energy projects
11 are important. With that said, we do question the
12 large size of this solar project right in the
13 heart of our community. The developer, Verogy,
14 and the landowner, Rob Hiltbrand, after listening
15 to our concerns, have revised their footprint to
16 increase the buffers on the north and the west
17 boundaries. And while it may not be exactly what
18 we're looking for, we do believe it does start to
19 move us in the right direction.

20 We are asking that this project size be
21 reduced or realigned even more, especially on the
22 east boundary along Wildcat Road. We also request
23 that there will be additional buffers added, more
24 berms and more landscaping than is being proposed
25 right now along the boundaries even with this

1 revised proposal, as well as a commitment to
2 maintaining those buffers throughout the life of
3 this project.

4 We are also concerned about the
5 aesthetics of the hookup to the Eversource
6 transmission lines with nine utility poles, 40 to
7 45 feet in height, right on Prospect Street. We
8 hope that that issue can be addressed so that it
9 can maybe blend into the landscape more and
10 prevent it from being an eyesore there on Prospect
11 Street.

12 Finally, it's our understanding that
13 Verogy will be selling this project after it's
14 been completed. It is our hope that the
15 Connecticut Siting Council will require this
16 developer and all of its successors to maintain a
17 bond that will ensure a thorough decommissioning
18 at the end of this project.

19 On behalf of the Whigville Preservation
20 Group, I thank you for your time and your
21 consideration.

22 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. Crane.

23 I will now call upon Mark and Patricia
24 Smaldone followed by Craig Carder.

25 MR. SMALDONE: Great. Thank you. Mr.

1 Commissioner, can you hear me?

2 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes, I can. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. SMALDONE: Okay. Great. Thank
5 you. Thank you, CT Siting Council members for
6 this opportunity to speak. I can speak for just
7 about all of us that alternative and sustainable
8 energy sources are sorely needed; however, a
9 project such as this does not make sense.
10 Clearing of the forest to make way for a
11 large-scale solar array farm in the heart of an
12 idyllic residential community almost flies in the
13 face of what sustainability is all about.

14 In general, we support solar projects
15 that target application use for large rooftop
16 buildings, malls, factories and unuseful land such
17 as a landfill. Once this proposed land is used
18 for solar, it is no longer suitable or usable for
19 any other use for a minimum of 35 years. This
20 includes the forest. We are no longer creating
21 more forests or open spaces.

22 Having said that, we also recognize the
23 rights of the private property owner, and the
24 potential future use of this land could be
25 developed, including housing or some other use

1 leading to the clearing of the land.

2 Additionally, we considered that the CT
3 Siting Council will likely approve this project
4 given their past approval track record. As a
5 result, we met with the property owner and Verogy
6 to express our views and collaboratively discuss
7 changes to the project that included moving the
8 project further south into the gravel area, moving
9 the solar panels further away from the abutting
10 property owners, shrinking the overall solar panel
11 array footprint to keep the forest and add more
12 natural buffer space to the abutting property
13 owners, provide adequate landscaping screening to
14 buffer the solar panels for both the abutting
15 property owners and the community at large,
16 increasing the fence height from 7 to 8 feet,
17 again, to buffer the solar panels. All of this
18 was done to protect our neighbors and the rural
19 scenic nature of our neighborhood.

20 We are very grateful the private
21 landowner and Verogy have entertained these
22 suggestions which is illustrated in the most
23 recent map submittal. In addition to the items
24 listed above, I have a few more questions or
25 concerns. One, I would like to see adequate

1 funding set aside for the decommissioning of the
2 solar array project once it reaches end of life.
3 This money should be set aside upfront and bonded
4 to ensure that it's there at the end.

5 Two, I'm concerned about what the
6 electrical utility operations will look like at
7 the end of 33 Prospect Street as it connects into
8 the grid. I would like to request that the CT
9 Siting Council, Verogy and Eversource not place a
10 bunch of telephone poles with transformers
11 clustered together at the entrance of 33 Prospect
12 Street.

13 (TIME EXPIRED)

14 MR. SMALDONE: Was I on mute the whole
15 time?

16 MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. Morissette, you're on
17 mute.

18 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. I was on
19 mute. Excuse me, Mr. Smaldone, your time had
20 expired, so you were cut off.

21 MR. SMALDONE: Okay.

22 MR. MORISSETTE: If you have additional
23 comments that you were unable to provide to us,
24 you certainly have the ability to provide us
25 written comments either by mail or email.

1 MR. SMALDONE: Okay.

2 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you again.

3 I will now call on Craig Carder
4 followed by Aniello DePascale.

5 Mr. Carder.

6 MR. CARDER: Hello, everyone. Can you
7 hear me okay?

8 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes, I can. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. CARDER: Thank you very much.
11 Thank you to the Siting Council for hearing the
12 residents. I live actually abutting the property
13 on the Wildcat Road side at 29 Wildcat Road. My
14 address was actually explicitly called out in one
15 of the reports as someone who would be directly
16 impacted by this project. An area in particular
17 is visibility of the panels and the fence, which I
18 can attest that the 300 to 350 feet that the
19 panels will be from my property line will be
20 visible to me and my family. And it is close. I
21 have children that play in our yard that will be
22 in proximity to the project that is going up. So
23 I do have concerns about visibility and echo some
24 of the statements that were shared previously
25 about potentially moving the panels or doing a

1 better job to camouflage with natural trees and
2 things like that coming up.

3 Also, with the close proximity, I do
4 have concerns about property value and my property
5 value. I specifically, my family and I, we
6 purchased this land a little over five years ago
7 and built a home here with the intent explicitly
8 of building a home in the woods in a natural
9 environment. And we did that. If we ever did
10 intend to sell, that is a bit tarnished. If
11 someone goes on Google Maps and looks at our
12 property, they potentially will see solar panels.

13 Also, another concern is actually
14 during the construction, anyone who knows
15 Whigville in this area, there's a lot of rock and
16 there's a lot of ledge, so 350 feet from my
17 property, if there will be blasting or any kind of
18 rough construction that we'll be involved in for
19 months, and potentially how that would impact our
20 well water, how it would impact natural water flow
21 on our property, you know, will we have flooded
22 basements after this project goes into place?

23 Those are our concerns. Those are short term.

24 Also concerns are long term with, which
25 I echo Mark and Jon, this project is an investment

1 for someone. If it turns out to be not as
2 profitable as they had hoped, what impact does
3 that have on our property and our land, will they
4 maintain the panels, will very effectively remove
5 the panels?

6 And lastly, if this happens and this
7 goes through, will it open the door to greater
8 expansion? If we accept the panel dimensions as
9 they go in now, and it is profitable, it seems
10 like the landowner and others might want to add
11 other solar panels and expand the footprint and
12 add more, which will now be visible. And so there
13 are concerns that if we move forward with this
14 project does it open us up to harm down the road
15 by other future projects. So thank you.

16 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. Carder.

17 Next is Aniello DePascale followed by
18 Richard and Ewelina Czerczak.

19 MR. DEPASCALE: Hello. Can you hear
20 me?

21 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes, I can hear you.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. DEPASCALE: All right. My name is
24 Aniello DePascale, and I live at 19 Charles Place,
25 approximately one half mile to the east of this

1 proposed solar farm.

2 I'm a ham radio operator and have been
3 since January of 1960. I have lived here since
4 1978, and I am active every day on the radio.
5 Solar farms and their inverters that are part of
6 the system are notorious for noise that renders
7 the airwaves useless for ham radio. There are
8 over 60 licensed ham radio operators in
9 Burlington, and we wonder what this solar panel
10 solar farm will do to our hobby. Thank you.

11 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. Richard
12 and Ewelina Czerczak. Thank you. Sorry if I
13 mispronounced your name.

14 MS. CZERCZAK: Can you hear us?

15 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes. Thank you.

16 MS. CZERCZAK: Thank you. My name is
17 Ewelina Czerczak and I'm here with my husband,
18 Richie. I would like to begin tonight by letting
19 everyone understand that both myself and my
20 husband agree that there is a need for green
21 energy, and we are not against solar panel farms.
22 We need to find a way to protect our environment.
23 Solar farms are our current best option for clean
24 energy. With that said, we also need to be able
25 to find balance and make sure we do not destroy

1 nature to create the green energy.

2 Leveling 16.6 acres of forest, 7 of
3 which are considered core forest, is not a green
4 thing to do. The recommendation from DEEP states
5 that the site of this project needs to be revised
6 or moved to not disturb the core forest. When
7 forests are cleared, it displaces wildlife,
8 affects water quality and possibly creates other
9 environmental issues I can't speak to as I am not
10 an expert in that field.

11 Our other concern is the possibility of
12 increased noise coming from the quarry. We know
13 the quarry is currently only operated Monday
14 through Friday and noise was never an issue before
15 for us, but with the acres of trees being taken
16 down that buffer goes away and the noise will
17 increase not just from the quarry but from the
18 regular traffic. We would like to know if
19 anything can be done to prevent the noise. The
20 schedule of operations in the quarry may change
21 down the road to include weekends, and the
22 increased noise will affect community -- (AUDIO
23 INTERRUPTION)

24 MR. MORISSETTE: I'm sorry, you just
25 broke up. I'm sorry, we can't hear you. Your

1 bandwidth is low.

2 MS. CZERCZAK: -- who is responsible
3 for the cleanup? Are the funds set aside for that
4 purpose?

5 MR. MORISSETTE: Excuse me, you broke
6 up, and we didn't hear about a minute and a half
7 of your presentation.

8 MR. CZERCZAK: We can't hear you then
9 either.

10 MS. CZERCZAK: Secondly, what happens
11 at the time of the contract renewal in 15 years?
12 Correct me if I'm wrong, but there's the
13 possibility of renewal for up to 30 years. What
14 improvements are expected to be done in the next
15 15 years and then the years after -- (AUDIO
16 INTERRUPTION) -- of the panels or possible
17 upgrades to solar racking so that panels can --
18 (AUDIO INTERRUPTION) -- we need to know what the
19 future holds, and we do not want to be
20 blindsighted by these in the future.

21 What happens at the time of
22 decommissioning of the Burlington Solar One field?
23 Who is responsible for the cleanup? Are the funds
24 set aside for that purpose? Solar panels are made
25 several -- (AUDIO INTERRUPTION) -- so that

1 disposal of them is not cheap as they can't be
2 dropped off at a local -- (TIME EXPIRED)

3 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you.

4 MS. CZERCZAK: Finally, the last
5 part --

6 MR. MORISSETTE: Your time has expired.
7 Thank you so much for your comments.

8 We will now move on to Joel Molinsky
9 followed by Eric Boswell.

10 Joel Molinsky.

11 (No response.)

12 MR. MORISSETTE: Joel Molinsky?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. We'll come back
15 to Joel. Eric Boswell followed by -- hi,
16 Mr. Boswell.

17 MR. BOSWELL: Hi.

18 MR. MORISSETTE: -- followed by Paul
19 Rochford.

20 Go ahead, Mr. Boswell.

21 MR. BOSWELL: Hi. I live at 60 Stone
22 Road, and I will see those solar panels from my
23 backyard through the woods. Those are in the
24 background or those are the woods. There is a
25 water conservation easement directly in front of

1 those rocks, and beyond that I will see these
2 solar panels. So that's how close I am to this.

3 And so being that it was pretty close,
4 I started taking a look at where this project is.
5 Understanding that you're moving the project, I
6 only have what was available online so I kind
7 of -- I don't know if this is even an appropriate
8 time to have this discussion since we don't even
9 have the current information. So I'd like to make
10 a point of that.

11 Another point is that I looked at how
12 the runoff and the wetlands were going to be
13 protected. And based on the current
14 configuration, the water will shoot right through
15 the system and go straight into the wetlands, not
16 protecting them at all is how the elevations are
17 set up. And when I saw that, that made me start
18 to think that maybe the planning and engineering
19 of this project isn't all that well thought out.

20 And when I started looking at the O&M
21 plan there were more doubts. There was less
22 detail there. It wasn't specific. Everybody is
23 raising this concern about financial assurance and
24 bonding. That's not stated in there. So there's
25 a major concern that this is only seen in the

1 short term of getting it developed and getting it
2 sold and not in the long term which we all have to
3 -- which all the people here have to deal with.

4 So the wetlands are at risk based on
5 their design. And when I look at that there are
6 the core forests, the 7 acres of core forest and
7 other forest and the current research about the
8 soil cycle that's associated with that, and the
9 thin margin of soil on top of rock that we already
10 have, it's just a recipe for disaster. And
11 there's been enough of these solar projects in
12 Connecticut where runoff and sediment issues have
13 had disastrous outcomes. And this one is another
14 one that's pointed in that direction because
15 there's not going to be an effective way to be
16 able to control the runoff with that hard rock and
17 the thin margin of soil which is now going to be
18 even thinned out further and being taken out of
19 the carbon cycle altogether.

20 So, looking at it that way and looking
21 at that these projects only work because of public
22 funding, and you're removing core forest, and how
23 far does this really affect getting us towards our
24 carbon neutral goal in Connecticut or reaching our
25 carbon goals. Nothing. It is very marginal.

1 There are other projects -- better areas to put
2 this project. And Connecticut is very far along
3 already in meeting its goals for CO2, for their
4 CO2 emission goals from energy production. So
5 there isn't really a big benefit on that front
6 from this. (TIME EXPIRED)

7 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you,
8 Mr. Boswell, your time has expired. If you'd like
9 to finish with your comments, please submit them
10 in writing either in email form or by letter.
11 Thank you.

12 We will now go to Paul Rochford
13 followed by Lucio Caraco.

14 MR. ROCHFORD: Hello, my name is Paul
15 Rochford. I'm the president of the Burlington
16 Land Trust, and I am speaking for the Burlington
17 Land Trust. I'd like to thank the Siting Council
18 for this opportunity to speak.

19 The Burlington Land Trust is a
20 conservation organization certainly, but we do
21 believe strongly in property rights. I'm here to
22 encourage Rob and the Siting Council to work with
23 and address the concerns of these neighbors. And
24 by saying that, not to imply that they haven't
25 done so in some ways. There's a revised plan,

1 which is a good first step, but there are some
2 legitimate concerns here that I believe should be
3 worked out to be good neighbors with these people.

4 And lastly, I would say that there was
5 some vague comments that Rob has made to us about
6 preserving the land as open space when the project
7 is over. We would like to see that formalized and
8 codified and worked out, a percentage of it or
9 something, meaningful open space. And so we would
10 make that request of Rob and the Siting Council.
11 And that's it.

12 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. We will
13 now continue with Lucio Caraco followed by Kent
14 Glowa. Lucio Caraco?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. MORISSETTE: One more time, Lucio
17 Caraco?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. MORISSETTE: Next on the list is
20 Kent Glowa followed by Tom Diamantes.

21 MR. CRANE: Ken Glowa is unable to
22 attend.

23 MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Thank you. Tom
24 Diamantes?

25 MR. DIAMANTES: Yes. Thank you. Tom

1 Diamantes. I'm a resident of this Whigville area
2 in Burlington. And I just want to start off by
3 saying that Connecticut is one of the most heavily
4 forested states in America. Our forests clean our
5 air and water, shelter our wildlife, sequester
6 carbon, contribute tens of millions of dollars to
7 our economy, and add immeasurably to the quality
8 of our lives, yet every day our forests are under
9 threat. Our dense and growing population and
10 industrial developments such as this continue to
11 stress our forests.

12 MR. MORISSETTE: I'm sorry,
13 Mr. Diamantes, you're on mute.

14 MR. DIAMANTES: Okay. Did you catch
15 any of it?

16 MR. MORISSETTE: We caught the opening
17 statement.

18 MR. DIAMANTES: Okay. Good.

19 MR. MORISSETTE: Please continue.

20 MR. DIAMANTES: Okay. Thanks. To me
21 it seems that this proposed site is marginal, at
22 best. Reading the DEEP report, there's several
23 negative impacts associated with this project.
24 One is the loss of core forest. So it's 16.6
25 acres of forest, 6.9 acres of core forest, so it's

1 a total of 23.58 acres of forests. The footprint
2 of the project is only 11.58 acres, so you're
3 taking down more forest than you are with the
4 proposed footprint of this project. And as Mr.
5 Edelson stated, land is a limited resource here in
6 Connecticut, and we should try to protect it.

7 The DEEP also noted the forested
8 corridor impact, the need of a 300 foot buffer to
9 protect connectivity in the forest along the
10 wetland, movement corridors, you know, there's the
11 wetland and floodplain impact, obviously the
12 visibility impact to the neighbors, and this
13 project is surrounded by existing homeowners on
14 two sides and wetlands on the other two sides.

15 The property values of those
16 surrounding homes is something that should be
17 considered. The potential for hazardous
18 materials, the noise from the transformers, the
19 addition of nine telephone poles.

20 They also mentioned something in their
21 petition about creating two full-time positions.
22 No one discussed anything about that.

23 And this project goes against the
24 objectives of the Town of Burlington as well. So,
25 you know, one of the objectives is to protect

1 natural resources. Well, this project does not do
2 that. Another objective is to maintain the
3 character of the community. This certainly does
4 not do that. As one of the neighbors mentioned,
5 they went and they bought a house out in the
6 middle of the woods, and now they have this
7 industrial power plant going in in their backyard.
8 It's not fair to the neighbors.

9 So I feel that this project does not
10 provide a balance between the need for alternative
11 sources of energy and the goals of the town, the
12 state, the residents of Burlington, and the need
13 to preserve our -- (TIME EXPIRED)

14 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr.
15 Diamantes. Your time expired. Again, if you have
16 additional comments, please submit them by either
17 email or mail. Thank you again.

18 We will now move to John and Karen
19 Hebert. John and Karen Hebert?

20 MR. HEBERT: Can you hear me now?

21 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes. Yes, I can.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. HEBERT: Good. My name is John
24 Hebert, and this evening I would first like to
25 thank the Siting Council for allowing me to speak.

1 My wife and I both own a property, several
2 properties adjacent to the northern portion, in
3 the general area of the northern portion of this
4 project. And I will tell you that the buffer that
5 I saw on the original plans did not appear to be
6 adequate, and I believe that, if anything, a
7 larger buffer is needed to separate the solar
8 panels from the edge of the property. And if
9 there was any way that the landowner could do
10 something like that, then I would be very pleased
11 with that. Thank you. That's it.

12 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. Okay.
13 We'll go back to a couple of folks that were
14 unavailable to speak and we'll see if they're
15 available.

16 Joel Molinsky. Is Joel Molinsky
17 available?

18 MR. MOLINSKY: Yes, I'm here.

19 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. Please
20 continue.

21 MR. MOLINSKY: Yes. Thank you for
22 allowing me some time. I just had a couple brief
23 questions for the Council. What is the plan for
24 the wildlife that will be displaced by the trees
25 and the acreage that's being cut down for the

1 solar farm?

2 MR. MORISSETTE: Unfortunately, public
3 comment sessions are for public comment only.
4 There is no questions that will be answered by
5 either the applicant or the Council themselves.

6 MR. MOLINSKY: Okay. Well, I would
7 like to just then say that I'm very concerned
8 about what will happen to the wildlife in this
9 area as we already have, you know, seen bear
10 activity, coyote activity and whatnot already
11 being pushed into areas where they're not usually
12 found. So I'm just, you know, worried that with
13 small children around in the area that this may in
14 fact add to what we're already seeing.

15 And then also, I don't know if this was
16 brought up, I would be very interested to
17 understand a little bit more about any type of
18 natural barrier that will be provided around the
19 solar farm to help with noise reduction as well
20 with the extra activity that will be happening
21 around the solar farm area. So I'm hoping that
22 there are plans in place to add some type of
23 natural barrier, whether it's adding more trees or
24 something, to help with what's already being taken
25 down.

1 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr.
2 Molinsky. Information about the filings
3 associated with this docket can be found on the
4 Connecticut Siting Council's website under Docket
5 497, and all the information that is part of the
6 record is available on that website for your
7 viewing pleasure. Thank you.

8 I will now call Lucio Caraco.

9 (No response.)

10 MR. MORISSETTE: Lucio Caraco?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Thank you.
13 That completes our list of speakers for this
14 evening.

15 The Council announces that it will
16 continue the evidentiary session of the public
17 hearing on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 2 p.m. via
18 Zoom remote conferencing. A copy of the agenda
19 for the continued remote evidentiary hearing
20 session will be available on the Council's Docket
21 497 webpage, along with the record of this matter,
22 a public hearing notice, instructions for public
23 access to the remote evidentiary hearing session,
24 and the Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council
25 Procedures.

1 Please note that anyone who has not
2 become a party or intervenor but who desires to
3 make his or her views known to the Council may
4 file written statements to the Council until the
5 public comment record closes.

6 Copies of the transcript of this
7 hearing will be filed at the Town of Burlington
8 Clerk's Office.

9 I hereby declare this hearing
10 adjourned, and thank you all for your
11 participation. Good evening.

12 (Whereupon, the above proceedings were
13 adjourned at 7:10 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REMOTE HEARING

2
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 34 pages
4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided
5 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken
6 of the Remote Public Comment Hearing in Re:
7 DOCKET NO. 497, BURLINGTON SOLAR ONE, LLC
8 APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
9 COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE
10 CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A
11 3.5-MEGAWATT-AC SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRIC
12 GENERATING FACILITY LOCATED AT LOT 33, PROSPECT
13 STREET, BURLINGTON, CONNECTICUT, AND ASSOCIATED
14 ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION, which was held before
15 JOHN MORISSETTE, PRESIDING OFFICER, on March 23,
16 2021.

17
18
19 

20 -----
21 Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061
22 Court Reporter
23 BCT REPORTING, LLC
24 55 WHITING STREET, SUITE 1A
25 PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06062