



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL*

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

Web Site: [portal.ct.gov/csc](http://portal.ct.gov/csc)

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

March 3, 2021

Lee D. Hoffman, Esq.  
Pullman & Comley, LLC  
90 State House Square  
Hartford, CT 06103-3702

RE: **DOCKET NO. 497**– Burlington Solar One, LLC application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a 3.5-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at Lot 33, Prospect Street, Burlington, Connecticut and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Attorney Hoffman:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than March 16, 2021. To help expedite the Council's review, please file individual responses as soon as they are available. At this time, consistent with the Council's policy to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, please submit an electronic copy only to [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov). However, please be advised that the Council may later request one or more hard copies for records retention purposes.

Copies of your responses shall be provided to all parties and intervenors listed in the service list, which can be found on the Council's website under the "Pending Matters" link.

Any request for an extension of time to submit responses to interrogatories shall be submitted to the Council in writing pursuant to §16-50j-22a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Sincerely,

*s/Melanie A. Bachman*

Melanie Bachman  
Executive Director

MB/MP

c: Service List dated January 28, 2021

**Docket 497**  
**Interrogatories**  
**Set One**  
**March 3, 2021**

**Notice**

1. Since the original filing of notice to abutters, did the Applicant receive any abutter or neighbor comments on the proposal? If so, provide a summary of the comments received.
2. Please provide a summary of project features and/or project changes that were implemented in response to neighborhood concerns, e.g. landscaping plans.

**Project Development**

3. If the project is approved, identify all permits necessary for construction and operation and which entity will hold the permit(s).
4. Referencing page 5 of the Application, did the Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Credit (ZREC) contract require approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority? If yes, when was the contract approved?
5. Is the 15-year ZREC contract extendable beyond its initial term? If yes, if the contract expires and is not renewed and the solar facility has not reached the end of its lifespan, will the Applicant decommission the facility or seek other revenue mechanisms for the power produced by the facility?
6. Is the alternating current megawatt capacity of the facility fixed at a certain amount per the ZREC contract? Is there an option that allows for changes in the total output of the facility based on unforeseen circumstances?
7. Did the Applicant participate in ISO-NE Forward Capacity Auction (FCA) #15 during February 2021? If yes, did the proposed project clear the auction, i.e. receive a Capacity Supply Obligation? If no, does the Applicant plan to participate in future FCAs? Explain.

**Proposed Site**

8. In the lease agreement with Prospect Street LLC, are there any provisions related to site restoration at the end of the project's useful life? If so, please provide any such provisions.
9. Is the site parcel, or any portion thereof, part of the Public Act 490 Program? If so, how does the municipal land use code classify the parcel(s)? How would the project affect the use classification?
10. Is any portion of the site currently in productive agricultural use? If so, how many acres and is it used by the property owner or is it leased to a third party?

11. Referencing page 21 of the Application, provide a decommissioning plan to summarize the plans to remove equipment and restore the site after the operational life has been reached and/or the project is removed from service.
12. Would all components of the solar photovoltaic panels be recyclable? Could components of panels be reused to make photovoltaic cells or whole panels be used to make new solar panels at the end of the life of this project? Could the solar panels and/or associated components be repurposed for a different use or product?
13. Provide the distance, direction and address of the nearest property line and nearest off-site residence from the solar field perimeter fence.

### **Energy Output**

14. Have electrical loss assumptions been factored into the output of the facility? What is the output (MW AC) at the point of interconnection?
15. What is the efficiency of the photovoltaic module technology of the proposed project?
16. Would the power output of the solar panels decline as the panels age? If so, estimate the percent per year.
17. Is the project being designed to accommodate a potential future battery storage system? If so, please indicate the anticipated size of the system, where it may be located on the site, and the impact it may have on the ZREC contract.
18. Could the project be designed to serve as a microgrid?
19. If one section of the solar array experiences electrical problems causing the section to shut down, could other sections of the system still operate and transmit power to the grid?
20. Do solar facilities present a challenge for the independent system operator for balancing loads and generation (to maintain the system frequency) due to the changing (but not controlled) megawatt output of a solar facility? What technology or operational protocols could be employed to mitigate any challenges?
21. Pursuant to CGS §16-50p(c), a public benefit exists when a facility is necessary for the reliability of the electric power supply of the state or for the development of a competitive market for electricity. Public benefit exists if the Council finds and determines a proposed electric generating facility contributes to forecasted generating capacity requirements, reduces dependence on imported energy resources, diversifies state energy supply mix and enhances reliability. Please respond to the following:
  - a) Would the proposed facility be necessary for the reliability of the electric power supply of the state? Explain why or why not.
  - b) Would the proposed facility be necessary for the development of a competitive market for electricity? Explain why or why not.
  - c) Would the proposed facility contribute to the forecasted generating capacity requirements? Explain why or why not.
  - d) Would the proposed facility reduce dependence on imported energy resources? Explain why or why not.

- e) Would the proposed facility diversify the state's energy supply mix? Explain why or why not.
- f) Would the proposed facility enhance reliability? Explain why or why not.

### **Site Components and Solar Equipment**

- 22. Provide the specifications sheets for a) proposed inverters and b) solar photovoltaic panels.
- 23. Referencing page 56 of the Application, the top of the solar panels would reach a height of about 10 feet. How high above grade would the bottom of the solar panels be?
- 24. How many panels will each rack hold?
- 25. Is the wiring from the panels to the inverters installed on the racking? If wiring is external, how would it be protected from potential damage from weather exposure, vegetation maintenance, or animals?
- 26. What is the length (in feet) of the existing access route that would be utilized for the project? Are any upgrades, such as gravel, required to make it suitable for the construction and maintenance of this proposed solar facility?
- 27. What is the aisle width between the solar panel rows from panel edge to panel edge? What is the minimum aisle width at which the solar panel rows could be installed?

### **Interconnection**

- 28. Is the project interconnection required to be reviewed by ISO-NE?
- 29. Is a System Impact Study from the electric distribution utility and/or ISO-NE required for the interconnection process? Does the Applicant have an Interconnection Agreement and with whom? Provide the status of such studies and agreements.
- 30. Is the existing electrical distribution on Prospect Street three-phase or would it have to be upgraded from single-phase to three-phase?

### **Public Safety**

- 31. Referencing page 24 of the Application, would the proposed fence have barbed wire? Would the fence include a gap at the bottom for small wildlife movement? Provide a drawing of the fence/gates.
- 32. Identify and provide the distance and direction to the nearest federally-obligated airport? Is a glare analysis required to comply with Federal Aviation Administrative (FAA) policy?
- 33. Are high voltage signs required for any area of the solar site?
- 34. With regard to emergency response:
  - a. Is training necessary for local emergency responders in the event of a fire or other emergency at the site?

- b. In the event of a brush or electrical fire, how would the Applicant mitigate potential electric hazards that could be encountered by emergency response personnel?
35. Are there any wells on the site or in the vicinity of the site? If so, how would the Applicant protect the wells and/or water quality from construction impacts?
  36. Would any fuels be stored on site during construction? If so, provide fuel storage/spill prevention control details.
  37. Please provide a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan.
  38. Has the manufacturer of the proposed solar panels conducted Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) testing to determine if the panels would be characterized as hazardous waste at the time of disposal? Please submit the specifications that indicate the proposed solar modules would not be characterized as hazardous waste. If the project is approved, would the Petitioner consider installing solar modules that are not classified as hazardous waste through TCLP testing?
  39. Do the proposed solar modules contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)?

### **Environmental**

40. Please respond to the February 24, 2021 comments from the Council on Environmental Quality.
41. Referencing page 34 of the Application, there is a statement that the Applicant's findings relative to project-specific core forest impacts have been provided to CT DEEP Forestry Division. Has the Applicant received any comments from CT DEEP Forestry Division? If so, explain.
42. Did the Applicant conduct a Shade Study Analysis? Would shading present any challenges for the proposed project? If so, provide acreage of trees that would be removed to mitigate for shading? How were the limits of tree shading determined?
43. The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Assessment in Appendix M of Council Petition No. 1352 compared the life cycle GHG emissions from a solar project to a scenario where the solar project is avoided and an equivalent amount of natural gas-fired electric generation operated for the estimated life of the solar facility. For the proposed project, how would the net GHG emissions (or reduction) over the life of the solar facility and carbon debt payback be affected under this natural gas-fired generation versus proposed solar generation scenario?
44. Referencing Appendix F of the Application, the DEEP Natural Diversity Database letter dated January 7, 2021 (NDDDB Letter) note that in addition to the Box Turtle Protection Plan presented in The Natural Resource Assessment, six additional protective measures are required to protect the eastern box turtle. Would the Applicant be able to accommodate these additional protective measures noted by DEEP? Explain.
45. On page 2 of the NDDDB Letter, DEEP notes that, "Please be advised that a DEEP Fisheries Biologist will review the permit applications you may submit to DEEP regulatory programs to determine if your project could adversely impact the slimy sculpin...If you have not already talked with a Fisheries Biologist about your project, you may contact the Permit Analyst..." What is the status of the Applicant's consultations, if any, with a DEEP Fisheries Biologist regarding potential

impacts to the slimy sculpin? Has the Applicant received any additional correspondence from DEEP since the NDDDB Letter?

46. What effect would runoff from the drip edge of each row of solar panels have on the site drainage patterns? Would channelization below the drip edge be expected? If not, why not?
47. What is the length of the posts and to what depth would the posts be driven into the ground to provide structural stability? Are any impacts to groundwater quality anticipated? If so, how would the petitioner manage and/or mitigate these impacts?
48. Where is the nearest national, state and/or locally-designated scenic road from the proposed site? Describe the visibility of the proposed project from the nearby scenic road.
49. Referencing page 56 of the Application, it states, “Burlington Solar One has been proactively developing a detailed landscaping plan...Upon its completion, the landscaping plan will be publicly available at the Project’s website...” Please provide a copy of the latest landscaping plan.
50. Please submit photographic site documentation with notations linked to the site plans or a detailed aerial image that identify locations of site-specific and representative site features. The submission should include photographs of the site from public road(s) or publicly accessible area(s) as well as Site-specific locations depicting site features including, but not necessarily limited to, the following locations as applicable:

For each photo, please indicate the photo viewpoint direction and stake or flag the locations of site-specific and representative site features. Site-specific and representative site features include, but are not limited to, as applicable:

1. wetlands, watercourses and vernal pools;
2. forest/forest edge areas;
3. agricultural soil areas;
4. sloping terrain;
5. proposed stormwater control features;
6. nearest residences;
7. Site access and interior access road(s);
8. utility pads/electrical interconnection(s);
9. clearing limits/property lines;
10. mitigation areas; and
11. any other noteworthy features relative to the Project.

A photolog graphic must accompany the submission, using a site plan or a detailed aerial image, depicting each numbered photograph for reference. For each photo, indicate the photo location number and viewpoint direction, and clearly identify the locations of site-specific and representative site features show (e.g., physical staking/flagging or other means of marking the subject area).

The submission shall be delivered electronically in a legible portable document format (PDF) with a maximum file size of <20MB. If necessary, multiple files may be submitted and clearly marked in terms of sequence.

### **Facility Construction**

51. Has the Applicant met with the DEEP Stormwater Division? If yes, when? Please describe any recommendations, comments or concerns about the project provided by the Stormwater Division.
52. Does the Petitioner intend to consult with the DEEP Dam Safety program regarding permitting requirements, if any, for the proposed stormwater basins?
53. With regard to earthwork required to developed the site, provide the following:
  - a) Will the site be graded? If so, in what areas?
  - b) What is the desired slope within the solar array areas?
  - c) Could the solar field areas be installed with minimal alteration to existing slopes?
  - d) If minimal alteration of slopes are proposed, can existing vegetation be maintained to provide ground cover during construction?
  - e) Estimate the amounts of cut and fill in cubic yards for the access road(s)
  - f) Estimate the amounts of cut and fill in cubic yards for solar field grading.
  - g) If there is excess cut, will this material be removed from the site property or deposited on the site property?
54. Would topsoil be stripped from the site prior to grading? If so, would the topsoil be spread over the disturbed areas once grading is complete? If not, how would growth of new vegetation/grasses be promoted within the graded areas if nutrient rich soils are not present?
55. How would the posts (that support the racking system) be driven into the ground? In the event that ledge is encountered, what methods would be utilized for installation?
56. Has a comprehensive geotechnical study been completed for the site to determine if site conditions support the overall Project design? If so, summarize the results. If not, has the Applicant anticipated and designed the Project with assumed subsurface conditions? What are these assumed conditions?

### **Maintenance Questions**

57. Would the Applicant store any replacement modules on-site in the event solar panels are damaged or are not functioning properly? If so, where?