



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 28, 2022

Jonathan H. Schaefer, Esq.
Robinson & Cole LLP
280 Trumbull Street
Hartford, CT 06103-3597
jschaefer@rc.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1443A** - SR North Stonington, LLC declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 9.9-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility on five parcels located north and south of Providence New London Turnpike (State Route 184), west of Boombridge Road and north of Interstate 95 in North Stonington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. **Partial Development and Management Plan.**

Dear Attorney Schaefer:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on October 27, 2022, the Council considered and approved the Partial Development and Management (D&M) Plan submitted for this facility on September 8, 2022.

This approval applies only to the Partial D&M Plan submitted on September 8, 2022, and other supplemental information received on October 19, 2022. Requests for any changes to the Partial D&M Plan shall be approved by Council staff in accordance with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-62(b).

Furthermore, the facility owner or operator is responsible for reporting requirements pursuant to RCSA §16-50j-62, including:

1. Quarterly construction progress reports;
2. Notification of completion of construction and site rehabilitation; and
3. Final Report.

Please be advised that deviations from the approved Partial D&M Plan and non-compliance with the D&M Plan reporting requirements are enforceable under Connecticut General Statutes §16-50u.

Enclosed is a copy of the staff report for this Partial D&M Plan, dated October 27, 2022.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melanie A. Bachman".

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/MP/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report, dated October 27, 2022

c: Service List, dated December 20, 2021



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Petition No. 1443A
SR North Stonington, LLC
Solar Facility – North Stonington
Partial Development & Management Plan I
Staff Report
October 27, 2022

Introduction

On May 13, 2022, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Declaratory Ruling to SR North Stonington, LLC (SRNS) for the construction, maintenance, and operation of an 8.35-megawatt (MW) AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility on approximately 126 acres comprised of four contiguous parcels in North Stonington (Project). The parcels are located generally south of Providence New London Turnpike (Route 184), west of Broombridge Road and north of Interstate 95 in North Stonington (collectively the Site).

In its Declaratory Ruling, the Council required SRNS to submit a Development and Management Plan (D&M Plan). On September 8, 2022, SRNS submitted a Partial D&M Plan (Phase I) that included site plans and documentation specific to the commencement of site clearing and grubbing to adhere to Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) clearing restriction from May 1 to August 14 associated with the red bat and hoary bat, special concern species listed on the Natural Diversity Database (NDDB), which may occur in the forested areas of the site. SRNS will submit an additional Partial D&M Plan (Phase II) with information required by the Council's Declaratory Ruling prior to the commencement of solar array construction.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-61(d), a copy of Phase I was provided to the service list, inclusive of the Town of North Stonington, on or about September 8, 2022. No comments were received.

On September 26, 2022, the Council issued interrogatories to SNRS. On October 19, 2022, SNRS submitted responses to the interrogatories, including documentation associated with site grading and fill; installation of temporary and permanent stormwater controls; and installation of erosion and sedimentation (E&S) controls.

Condition 1 of the Council's Declaratory Ruling required the following:

Submit a copy of a DEEP-issued Stormwater Permit prior to the commencement of construction activities that includes consultation with DEEP regarding the potential impacts of sheep grazing on the site, including, but not limited to, water quality impacts from animal waste.

SRNS submitted a copy of its DEEP-issued General Permit for Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities (GP). Construction activity, as defined in the GP, means *any activity and discharges associated with construction at a site or the site's preparation for construction, including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, pile driving, soil*

disturbance, soil compaction by construction equipment, staging and stockpiling, cleaning and washout, grading, excavation, and dewatering. SRNS consulted with the DEEP Stormwater Program regarding future sheep grazing at the Site. No site layout modifications associated with stormwater design were identified. Details regarding sheep grazing will be provided in Phase II.

Condition 2 of the Council's Declaratory Ruling required the following information to be included in the D&M Plan:

- a. A final site plan including, but not limited to, final facility layout, access roads, electrical interconnection including pole locations, fence design, equipment pads, stormwater management control structures, and final seed mix;**

As part of Phase I, SRNS will install the approximately 16-foot wide gravel access drive off of Route 184 to reach the Western Array Area. No upgrades to the existing farm access drive will be necessary for access to the Eastern Array Area.

Final site plans will be provided in Phase II.

- b. Final plans for intra-connection of the Western Array Area and the Eastern Array Area that crosses Wetland E;**

This information will be provided as part of Phase II.

- c. Consultation with Eversource to minimize the visibility of the electrical interconnection and submission of final design plans;**

This information will be provided as part of Phase II.

- d. Final plans for an aesthetic fence design for visual screening at 454 and 476 Providence New London Turnpike;**

This information will be provided as part of Phase II.

- e. A final sheep grazing plan that does not include rotational grazing in proximity to any dog kennel(s);**

This information will be provided as part of Phase II.

- f. Erosion and sedimentation control plan consistent with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Erosion and Sedimentation Control including, but not limited to, temporary sediment basin details, site stabilization seeding/growing season details prior to the installation of the post driving/racking system, site stabilization measures during construction, inspection and reporting protocols, methods for periodic cleaning of temporary sediment traps and swales during construction, and final cleaning of stormwater basins upon site stabilization;**

E&S Control Plans are included in Phase I Drawing Nos. C-501 through C-508. SRNS will install all of its E&S controls for the Project in accordance with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Erosion and Sedimentation Control and the DEEP GP.

Site stabilization measures are included in Phase I and indicated below in subsection g.

- g. Site construction detail/phasing plan including, but not limited to, construction laydown area, site clearing/grubbing, site grading, excess earth material disposal locations, site stabilization seeding/growing season details, soil stockpile locations, and a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan that is protective of groundwater resources;**

Phase I includes all of the tree clearing and grubbing within the Project Limits of Disturbance (LOD). The site was divided into two work areas: Eastern Array Area and Western Array Area. Tree clearing will commence along the existing farm access drive from Boombridge Road and will continue to the west to clear the entire Eastern Array Area LOD. Tree clearing within the Western Array Area LOD will be performed once the access drive for the Western Array Area is developed.

Trees will be cut to approximately two to three feet above ground level, and stumps will be removed. Chipping will be performed on-site, and then chips will be removed from the site.

The total tree clearing area is approximately 35 acres.

Site clearing activities may commence upon Council approval of Phase I and must be completed by April 30 to reduce potential impacts to the red bat and the hoary bat, consistent with the DEEP NDDDB-recommended tree clearing restriction from May 1 to August 14 for the Project. These special concern species may occur in the forested areas of the Site.

The construction entrance, tree protection fence, silt fence and stone outlets will be installed prior to any ground disturbance. All non-wooded areas that will not be graded (i.e. fields) will be mowed, but otherwise left undisturbed. Subsequent to grubbing of the disturbed areas, temporary seeding will be performed for stabilization. A final stabilization inspection will be performed after at least two growing seasons.

The project laydown area is located in the northwestern portion of the Western Array Area.

One soil stockpile location per array area is identified on Drawing C-501 of Phase I.

A Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan with contact information was included in Phase I.

- h. Final structural design for the solar module racking system stamped by a Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut; and**

This information will be provided as part of Phase II.

- i. Construction traffic control plan developed in consultation with the Town and State Department of Transportation, as applicable.**

This information will be provided as part of Phase II.

Conclusion

Phase I is consistent with the Council's D&O for Petition 1443A.