

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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May 7, 2014

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

RE: **PETITION NO. 1056** - GRE 314 East Lyme, LLC declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction and operation of a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Renewable Energy Generating Project located on Grassy Hill Road and Walnut Hill Road, East Lyme, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Hoffman:

In response to a phone call from East Lyme Land Trust representative, Joe Mingo on May 1, 2014, regarding potential discharge of sediment from the above-referenced site during an unusually heavy rainstorm on April 30, 2014, Connecticut Siting Council (Council) Acting Executive Director, Melanie Bachman and staff member, Robert Mercier conducted a site inspection of the facility on May 2, 2014.

Ms. Bachman and Mr. Mercier conducted a site review of the perimeter of the facility with GRE representative Ryan McNamara at approximately 11:00 a.m. General observations include siltation in all of the detention basins, some of which still contained standing water. The detention basins feature a five-inch discharge pipe a few feet from the bottom of the basins to allow water to discharge during heavy rain events. The outflow pipes were put in place to alleviate pressure on the basin walls. Secondary silt fencing was used to slow the flow of discharged water. One of the secondary fences had a large volume of turbid water behind it.

Besides the detention basins, erosion and sediment controls include silt soxx around the perimeter of the site, followed by a row of silt fencing. In a few areas that were breached by the earlier major rain event in March, two rows of silt fencing were installed. On the north side of the solar field, the earthen berm that was previously constructed during the initial clearing phase of the project was seeded and intact. On the south side, GRE constructed a new swale lined with field stone that directed water into a detention basin. Rock swales were also present throughout the site in areas where previous channelization occurred.

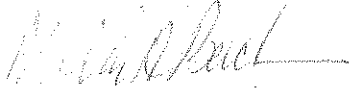
Site conditions indicate no failure in site silt fencing that resulted in overland flow of silt. Conversations with Mr. McNamara indicate the detention basins did fill with turbid water, some of which was discharged through the five inch pipes towards adjacent property.

GRE stated at the site walk that they intend to excavate the sediment from the basins and they intend to use a chemical that will precipitate out sediment from turbid water during future high precipitation events.

Please keep the Council informed of the ongoing site erosion and sedimentation control reviews and recommended silt remediation efforts on adjacent property. Additionally, please submit copies of any engineering and environmental reports, when available.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Very truly yours,



Melanie Bachman  
Acting Executive Director

- c: Council Members  
Honorable Paul Formica, First Selectman, Town of East Lyme  
Gary A. Goeschel, Town of East Lyme  
Joseph Mingo, East Lyme Land Trust

MAB/RDM