

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SITING COUNCIL

\* \* \* \* \*

GRE 314 EAST LYME, LLC

PETITION FOR A DECLARATORY RULING  
 THAT NO CERTIFICATE OF  
 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND  
 PUBLIC NEED IS REQUIRED FOR THE  
 PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION  
 OF A 5.0 MEGAWATT SOLAR  
 PHOTOVOLTAIC RENEWABLE ENERGY  
 GENERATING PROJECT OFF GRASSY HILL  
 ROAD AND WALNUT HILL ROAD,  
 EAST LYME, CONNECTICUT

\* \* \* \* \*

\* MARCH 14, 2013  
 \* (7:00 p.m.)

\* PETITION NO. 1056

BEFORE: ROBIN STEIN, CHAIRMAN

BOARD MEMBERS: Colin C. Tait, Vice Chairman  
 Robert Hannon, DEEP Designee  
 Michael Caron, PURA Designee  
 Edward S. Wilensky  
 Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.  
 Philip T. Ashton  
 James J. Murphy, Jr.  
 Dr. Barbara Bell

STAFF MEMBERS: Linda Roberts, Executive Director  
 Robert Mercier, Siting Analyst  
 Melanie Bachman, Staff Attorney

APPEARANCES:

FOR THE PETITIONER, GRE 314 EAST LYME, LLC:

PULLMAN & COMLEY, LLC  
 90 State House Square  
 Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3702  
 BY: LEE HOFFMAN, ESQUIRE

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HEARING RE: GRE 314 EAST LYME, LLC  
MARCH 14, 2013 (7:00 PM)

1 . . .Verbatim proceedings of a hearing  
2 before the State of Connecticut Siting Council in the  
3 matter of a petition by GRE 314 East Lyme, LLC, held at  
4 the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
5 Niantic, Connecticut, on March 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., at  
6 which time the parties were represented as hereinbefore  
7 set forth . . .

8  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN ROBIN STEIN: Good evening,  
11 ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call to order this  
12 public hearing of the Siting Council. My name is Robin  
13 Stein and I'm the Chairman.

14 Other members of the Council here this  
15 evening are Mr. Hannon, who is the designee from the  
16 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection;  
17 Director Caron, the designee from the Public Utilities  
18 Regulatory Authority; Mr. Ashton; Senator Murphy; Dr.  
19 Bell; and Mr. Wilensky.

20 Members of the staff who are present are  
21 Linda Roberts, Executive Director; Melanie Bachman, Staff  
22 Attorney; and Robert Mercier, the Siting Analyst.

23 Gail Gregoriades is the court reporter and  
24 Aaron DeMarest the audio technician.

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1                   This is a continuation of a hearing that  
2 began at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. Copies of the hearing  
3 program and the Council's Citizen's Guide to Siting  
4 Council Procedures are available to members of the public  
5 in the back there.

6                   This hearing is held pursuant to the  
7 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General  
8 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act  
9 upon a petition from GRE 314 East Lyme LLC for a  
10 Declaratory Ruling that no Certificate of Environmental  
11 Compatibility and Public Need is required for the  
12 proposed construction and operation of a 5-megawatt solar  
13 photovoltaic renewal energy generating project located  
14 off Grassy Hill Road and Walnut Hill Road in East Lyme,  
15 Connecticut. The petition was received by the Council on  
16 December 17, 2012.

17                   The Petitioner published notice of this  
18 public hearing on February 22, 2013 in The Day newspaper.  
19 The Council's legal notice of the time and date of this  
20 hearing was published in The Day newspaper on January 28,  
21 2013.

22                   Upon this Council's request, the  
23 Petitioner erected a sign at the proposed site so as to  
24 inform the public of the name of the Petitioner, the type

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1 of facility, and hearing date and location and contact  
2 information of the Council.

3 This afternoon members of the Council,  
4 staff, and public personally conducted a field review of  
5 the proposed site in order to firsthand observe the  
6 potential effects of the proposal.

7 This hearing tonight is reserved first for  
8 the public to make short statements into the record.  
9 These public statements are not subject to questions to  
10 either the -- to members of the Council or the applicant,  
11 and the statements will become part of the record for  
12 Council consideration. The sign-up sheet -- and a number  
13 of people have already signed -- is also available in the  
14 back.

15 As a reminder again to all, off-the-record  
16 communication with a member of the Council or a member of  
17 the Council staff upon the merits of this petition is  
18 prohibited by law.

19 And I also wish to note for those who are  
20 here and for the benefit of your friends and neighbors  
21 who are unable to join us for this public comment  
22 session, that you or they may send in written statements  
23 to the Council within 30 days of today. And such written  
24 statements will be given the same weight as if spoken at

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1 the hearing.

2 We ask that each person making a public  
3 statement in these proceedings to confine your statements  
4 to the subject matter before the Council and to avoid  
5 unnecessary repetition so that we may hear all of the  
6 concerns that you and your neighbors may have.

7 Please be advised that the Council again  
8 cannot answer questions from the public about the  
9 proposal.

10 A verbatim transcript will be made of this  
11 hearing and deposited at the East Lyme and Montville Town  
12 Clerks' offices for the convenience of the public.

13 I will say though that if you do have  
14 questions, we'll note them. And if we have -- and if  
15 time permits, we'll try to elicit the answers, but we  
16 have quite a number of people that have signed up, so --  
17 so we -- we will -- we will attempt them after everybody  
18 has spoken.

19 I'll now start with the list. And I  
20 apologize in advance if I mispronounce your names. We'll  
21 do the best we can. The first speaker is Mr. Nickerson,  
22 the 2nd Selectman. And also again if everybody could  
23 obviously say your name and -- and spell -- spell it for  
24 the stenographer. Thank you.

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1 MR. MARK NICKERSON: I'm Mark Nickerson,  
2 Deputy First Selectman of East Lyme. It's N-i-c-k-e-r-s-  
3 o-n.

4 Welcome to East Lyme. Thank you, Siting  
5 Council, for making this public hearing available to our  
6 residents by having it here. I understand that not all  
7 of this session needs to be here, but you chose to have  
8 it, and we do appreciate that. Thank you for your hard  
9 work on behalf of all, the applicants, the people who  
10 wish to speak tonight, and the people who aren't here who  
11 will have to live with your decision for decades.

12 The town officially remains neutral on  
13 this position, but we are neutral as long as this project  
14 remains a taxable concern. And we understand you don't  
15 decide that and other people in Hartford do, but there  
16 are decisions being made about such developments. And we  
17 hope this will be a taxable concern should you vote in  
18 that favorable way.

19 Again welcome to our town. I'm sorry you  
20 had to come in early March when the lions are still  
21 roaring, but we hope you come back in the summer and  
22 spend the weekend and eat in our restaurants and shop in  
23 our shops. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. And we did

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1       enjoy one of your restaurants not too long ago. The next  
2       person on the list is Joseph Smith.

3                       MR. JOSEPH SMITH: Good evening. My name  
4       is Joseph Smith, S-m-i-t-h.

5                       I'm the building official for the Town of  
6       East Lyme. I had been at the first part of the hearing  
7       this afternoon and I returned so that I could address  
8       some of the items that were brought up during the first  
9       part of the hearing.

10                      Fire protection was mentioned and really  
11       was not well addressed. It's something that really needs  
12       to be considered. I don't know if anybody -- if any of  
13       the designers have met with either the fire marshal's  
14       office or any of the fire chiefs, but fire protection is  
15       a very important item. Solar arrays do catch fire.  
16       While the panels themselves may be non-combustible,  
17       there's miles of conductors that are flammable and they  
18       do burn, they're -- they become damaged either through  
19       corrosion or through damage by animals. I don't know why  
20       the animals like to eat wires.

21                      So what I see here is a ground mounted  
22       system over dormant grass, and in the middle of summer  
23       there's a very real possibility of a grass fire. I don't  
24       know if the fire marshal or fire chiefs need vehicle

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1 access through the site or through the arrays themselves,  
2 but it's something to probably bring to their attention  
3 early on in design so that that's not something that  
4 we're trying to work out next summer during the permit  
5 process.

6                   There was mention of a wood framed  
7 building that's going to become an educational use of  
8 some sort. It's not common to have a wood framed two-  
9 story educational use building. I'm not in any way  
10 objection to it. I think it's a great idea. I think it  
11 would be really good to have the school children to be  
12 able to come out and look at something of this type, but  
13 their safety and their accessibility needs to be  
14 addressed like I said now rather than during the permit  
15 process. If you're going to invite school children and  
16 you're going to have them on a second floor, well you've  
17 got to think about how you're going to get all the school  
18 children to the second floor. A stairway may not be all  
19 that you need.

20                   You've got to look at the number of  
21 occupants. If you're going to build -- or bring a school  
22 bus full of kids, you know, is one bathroom enough. Do  
23 you need two bathrooms? Do you need multiple fixtures?  
24 The building could start to get a little complicated.



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1 And that building itself is going to need fire  
2 protection. Most schools have sprinklers. I don't know  
3 if that's something that you would need. I have done no  
4 code review with this. The information that I know of  
5 with this project is what I heard earlier today, so I've  
6 had no opportunity to look up from my own end any of  
7 these questions.

8 How is this going to be protected from  
9 damage from either vandals or from animals. I had  
10 mentioned earlier about animals doing damage. If it's a  
11 ground-mounted system and there's conductors on the backs  
12 of these arrays -- I've seen a few ground-mounted  
13 systems, small ones at residences, I've never seen a big  
14 one. You know, if it's in your own backyard, you can  
15 keep an eye on it. But if it's out in the middle of a  
16 place that's unattended, I think it's very important --  
17 it could be something that you handle in your own design  
18 that you can protect all of this from damage either from  
19 -- you know, from vandals or from animals or whatever.

20 But I think it would be good if these  
21 items are worked out, particularly the fire protection  
22 items with the fire marshal's office earlier on. Thank  
23 you very much.

24 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. The -- Luanne

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1 Lange.

2 MS. LUANNE LANGE: I am Luanne Lange. I'm  
3 Chair of the Historic Properties Commission in town. The  
4 commission is three years old, and all the information  
5 that has been gathered are from the town archives, 2007-  
6 2008 town files, and calls to the State Historic  
7 Preservation Office.

8 First, to answer a question that was  
9 raised this afternoon, the Tinker House is not registered  
10 with the State on the National Register. The house does  
11 date to the 1780's, which can be documented in the Lyme  
12 tax deeds because East Lyme was not formed until later.  
13 And so all of our tax deeds that go back farther, go to  
14 the Lyme records.

15 Further, I found that there are some other  
16 inconsistencies in some of the things that have been  
17 stated, and this includes the lack of records at the  
18 State Office of Historic Preservation. Other  
19 documentation that is available locally is the Tinker  
20 family cemetery that exists on the property adjacent to  
21 this property that we're talking about.

22 The Historic Properties Commission is  
23 wondering how, if any, this solar project farm, which is  
24 identified as on Grassy Hill Road, how this affects the

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1 agreement that was reached during the process for the  
2 approval of the original Chase Walnut Hill Subdivision,  
3 of which the solar farm project is a part. If the  
4 subdivision approval lapses in 10 years without an  
5 extension, what will happen to the Tinker House  
6 agreement? This potential lack of approval and a  
7 potential new application process brings to mind the  
8 salability of the house as it is today without -- and  
9 does it have hope of preservation.

10 Earlier today I was delighted to hear Mr.  
11 Landino reply absolutely not when asked if the Tinker  
12 House was to be demolished. However, when one witnesses  
13 the neglect and deterioration of the property since 2007,  
14 it is a little bit difficult to take this seriously.

15 The Tinker House changed hands from a  
16 lovingly maintained historic home to a buyer who sold it  
17 for development within a year. The well used poster I  
18 have, which is in the back of the room, shows the  
19 condition of the house at the time it was purchased. I  
20 have with me further interior photos taken in January  
21 2012 showing the results of neglect over the last four to  
22 five years, including holes in the roof, etcetera,  
23 etcetera, and a lot of interior damage.

24 Several commission efforts to communicate

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1 with the present owner went -- have gone unanswered.  
2 Squirrels have continued their destruction through holes  
3 in the roof and various places. A restoration plan for  
4 the house was in the files. It is a well-designed  
5 replacement structure to externally look like the  
6 existing original house with use of old windows,  
7 etcetera, and is to be built on the original foundation.  
8 However, since the original house was on Walnut Hill Road  
9 -- and I think it's 81 or 82, I'm not sure about that  
10 address -- and the house now on the town deed records is  
11 listed as being on No. 1 William Tinker Lane, or a  
12 similar name to that, there is a question as to whether  
13 the original location would be honored.

14 The commission is not questioning the  
15 value of the solar farm. It is questioning the words of  
16 promise and the future of the 1700's Tinker House, now  
17 neglected to potential demolition in any future plans for  
18 that property. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. We have two  
20 people that signed up, and as far as I can see they both  
21 represent the NRWC, the Niantic River Watershed  
22 Committee, Donald Danila and John Jasper. Do you have  
23 similar or different -- I mean --

24 A VOICE: Mr. Jasper is not here. I know

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1 he had -- I don't know what his plans are. I know he had  
2 to leave the earlier session, so --

3 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Alright. Well why don't  
4 you come up then, sir. And again, spell your last name  
5 too. Thank you.

6 MR. DONALD DANILA: Thank you. My name is  
7 Donald Danila, D-a-n-i-l-a.

8 I'm one of the Town of East Lyme's  
9 representatives on the Niantic River Watershed Committee.  
10 This body has members from the four towns comprised in  
11 the Niantic River Basin, that being East Lyme, Waterford,  
12 Salem, and Montville, as well as a Connecticut DEEP  
13 member and a coordinator from the Eastern Connecticut  
14 Conservation District. The purpose of this committee is  
15 to restore and preserve the Niantic River Watershed  
16 through inter-municipal cooperation, encouraging the  
17 sound development of land practices that mitigate  
18 pollution within the watershed, and support all property  
19 uses, including shell fishing, swimming, natural habitat  
20 and the drinking water supply.

21 I wish to note that although I've had  
22 discussions about the project under consideration with  
23 other committee members, the comments that I am making  
24 are my own and have not been formally endorsed by the

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1 committee.

2                   Personally, I've had over 40 years  
3 experience as a professional fisheries biologist, so I'm  
4 familiar with fish and aquatic habitats and ecology,  
5 water quality, and many other environmental issues. This  
6 project lies within the watershed of Cranberry Meadow  
7 Brook, a tributary of Lattimer Brook, which in turn is  
8 the major fresh water tributary to the Niantic River  
9 estuary.

10                   I'm a member of the committee's monitoring  
11 subcommittee and for the past 11 months have taken water  
12 quality samples once a month throughout Lattimer Brook  
13 from its source in Salem to just above its discharge into  
14 the Niantic River. I've also sampled at a station in  
15 lower Cranberry Meadow Brook, that being the bridge road  
16 crossing on Walnut Hill Drive just above Route 161. More  
17 recently, we added another station in upper Cranberry  
18 Meadow Brook at a Grassy Hill Road crossing of the brook,  
19 which I believe is northwest and upstream of this  
20 proposed project. The major goal of this monitoring is  
21 to measure the input of nitrate from Lattimer Brook into  
22 the Niantic River to determine how much of this nutrient  
23 is being input, when it is being input, and perhaps where  
24 this nutrient is coming from within the system. The

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1 upper Cranberry Meadow Brook station was added because we  
2 believe this system is picking up some nitrate as  
3 Cranberry Meadow Brook makes its way down Walnut Hill  
4 Road.

5 We also routinely sample other water  
6 quality parameters, water temperature, dissolved oxygen,  
7 PH, and conductivity. Our sampling to date indicates  
8 that for most of the latter water quality parameters and  
9 the non-measured but observed water clarity, turbidity,  
10 and a lack of significant alga blooms and the type of  
11 aquatic insect life found in the streams appear -- both  
12 Lattimer Brook and Cranberry Meadow Brook appear to be  
13 able to support healthy populations of all aquatic life,  
14 including cold water trout fisheries. In fact, Cranberry  
15 Meadow Brook routinely has cooler water, oxygen, and more  
16 neutral PH than are found in Lattimer Brook.

17 My concern with this project is the  
18 detention basins that will be used on the site and their  
19 potential discharge into Cranberry Meadow Brook. Now the  
20 materials I read about this project made it unclear to me  
21 as to the volume of stormwater that might be discharged.  
22 It's somewhat ironic to note that during a hearing for a  
23 proposed solar project site that the sun will also warm  
24 up any water retained in the project's detention basins.

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1 It's the potential discharge of this warmer water to  
2 Cranberry Meadow Brook itself or its tributaries that is  
3 my concern.

4 I was happy to hear that earlier in this  
5 proceeding the applicant will not use any fertilizer on  
6 its property, which might eliminate any nitrate or  
7 phosphate discharge into the watershed. However, the  
8 possible presence of warm stagnant or semi-stagnant water  
9 in detention basins might encourage the growth of  
10 blue/green algae, which can fix atmospheric nitrogen. I  
11 would encourage the further oversight of the engineering  
12 and other aspects of this project with respect to  
13 stormwater discharges.

14 I'm hopeful that for this green energy  
15 project, the applicant will use all the best management  
16 plans to reduce or eliminate any degradation to Cranberry  
17 Meadow Brook, Lattimer Brook, and the Niantic River  
18 estuary. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

19 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Mark  
20 Christensen.

21 MR. MARK CHRISTENSEN: Hi. My name is  
22 Mark Christensen, C-h-r-i-s-t-e-n-s-e-n.

23 I'm a member of the East Lyme Conservation  
24 of Natural Resources Commission, and our charge in life



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1 is to protect our natural resources here in town. So to  
2 that end, the commission has asked me to raise the  
3 following questions. We are neither for nor against the  
4 project. We just want to ask some questions and bring up  
5 -- (tape stopped) -- one question regards the buffer  
6 strips along neighboring properties, were evergreen trees  
7 to be planted there, White Spruce or something of that  
8 nature, and also it should be kept in mind there's a lot  
9 of deer through there, so something like an Arborvitae  
10 wouldn't work. They may have already taken this into  
11 consideration, but these were the questions I've been  
12 asked to ask.

13 Item 2 -- Question 2: There were  
14 subdivision restrictions put on -- put in force for this  
15 land when it was previously a subdivision. Will those  
16 restrictions still been enforced?

17 Question 3: Detention basins are to be  
18 constructed on the eastern boundary of the property in  
19 what had been listed as open space near some wetlands I  
20 believe. That is -- that is on the subdivision plan. So  
21 will they need to go to the local wetlands body to get  
22 approval for construction of those detention basins  
23 first? They appear to be within a hundred feet.

24 Question 4: Right-of-way for open space

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1 on the -- I think it was a 26-acre parcel -- it was  
2 referred to as a 22-acre, but that's on -- it's not  
3 associated with this land any more, but there is a right-  
4 of-way that is needed to access that from where a road  
5 was to have been built. So the concern was that any  
6 fencing or gates, or what have you, not block that access  
7 to the open space land down below.

8 Item 5 -- Question 5: Lighting and  
9 security. We wouldn't want to see tower lighting up  
10 there. It is a rural zone and we wouldn't want it to be  
11 lit up like a Wal-Mart parking lot. It's out in the  
12 middle of nowhere. And although they need to have their  
13 property secure, maybe some kind of low level lighting,  
14 something not on towers. That would be an important  
15 item.

16 Item 6 -- Question 6: Regarding the  
17 decibel levels of the inverters, I think the residents  
18 want to know exactly what that number might be and -- so  
19 they can have some relationship to what the noise might  
20 sound like, some -- some number they can hang a hat on.

21 Question 7: The endangered species -- if  
22 there are any endangered species on the site. There have  
23 been bobcats seen through there, even a mountain lion has  
24 been seen there in the past. While I realize -- while we

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1 realize they need to fence in their property, if they  
2 could minimize the amount of fencing that occurs so that  
3 it doesn't foul up the wildlife movement because that's  
4 going to send the wildlife into neighborhoods instead of  
5 into the state forest across the road.

6 And then finally, the last question, when  
7 the power comes out of this property, are the power lines  
8 that exist on Walnut Hill capable of handling a five-  
9 megawatt load? I guess that's what's coming out of  
10 there. Those -- while I'm not an electrician, but do  
11 they need to put up new lines through there or get a new  
12 right-of-way for those? Is that okay to run it along the  
13 road?

14 So those are the questions we had. And as  
15 I say, we're neither for nor against, just wondering.  
16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. The next  
18 speaker is Bob -- Hudema? I don't know --

19 MR. BOB HUDEMA: Bob Hudema. I live on 41  
20 Grassy Hill Road. I own the hayfields. I'm the  
21 adjoining property on the north side. My family has  
22 owned that property. And the property here in question  
23 my cousin owned for 60 years, the Mushinskis.

24 This hill they're on is known as Pigeon

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1 Hill, and the Indians called it Pagan Hill, it's known to  
2 have a lot of lightning strikes being as it's the highest  
3 elevation in the area. Many a time I've mowed both  
4 properties and had to get off the tractor because the  
5 lightning bolts were hitting the limbs.

6 Now I assume that these solar panels are  
7 held with metal, metal that's attracted by lightning.  
8 And I thought no big deal. And then I went I got onto my  
9 computer to see what the solar panels are made of. Solar  
10 panels are made of over 50 toxins, which are cancer  
11 causing. It's -- there's cadmium arsenic in it. And I'm  
12 no scientist, so I ain't going to go down the list of all  
13 the dangerous stuff, but the problem is if lightning hits  
14 these solar panels and the -- and these panels break and  
15 these toxins get into your water supply -- and everybody  
16 up there has got a drilled well -- how do you stop that.  
17 The panels -- most panels last 15 to 25 years according  
18 to my computer. But if you get them from China, there's  
19 no quality control whatsoever, so it's a crap game.

20 I was going to talk about the migratory  
21 animals. When I was a boy, we had quail all over the  
22 place. And they've disappeared for over 30 years. We're  
23 finally getting coveys of quail showing back up because  
24 that area is perfect for quail reproduction. And after

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1 30 years of not seeing quail, we have about 150 to 200  
2 covey of quail population there, which we're glad to see  
3 it come back. It's been missing like I say for over 30  
4 years. That might be something you'd want to take into  
5 consideration.

6 And there are mountain lions coming  
7 through, the coyotes are coming through. I personally  
8 shot over 13 because they're out in my hayfields killing  
9 the fawns. So I always carry a rifle on my tractor to  
10 eliminate that. They're going to put a six-foot fence  
11 all the way around my property. That pushes this  
12 dangerous game closer to people's houses. On occasion  
13 mountain lions do attack children, adults, and coyotes do  
14 the same thing.

15 At first in looking at this thing, I  
16 thought it was a great idea. But it's a tossup now  
17 because if we ruin our water supply -- and one-quarter of  
18 the people are getting sick right now are from toxins and  
19 this adds to it, how many cancer cases do we need. And  
20 we don't have a miracle pill yet to cure cancer.

21 And I thank you for your time. And I'm  
22 going to give one of you the paperwork that I got off the  
23 computer.

24 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Joan -- is it

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1 Bangston?

2 MS. JOAN BANGSON: Good evening. I'm Joan  
3 Quasnuski Bangson (phonetic). My property would take the  
4 biggest impact on his new addition, the parcel of land  
5 that has been added. I am very, very concerned about the  
6 environment impact on humans, animals, vegetation,  
7 wetlands, and protected species that are documented on  
8 this property that no study has been done yet.

9 I was here at the earlier meeting. And  
10 what I have read is the lifespan of this project is about  
11 25 years. I would like to know if there's been a study.  
12 I personally have four horses, guinea hens.

13 Originally I was part of complaining about  
14 the subdivision that was coming. There is a buffer zone  
15 that was agreed upon between the original first property  
16 and the property he accumulated last summer, which he  
17 apparently has added because he didn't have enough room.  
18 There is a documented 30-foot buffer zone to prevent  
19 something like this from happening.

20 I was here also to hear the statement made  
21 that he was in control of that property, which we  
22 consider in the neighborhood the Onawa property. This  
23 property has had a lot of problems. The road with the  
24 high incline goes right by my property. And while under

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1 his control a vernal pool was filled in. The town told  
2 him to stop, and it was 2006, and he was told to put  
3 sandbags -- hay bales up, black material, and it would be  
4 corrected when it officially changed hands. Because of  
5 this, my lower pasture floods. I am not a happy camper.

6 Security. I don't know exactly what is  
7 going to be put up there. But as I look out my kitchen  
8 window, I will -- I see where this road is now,  
9 impassible, totally impassible. I have chased kids away  
10 from there because there are buildings up there.

11 And it was also stated that there's a  
12 vacant house up there and no one has really lived in it,  
13 maybe they stayed overnight. Well with the history of  
14 the property, Onawa property was a preserve for wild  
15 animals. It came with a great deal of controversy  
16 because rats came, all kinds of violations, and it was  
17 raided for illegal pot growing and was shut down. It has  
18 never been cleaned up. They had -- that building up  
19 there was where animals were operated on, medicine was  
20 stored. I don't know what happened to that. I really  
21 feel that the fact that this was not in the original  
22 presentation to DEEP, we need -- we really need to look  
23 at it.

24 And that road will definitely become an

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1 issue because they took some of the grade down. The  
2 vernal pool, I have pictures of it. It just was done the  
3 wrong way. In something -- that this is so new, so big,  
4 so important to everybody that lives there, it has to be  
5 dealt with very cautiously. All reports need to be put  
6 in there. Environmental studies have not been done on  
7 that property. Actually, the property was surveyed by  
8 one of the applicant's corporations and it turns out I  
9 own more of the road that goes up there. And it is not  
10 wide enough to put a car through or a truck unless part  
11 of my property was bought or you had to blast to get  
12 through the hill.

13 I -- my consideration here is please look  
14 at everything, make sure you have documentation of  
15 everything that needs to be done. This is the future. I  
16 have a brook running through my property. And years ago  
17 we had fish. I mean they would jump. We have Spotted  
18 Salamanders up on that property. I know the property  
19 well, it's been in the family for years. And when my dad  
20 passed, I bought it to keep it in the family.

21 There -- there's too many questions that  
22 have not been answered earlier. Studies need to be done.  
23 That road is impassible. And if the terrain is changed  
24 any more, my property will be ruined. And -- and we



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1 already had a problem and it's never been fixed. Thank  
2 you for your time.

3 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Roseanne  
4 Hardy?

5 A VOICE: I'll pass.

6 CHAIRMAN STEIN: You pass, okay. John --  
7 and I'm not sure how to pronounce it -- Bialowans, Jr.

8 MR. JOHN BIALOWANS, JR.: Close enough.

9 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you.

10 MR. BIALOWANS: Hi. I'm John Bialowans,  
11 Junior, 61 Walnut Hill Road, B-i-a-l-o-w-a-n-s.

12 I'm pro and con about this project. But  
13 my main concern is that maintenance road that he's put in  
14 between my property and Belkey's. My grandparents own  
15 that land that he just purchased. They own a good part  
16 of Pigeon Hill and everything else. My main concern was  
17 about the -- that maintenance road, that if he could put  
18 a gate down on the bottom because many kids go up there  
19 and I have trails out in the woods and they go over there  
20 with their mini-bikes and their four-wheelers and  
21 everything else. And I have pulled many kids off their  
22 bikes and everything else, saying don't go on my  
23 property. That's my biggest concern about this whole  
24 project, is the security of it and everything else, is

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1 because -- I'm just wondering about that, just that that  
2 road is going to bring more vagrants up that end of town  
3 and everything else.

4 And also if they're going to have to lower  
5 that road to be built, it's going to be all ledge. Right  
6 now it's on top of ledge. And we're wondering about when  
7 they start blasting, the only -- was that they had to  
8 rock split it so that they wouldn't cause damage to the  
9 wells, because I have, you know, a dug well and  
10 everything else, and -- and I have a couple of ponds on  
11 my property that are spring fed, and I hope that they do  
12 not change the water course that's there. And that's it.  
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Carol -- is  
15 it Murko?

16 MS. CAROL MURKO: Yes. Thank you. Hello.  
17 My name is Carol Murko Bialowans, I live at 61 Walnut  
18 Hill Road in East Lyme. I don't use the Bialowans, but I  
19 thought I'd throw it in.

20 One of my concerns is about the access  
21 road, the maintenance road that they were talking about,  
22 which is the same thing that John was talking about.  
23 When the previous landowner tried to get a variance --  
24 you know, get permission to build on it, there was a very

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1 big concern about that steep grade and the fact that it  
2 is a drivable road, but it is pretty much straight up and  
3 then straight down. It's a lot of ledge and then goes  
4 down into sand.

5 Also too there's an area there where there  
6 is a wetlands crossing. And the previous owner was  
7 supposed to make sure that that crossing was preserved,  
8 whether it meant by putting in, you know, some kind of a  
9 structure to go over it and replace the piping that's  
10 there because it's rather old and dilapidated. And I  
11 would just want to make sure that all of that was still  
12 followed personally because that little wetland spring  
13 feeds the vernal pool on our property and, you know, I  
14 wouldn't want to see anything happen to that. So you  
15 know, I know he said the maintenance road wouldn't be  
16 used that much, maybe once or twice a year, but -- but  
17 still I would not want to see that waterway go away.

18 And again the security as John has said,  
19 you know, you get kids, you get people that are curious.  
20 And if you don't have security, they're going to be going  
21 up there to see what's up there. Thank you very much, I  
22 appreciate it.

23 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Is it Craig  
24 or Greg Peterson.

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1 MR. CREIG PETERSON: Creig, that's C-r-e-  
2 i-g, Peterson, s-o-n, 56 Walnut Hill Road. I'm -- I'm  
3 across and slightly down from the far -- by the  
4 Bialowans' house.

5 And I have a serious concern. After 20,  
6 25 years, when the solar site goes out of use, Mr.  
7 Landino has suggested that if he can't get CL&P I guess  
8 to buy into it further, he'll take it down. That leaves  
9 the property more or less vacant with sedimentation ponds  
10 and so forth. And while it was in use, he implied that  
11 the sedimentation ponds would need some maintenance, at  
12 least twice a year. If not, what happens to those ponds  
13 when nobody is there taking care of the property? What  
14 can the future expect of that.

15 I'm also very concerned about the whole  
16 issue of how this went though. Mr. Landino stated in his  
17 testimony that really his plan to -- in two weeks -- he  
18 was forced in two weeks to submit this to the State.  
19 Anybody who has spent some time researching what he found  
20 around this, would suggest that perhaps the whole thing  
21 was rushed through because of changes in legislation.  
22 The fact that the federal government's support, the 50/50  
23 deal was going to stop at the end of the year, so it  
24 seemed to be a very rushed deal to get this in. And as

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1 I've listened to the testimony, I get the feeling that it  
2 continues to be kind of slipshod in its approach. So I  
3 would caution you to look at it and think carefully about  
4 it. But again, my major concern is what happens once the  
5 site dissolves, is dead, what happens.

6 CHAIRMAN STEIN: (Indiscernible) --

7 AUDIO TECHNICIAN: Mr. Chairman, your  
8 microphone.

9 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Oh, sorry. I've gone  
10 through the list of everybody who signed up. I'll  
11 attempt to elicit answers to some of the questions. Some  
12 of the information is within reports that have already  
13 been submitted and letters, so I'm not going to go  
14 through everything.

15 I will start with the last comment, only  
16 to the fact that the Siting Council intends to take their  
17 time and we will deliberate, we will take into account  
18 everything. So I hope the word slipshod you're not  
19 implying that we're part of that, but we intend to take  
20 our time and make sure that this is -- whatever decision  
21 we reach will be done with due process, which is one of  
22 the reasons why we spend all day here. And we're not  
23 making a decision tonight, so that's clear.

24 The questions on security, and we've heard

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1 several different opinions about whether or not it should  
2 be fenced and what part of it should be fenced, and also  
3 relating to the access to the land trust land, so could  
4 you just briefly describe your plan for security. And  
5 you could also mentioned maybe lighting too as to how  
6 this will be taken care of. Thank you.

7 MR. ROBERT LANDINO: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Chairman. Bob Landino.

9 Security was meant to be -- (mic feedback)  
10 -- okay?

11 AUDIO TECHNICIAN: Go ahead.

12 MR. LANDINO: Security was meant to be  
13 accomplished with fencing. And we had talked and are  
14 willing to provide close circuit television. We actually  
15 thought that the neighbors might not want that, but we're  
16 certainly willing to provide it if it gives everyone a  
17 higher level of comfort. Again that's all able to be  
18 interfaced with computers, and we are fine to provide  
19 that if that's the desire of the commission.

20 But you know, this is a site that's fairly  
21 well insulated. It's not visible from the street. It  
22 would be fenced and secured in that manner. And to the  
23 extent that anything is tampered with, we -- we have a  
24 pretty good indication of that through the way we monitor

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1 these digitally. But if folks are worried about vagrants  
2 or young people, you know, causing some nuisances, we  
3 certainly would be willing to talk about a CC TV system.

4 I -- there was some reference to lighting.  
5 We would not recommend lighting in the array. There  
6 might be some low level lighting around the building  
7 itself simply to provide functionality. But we would not  
8 think it would be beneficial to anyone to have any type  
9 of lighting within the array itself. Most CC TV  
10 technologies today are functional with very low levels of  
11 lights. So even in moonlight you could -- you could  
12 detect any issues related to vagrants or vandals.

13 CHAIRMAN STEIN: And just part of that is  
14 will there be unimpeded access to get to the land trust  
15 land or will that have to go through a gate --

16 MR. LANDINO: Yeah -- no, we actually --  
17 the land trust land is on the -- on the north side of the  
18 site. And that is actually not near -- excuse me -- the  
19 right-of-way, the access easement for the land trust land  
20 is located on the perimeter of the north side of the  
21 site. So where we are proposing our solar array does not  
22 conflict with that at all. It would remain in place.  
23 And would in fact remain in place in perpetuity.

24 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Okay. Thank you.

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1 Another question, the issue of lightning storms --

2 MR. LANDINO: Yeah --

3 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- are you somehow  
4 protected from --

5 MR. LANDINO: -- they're all -- you know,  
6 there's lightning protection built into all of these  
7 systems. And maybe -- I don't know, Andrew, if you know  
8 any more detail, but we can certainly provide the Siting  
9 Council with information on lightning protection, but we  
10 would certainly provide that and make sure that that was  
11 in place. That's a part of every system that is a  
12 ground-mounted system. Do you have any --

13 MR. ANDREW CHESTER: No.

14 MR. LANDINO: Yeah.

15 CHAIRMAN STEIN: I don't know if you have  
16 to answer this, but you've -- you've heard the comments  
17 from the building official --

18 MR. LANDINO: Yeah --

19 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- relative to if you  
20 plan to have a place for education --

21 MR. LANDINO: That's a good point --

22 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- you have to -- you  
23 have to look into all aspects of --

24 MR. LANDINO: I don't think we would



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1 propose an elevator in the building. But if that -- he  
2 raises all valid points -- every single one of his points  
3 were valid. I would suggest that if we do something with  
4 a meeting room, we keep it on the first floor so that  
5 it's -- there's, you know, an equal opportunity for  
6 access by all. And you know, we thought about having it  
7 be on the second floor only because of the view, we  
8 thought it would, you know, help in understanding, but  
9 certainly we would be willing to give tours of the  
10 facility to students. And putting that room on the first  
11 floor wouldn't be a problem.

12 CHAIRMAN STEIN: I -- I don't want to get  
13 into all the details about the subdivision and  
14 restrictions, but just two questions --

15 MR. LANDINO: Sure --

16 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- is there an approved  
17 subdivision? And if so, for how many lots?

18 MR. LANDINO: Yeah, there is an approved  
19 subdivision on about a little over half of the parcel  
20 that's being proposed for solar. And I believe -- and  
21 I'm sure the neighbors know this, and I don't mean to  
22 misstate it, but I believe it's 24 lots in total.

23 CHAIRMAN STEIN: So it -- so -- okay.  
24 Just -- I just think that's important to get that on the

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1 record. I'm assuming your environmental experts are  
2 aware of what should be planted for buffer strips that  
3 don't attract deer. Is that safe to --

4 MR. LANDINO: Yeah, Michael -- Michael  
5 Klein, yeah.

6 MR. MICHAEL KLEIN: Mr. Chairman, we're --  
7 the biggest problem with deer in terms of establishing  
8 buffer strips is they --

9 A VOICE: No, press -- done on the front -  
10 -

11 (pause - audio adjustment)

12 MR. KLEIN: The biggest problem with deer  
13 in establishing buffer strips is they eat the plantings,  
14 and so we -- we try to use species that the deer don't  
15 like as much. But because the basic goal here is to use  
16 native plants that don't require long-term maintenance  
17 and provide habitat for other forms of wildlife, there's  
18 a little bit of a conflict there. Typically it would  
19 require some deer protection at the earliest stages of  
20 the plantings in order to keep the deer from eating  
21 them.

22 The -- I'm not sure what the other concern  
23 about deer -- I think there was a question about deer  
24 damage in the arrays. And the fencing is also designed

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1 to -- in addition to human security, it's designed to  
2 keep the deer out also so that they don't cause damage in  
3 the arrays.

4 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Okay, thank you. A  
5 question about the amount of water that would go into the  
6 detention basins that would ultimately -- could end up in  
7 the brook that was mentioned. Could you just comment on  
8 how much water we're talking about and whether it would  
9 have a significant impact.

10 MR. LANDINO: Sure. I'll let Ray and  
11 Chris give the details, but just at a high level, the  
12 purpose of the basins are simply to detain the difference  
13 in the pre-development and post-development rates of  
14 runoff. And these are similar to rooftops on houses  
15 where the water is clean, it's not polluted by cars or  
16 trucks as a parking lot would be. And so to replicate  
17 the existing condition, our engineers proposed a  
18 detention basin system.

19 And one of the concerns is what happens to  
20 those basins if the panels go away. Well there's no need  
21 for them anymore, the functionality of them becomes  
22 diminimus because there's no increased rate as a result  
23 of the water moving off the panels is more quickly than  
24 they would over ground cover. So with that, maybe Ray

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1 could provide some technical data as to the volume and  
2 amounts that we're talking about.

3 MR. RAYMOND GRADWELL: Thanks -- thanks,  
4 Bob. We did design some detention basins to attenuate  
5 peak discharges that would leave the site in two points  
6 of study we analyzed. And we analyzed the two, the ten  
7 and the hundred-year storm for both the pre-development  
8 conditions and the post-development conditions. And we  
9 ran, you know, hydrologic models for both those  
10 scenarios. And we designed two detention ponds -- two  
11 small detention ponds on the east side of the site to  
12 attenuate those discharges, post-development to pre-  
13 development rates. So the water leaving the site  
14 discharge-wise in cubic feet per second is equivalent or  
15 less than what goes there today.

16 CHAIRMAN STEIN: And am I correct in  
17 understanding that the water -- obviously talking about a  
18 significant rainstorm that would go into the detention  
19 system would not be heated for any reason? I mean it  
20 doesn't normally rain when the sun is out, so -- because  
21 there was a question of whether the water going into the  
22 brook from the detention systems would be of I guess a  
23 higher temperature, and therefore have some adverse  
24 impact. Is that -- could you just confirm that I'm

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1 correct, that that would not be the case or --

2 MR. GRADWELL: That's more or less  
3 correct. The water will hit the panel, run off the  
4 panel, and then run across the ground where it has a lot  
5 of area, a lot of length before it has the opportunity to  
6 run into the detention pond and cool.

7 CHAIRMAN STEIN: You did I guess in the  
8 previous meeting mention or talked about the restoration,  
9 if I'm using the term correctly, of what's called the  
10 Tinker House --

11 MR. LANDINO: Yes --

12 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- because I was confused  
13 by a statement --

14 MR. LANDINO: Yes --

15 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- is that restored --  
16 the actual house restored or --

17 MR. LANDINO: No, no --

18 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- being restored?

19 MR. LANDINO: Let me -- and I can answer  
20 the questions that were raised. As part of our approval  
21 of the original subdivision, a condition of that approval  
22 was that we would restore that house prior to commencing  
23 with our development because of a concern of its historic  
24 quality. We purchased the house after those approvals

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1       were in place. Around 2007 the economy hit the skids and  
2       low and behold the house is worth about 60 percent of  
3       what it was at the point of purchase. And that's  
4       obviously not anyone's concern in this room other than  
5       ours.

6                       We have paid taxes on the property as an  
7       approved subdivision since then. We do maintain the  
8       property. We cut the grass. We -- actually Chris, who  
9       happens to be in the room tonight, and he probably  
10      doesn't want to answer these questions, but Chris is a  
11      structural engineer, and we had him review the building  
12      after we purchased it. And the claims or the concepts of  
13      it being in good condition when we bought it was in fact  
14      the opposite. It was virtually in critical condition.  
15      Almost every aspect of it was in complete disrepair. And  
16      so we were in a bit of a quandary to spend the amount of  
17      money that we needed to spend to bring it up to  
18      serviceable condition and sell it at a significant loss  
19      when we had no imminent intention of beginning the  
20      subdivision because of the economy.

21                      So our intention is to restore it.  
22      Whether it's a condition of our approval or not, it's  
23      what we would all an asset that -- you know, like it's a  
24      neighborhood -- it's a neighborhood asset, it needs to be

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1 done, and we are hopeful to do that soon, hopefully in  
2 the next year or 18 months. But it needs a huge amount  
3 of work and it has to do mostly with the condition it  
4 came in when we took over the property.

5 I personally have never been contacted by  
6 the woman who spoke. Either if she could -- there's  
7 always miscommunications and there's always the  
8 possibility of something getting lost in the mail. If  
9 she could show us an e-mail or a letter or even the  
10 suggestion that she called me, I'm accessible to many of  
11 the neighbors in the community. Mr. Chairman, in  
12 deference to the group, it was somewhat of a  
13 controversial public hearing process when the subdivision  
14 was approved. So you know, I tried my best to remain  
15 accessible to everyone post-approval. There are several  
16 neighbors that hunt on the property and I signed their  
17 release forms and have maintained a reasonable  
18 relationship with them over the years. So if there's  
19 anyone that ever wants to communicate with me, I think  
20 folks know me as someone who will always return a call  
21 and always have a conversation about things and answer  
22 questions. But I have not been contacted officially by  
23 anyone from that group since the time of that approval.  
24 But you know, it is not -- it is in disrepair, it is not

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1 -- the restoration has not been completed to answer the  
2 question.

3 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Okay, thank you. And I  
4 take that as somewhat of an invitation, that if anybody  
5 in the audience has any questions after the hearing or at  
6 some subsequent time or date, they can feel free to  
7 contact the applicant --

8 MR. LANDINO: You have my cell phone --

9 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- as the Siting Council  
10 is not part of that. But -- there was a question on the  
11 ability of the existing power lines to handle the load  
12 from this facility once it's been constructed. I  
13 understand that the feasibility study --

14 MR. LANDINO: Right --

15 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- is under review by  
16 CL&P. I don't know if there's anything else you'd want  
17 to add to that?

18 MR. LANDINO: That's a very good question  
19 that was raised I believe by Mr. Christensen. That's the  
20 point I believe of the study that's currently being  
21 conducted by CL&P. We commissioned that study and I  
22 believe, you know, it's in the process. And what could  
23 happen potentially is that there is another line that  
24 needs to be run from our property to Flanders Road.



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1 We're not sure of that. We don't have any further  
2 indication of that other than what Andrew Chester had  
3 identified as being in the process of that study in the  
4 earlier meeting.

5 CHAIRMAN STEIN: There was -- I don't know  
6 whether it was a question or a suggestion that the access  
7 road be gated at the entrance. Is that --

8 MR. LANDINO: A good idea --

9 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- something you would  
10 consider?

11 MR. LANDINO: Yeah, it's a good idea.

12 CHAIRMAN STEIN: A good idea, okay. I  
13 think that answers most of the questions. It may not  
14 answer all of them, but you can certainly follow up also  
15 on the Siting Council's website with all the reports,  
16 including reports and letters from DEEP and other state  
17 officials that are part of the record. So I think -- we  
18 make that available to everyone.

19 As I stated, the Council is not going to -  
20 - other than in a few seconds of adjourning this, we're  
21 not going to make any decision. And we'll have  
22 deliberations. In fact, they won't begin until at least  
23 a month because we are giving everybody a month if you  
24 have any additional comments, and as I previously stated,

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1 you can submit them in writing. So at this point I  
2 declare the hearing -- what -- (pause) --

3 MR. LEE HOFFMAN: Mr. Chairman, if I may,  
4 you -- before the break, you had asked us several  
5 questions for which we have answers. And I also have one  
6 redirect question. But the first question that you had -  
7 - the first question you had asked was the addresses for  
8 the virtual renderings, the visual renderings. And it's  
9 my understanding that Mr. Albino and Mr. Gradwell have  
10 obtained those addresses. Gentlemen, if you would  
11 provide those.

12 COURT REPORTER: One moment please.

13 (pause - tape change)

14 MR. HOFFMAN: Sorry. We're actually going  
15 to do that last apparently. Okay.

16 The -- the second thing is that you asked  
17 for cross-sectional drawings of the fill pieces and  
18 whether or not we could get those to the Council today.  
19 We have two full sets of drawings, they are labeled Sheet  
20 No. XSC, that's X-ray Sam Charlie, 0 through XCS5, that  
21 show cross-sectional drawings of the areas of cut and  
22 fill. We have two complete set of drawings tonight that  
23 we can give to the Council. And if the Council would  
24 also like 11-by-17 drawings of exactly the same thing, we

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1 can provide those to the Council tomorrow. My thinking  
2 is is that they could be marked for identification  
3 purposes and we can make them full exhibits in this  
4 hearing should the Council so desire.

5 CHAIRMAN STEIN: We'll be fine with those  
6 two. Do you want to go through the -- it's up to you --  
7 to go through the verification and --

8 MR. HOFFMAN: We might as well so that  
9 they're part of the record.

10 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Okay.

11 MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. Albino and Mr. Gradwell,  
12 you heard me discussing the drawings I previously  
13 mentioned. Rather than go through them in detail, I'll  
14 just ask you did you prepare or cause these drawings to  
15 be prepared?

16 MR. CHRIS ALBINO: We did.

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. Gradwell.

18 MR. GRADWELL: We did.

19 MR. HOFFMAN: And do you have any changes  
20 to these drawings?

21 MR. ALBINO: We do not.

22 MR. GRADWELL: No.

23 MR. HOFFMAN: And are these drawings  
24 correct to the best of your knowledge and belief?

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1 MR. ALBINO: They are.

2 MR. GRADWELL: They are.

3 MR. HOFFMAN: With that I'd submit them as  
4 full exhibits in the hearing.

5 CHAIRMAN STEIN: They're admitted as full  
6 exhibits. Thank you.

7 (Whereupon, Petitioner Exhibit No. 9 was  
8 received into evidence as full exhibits.)

9 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Next, Mr. Mercier  
10 asked Mr. Chester how he came up with the sixty-four  
11 hundred megawatt hour calculation on page 10 of the  
12 petition. And I'd just ask Mr. Chester to explain. We -  
13 - we re-ran the calculation during the break. And if,  
14 Mr. Chester, you could describe what you did, that would  
15 be appreciated?

16 MR. CHESTER: Sure. During the break I  
17 used the Solar Advisory Model that we had discussed  
18 previously and I uploaded all of the industry standard  
19 calculations that are both on the plan and that are  
20 standard in the industry, like degradation rates, we used  
21 the accurate degree pitch of 25 degrees, we used the  
22 actual module counts and wattages, and came up with six-  
23 million, four-hundred, and fifty-eight thousand kilowatt  
24 hours, which is accurate with the number depicted on page

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1 10 of roughly six-thousand, four-hundred megawatt hours.

2 MR. HOFFMAN: And then finally, Mr.  
3 Gradwell has the addresses for those visual renderings.

4 MR. GRADWELL: With respect to Rendered  
5 View No. 1, the address is 14 Mountain View. And with  
6 respect to Rendered View No. 3, the address is No. 95  
7 Walnut Hill.

8 MR. HOFFMAN: And then lastly, I have one  
9 redirect question for Mr. Klein. We had talked about the  
10 multi-floral rose before during the proceedings, Mr.  
11 Klein. Is that an invasive species? And what can you  
12 tell me about how that comes to be listed as an invasive  
13 species?

14 MR. KLEIN: Yes -- yes -- this is Michael  
15 Klein. Multi-floral roses is invasive. It's listed on -  
16 - Connecticut actually has an official state list and  
17 it's listed on that list. It's also listed on the Corps  
18 of Engineers list of invasive plants, and it's widely  
19 known throughout the eastern part of the United States.

20 The mythology, if you will, and I'm not  
21 sure whether that's accurate or not, but the generally  
22 accepted story is that it was widely distributed by the  
23 predecessor to the Natural Resources Conservation Service  
24 and the Soil Conservation Service as a replacement for

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1       barbwire during the war. Which won, I don't know. If  
2       you've ever tried to walk through it, it's much more  
3       effective than barbwire, at least in my experience. The  
4       fruits are attractive to a number of songbirds and it's  
5       distributed through their feces, and it has become a very  
6       significant invader of early successional land, farmland  
7       in Connecticut and throughout the Eastern United States.

8                        So the short answer is it's invasive. It  
9       would interfere with the efficiency of the panels, but  
10      it's not something that you'd want to have there anyways.

11                      MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. I have nothing  
12      further, Mr. Chairman.

13                      CHAIRMAN STEIN: Okay, thank you very  
14      much.

15                      The hearing is -- (pause) -- no, we're  
16      going to -- I'm going to adjourn the hearing. If you  
17      have additional questions, you can submit them in writing  
18      as I mentioned before. So thank you all for your  
19      participation and the hearing is closed.

20  
21                      (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 8:05  
22      p.m.)

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