



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Jason E. Bowsza  
First Selectman  
Town of East Windsor  
Town Hall  
11 Rye Street  
Broad Brook, CT 06016-0389  
[jbowsza@eastwindsorct.com](mailto:jbowsza@eastwindsorct.com)

RE: **PETITION NO. 1426** - East Windsor Solar One, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 4.9-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located west of the Ellington town boundary at 341 East Road, East Windsor, Connecticut and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear First Selectman Bowsza:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of the Town of East Windsor's (Town) correspondence dated March 2, 2021, concerning the above-referenced petition. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with your additional comments.

This petition was submitted to the Council on August 10, 2020. Under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA) an administrative agency is required to take an action on a petition within 60 days of receipt and render a final decision on a petition within 180 days of receipt. Governor Lamont's March 2020 Emergency Orders provide for a 90-day extension of statutory and regulatory deadlines for administrative agencies. The 60-day action deadline for this petition with the 90-day extension was January 7, 2021. The 180-day final decision deadline for this petition with the 90-day extension is May 7, 2021.

In response to the Town's December 1, 2020 request for a public hearing on the above-referenced petition and in compliance with the UAPA 60-day action deadline, as extended, at a public meeting held on December 17, 2020, the Council voted to hold a public hearing on this matter. A remote public hearing was held on March 2, 2021 for the benefit of the public. No member of the public signed up to speak at the public hearing. However, anyone may submit written statements to the Council until the public comment record closes. The public comment record closes on **April 1, 2021**.

Before reaching a final decision on a petition, the Council carefully considers all the facts contained in the evidentiary record that is developed by the Council, the petitioner, parties and intervenors in the proceeding, and all the concerns received from members of the public who speak at the public hearing or submit written statements to the Council.

Your additional comments shall become part of the official record in this matter in the form of a limited appearance defined under subsection (f) of Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n. Copies of your correspondence will be distributed to all participants in the proceeding.

Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this proceeding on our website at [www.portal.ct.gov/csc](http://www.portal.ct.gov/csc) under the “Pending Matters” link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this matter.

Sincerely,

*s/Melanie A. Bachman*

Melanie A. Bachman  
Executive Director

MAB/emr

c: Service List dated August 11, 2020  
Council Members



# **TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR**

FIRST SELECTMAN JASON E. BOWSZA

March 2, 2021

Melanie Bachman, Esq.  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Petition Number 1426

Attorney Bachman,

I am writing to relay concerns that have been brought to my office from neighbors in the vicinity of the property associated with Petition Number 1426.

As you know, East Windsor will soon host the Gravel Pit Solar project, the largest grid-scale solar development in New England. We understand the importance of the state's renewable energy goals and are happy to be a part of the solution.

However, the two projects are quite different in terms of the impact on homeowners. Whereas Gravel Pit Solar will have a minimal impact in terms of visibility, the same is not true for East Windsor Solar One. In fact, a new subdivision is in close proximity – and direct eye line – of the site proposed under this application. Many of those homeowners were not aware of the proposed project and its proposed location and are understandably upset.

The Town was able to reach an agreement with Gravel Pit Solar that was in the interests of all parties. The agreement included a tax stabilization agreement (guaranteeing revenue to the Town over the next twenty years or more), as well as consideration for aesthetic improvements and local labor. No such agreement has been reached with East Windsor Solar One, although conversations have taken place.

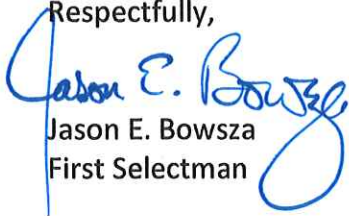
The other significant difference between the two projects pertains to the land intended to be used. In the case of Gravel Pit Solar, the main reason for the Town of East Windsor's support was that the project was to be built largely on an over-excavated gravel mine with limited alternative use which had become an attractive nuisance inviting illegal ATV use and other

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Melanie Bachman, Esq.  
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illicit activities. There was a clear public benefit to resolving those issues. The subject site under consideration in Petition Number 1426 is exclusively on farmland and near residential housing. No similar public benefit to the Town exists in this case.

Because of the lack of any revenue surety, and because of the concerns raised by homeowners in the area, the Town wishes to note that there is still work to be done to satisfy our needs and concerns regarding this project. If possible, the Town would request additional time to attempt to resolve outstanding concerns of the Town and the nearby residents with the applicant.

Respectfully,



Jason E. Bowsza  
First Selectman

Cc: State Senator Saud Anwar  
State Representative Jaime Foster