

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
3

4 Petition No. 1443A

5 SR North Stonington, 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 9.9-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic
10 electric generating facility on five parcels
11 located north and south of Providence New London
12 Turnpike (State Route 184), west of Boombridge
13 Road and north of Interstate 95 in North
14 Stonington, Connecticut, and associated electrical
15 interconnection.

16 ***

17 Reopening of this petition based on changed
18 conditions pursuant to Connecticut General
19 Statutes, Section 4-181a(b)

20 VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE

21 Public Comment Session held on Tuesday,
22 February 15, 2022, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
23 via remote access.

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

25 JOHN MORISSETTE, Presiding Officer

Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061

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

2 Council Members:

3 KENNETH COLLETTE, Designee for Commissioner
4 Katie Dykes, Department of Energy and
Environmental Protection

5 QUAT NGUYEN, Designee for Chairman Marissa
6 Paslick Gillett, Public Utilities Regulatory
Authority

7 ROBERT SILVESTRI
8 DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.
LOUANNE COOLEY

9 Council Staff:

10 MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.
11 Executive Director and Staff Attorney

12 MICHAEL PERRONE
Siting Analyst

13 LISA FONTAINE
14 Fiscal Administrative Officer

15 For Applicant, SR North Stonington, LLC:
ROBINSON & COLE LLP
280 Trumbull Street
16 Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597
17 BY: KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ.
JONATHAN H. SCHAEFER, ESQ.

18 For Party, Town of North Stonington:
19 SUISMAN, SHAPIRO, WOOL, BRENNAN, GRAY &
GREENBERG, P.C.
20 2 Union Plaza, Suite 200
P.O. Box 1591
21 New London, Connecticut 06320
BY: ROBERT A. AVENA, ESQ.

22 Also present: Ali Weaver, Silicon Ranch

23 Zoom co-host: Aaron Demarest

24
25 **All participants were present via remote access.

1 MR. MORISSETTE: This hearing is called
2 to order this Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 6:30
3 p.m. My name is John Morissette, member and
4 presiding officer of the Connecticut Siting
5 Council. Other members of the Council are Kenneth
6 Collette, designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes of
7 the Department of Energy and Environmental
8 Protection; Quat Nguyen, designee for Chairman
9 Marissa Paslick Gillett of the Public Utilities
10 Regulatory Authority; Robert Silvestri; Louanne
11 Cooley; and Daniel P. Lynch, Jr. Members of the
12 staff are Melanie Bachman, executive director and
13 staff attorney; Michael Perrone, siting analyst;
14 and Lisa Fontaine, fiscal administrative officer.

15 As everyone is aware, there is
16 currently a statewide effort to prevent the spread
17 of the Coronavirus. This is why the Council is
18 holding this remote public hearing, and we ask for
19 your patience. If you haven't done so already, I
20 ask that everyone please mute their computer audio
21 and telephones now.

22 This is a continuation of the remote
23 public hearing that began at 2 p.m. this
24 afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is
25 available on the Council's Petition 1443A webpage,

1 along with the record of this matter, the public
2 hearing notice, instructions for public access to
3 this remote public hearing, and the Citizens Guide
4 to Siting Council Procedures.

5 This hearing is held pursuant to the
6 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
7 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
8 Procedure Act upon a motion to reopen a petition
9 from SR North Stonington, LLC for a declaratory
10 ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes,
11 Section 4-176 and Section 16-50k, for the proposed
12 construction, maintenance and operation of a
13 9.9-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric
14 generating facility on five parcels located north
15 and south of Providence New London Turnpike, State
16 Route 184, west of Boombridge Road and north of
17 Interstate 95 in North Stonington, Connecticut,
18 and its associated electrical interconnection.

19 On December 16, 2021, the Council,
20 pursuant to a request filed by SR North
21 Stonington, LLC and the provisions of Connecticut
22 General Statutes, Section 4-181a(b), reopened the
23 Council's September 14, 2021 decision not to issue
24 a declaratory ruling in this matter.

25 The Council's legal notice of the date

1 and time of this remote public hearing was
2 published in the The Day on January 19, 2022.
3 Upon this Council's request, the petitioner
4 erected a sign near the proposed access road off
5 the southern side of Providence New London
6 Turnpike so as to inform the public of the name of
7 the petitioner, the type of facility, the remote
8 public hearing date, and contact information for
9 the Council, including website and phone number.

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

17 Please also be advised that the
18 Council's project evaluation criteria under the
19 statute does not include the consideration of
20 property values.

21 This remote public comment session is
22 reserved for members of the public signed up in
23 advance to make brief statements into the record.
24 These public statements are not subject to
25 questions from the parties or the Council, and

1 members of the public making statements may not
2 ask questions of the parties or the Council.
3 These public statements would become part of the
4 record for Council consideration. Please be
5 advised that written comments may be submitted by
6 any person within 30 days of this public hearing.

7 As a reminder to all, off-the-record
8 communication with a member of the Council or a
9 member of the Council staff upon the merits of
10 this petition is prohibited by law.

11 I wish to note that parties and
12 intervenors, including their representatives and
13 witnesses, are not allowed to participate in the
14 public comment session. I also wish to note for
15 those who are here and for the benefit of your
16 friends and neighbors who are unable to join us
17 for the public comment session that you or they
18 may send written comments to the Council within 30
19 days of the date hereof and such written comments
20 will be given the same weight as if spoken at the
21 hearing.

22 Please be advised that any person may
23 be removed from the remote public comment session
24 at the discretion of the Council.

25 Please be advised that the Council

1 cannot answer questions from the public about the
2 proposal.

3 A verbatim transcript of this remote
4 public hearing will be posted on the Council's
5 Petition No. 1443A webpage and deposited at the
6 North Stonington Town Clerk's Office for the
7 convenience of the public.

8 At this time, I request the petitioner
9 to make a brief presentation to the public
10 describing the proposed facility.

11 Ms. Weaver.

12 MS. WEAVER: Good evening. My name is
13 Ali Weaver, and I'm the director of project
14 development for Silicon Ranch for which North
15 Stonington is a wholly-owned subsidiary of.

16 In December, SR North Stonington filed
17 a motion to reopen our solar project by showing a
18 number of changed conditions for the Siting
19 Council's consideration. Based on and consistent
20 with Council's deliberations on the project at the
21 hearings that occurred in June and July of 2021,
22 we made the following modifications which are, the
23 layout is shown before you here as attachment A.

24 Most notably, we removed Array 1 and
25 Array 2 on the north side of Providence New London

1 Turnpike, so the entire development now is south
2 of State Route 184 there, Providence New London.

3 In the western array, which was
4 previously referred to as Array 3, we relocated
5 the access road in the western array from the
6 eastern edge of the limits of disturbance to the
7 center of the limits of disturbance, thus reducing
8 the amount of access road length.

9 We've also reduced the laydown yard to
10 just under half of an acre, and also added two
11 rows of panels within the reduced laydown yard
12 area to increase the distance from the property
13 line to panels in the eastern array.

14 In addition, in the eastern array,
15 increasing the distance of the panels, we've also
16 shifted the limits of disturbance, the location of
17 the security fence, and added a wooden fence to
18 one of the abutters.

19 We've also adjusted the access road
20 west of Wetland B to follow the existing access
21 road there, and thus by shifting it further south
22 of the property line.

23 Thank you for the opportunity to review
24 the changes that have been made to this project
25 layout.

1 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Ms. Weaver.

2 Just a note on remote public hearings.

3 Remote public hearings are quite different from
4 in-person public hearings. For in-person public
5 hearings members of the public could sign up, sign
6 in, and go to the podium and offer their comments.
7 For remote public hearings the public is required
8 to sign up to speak in advance in order to provide
9 the Council staff with the time necessary to
10 facilitate connection precautions and to prevent
11 interruptions, or in common terms, bombings of the
12 proceedings. These are protocols, procedures and
13 consistency measures that are followed as part of
14 the remote public hearing process.

15 Again, written comments may be
16 submitted within 30 days of this public hearing.

17 We'll now call upon Catherine Maxwell
18 to make a public statement. Catherine Maxwell,
19 please.

20 (No response.)

21 MR. MORISSETTE: Unfortunately, I do
22 not see Catherine Maxwell on the screen to provide
23 her statement. We'll give her a minute.

24 Catherine Maxwell?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. MORISSETTE: Unfortunately,
2 Catherine Maxwell is not with us to give a public
3 statement, but she is allowed to provide written
4 comments within 30 days of this public hearing.
5 If anyone on the Zoom hearing would pass that
6 along to her, we will certainly accept her written
7 comments within 30 days of this public hearing.

8 We will now close the hearing. Before
9 closing this hearing, the Connecticut Siting
10 Council announces that briefs and proposed
11 findings of fact may be filed with the Council by
12 any party or intervenor no later than March 17,
13 2022. The submission of briefs or proposed
14 findings of fact are not required by this Council,
15 rather, we leave it to the choice of the parties
16 and intervenors.

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

22 The Council will issue draft findings
23 of fact, and thereafter parties and intervenors
24 may identify errors or inconsistencies between the
25 Council's draft findings of fact and the record.

1 However, no new information, no new evidence, no
2 arguments, and no reply briefs without permission
3 will be considered by the Council.

4 A copy of the transcript of this
5 hearing will be filed at the North Stonington Town
6 Clerk's Office.

7 I hereby declare this hearing
8 adjourned, and thank you everyone for your
9 participation. Have a good evening.

10 (Whereupon, the above proceedings
11 concluded at 6:41 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE FOR REMOTE HEARING

I hereby certify that the foregoing 11 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original stenotype notes taken before the Connecticut Siting Council of the REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION IN RE: PETITION NO. 1443A, SR NORTH STONINGTON, LLC PETITION FOR A DECLARATORY RULING, PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 4-176 AND SECTION 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. REOPENING OF THIS PETITION BASED ON CHANGED CONDITIONS PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, SECTION 4-181a(b), which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, PRESIDING OFFICER, on February 15, 2022.



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