



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 5, 2025

Steve Broyer
Ecos Energy LLC
222 South 9th Street
Suite 1600
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Steve.Broyer@ecosrenewable.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1395A** – Windham Solar LLC Declaratory Ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the construction, maintenance and operation of one 1.0-megawatt (MW) and one 0.99 MW solar photovoltaic electric generating facilities located at 31 Benz Street, Ansonia, Connecticut. **Development and Management Plan (D&M) Plan – Facility Fencing and Site Conditions.**

Dear Steve Broyer:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is requesting information regarding the perimeter fencing at the above-referenced facility in response to an April 24, 2025 email received from Ansonia resident, Kim Wisniewski, regarding the fence design at the facility and maintenance of the area in front of the fence along Benz Street. A copy of this email and the Council's first request for information from Windham Solar, LLC (WS) via email dated April 25, 2025, are attached for your convenience.

It appears an agricultural style fence was installed around the solar facility; however, the civil plans specified a chain link fence with a black coating facing Benz Street.

The Council's June 21, 2021 Declaratory Ruling for this facility included Condition No. 1(f) as follows: *"Installation of a black vinyl-coated solar field perimeter fence along Benz Street with a six-inch gap at the bottom for wildlife movement if WS opts not to host sheep grazing at the site."*

On June 28, 2021, WS submitted a Partial D&M Plan to the Council for approval that included the following: *"The Petitioner will install a black vinyl coated perimeter fence along Benz Street with the civil phase of construction. The Petitioner intends to graze the site once the electrical facility is operational. The black vinyl coated fence will be installed without a 6" gap to ensure a secure facility."* Partial D&M Plan I was approved by the Council on July 30, 2021 specifying the black vinyl coated perimeter fence along Benz Street.

On August 15, 2024, WS submitted Partial D&M Plan II to the Council for approval that included several changes to the electrical layout. A new Civil Plan (Site Plan 3) was provided on October 17, 2024 in response to a Council interrogatory depicting a chain-link fence around the solar facility site and a Sheep Grazing Management Plan that stated an 8-foot knot fence would be installed for agricultural activities; however, no civil plan was provided during the review of Partial D&M Plan I or II depicting an agricultural fence.

Pursuant to the Council's June 21, 2021 Declaratory Ruling and July 30, 2021 Partial D&M Plan approval, the Council requests further information regarding the perimeter fence that was installed at the facility site along with measures that could be taken to further mitigate views of the facility from Benz Street.

Please provide a written response to the Council no later than May 16, 2025.

If more time is needed to respond, please submit a written request for an extension.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Melanie Bachman", with a stylized, flowing script.

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/

Enc: Kim Wisniewski email to Council, dated April 24, 2025
Council email to WS, dated April 25, 2025

From: Mercier, Robert <Robert.Mercier@ct.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 3:30 PM
To: Steve.Broyer@ecosrenewable.com
Cc: Bachman, Melanie <Melanie.Bachman@ct.gov>; Walsh, Christina <Christina.Walsh@ct.gov>
Subject: RE: Ansonia, Benz Solar, Petition 1395A

Hi Steve,

Executive Director Melanie Bachman asked me to reach out to you regarding the forwarded email the Council received from Kim Wisniewski regarding the fence design at Ansonia Benz Street facility and the overall condition of the site property along the Benz Street. An agricultural style fence was installed around the site and Ms. Wisniewski inquired as to whether the fence is supposed to be of chain link design with a black vinyl treatment.

The Council's June 21, 2021 Declaratory Ruling for this Project included a D&M Condition #1f as follows- Installation of a black vinyl-coated solar field perimeter fence along Benz Street with a six inch gap at the bottom for wildlife movement if WS opts not to host sheep grazing at the site.

The Partial D&M Plan submitted by WS on June 25, 2021 stated the following- The Petitioner will install a black vinyl coated perimeter fence along Benz Street with the civil phase of construction. The Petitioner intends to graze the site once the electrical facility is operational. The black vinyl coated fence will be installed without a 6" gap to ensure a secure facility

Partial D&M Plan I was approved on July 30, 2021 specifying the black vinyl coated perimeter fence along Benz Street. Some site work was subsequently done and then the project went dormant until August 15, 2024 when Partial D&M Plan II was submitted with several changes to the electrical layout. A new Civil Plan (Site Plan 3) was provided as part of an integratory response on October 17, 2024 showing a chain-link fence around the site. The integratory responses also included a Solar Grazing Management Plan that stated an 8-foot knot fence would be installed for agricultural activities; however, no civil plan was provided during the review of Partial D&M Plan I or II showing an agricultural fence.

Given that Ms. Wisniewski objects to visibility of the array, and an agricultural fence is in place, what options are there to further mitigate views? — options could be replacing fencing on Benz Street, installing privacy slats or mesh on the agricultural fence, or planting landscaping across from the residence?

Additionally, can the erosion control fencing be removed at this time and the area along the street maintained?

Hopefully these issue can be resolved quickly.

Thanks

Bob Mercier
Siting Analyst

From: Kim Wisniewski <sendmelimes@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2025 9:59 AM
To: Bachman, Melanie <Melanie.Bachman@ct.gov>
Subject: Ansonia Petition 1395A

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good

morning-

I am writing to you with a couple questions about the solar project Ansonia Petition 1395A. The project plans I saw online called for a black chain link fence. Would you know if the fence that was installed (pictures below) is a temporary fence? It is not a black chain link fence and very haphazard looking. It is not uniform at all, some sections have a top wood rail, others do not as you can see in the photos and definitely not as nice as a black chain link fence. Also the area in front of the fence is not maintained at all by the property owner. I am not sure if the state can reach out to them or if I have to contact the city. This has been an ongoing issue that I believe the city has cited the owner for without resolution.

Thank

you-

Kim Wisniewski





