



Lee D. Hoffman
90 State House Square
Hartford, CT 06103-3702
p 860 424 4315
f 860 424 4370
lhoffman@pullcom.com
www.pullcom.com

June 30, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director/Staff Attorney
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Petition 1313 – Petition of DWW Solar II, LLC for a Declaratory Ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is Required for a 26.4 Megawatt AC Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility in Simsbury, Connecticut

Dear Ms. Bachman:

I am writing on behalf of my client, DWW Solar II, LLC (“DWW”), in response to your February 24, 2021 correspondence which identified issues associated with the landscaping and barns at the Tobacco Valley Solar Project (“Project”) that was the subject of the above-referenced Petition. Detailed responses to the concerns raised in that letter, with respect to both landscaping issues and barn repair are addressed in greater detail below.

Landscaping Issues and Response

As has been mentioned previously, DWW recognizes its obligations pursuant to Exhibit L of the Project’s D&M Plan. In fact, DWW previously conducted a survey of vegetation that did not survive the 2019-2020 winter season and replaced that vegetation in the fall of 2020, with completion of that vegetation project in November of 2020.

During the late spring, the project performed an inspection of areas 2A, 2B, 4, 5, 6 and 7 (as those areas are delineated in the Visual Screening Plan) to determine which plants survived the winter season and which plants will need to be replaced. As a result of this inspection, the project identified 121 plants that will need to be replaced as follows:

- Area 2A 15 plants
- Area 2B 15 plants
- Area 4 16 plants
- Area 5 32 plants

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- Area 6 11 plants
- Area 7 32 plants

In addition to those plants, several spruce trees were vandalized and/or removed, likely to be used as Christmas trees. The project is evaluating what can be done to prevent that in the future.

The project has consulted with its landscaping contractor to ascertain the best time for replacement plantings to maximize survival. Given the current summer heat, the replanting of these areas is scheduled for the end of August/beginning of September in order to maximize plant survival. Given this proposed planting schedule, the Project will provide a supplemental report to the Siting Council by November 30, 2021 documenting its fall planting regime.

Barn Maintenance Issues

With respect to the issues surrounding the barns on site the Project continues to believe that there are both short-term maintenance/repair issues for the barns as well as longer-term preservation issues. Each of these issues will be discussed in turn.

With respect to the short-term repairs, the project has removed vegetative growth from the exteriors of the barns, has patched holes in the sides of the barns with materials that are similar to those that currently comprise the barns' sides, and is in the process of replacing doors with materials that match the existing structure. These efforts will help secure the barns. In addition, there has been an ongoing project throughout the month of June to patch small holes in the roof of one of the barns at the site.

Specifically, the project has undertaken the following activities:

The 220' x 40' barn

- Replace and secure the doors on the south and west ends of the barn
- Repair and secure the doors on the north end of the barn
- Patch holes in all four sides of the barn

The 100' x 40' barn

- Remove vegetation around the barn
- Replace and secure the door on the south end of the barn
- Repair and secure the doors on the north end of the barn
- Patch holes in all four sides of the barn
- Patch the small hole in the east side of the barn's roof

The 150' x 40' barn

- Remove vegetation around the barn
- Repair and secure the doors on the east and west end of the barn

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- Patch holes in all four sides of the barn

The 70' x 26' barn

- Remove vegetation around the barn
- Repair and secure the doors on the east and west end of the barn
- Patch holes in all four sides of the barn

The project began this work at the beginning of June, and the work is ongoing. The project anticipates that the work will continue throughout the summer and will be completed at some point in September. Should the Council so desire, the project can provide the Council with notice once these short-term repairs are completed. In the interim, the pictures below demonstrate the progress on the barn repairs that have been made to date.



(Hole #1 before)



(Hole #1 after)



(Missing board #1 before [corner of barn])



(Missing board #1 after)



(Patch work)



(Patch work)

For the longer-term barn preservation, the project is still looking to its sister project in East Windsor, Connecticut, commonly known as Gravel Pit Solar, as a source of materials. As the Council is aware, there are several barns at the Gravel Pit Solar site that will be dismantled in accordance with the Council's Decision and Order in Docket No. 492. The materials from those dismantled barns could then serve as the raw materials for a longer-term solution for the Tobacco Valley Solar barns. This will allow the Tobacco Valley Solar project to repair and restore the barns on its site using historically similar materials. The project also continues to investigate options for repairing the roofs of the barns on-site. As previously indicated to the Council, such restoration will likely take more than a year to complete.

If you have any questions concerning this submittal, please contact the undersigned at your convenience. I certify that copies of this submittal have been submitted to the Service List for this Petition that is in effect as of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee D. Hoffman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "n".

Lee D. Hoffman