

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
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5 Petition No. 1426

6 East Windsor Solar One, LLC petition for a
7 declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut
8 General Statutes Section 4-176 and Section 16-50k,
9 for the proposed construction, maintenance and
10 operation of a 4.9-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic
11 electric generating facility located west of the
12 Ellington town boundary at 341 East Road,
13 East Windsor, Connecticut.
14

15 VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE
16

17 Public Comment Session held on Tuesday, March 2,
18 2021, beginning at 6:30 p.m. via remote access.
19

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

22 ROBERT SILVESTRI, Presiding Officer
23
24

25 Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061

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

2
3 **Council Members:**

4 **ROBERT HANNON**

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

8
9 **JOHN MORISSETTE**

10 **DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.**

11 **MICHAEL HARDER**

12 **EDWARD EDELSON**

13
14 **Council Staff:**

15 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.**

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

18
19 **CHRISTINA WALSH**

20 **Supervising Siting Analyst**

21
22 **LISA FONTAINE**

23 **Fiscal Administrative Officer**

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

2
3 **For East Windsor Solar One, LLC:**

4 **PULLMAN & COMLEY, LLC**

5 **90 State House Square**

6 **Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3702**

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

8
9 **Present from Verogy:**

10 **BRYAN FITZGERALD**

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12
13
14 **Also present: Aaron Demarest, Zoom host**

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

21
22 ***** (Inaudible) (AUDIO INTERRUPTION) - denotes**
23 **breaks in speech due to interruptions in audio or**
24 **echo.**

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

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

12 Members of the staff are Ms. Melanie
13 Bachman, executive director and staff attorney;
14 Ms. Christina Walsh, supervising siting analyst;
15 and Ms. Lisa Fontaine, fiscal administrative
16 officer.

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

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

25 This is a continuation of a remote

1 public hearing that began at 2 p.m. this
2 afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is
3 available on the Council's Petition No. 1426
4 webpage, along with the record of this matter, the
5 public hearing notice, instructions for public
6 access to this remote public hearing, and the
7 Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council
8 Procedures.

9 This hearing is held pursuant to the
10 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
11 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
12 Procedure Act upon a petition from East Windsor
13 Solar One, LLC for a declaratory ruling pursuant
14 to Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-176 and
15 Section 16-50k for the proposed construction,
16 maintenance and operation of a 4.9-megawatt AC
17 solar photovoltaic electric generating facility
18 located west of the Ellington town boundary at 341
19 East Road, East Windsor, Connecticut. The
20 petition was received by the Council on August 10,
21 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 19,
25 2021. Upon this Council's request, the petitioner

1 erected a sign at the access road entrance along
2 East Road so as to inform the public of the name
3 of the petitioner, the type of facility, the
4 remote public hearing date, and contact
5 information for the Council.

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

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

18 This remote public comment session is
19 reserved for members of the public who signed up
20 in advance to make brief statements into the
21 record. The deadline for the public to sign up to
22 speak during this public comment session was
23 Tuesday, February 23, 2021. No member of the
24 public signed up to speak. Please be advised that
25 written comments may be submitted by any person

1 within 30 days of this public hearing.

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

6 And I believe, Mr. Fitzgerald, would
7 you be doing that?

8 MR. FITZGERALD: Yes, Mr. Silvestri, I
9 will be.

10 MR. SILVESTRI: Please proceed.

11 MR. FITZGERALD: Okay. Fantastic.

12 Good evening, Mr. Silvestri, and members of the
13 Siting Council and staff. My name is Bryan
14 Fitzgerald. I'm the director of development for
15 Verogy and East Windsor Solar One. Thank you for
16 having us this evening to discuss Petition 1426,
17 East Windsor Solar One. You also see on the
18 screen there that was just shared a site plan of
19 the proposed facility which is specifically sheet
20 OP-1.

21 Verogy is a Hartford, Connecticut based
22 solar energy developer. Verogy develops,
23 finances, installs and operates solar energy
24 systems in the municipal, commercial and utility
25 scale markets with a primary focus in New England

1 and mid Atlantic regions.

2 Petition No. 1426 is East Windsor Solar
3 One and a 4.9 megawatt solar photovoltaic electric
4 generating system located at 341 East Road in East
5 Windsor, Connecticut. The proposed project would
6 occupy approximately 29.1 acres of the 75.99 acre
7 parcel located in East Windsor, Connecticut.

8 Access to the proposed project would
9 originate from East Road approximately 500 feet
10 south of the intersection of East and Middle Road.

11 The proposed project will feature a
12 landscaping buffer of approximately 200 evergreen
13 trees to be planted in between Middle Road and the
14 project's northern fence line.

15 Additionally, this northern fence line
16 has been designed to incorporate privacy slats and
17 be 8 feet tall in height. The western fence line,
18 or fence line between East Road and the project,
19 will also include privacy slats for individual
20 visual screening. Additional landscaping measures
21 are being considered for the western fence line at
22 this time as well.

23 East Windsor Solar One will consist of
24 19,344 solar modules to be mounted on a fixed tilt
25 racking system. DC electricity from the solar

1 panels will be converted to AC electricity via
2 string level inverters.

3 Renewable energy produced will be
4 delivered to a 23 kilovolt distribution circuit
5 that will be upgraded from single-phase to
6 three-phase by East Windsor Solar One. 100
7 percent of the cost to upgrade the existing
8 utility infrastructure will be borne by the
9 project.

10 East Windsor Solar One anticipates
11 electricity production to be approximately 9,362
12 megawatt hours per year. That's enough
13 electricity to power about 1,154 average homes
14 each year, and the project is expected to offset
15 approximately 6,620 metric tons of carbon dioxide
16 emissions annually.

17 Throughout the development of the
18 project, the petitioner completed a comprehensive
19 environmental assessment for the proposed project
20 and development area. Specific studies included
21 in this environmental assessment are wetland
22 delineation and vernal pool studies, phase 1A and
23 1B cultural resources assessments, as well as a
24 sign-off from the State Historic Preservation
25 Office, the consultation and final determination

1 from the Connecticut DEEP Natural Diversity Data
2 Base Division, and an FAA no hazard determination
3 on the project. Additionally, the proposed
4 project would comply with the air and water
5 quality standards of the Connecticut DEEP.

6 The project received approvals from
7 Connecticut DEEP and the Department of Agriculture
8 as it relates to the petition's requirements.
9 Under Connecticut General Statute 16-50k the
10 relevant agencies found no material impact to core
11 forest or no material impact to prime farmland.

12 East Windsor Solar One will support the
13 agricultural community through a livestock grazing
14 program. The grazing program will include a sheep
15 stocking rate of approximately three sheep per
16 acre. The sheep will graze the interior of the
17 array currently estimated at about 24 acres. The
18 flock of sheep will keep the land in agricultural
19 production while the array is operational and
20 producing renewable energy. The grazing program
21 will also be the primary source of vegetation
22 management and help maintain the vegetation in and
23 amongst the solar farm.

24 That concludes our overview of Petition
25 No. 1426 and East Windsor Solar One. Thank you.

1 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you, Mr.
2 Fitzgerald.

3 Just a note on remote public hearings.
4 As many have come to realize, remote public
5 hearings are quite different from in-person public
6 hearings. For the latter, members of the public
7 could sign in, step up to the podium and offer
8 their comments. For remote public hearings the
9 process is different in that the public is
10 required to sign up to speak prior to the
11 published deadline for doing so. And that's in
12 order to provide the Council staff with the time
13 necessary to facilitate connection provisions as
14 well as to institute procedures and precautions to
15 prevent interruption or call it "bombing," if you
16 will, of the proceedings. So there are protocols,
17 procedures and consistency measures that are
18 followed as part of the remote public hearing
19 process.

20 But again, while no member of the
21 public signed up to speak this evening, written
22 comments may be submitted within 30 days of this
23 public hearing. This leads us to closing.

24 Before closing the evidentiary record
25 of this matter, the Connecticut Siting Council

1 announces that briefs and proposed findings of
2 fact may be filed with the Council by any party or
3 intervenor no later than April 1, 2021.

4 The submission of briefs or proposed
5 findings of fact are not required by this Council,
6 rather we leave it to the choice of the parties
7 and intervenors. Anyone who has not become a
8 party or intervenor, but who desires to make his
9 or her views known to the Council, may file
10 written statements with the Council within 30 days
11 of the date hereof.

12 The Council will issue draft findings
13 of fact, and thereafter parties and intervenors
14 may identify errors or inconsistencies between the
15 Council's draft findings of fact and the record.
16 However, no new information, no new evidence, no
17 argument and no reply briefs without our
18 permission will be considered by the Council.

19 Copies of the transcript of this
20 hearing will be filed at the East Windsor and
21 Ellington Town Clerk's Offices.

22 And I hereby declare this hearing
23 adjourned. And I thank you all for your
24 participation and patience, and have a great
25 evening. Thank you.

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

2
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 13 pages
4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided
5 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken
6 of the Remote Public Comment Session in Re:
7 PETITION NO. 1426, EAST WINDSOR SOLAR ONE, 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 4.9-MEGAWATT AC
12 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY
13 LOCATED WEST OF THE ELLINGTON TOWN BOUNDARY AT 341
14 EAST ROAD, EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT, which was
15 held before ROBERT SILVESTRI, Presiding Officer,
16 on March 2, 2021.

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