

Lee D. Hoffman

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November 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"), as a supplement to the update DWW provided to the Siting Council on June 30, 2021. As you will recall, that letter addressed issues associated with the landscaping and barns at the Tobacco Valley Solar Project ("Project") that was the subject of the above-referenced Petition. This letter provides the Council with an update with respect to both landscaping issues and barn repair for the Project.

### **Landscaping Issues and Response**

As you will recall, 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
- Area 6 11 plants
- Area 7 32 plants

The Project retained a local, Connecticut-based landscaping company to undertake the replacement of the above-referenced plantings. At the end of September, that landscaping

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company undertook plantings as discussed in greater detail below. For each area of the Project, dead trees and shrubs were removed and replaced as identified below. The replacement plantings have been warrantied for one year, and the landscaping company will ensure that the plantings are watered during their first growing season. Once the company completed the plantings, it ensured that the trees and shrubs were mulched appropriately.

For Area 2A, the following plantings were completed:

Species	Quantity
Picea pungens – Colorado Spruce 6'-7' Height	3
Thuja plicata "Green Giant" – Green Giant Western Red Cedar 5'-6'	4
Aronia arbutifolia – Red Chokeberry 18-24"	7
Kalmia latifolia "keepsake" – Keepsake Mountain Laurel 30-36"	1

For Area 2B, the following plantings were completed:

Species:	Quantity:
Juniperus virginiana -Eastern Red Cedar 5'-6'	2
Picea pungens – Colorado Spruce 6'-7'	4
Thuja plicata "Green Giant" – Green Giant Western Red Cedar 5'-6'	5
Aronia arbutifolia – Red Chokeberry 18-24"	1
Kalmia latifolia "keepsake" – Keepsake Mountain Laurel 30-36"	2
Rhus armatica – Fragrant sumac 18-24"	1

For Area 4, the following plantings were completed:

Species:	Quantity:
Ostrya virginiana – American Hornbeam 1.5" caliper	1
Quercus coccinea – Scarlet Oak 1.5" caliper	4



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Picea pungens – Colorado Spruce 6'-7'	9
Aronia arbutifolia – Red Chokeberry 18-24"	9
Myrica pensylvanica – Northern Bayberry 30-36"	1

In addition to that work, two tree stumps were removed from Area 4 where trees had been cut down and were replaced with two Pinus Strobus plantings, otherwise known as White Pine trees.

For Area 5, the following plantings were completed:

Species:	Quantity
Quercus bicolor – Swamp White Oak 2.5" caliper	5
Picea pungens – Colorado Spruce 6'-7'	6
Aronia arbutifolia – Red Chokeberry 18-24"	1
Myrica pensylvanica – Northern Bayberry 30-36"	11
Kalmia latifolia "keepsake" – Keepsake Mountain Laurel 30-36"	6
Rhus armatica – Fragrant sumac 18-24"	3

For Area 6, the following plantings were completed:

Species:	<b>Quantity:</b>
Quercus bicolor – Swamp White Oak 2.5" caliper	4
Juniperus virginiana -Eastern Red Cedar 5'-6'	1
Picea pungens – Colorado Spruce 6'-7'	4
Kalmia latifolia "keepsake" – Keepsake Mountain Laurel 30-36"	2

For Area 7, the following plantings were completed:

Species:	Quantity:
Quercus bicolor – Swamp White Oak 2.5" caliper	4



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Picea pungens – Colorado Spruce 6'-7'	7
Kalmia latifolia "keepsake" – Keepsake Mountain Laurel 30-36"	4
Aronia arbutifolia – Red Chokeberry 18-24"	1
Myrica pensylvanica – Northern Bayberry 30-36"	14
Rhus armatica – Fragrant sumac 18-24"	2

Representative pictures of the plantings completed at the Project site can be found in the attached Exhibit A.

#### **Barn Maintenance Issues**

As was mentioned in our June 30, 2021 letter to the Council, the long-term plan for the preservation of the barns at the Project site is to obtain raw materials for such barn repairs from the Project's sister site in East Windsor, Connecticut, commonly known as Gravel Pit Solar. 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. This will allow the Tobacco Valley Solar project to repair and restore the barns on its site using historically similar materials. Once those repairs are completed, the Project will then ascertain what repairs will need to be conducted on the barn's roofs, and undertake that work. 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,

Lee D. Hoffman

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Enclosure



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# Exhibit A Photos of Plantings

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## **September 23, 2021**

