

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

3  
4 FORECAST 2023

5  
6 2023 REVIEW OF THE TEN-YEAR FORECAST OF  
7 CONNECTICUT ELECTRIC LOADS AND RESOURCES

8  
9 \*\*VIA ZOOM\*\*

10  
11 Public Comment Session held on Wednesday,  
12 November 15, 2023, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,  
13 via remote access.

14  
15 H e l d B e f o r e:

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

18 MICHAEL PERRONE, Siting Analyst

19  
20 Public Speaker:

21 JOEL STOCKER

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

1 MS. BACHMAN: Ladies and gentlemen,  
2 this public comment session is called to order  
3 this Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.  
4 My name is Melanie Bachman, the executive director  
5 and staff attorney of the Connecticut Siting  
6 Council. Also with us this evening is our stellar  
7 Siting Analyst Michael Perrone and our  
8 transcriptionist, Lisa.

9 If you haven't done so already, I ask  
10 that everyone please mute their computer audio  
11 and/or telephone now.

12 The Council is holding this public  
13 comment session on the 2023 Ten-Year Forecast of  
14 Connecticut Electric Loads and Resources pursuant  
15 to Connecticut General Statute, Section 16-50r, to  
16 assess the overall status of loads and resources  
17 in the state over a ten-year forecast period. The  
18 scope of the review covers the 2023 Utility  
19 Forecast of Loads and Resources Reports that are  
20 available for public inspection on the Council's  
21 website and at the Council's office.

22 This public comment session is reserved  
23 for members of the public who signed up in advance  
24 to speak and make brief statements. Please be  
25 advised that written comments may be submitted by

1 any person by December 15, 2023.

2 We do have one person signed up this  
3 year, Mr. Joel Stocker. Thank you for joining us,  
4 Mr. Stocker. We're sorry we missed you last year,  
5 but thank you for being here. And welcome.

6 JOEL STOCKER: I'm on mute, okay.  
7 Yeah, I saw in the transcript I was the only one  
8 that even tried a couple years ago. So I'll just  
9 give you, if I get a chance here, I'll give a  
10 brief -- I've written it down because I know I  
11 will kind of ramble otherwise, just a couple of  
12 things.

13 Again, my name is Joel Stocker.  
14 Everything I mention here is a personal interest.  
15 No one has paid me to do it. My initial reason  
16 for looking into the petitions was to find out how  
17 much forested land was being removed to produce  
18 power from solar facilities. I've gone well  
19 beyond that since where I'm trying to dig in and  
20 find out how much power solar actually produces,  
21 and the forecast reports can or should provide  
22 that data, I would think. They do in some ways.  
23 I focused on solar because of its large areas of  
24 land that are required compared to other sources  
25 of energy.

1           My first question to the Council years  
2 ago, and Melanie you answered, was how to relate  
3 solar power to traditional power sources so I  
4 could make comparisons using a standard unit of  
5 output to convert peak or nameplate into megawatts  
6 per hour. And Melanie, you responded with  
7 information about the capacity factor and the  
8 annual output that a facility can ring up. You  
9 gave me estimates from -- or Melanie, you gave me  
10 an estimate from ISO New England, and one example  
11 using annual output from the active site in  
12 Somers, Connecticut.

13           Since then it's been kind of a  
14 nightmare trying to find out any other data  
15 sources. I know you're not required to post  
16 everything on the public site, but I understand  
17 you try, and so far it's been fairly decent. From  
18 what I found looking through the forecast reports,  
19 I only see a few companies that consistently  
20 provide their annual output. Of those, some do a  
21 really good job of making their reports clear, but  
22 most are buried by complex names, facilities that  
23 are split into smaller subsections with mixed  
24 power output, and companies that change ownership  
25 or simply change their name over time. It is

1 extremely difficult, or has been, to tie the data  
2 back to the original petitions which is something  
3 I wanted to try to do because I wanted to get an  
4 emphasis on the total area that's being consumed.

5         Considering that the entire reason for  
6 the program is energy and in this case clean or  
7 carbon free energy, I've kind of been shocked at  
8 how difficult it to get the power output for these  
9 sites. Even when the petitions are presented, the  
10 actual output is rarely available or very deep  
11 within the petition documents. In almost every  
12 case I see the Council has had to specifically ask  
13 what the power output and capacity factor will be.  
14 And many do not answer the question properly.  
15 Some use AC, DC and mix the two, or they even talk  
16 about panel efficiency sometimes. In my opinion,  
17 energy detail should be up front in the document  
18 or on the first pages. It just seems like a  
19 critical part of this whole program.

20         So I have a couple of questions here,  
21 if I can ask. I don't know if you can answer here  
22 or not, but you don't have to. You can either  
23 answer later, if you want. Does the Council, you  
24 have any enforcement abilities to make sure all  
25 reports are provided? Is that a loaded question?

1 MS. BACHMAN: No. We can answer your  
2 questions. And if there are some that we may need  
3 to check on information. But to answer your  
4 question, the forecast itself, it's a reporting  
5 statute, Mr. Stocker. So the generators and the  
6 transmission owners are required to submit very  
7 specific information to us that in each report --  
8 some of them are short -- but it identifies all  
9 seven or eight points.

10 MR. STOCKER: Right.

11 MS. BACHMAN: We ask them for it, but  
12 we can't, you know, we could stop doing work on  
13 any future projects they have would be the only  
14 real enforcement authority we could have because  
15 it is a reporting statute.

16 MR. STOCKER: Okay.

17 MS. BACHMAN: Do we encourage it? Yes,  
18 we do send follow-up potential reminder memos, but  
19 you are correct that sometimes the contact  
20 information changes. But every petition project  
21 has the record and a condition that if the  
22 ownership changes it will be on our website.

23 And to answer your question about the  
24 forested acreage, depending on how you define it,  
25 whether it be core, edge or just habitat or

1 however, it would be in the record of each  
2 petition. It's not a subject for the forecasts of  
3 electric loads and resources.

4 MR. STOCKER: No. That's just to give  
5 you an idea of what my motive for starting this  
6 whole project was.

7 MS. BACHMAN: Okay.

8 MR. STOCKER: That's something else. I  
9 do satellite imagery and aerial imagery all the  
10 time. I see what it was and what it is now.  
11 That's almost a fun thing for me to work on. But  
12 as far as the actual power, that's something I  
13 wanted to know, and this has been very difficult  
14 to find out. But I can see that you do encourage  
15 it, and it's just a matter of whether or not --  
16 and some of them do report very well. I almost  
17 feel like encouraging them somewhat, but the  
18 others I wonder about. And I've got a list that I  
19 might give you in a minute.

20 MS. BACHMAN: If I may just interrupt  
21 you for a moment. Since I do have the benefit of  
22 Mr. Perrone who's authored this report for about  
23 20 years, I'm going to ask him if he can suggest  
24 any alternative sources for -- they all have  
25 interconnection agreements. So I'm not sure if

1 there's another source where you could actually  
2 find the information, if it would be ISO or a  
3 particular area in ISO, but if you can think of  
4 anything, Mr. Perrone, that would be appreciated.

5 MR. PERRONE: The generation portfolio  
6 in the report, we go by ISO New England's Seasonal  
7 Claimed Capability Report that's issued monthly.  
8 Those are all the facilities that are under ISO's  
9 control. It does not include certain small DG but  
10 all the larger plants in Connecticut it includes.

11 MR. STOCKER: I'll mention that in a  
12 second, if I can. Well, I have one more question  
13 I'll ask and then I'll go to the next one. If a  
14 petition is only operational part of the year, if  
15 they've only been operational for part of a year,  
16 do they still have to provide a report, or no?

17 MR. PERRONE: So let's say they  
18 operated part of 2023, March 2024 they should file  
19 a report and let us know what they generated  
20 during 2023. It doesn't have to be a full year.

21 MR. STOCKER: Okay, because that's  
22 something that, you know, when I look through the  
23 list of who has, who I find has not reported  
24 anything, I'll just add in those as well. So far  
25 I've just done it by who's done an entire year.



1 MR. PERRONE: It requires the megawatt  
2 hours, total energy generated for the last five  
3 years, but if you only have one or half a year,  
4 that would be in there.

5 MR. STOCKER: Right. If I provide you  
6 with a list of petitions that are greater than one  
7 megawatt, that's what you only work with, that I  
8 feel have not reported, is there some way where  
9 you could help me to find out what their actual  
10 output was or what -- like you said, there's other  
11 sources through ISO. Maybe you can then give me  
12 some guidance of where to look. Although part of  
13 this is the headache of trying to find it. It's  
14 so difficult. Because I'm looking for, again, the  
15 megawatt hours per year and the actual peak values  
16 that they have. And I emphasize the peak because  
17 I notice that sometimes on a petition it says one  
18 peak value and then later on when they finally  
19 build this facility they actually have another  
20 peak value that they're using. And so I'm looking  
21 for that final peak value and the megawatt hours  
22 that they have.

23 MR. PERRONE: The Seasonal Claimed  
24 Capability Report gives the peak megawatts, peak  
25 power output for solar or whatever the generation

1 resource is. I'm not aware of a report that does  
2 a specific breakdown on megawatt hours per plant.

3 MR. STOCKER: Okay.

4 MR. PERRONE: CELT I think has them  
5 collectively, but per plant I'm not aware of a  
6 specific --

7 MR. STOCKER: Yeah, some of them, the  
8 ones that are all individual petitions come out  
9 fine as per petition. That helps me a little bit  
10 on the area thing. But the ones that are combined  
11 are the ones that are probably buried. And if I  
12 send you the list, maybe you can look at it and  
13 say, no, this one is buried somewhere, you'll  
14 never find it. I give an example like Dominion  
15 did not report this year. I use them as just kind  
16 of a base as for what real power is. And then  
17 Summer Solar, the one I started with did not  
18 report. So I'm just curious if those are out  
19 there somewhere else in some other document.

20 And this might apply to what we were  
21 just talking about. Several petitions were  
22 delivered as multiple subcompanies within one  
23 petition or one geographic area. And as an  
24 example for this 2023 or 20 -- the data from 2022,  
25 at least three individual subcompanies from two

1 petitions provided their own data. Is there a way  
2 to have that parent company who's responsible for  
3 the whole geographic area, the original petition,  
4 provide the data as one consistent package for the  
5 forecast reports or does that -- I've got a list  
6 of all the petitions that are split up in little  
7 pieces.

8 MS. BACHMAN: Do you mean in terms of  
9 if the petition was under common ownership like by  
10 owner we would show?

11 MR. STOCKER: Well, they're all, most  
12 of them link back to a parent company who's in  
13 charge of the whole petition in the beginning and  
14 even throughout the whole thing they start having  
15 these subcompanies that are, each section of a,  
16 for example, one section of a petition might have  
17 five or six one megawatt and a couple of two  
18 megawatt facilities that now have their own  
19 subcompany names and only a couple of those come  
20 out as in the report. And it's just difficult to  
21 find those. Does that make sense?

22 MS. BACHMAN: It does make sense. I  
23 know we do have a few petitions that came in with,  
24 you know, four 2-megawatt solar arrays and, you  
25 know, three 5-megawatt. And they probably have

1 different names because of the metering. But for  
2 our purposes, we look at the whole facility that  
3 was submitted as part of the petition that was  
4 approved by us.

5 MR. STOCKER: Right.

6 MS. BACHMAN: So if they break it up  
7 into each array, like, say, the north array and  
8 the south array, that's okay because we know we  
9 have these individual facilities, but their  
10 requirement to report to us is based on our  
11 records of the petition.

12 MR. STOCKER: Okay. Because some of  
13 them have breakout by two, two, and then one, one,  
14 one, and they only reported on the two because the  
15 one is smaller than your limits, but they're all  
16 part of the same petition. So I was trying to  
17 find out if there's a way to say can you group the  
18 whole thing and give it to you guys.

19 MS. BACHMAN: And sometimes portions of  
20 a petition have been constructed and other  
21 portions haven't, particularly those that are  
22 broken down. And the status of, you know, you may  
23 see that they only report on some but the other  
24 one the construction is not complete and so  
25 they're not producing power.

1           But I'll ask Mike if he encountered any  
2 other similarities where we have projects that are  
3 not fully constructed or partially constructed and  
4 operational but other portions aren't.

5           MR. STOCKER: That's where, when I give  
6 you this list, or at least if I could give you a  
7 list of the ones that are missing, those are the  
8 ones that I've got when their construction dates  
9 were and then when they were operational, so I've  
10 eliminated all the ones that are still under  
11 construction.

12           MS. BACHMAN: I don't know what sources  
13 of information you're using, Mr. Stocker, but if  
14 you'd please allow Mr. Perrone to answer the  
15 question, I'd appreciate that.

16           MR. STOCKER: Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't  
17 mean to cut into it.

18           MR. PERRONE: We have had some  
19 facilities in the case of solar specifically where  
20 they may have been approved for 4 megawatts, they  
21 have 2 megawatts online, and the other 2 not yet.  
22 And then also, as Attorney Bachman mentioned  
23 earlier, it's also possible that the facility is  
24 completely constructed but because of metering  
25 purposes one array has a different name than the

1 other. But we would certainly add up all the  
2 capacity and the energy from each.

3 MR. STOCKER: And that would go into  
4 the forecast report or --

5 MR. PERRONE: Yes.

6 MR. STOCKER: Okay. Because eventually  
7 they'll come together and they'll all be built and  
8 then we can solve for some of these that I'm  
9 worried about. Okay. I just want to make a  
10 comment here. I'm not blaming you guys if there's  
11 anything missing here. I just don't know if these  
12 reports are even ultimately your responsibility.  
13 Maybe they are. But I was just hoping that there  
14 would be a way to make this a little more clear in  
15 the future for, I don't know, make it easier for  
16 people to understand how much power is actually  
17 being produced by a lot of these facilities.  
18 Thanks for your time. Any questions for me?

19 MS. BACHMAN: Thank you for coming out,  
20 Mr. Stocker. We appreciate it. The rigidity of  
21 the statute in terms of the information that needs  
22 to be provided is pretty set in a format. And to  
23 answer your question about the list, certainly, if  
24 you did submit it to us, we would probably send it  
25 out to our forecast service list indicating we

1 received this list from a member of the public  
2 indicating the absence of X, Y and Z reports,  
3 whatever list you have.

4 MR. STOCKER: Okay.

5 MS. BACHMAN: And we can see what  
6 response we get. But again, just understand that  
7 it is a reporting statute, not a statute where we  
8 could say you're not in compliance and therefore  
9 you have to stop operating or we're not going to  
10 take on any of your work. It's based, you know,  
11 specifically for Connecticut, but ISO New England  
12 also does the Connecticut specific CELT report as  
13 Mr. Perrone had mentioned. But feel free to send  
14 that list over, and we'll see what results we can  
15 glean from it.

16 MR. STOCKER: Okay. All of this is  
17 still, I'm still learning as I go so there's  
18 things that are especially with ISO New England  
19 and there's EIE or something like that there's  
20 others that give reports.

21 MS. BACHMAN: You know, for the  
22 forestland I'm trying to think if maybe DEEP,  
23 since the farm and forest legislation has passed  
24 because they have the forest habitat map, so it's  
25 not specifically core or edge or anything, it's

1 habitat, I don't know if they've been tracking  
2 anything since 2017 when that passed. It might be  
3 worth you maybe reaching out to them to see if  
4 they have any data because they may have it in GIS  
5 layer.

6 MR. STOCKER: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. BACHMAN: Okay. Well, thank you  
8 for coming out. We appreciate it. And a copy of  
9 the transcript will be posted on the Council's  
10 2023 Forecast of Loads and Resource webpage under  
11 pending matters and also filed at the Council's  
12 office at 10 Franklin Square in New Britain. I  
13 declare the public comment session adjourned.  
14 Thank you, and please conserve energy. Have a  
15 nice evening, Mr. Stocker.

16 MR. STOCKER: Thank you.

17 MS. BACHMAN: Thank you.

18 (Whereupon, the above proceedings  
19 concluded at 6:48 p.m.)  
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 16 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original stenotype notes of the Public Comment Session held before the Connecticut Siting Council in Re: 2023 REVIEW OF THE TEN-YEAR FORECAST OF CONNECTICUT ELECTRIC LOADS AND RESOURCES, which was held before MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ., Executive Director and Staff Attorney, on November 15, 2023.



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Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061  
Court Reporter