

Exhibit G

NDDB Determination Letter



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Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

June 29, 2020

Dean Gustafson
All-Points Technology Corporation, PC
567 Vauxhall Street Ext, Suite 311
Waterford, CT 06385
dgustafson@allpointstech.com

NDDB DETERMINATION NUMBER: 202006663

Project: Installation of commercial scale solar facility; Sunjet Bristol Solar, Matthew St. and Hill St. in Bristol, CT

Expiration: June 29, 2022

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) maps and files regarding this project. According to our records, the following State-listed species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) are documented nearby and may occur in the project area.

- **Savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) State Special Concern**
- **Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) State Special Concern**
- **Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) State Endangered**

Species specific protection measures are listed below.

In Connecticut, grasslands are among the most threatened and rare habitats. There are seven species of breeding grassland birds and that require grasslands as their primary habitat that are state listed in Connecticut. Most of Connecticut's grasslands would revert to forest without active management. Increasing development pressures on Connecticut's most important grassland habitats, exacerbates this loss of habitat through natural succession. The Savannah sparrow is most sensitive to disturbance between April 1- August 30. The Grasshopper sparrow and Bobolink are most sensitive to disturbance between May 1- August 30. Traffic and construction in suitable habitat should be avoided during this timeframe.

The continuing decline of suitable grassland habitats is a major threat to our state listed grassland bird species. The decline is exacerbated by the intense development pressure on grassland habitat due to its accessibility. Many grassland species require expansive tracts of grassland mosaics that may include mowed areas, meadows of tall grasses and wildflowers that function best if kept in 30 acre parcels. Work closely with a biologist to plan your development to have the least impact on state listed grassland bird species.

Site Design Protection Measures:

This facility will be built in a field that supports multiple state listed bird species. If planned properly, you can minimize the impacts of habitat loss from your development.

- **Create a site management plan to promote native vegetation growth in the area under the solar panels.** Restoring native vegetation that will attract pollinators and avoid the need for constant mowing will benefit state listed species at this site.

Site management protection measures:

Create a mowing plan for the property that will benefit the state listed birds.

Early successional habitat is important for these species and maintenance by mowing is essential. Unfortunately, mowing is major source of human induced nest failure.

- **Avoid mowing or vehicular traffic during peak use by these species (April 15-August 15)**
- Use these additional techniques to minimize impact, especially if you need to mow during peak use times:
 - Mower Speed – Mowing in low gear or at slow speeds will allow animals to react and move out of the field.
 - Unmowed Edge - Leave an unmowed field edge until after September 15th. Other sensitive wildlife are usually along field edges adjacent to forest and closest to nearby streams.
 - Mow on multiyear rotation (every 2- 3 years) in fields not used for high quality hay production, combine with chemical control of woody plants.
 - In intensively managed agricultural fields where mowing occurs during the bird-nesting season, strips and edges should be left unmowed to provide areas of food and cover.
 - For grasslands >10acres, limit total mowing to 50% each year. If mowing during active season, limit to 25% of area. If mowing during inactive season limit to 50% of area.
 - Mowing style: Avoid flail mower heads with guide bars that ride along the ground. Sickle bar mowers will have the least impact if mowing every 1-5 years.
 - Mowing height: If mowing during active season, retention of mowing stubble to 7-12 inches will reduce mortality, reduce blade wear, and will leave important cover for animals.
 - Directionality - If mowing during the active season is necessary, start mowing from the center of the field and use a back-and-forth approach, or large circular pattern, to avoid concentrating fleeing animals where they may be killed or stranded. In addition, leave an unmowed 30 ft strip around the perimeter of the field and mow this area last. Additionally,
 - If field is near stream: start mowing the side furthest from stream and work towards stream.
 - If field is bordered by woodland: start mowing side furthest from woodland and work towards woodland.
 - If field is bordered by road, start mowing next to the road and work your way across field.

This is determination is valid for two years.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Bureau of Natural Resources and cooperating units of DEEP, independent conservation groups, and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the NDDDB should not be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated in the NDDDB as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have any questions (shannon.kearney@ct.gov). Thank you for consulting with the Natural Diversity Data Base and continuing to work with us to protect State-listed species.

Sincerely,

/s/ Shannon B. Kearney
Wildlife Biologist

