

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

TESTIMONY OF
MEGAN B. RAYMOND
IN CONNECTION WITH
PETITION 1410

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

1 **Q. Please state your name, occupation and business address.**

2 A. Megan B. Raymond, MS, PWS, CFM, principal scientist and manager of wetlands and
3 waterways at Milone & MacBroom, Inc. My office is at 195 Church Street in New Haven,
4 Connecticut.

5 **Q. What are your responsibilities at MMI?**

6 A. I routinely complete wetland delineations and ecological site assessments within the
7 Northeast. Typically, the delineations and ecological assessments are followed by land-use
8 permitting at the local, state or Federal level to facilitate restoration efforts or site development.
9 I have 21 years of experience in the field of wetland consulting, 4 with MMI and 17 with other
10 firms.

11 **Q. In addition to the project that is the subject of this Petition, have you been**
12 **involved in other commercial-scale solar PV developments?**

13 A. I have lead site assessments, wetland and watercourse delineations and land use
14 permitting associated with solar projects or solar feasibility assessments within Connecticut,
15 Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

16 **Q. Please describe the likelihood of the Project's potential for adverse impacts to**
17 **coastal or fisheries resources.**

18 A. The Project is not likely to have an adverse impact on either coastal resources or fisheries
19 resources. The reason for this conclusion can best be explained by referring to Figure 1, *Coastal*
20 *Boundary Area, Elmridge Golf Course PV Solar Facility*, which can be found on the next page of my
21 testimony.



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1 **Q. Please describe Figure 1 and how this figure demonstrates that there is little likely**
2 **adverse impact to coastal or fisheries resources that will be associated with the**
3 **development of the Project.**

4 A. As you can see from Figure 1, the Project is located slightly northeast of the center of the
5 Figure, abutting Interstate 95. This places the Project area approximately 1.9-miles outside of the
6 nearest Coastal Boundary Area, which itself is an upland review areas of sorts for the town of
7 Stonington's coastal resources. This means that as far as the Project is concerned, it is not subject
8 to the legislative goals or policies of the Connecticut Coastal Management Act (CCMA) because
9 it is located too far away from such coastal resources to be expected to have an impact on such
10 resources.

11 Similarly, the proposed Project would not be expected to have adverse effects with respect to the
12 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") and potential Essential Fish Habitat
13 (EFH) matters. The reason for this is that the proposed Project does not involve either direct
14 wetland disturbance or work within Anguilla Brook. Therefore, the proposed Project is not
15 anticipated to affect the potential for finfish or shellfish habitat within Anguilla Brook. The closest
16 activity point to the Anguilla Brook is site grading, but such site grading will take place at least
17 375 feet from that watercourse. Additionally, by converting a portion of the maintained and
18 manicured golf course to passive solar panels, the Project will have an additional benefit of
19 reducing irrigation water withdrawals from the area, as well as reduce the total acreage of turf
20 grass maintenance, thus reducing the volume of fertilizer, pesticides, and insecticide application.

21 [REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed and delivered this testimony as of the date set forth above.

By: 
Name: Megan B. Raymond
Title: Principal Scientist

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
) SS: HARTFORD
COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

On this 24th day of September, 2020, before me, the undersigned, Megan B. Raymond, personally appeared via Zoom, and she is known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that she executed the same as her free act for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand.


Lee D. Hoffman
Commissioner of the Superior Court