

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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May 17, 2013

Joey Lee Miranda, Esq.
Robinson & Cole LLP
280 Trumbull Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597

RE: **PETITION NO. 1042** – Somers Solar Center, LLC Declaratory Ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the construction and operation of a 5.0 MW AC Solar Photovoltaic Project located at 458 & 488 South Road, Somers, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Miranda:


At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on May 16, 2013, the Council considered and approved the Development and Management (D&M) Plan submitted for this project on April 24, 2013, with the condition that the petitioner submit an as-built plan of the project within six months of the commencement of commercial operations.

This approval applies only to the D&M Plan submitted on April 24, 2013. Any changes to the D&M Plan require advance Council notification and approval.

Please be advised that deviations from this plan are enforceable under the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50u. Enclosed is a copy of the staff report on this D&M Plan, dated May 16, 2013.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Very truly yours,


Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/CDM/cm

Enclosure: Staff Report, dated May 16, 2013

c: Parties and Intervenors (via electronic mail)
The Honorable Lisa Pellegrini, First Selectman, Town of Somers
Bradley L. Pellissier, Chm, Planning Comm., Town of Somers

PETITION NO. 1042 – Somers Solar Center, LLC Petition for a Declaratory Ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the construction and operation of a 5.0 MW AC Solar Photovoltaic Project located at 458 & 488 South Road, Somers, Connecticut.	} } }	Connecticut Siting Council
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May 16, 2013

**Development and Management Plan
Staff Report**

On March 21 2013, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Declaratory Ruling to Somers Solar Center, LLC (SSC) that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the construction and operation of a 5.0 MW AC Solar Photovoltaic Project located at 458 & 488 South Road, Somers, Connecticut. As required in the Council's Decision and Order, SSC submitted a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for this project on April 24, 2013. SSC's project includes the installation of approximately 23,150 high efficiency solar panels on a 95-acre parcel located at 458 and 488 South Road in Somers.

SSC's solar panels would be installed on approximately 51.3 acres out of the total 95-acre area it leases for this project. The panels would be installed in the areas designated as A, B, and D in the materials submitted as part of its original petition to the Council. The panels would be high efficiency Kyocera panels, and all of the panels would utilize a horizontal single axis tracking system to enhance the project's performance. Each of the three areas would be enclosed by a six-foot high chain link fence topped with barbed wire.

The panels would be connected via underground conduits to one of the five power stations; one station in Area D and two stations each in Areas A and B. The power stations, in turn, would be joined to an interconnection with CL&P's electricity grid. Approximately 3,000 linear feet of trenching would be required to install the underground conduits and cables for the project's electrical system. Once SSC's solar panels, power stations, and connecting electrical conduits are in place, SSC would conduct final performance testing of the project system. The outcomes of this testing may cause the number of solar panels to increase or decrease slightly. Any adjustments to the number of panels installed would be within the parameters of the Council's approval.

A trailer for office space and storage would be installed within the fence line of Area A at the nearest corner to the access to South Road.

Vehicular access to the project would be over existing gravel roads that are already on the property being leased by SSC. In addition to the access road that intersects with South Street, SSC would utilize another existing gravel road that would provide access to the project from property owned by the Town of Somers fronting Egypt Road to the west. This additional access is being provided at the request of town officials, who were consulted during the preparation of SSC's plans. None of the gravel roads would require any additional grading.

As was stated during the hearing on this petition and in the materials submitted for the petition, SSC would observe a 100-foot setback, as stipulated in the Town of Somers' wetland regulations, from wetlands on the property. SSC would also deploy erosion and sedimentation controls consistent with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* around the area that will be disturbed during construction and would keep the controls in place during the construction period.

As part of its D&M materials, SSC included a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan that was also submitted to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). DEEP issued a Certificate of Registration (approval of the stormwater plan) on April 4, 2013.

SSC has submitted a Decommissioning and Removal Plan in response to Council interrogatories on the D&M plan.

The D&M plans as presented conform to the Council's Decision and Order and with the scope of the project described during this petition's proceedings. Staff recommends that the Council require the submittal of an as-built plan of the project within six months of the commencement of commercial operations.