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April 12, 2021

***VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
AND FEDERAL EXPRESS***

*Melanie.bachman@ct.gov
Siting.council@ct.gov*

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

Re: Petition No. 1444

Dear Attorney Bachman:

This office represents CP NB Solar I, LLC and CP NB Solar II, LLC (“Petitioners”). On behalf of Petitioners, I have enclosed one copy of the following supplemental filing:

- Letter from Mr. Ronald Walters, Senior Environmental Analyst at the Regional Water Authority providing comments in connection with Petition No. 1444.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jesse A. Langer', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jesse A. Langer

Enclosure

March 31, 2021

Ms. Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain CT 06501

Re: Petition 1444 - Petition for a Declaratory Ruling: CP NB Solar I, LLC and CP NB Solar II, LLC, 127 Forest Road, North Branford

Dear Ms. Bachman:

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a non-profit public water utility providing approximately 43 million gallons per day of drinking water to some 430,000 consumers in the greater New Haven region. The source of this water is a system of watersheds and aquifers that covers about 120 square miles within 24 municipalities. We own over 27,000 acres of land, the vast majority of which is held as forestland for the protection of our public water supply sources.

The approximately 10-acre site for the proposed 1 MW and 0.97 MW solar arrays is within the watershed of the Farm River, which is diverted to the RWA's Lake Saltonstall public water supply reservoir. In addition to reviewing the petition and associated documents, we conducted a site walk with the applicant's representatives on March 24th.

As proposed, no tree clearing or stump removal will be necessary to construct the solar arrays, and the project site is well buffered from the two nearest wetland areas (>100 feet). With the exception of a new access road and a temporary sediment basin, no grading will be required to facilitate this project. Conversion of the site from a cultivated field to a permanent vegetated meadow will benefit water quality through reduced sediment transport and by eliminating the need for fertilizer and pesticide applications. Based on our review of the proposal we have the following comments:

1. We recommend the applicant develop a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan for the construction phase of the project to minimize the risks associated with hazardous material spills, including but not limited to the following Best Management Practices:
 - a. During construction, all fuel, oil, and other hazardous materials should be stored in a secondary container. No hazardous material containers should be stored on site during non-work hours, unless secured in a locked indoor area with an impervious floor;
 - b. A description of equipment refueling procedures to minimize the risks of spills, including a map showing dedicated areas for refueling sited to maximize distance from wetlands, watercourses, and drainage systems;

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- c. Spill kits with absorbent spill response material should be available at the construction site at all times to clean up potential spills of hazardous materials such as gasoline and oil;
 - d. Procedures should be in place to ensure notification of spills to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), such as signs, written materials, and project construction meetings. This should also include notification of the RWA's Control Room at **203-401-2629**, which is staffed 24/7.
2. Section 19-13-B102(b) of the Connecticut Public Health Code requires water companies to perform inspections of properties within public water supply watersheds and aquifers. We request that any project approval be conditioned upon the RWA receiving notification of the construction start date and being granted reasonable access to the property for watershed inspection purposes;
3. The most significant soil disturbance proposed for project construction appears to be associated with the temporary sediment basin on the northwest corner of the site. This in itself could be a source of erosion and sedimentation, unless it can be fully vegetated and stabilized before any significant storm events following installation. The topography in this location forms a natural depression and it may be feasible to use near or above-grade materials to construct the walls of the basin with lesser need for soil excavation and grading. We would support efforts by the applicant for such an alternate design provided it meets the intent of the Connecticut Guidelines for Sediment and Erosion Control.
4. We endorse the efforts of the property owner to use the revenue from the lease of the property to investigate and remediate the solid waste violations located on the parcel to west of the project site. In support of our ongoing watershed management efforts, we would appreciate receiving copies of future reports and relevant correspondence documenting the progress of such actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. If you have any questions, please email me at rwalters@rwater.com.

Sincerely,

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY



Ronald Walters
Senior Environmental Analyst

cc. Brad Parsons, P.E., All Points Technology
Cela Sinay-Bernie, Citrine
Lori Mathieu, DPH
Thomas RisCassi, DEEP
Peter DeSantis, RPB
William Agresta, North Branford Town Planner
John Hudak, RWA