

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

3
4 Petition No. 1422

5 Greenskies Clean Energy, LLC petition for a
6 declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut
7 General Statutes Section 4-176 and Section 16-50k,
8 for the proposed construction, maintenance and
9 operation of a 4.99-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic
10 electric generating facility to be located at
11 Mulnite Farms, Inc. off Barber Hill Road west of
12 the intersection with Rockville Road,
13 East Windsor, Connecticut and associated
14 electrical interconnection.

15
16 VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE

17
18 Public Comment Hearing held on Tuesday, February
19 23, 2021, beginning at 6:30 p.m. via remote
20 access.

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22 H e l d B e f o r e :

23 ROBERT SILVESTRI, Presiding Officer

24
25 Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s :**

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3 **Council Members:**

4 **ROBERT HANNON**

5 **Designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes**
6 **Department of Energy and Environmental**
7 **Protection**

8 **QUAT NGUYEN**

9 **Designee for Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillett**
10 **Public Utilities Regulatory Authority**

11 **JOHN MORISSETTE**

12 **MICHAEL HARDER**

13 **EDWARD EDELSON**

14 **Council Staff:**

15 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.**

16 **Executive Director and**
17 **Staff Attorney**

18
19 **MICHAEL PERRONE**

20 **Siting Analyst**

21 **CHRISTINA WALSH**

22 **Supervising Siting Analyst**

23
24 **LISA FONTAINE**

25 **Fiscal Administrative Officer**

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s: (Cont'd.)**

2
3 **For Greenskies Clean Energy, LLC:**

4 **PULLMAN & COMLEY, LLC**

5 **90 State House Square**

6 **Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3702**

7 **BY: LEE D. HOFFMAN, ESQ.**

8
9 **Greenskies Renewable Energy, LLC:**

10 **JEAN-PAUL Le MARCHE**

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14 **Also present: Aaron Demarest, Zoom host**

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21 ****All participants were present via remote access.**

22
23 ***** (Inaudible) (AUDIO INTERRUPTION) - denotes**
24 **breaks in speech due to interruptions in audio or**
25 **echo.**

1 MR. SILVESTRI: Good evening, everyone.
2 This remote public comment session is called to
3 order this Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 6:30
4 p.m. My name is Robert Silvestri, member and
5 presiding officer of the Connecticut Siting
6 Council.

7 Other members of the Council are
8 Mr. Robert Hannon, designee for Commissioner Katie
9 Dykes of the Department of Energy and
10 Environmental Protection, Mr. John Morissette,
11 Mr. Michael Harder, Mr. Edward Edelson.

12 Members of the staff are Melanie
13 Bachman, executive director and staff attorney;
14 Michael Perrone, siting analyst; Lisa Fontaine,
15 fiscal administrative officer.

16 As all are keenly aware, there is
17 currently a statewide effort to prevent the spread
18 of the Coronavirus. And this is why the Council
19 is holding this remote public hearing, and we ask
20 for your patience.

21 If you haven't done so already, I'll
22 ask that everyone please mute their computer audio
23 and/or telephone at this time.

24 This is a continuation of a remote
25 public hearing that began at 2 p.m. this

1 afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is
2 available on the Council's Petition No. 1422
3 webpage, along with the record of this matter, the
4 public hearing notice, instructions for public
5 access to this remote public hearing, and the
6 Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council
7 Procedures.

8 This hearing is held pursuant to the
9 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
10 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
11 Procedure Act upon a petition from Greenskies
12 Clean Energy, LLC for a declaratory ruling,
13 pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section
14 4-176 and Section 16-50k, for the proposed
15 construction, maintenance and operation of a
16 4.99-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric
17 generating facility to be located at Mulnite
18 Farms, Inc. off Barber Hill Road west of the
19 intersection with Rockville Road in East Windsor,
20 Connecticut. This petition was received by the
21 Council on July 20, 2020.

22 The Council's legal notice of the date
23 and time of this remote public hearing was
24 published in The Journal Inquirer on January 16,
25 2021. And upon this Council's request, the

1 petitioner erected a sign near the proposed access
2 road entering the subject property from Barber
3 Hill Road so as to inform the public of the name
4 of the petitioner, the type of facility, the
5 remote public hearing date, and contact
6 information for the Council.

7 Please be advised that the Council does
8 not issue permits for stormwater management. If
9 the proposed project is approved by the Council, a
10 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
11 Stormwater Permit is independently required. The
12 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
13 could hold a public hearing on any stormwater
14 permit application.

15 And please also be advised that the
16 Council's project evaluation criteria under the
17 statute does not include consideration of property
18 values.

19 This remote public comment session is
20 reserved for members of the public who signed up
21 in advance to make brief statements into the
22 record. The deadline for the public to sign up to
23 speak during the public comment session was
24 Tuesday, February 16, 2021. No member of the
25 public signed up to speak. And please be advised

1 that written comments may be submitted by any
2 person within 30 days of the public hearing.

3 At this time, I request the petitioner
4 to make a very brief presentation to the public
5 for those who are listening and watching that
6 describes the proposed facility.

7 And I believe, Mr. La Marche, you're
8 going to do that for us.

9 MR. HOFFMAN: Before he begins,
10 Mr. Silvestri, if I may?

11 MR. SILVESTRI: Yes, Attorney Hoffman.

12 MR. HOFFMAN: Apologies for the delay.
13 There was maintenance here at Pullman, and we lost
14 signal for a while.

15 But Mr. La Marche will do the
16 presentation. But as we discussed in the
17 evidentiary session, there was an error with the
18 document that Mr. La Marche will be using. So it
19 will say that it's Figure 6, but it's really
20 Figure 7, as we corrected during the evidentiary
21 session.

22 MR. SILVESTRI: I appreciate you
23 pointing that out again to us. Yes, it would be
24 Figure 7 with that correction as noted earlier
25 today.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: Outstanding. And with
2 that, I would ask that either Ms. Bachman, Mr.
3 Perrone or Ms. Fontaine put that up on the screen
4 so everybody can see the project.

5 MR. SILVESTRI: I think they could do
6 that.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Outstanding.

8 MR. SILVESTRI: There we go.

9 MR. HOFFMAN: Very good. Thank you.
10 Mr. La Marche, if you could lay out what the
11 project intends to do, that would be fantastic.

12 MR. La MARCHE: Thank you. So I am
13 Jean-Paul. I am the director of project
14 development for Greenskies Clean Energy. We are
15 the petitioner on this project.

16 Greenskies is based in North Haven,
17 Connecticut. We develop, finance, construct and
18 operate solar PV systems focused in the northeast
19 but also across the U.S. We have been operating
20 in Connecticut since about 2009 and manage over
21 230 megawatts of solar projects.

22 This hearing is for Petition No. 1422
23 which is a 5 megawatt AC solar PV generating
24 facility located at Barber Hill Road in East
25 Windsor. The project will use approximately 32

1 acres of a 39 acre parcel that is currently zoned
2 for and used as agricultural land.

3 The power generated on this site will
4 be interconnected and distributed through
5 Eversource's existing distribution grid which will
6 need minor upgrades from a single-phase conductor
7 to a three-phase conductor to accommodate this
8 project. Those costs will be paid for by the
9 project itself.

10 The proposed project will reduce the
11 CO2 emissions in comparison to standard energy
12 generation of an equivalent of removing 926
13 gas-power cars from the road. The project will
14 also include a vegetated screening buffer along
15 the main public viewshed of the public road to
16 limit visibility of the project to the public.

17 As the developer, we have conducted
18 many studies on site to ensure the project is
19 appropriately designed. The study types include
20 soil studies, birds, plants, wetlands, cultural
21 and historical. Both the Connecticut DEEP and the
22 State Historic Preservation Office have concluded
23 the project can move forward as designed without
24 having negative impacts, as well as the Department
25 of Agriculture. Along with the Department of

1 Agriculture, this project is listed as prime
2 farmland, and because of that, we are implementing
3 a plan to preserve the soils and agricultural use.

4 The project will be re-seeded with a
5 mixture of native and pollinator-friendly low
6 growing grasses and flowers throughout the project
7 footprint. And as the project operates, we will
8 incorporate an apiary for bees as well as
9 rotational sheep grazing to maintain the
10 agricultural use. And as I said earlier, the
11 Department of Agriculture has signed off on that
12 plan for the farmland use. And that's what I have
13 as an overview of the project.

14 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you, Mr. La
15 Marche, and thank you, Attorney Hoffman.

16 I just want to take a moment to talk
17 about public hearings, if you will. As many have
18 come to realize, remote public hearings are quite
19 different from in-person public hearings. For the
20 latter, members of the public could sign in, step
21 up to the podium and offer their comments. For
22 remote public hearings the process is different in
23 that the public is required to sign up to speak
24 prior to the published deadline for doing so in
25 order to provide Council staff with the time

1 necessary to facilitate connection provisions as
2 well as to initiate procedures and precautions to
3 prevent interruptions or, if you will, bombing of
4 the proceedings. So there are protocols,
5 procedures and consistency measures that are
6 followed as part of the remote public hearing
7 process. But I do want to mention that while no
8 member of the public signed up to speak beforehand
9 for this evening, written comments may be
10 submitted within 30 days of this public hearing.

11 Before closing the evidentiary record
12 of this matter, the Connecticut Siting Council
13 announces that briefs and proposed findings of
14 fact may be filed with the Council by any party or
15 intervenor no later than March 25, 2021. The
16 submission of briefs or proposed findings of fact
17 are not required by this Council, but rather, we
18 leave it to the choice of the parties and the
19 intervenors.

20 Anyone who has not become a party or
21 intervenor, but who desires to make his or her
22 views known to the Council, may file written
23 statements with the Council within 30 days of the
24 date hereof.

25 And the Council will issue draft

1 findings of fact, and thereafter parties and
2 intervenors may identify errors or inconsistencies
3 between the Council's draft findings of fact and
4 the record. However, no new information, no new
5 evidence, no argument, and no reply briefs,
6 without our permission, will be considered by the
7 Council.

8 Copies of the transcript of this
9 hearing will be filed at the East Windsor Town
10 Clerk's Office.

11 And I hereby declare this hearing
12 adjourned. I thank you all for your
13 participation, and please enjoy the evening.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, sir.

16 (Whereupon, the above proceedings
17 concluded at 6:40 p.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE OF REMOTE HEARING

2
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 12 pages
4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided
5 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken
6 of the Remote Public Comment Hearing in Re:
7 PETITION NO. 1422, GREENSKIES CLEAN ENERGY, LLC
8 PETITION FOR A DECLARATORY RULING, PURSUANT TO
9 CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, SECTION 4-176 AND
10 SECTION 16-50k, FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION,
11 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A 4.99-MEGAWATT AC
12 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY TO
13 BE LOCATED AT MULNITE FARMS, INC. OFF BARBER HILL
14 ROAD WEST OF THE INTERSECTION WITH ROCKVILLE ROAD,
15 EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT AND ASSOCIATED
16 ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION, which was held before
17 ROBERT SILVESTRI, Presiding Officer, on February
18 23, 2021.

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23 Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061
24 Court Reporter
25 BCT REPORTING, LLC
55 WHITING STREET, SUITE 1A
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06062