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September 28, 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. 1460

Dear Attorney Bachman:

This office represents Greenskies Clean Energy, LLC ("Greenskies"). On behalf of Greenskies, I have enclosed one original and fifteen hardcopies of their responses to the first set of interrogatories issued by the Connecticut Siting Council

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

Jesse A. Langer

Enclosures

STATE OF CONNECTICUT CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

PETITION OF GREENSKIES CLEAN:ENERGY, LLC FOR A DECLARATORY:RULING THAT A CERTIFICATE OF:ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY:AND PUBLIC NEED IS NOT REQUIRED:

PETITION NO. 1460

September 28, 2021

PETITIONER'S RESPONSES TO THE FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES BY THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Greenskies Clean Energy, LLC ("Petitioner") respectfully submits the following responses and

non-privileged documentation to the First Set of Interrogatories issued by the Connecticut Siting

Council ("Council") in connection with the above-captioned matter.

General

1. Referencing Petition pp. 19-20, of the letters sent to abutting property owners, how many certified mail receipts were received? If any receipts were not returned, which owners did not receive their notice? Were any additional attempts made to contact those property owners.

Petitioner received certified mail receipts from seven of the ten abutting properties. The three property owners for which Petitioner did not receive certified mail receipts include: Donna and Richard Weigold, 162 Bunker Hill Road W. Cornwall, Connecticut; Roy S. Walzer, P.O. Box 577, 10 South Street, Litchfield, Connecticut; and the Cornwall Conservation Trust, *c/o* Barton Jones, P.O. Box 74, W. Cornwall, Connecticut. On August 17, 2021, counsel for Petitioner received an email from Mr. Jones indicating that the Cornwall Conservation Trust "received the notice" concerning the proposed project. Mr. Jones' communication did not include any substantive comments on the proposed project. On September 14, 2021, Petitioner mailed a second round of certified notices to those three abutters, including the Cornwall Conservation Trust. Petitioner has since received a certified mail receipt from Mr. Walzer, but not from the Weigolds or the Cornwall Conservation Trust.

2. Since the filing of notice to abutters, did the Petitioner receive any abutter or neighbor comments on the proposal? If so, provide a summary of the comments received.

To the best of Petitioner's knowledge, Petitioner has not received any comments from any abutter or neighbor since the filing of notice to abutters. 3. What is the estimated cost of the Project?

Petitioner respectfully objects to this interrogatory as it exceeds the scope of a petition under General Statutes § 16-50k. Subject to this objection, Petitioner responds as follows: The estimated cost of the Project is approximately \$6 million.

Project Development

4. If the project is approved, identify all permits necessary for construction and operation and which entity will hold the permit(s).

If approved by the Council, Petitioner would also need to obtain from the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection ("DEEP"), a General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities ("General Permit"), as well as construction permits from the host municipality, specifically building and electrical permits.

5. Does the Petitioner have a contract with Eversource to sell the electricity and renewable energy certificates (RECs) it expects to generate with the proposed project?

Petitioner respectfully objects to this interrogatory as it exceeds the scope of a petition under General Statutes § 16-50k. Subject to this objection, Petitioner responds as follows: Yes. Petitioner was a successful bidder into the Shared Clean Energy Facility ("SCEF") Statewide Program administered by the State's Electric Distribution Companies and overseen by DEEP and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority ("PURA"). *See* Public Act 18-50 and PURA Docket No. 19-07-01. The SCEF Program represents a commitment by the State to meet ambitious goals for greater greenhouse gas emission reductions through the promotion of grid-scale renewable energy. Pursuant to its successful bid into the SCEF Program, Petitioner has executed a long term SCEF Tariff Terms Agreement ("Agreement") with The Connecticut Light and Power Company *d/b/a* Eversource Energy ("Eversource") for a twenty year term. Pursuant to the Agreement, and if approved by the Council, Petitioner would sell to Eversource the project's installed capacity of Four Megawatts ("MW") Alternating Current ("AC"), along with the environmental attributes, *i.e.*, the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) associated with that output.

6. What authority approves the power purchase agreement (PPA) for the facility? Has a PPA with Eversource been executed? If so, at what alternating current megawatt output? If not, when would the PPA be finalized?

Petitioner respectfully objects to this interrogatory as it exceeds the scope of a petition under General Statutes § 16-50k. Subject to this objection, Petitioner responds as follows: The PURA approved the terms of the Agreement template in Docket No. 19-07-01, which represents the terms for successful bidders in the first year of the SCEF Program. The Agreement obligates Eversource to purchase no more than four MW AC, which is the installed capacity pursuant to the Agreement. 7. Referring to Petition p. 4, is the entire power output from the facility enrolled within the Shared Clean Energy Facilities (SCEF) program? If not, what percentage is enrolled within the SCEF program?

Petitioner respectfully objects to this interrogatory as it exceeds the scope of a petition under General Statutes § 16-50k. Subject to this objection, Petitioner responds as follows: Yes, the installed capacity is four MW AC, which is the amount of output Eversource is obligated to purchase from Petitioner over the twenty year term of the Agreement.

8. If the PPA/SCEF term expires and is not renewed and the solar facility has not reached the end of its lifespan, will the Petitioner decommission the facility or seek other revenue mechanisms for the power produced by the facility?

Petitioner respectfully objects to this interrogatory as it exceeds the scope of a petition under General Statutes § 16-50k. Subject to this objection, Petitioner responds as follows: Petitioner's decision about the future of the project after the expiration of the Agreement would depend on the availability of extensions under the SCEF program or its successor program, if applicable, or the availability of other revenue mechanisms whether contractual or regulatory.

9. Would the Petitioner participate in the ISO-NE Forward Capacity Auction? If yes, which auction(s) and capacity commitment period(s)?

No.

Proposed Site

10. In the lease agreement with the property owner, are there any provisions related to site restoration at the end of the project's useful life? If so, please provide any such provisions.

Petitioner respectfully objects to this interrogatory as it exceeds the scope of a petition under General Statutes § 16-50k. Subject to this objection, Petitioner responds in the affirmative.

The removal provision in the operative lease requires Petitioner to "[r]emove the [project], including the Site Improvements and Infrastructure owned by [Petitioner] and solar panels owned by third parties. Such removal shall be completed within six (6) months following the expiration of the full term of this Agreement, during which time [Petitioner] shall be subject to all terms and conditions in this Lease with respect to access and said removal as if still a tenant."

Petitioner would also adhere to the decommissioning plan appended to the Petition as Appendix D in complying with the removal obligations contained in the operative lease. 11. Is the site parcel, or any portion thereof, part of the Public Act 490 Program? If so, how does the municipal land use code classify the parcel(s)? How would the project affect the use classification?

Petitioner respectfully objects to this interrogatory as it exceeds the scope of a petition under General Statutes § 16-50k. Subject to this objection, Petitioner responds as follows: Yes, portions of the site parcel are classified as PA 490 land. The municipal land use code classifies portions of the site parcel as "Single Family," "Tillable D," "Pasture," and "Forest" of which the latter three are classified as 490 land. It is unclear at this time how the project would affect the status of those portions of the project area classified as 490 land. Portions of the project would be available for agricultural co-use activities by the property owners. *See* Appendix E-1 and Figure 12 to the Petition. Additionally, the proposed project would require minimal tree removal, primarily within the field/pasture areas, which might not impact the "Forest" classification.

12. Has the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture purchased any development rights for the project site or any portion of the project site as part of the State Program for the Preservation of Agricultural Land?

No.

13. Provide the distance, direction and address of the nearest property line from the solar field perimeter fence.

The nearest property line from the solar field facility perimeter fence is the western property line, which is sixty-five feet from the northwest corner of the perimeter fence at the closest point. The address of this property is 77 Johnson Road, Cornwall, Connecticut, 06796.

Energy Output

14. What, if any, electrical loss assumptions have been factored into the output of the facility?

Yes, Petitioner has factored standard loss assumptions into the system production analysis. At the point of interconnection, the array has a maximum output capacity of four MW AC.

15. What is the efficiency of the photovoltaic module technology of the proposed project?

Module efficiency, as provided by the manufacturer on the specification sheet, is up to 20.5 percent. The module efficiency rating measures the percentage of sunlight that hits the modules and is converted into usable electricity.

16. Would the power output of the solar panels decline as the panels age? If so, estimate the percentage per year.

According to manufacturer specifications, first year degradation of module output is no more than 2 percent and subsequent annual degradation is no more than 0.45 percent.

17. Could the project be designed to serve as a microgrid?

No. The current design of the project would not allow it to serve as a microgrid. A microgrid would require a battery storage capability to be coupled with solar, which is not contemplated under the current design.

18. If one section of the solar array experiences electrical problems causing the section to shut down, could other sections of the system still operate and transmit power to the grid? By what mechanism are sections electrically isolated from each other?

Yes. Sections of modules throughout the array are connected to multiple inverters. An inoperable inverter does not impede the functionality of other inverters.

19. What is the projected capacity factor (expressed as a percentage) for the proposed project?

Projected capacity factor for the proposed project is 14.9 percent. This is based on AC MWh to DC MWh and expressed as:

Capacity factor (%) = (production in kWh) / (system size kWdc * 8760) * (100)

20. Is the project being designed to accommodate a potential future battery storage system? If so, please indicate the anticipated size of the system, where it may be located on the site, and the impact it may have on the PPA.

No. Petitioner has not designed the project to accommodate a potential future battery storage system.

Site Components and Solar Equipment

21. Is the wiring from the panels to the inverters installed on the racking? If wiring is external, how would it be protected from potential damage from weather exposure, vegetation maintenance, or chewing animals?

Photovoltaic wire is typically run on, and supported by, the racking. The specified wiring is typically UV rated to protect from degradation from sun exposure. If a jumper is required (*e.g.*, when DC wiring must go from one row to the next) or when a run must go from the racking to the inverter, or row to row, the wire is typically run through conduit. Such conduit is buried and comprised of PVC.

Interconnection

22. Is the project interconnection required to be reviewed by ISO-NE?

It is unknown at this time whether ISO-NE will require any level of transmission study for the proposed project. Eversource is waiting to hear from ISO-NE and Petitioner is waiting for a response from Eversource.

23. Referring to Petition p. 10, what is the status of the feasibility study?

Eversource completed the Feasibility Study and provided it to Petitioner, along with the Impact Study Agreement ("ISA"). Petitioner reviewed and executed the ISA and submitted it to Eversource, along with the required fee. Once all items are received by Eversource, the study is expected to take up to forty-five days to complete.

Public Safety

24. In the event of a brush or electrical fire, how would the Petitioner mitigate potential electric hazards that could be encountered by emergency response personnel?

Petitioner does not anticipate that the project would result in an increased risk of brush or electrical fire. To ensure the public safety, Petitioner has prepared an Emergency Response Plan, which is included in the Operation & Maintenance Plan appended to the Petition as Appendix C. In the unlikely event of a brush or electrical fire, the array can be shut down via system disconnects onsite. Petitioner would engage first responders, trained to handle such an event, and notify Eversource. Typically, when a project is nearing completion and final inspection, the local Fire Marshall will walk the site to inspect signage, site access in case of emergency, emergency shutoff disconnect locations and anything relevant to their response of an event. Petitioner expects that such a walk-through would happen for the proposed project. 25. Referring to Petition Appendix F, what are the results of the TCLP test? Based on the limited information provided, are the panels required to be disposed of as hazardous waste under current regulatory criteria if they are not recycled? If the project is approved, would the Petitioner consider installing solar modules that are not classified as hazardous waste through TCLP testing?

Petitioner has not yet finalized the panels to be used for this project. The modules currently contemplated for the project are produced by Canadian Solar. Their product has passed the TCLP test. Thus, the modules currently contemplated are not considered hazardous waste. Petitioner intends to recycle the modules in accordance with the submitted decommissioning plan. Petitioner would consider installing TCLP approved panels if the final modules need to be adjusted from the current version.

Environmental

26. What is the distance from both Wetland 1 and Wetland 2 to the nearest point of the limit of disturbance?

The distance from the nearest point of the limit of disturbance to Wetland 1 is seventyseven feet, located at the northeast corner of the site. The distance from the nearest point of the limit of disturbance to Wetland 2 is twenty-two feet, due to the overhead electrical service installation proposed in the southwest area of the site.

27. What effect would runoff from the drip edge of each row of solar panels have on the site drainage patterns? Would channelization below the drip edge be expected? If not, why not?

Petitioner anticipates that runoff from the drip edge of the panels would have little to no effect on the site drainage patterns, recognizing that slopes within the site are gentle. Most of the slopes would remain undisturbed except within the swale and stormwater basin areas, and in isolated areas to reduce mounds along the roadway and in areas of tree clearing. In addition, a number of panels are oriented along the slope.

28. Site Plan SD-1 specifies a North American Green S150 Erosion Control Blanket (ECB) which uses polypropylene netting. Would the Petitioner be willing to use a 100 percent natural fiber ECB at the site?

Petitioner has modeled the proposed project utilizing synthetic netting as the proposed ECB, as is typical on such projects. If there is a compelling reason or rationale for switching to a 100 percent natural fiber ECB at the site, Petitioner is willing to do so.

29. According to the soil borings, groundwater was encountered at a depth of 4 feet in the area of the proposed stormwater basin. As designed, would the stormwater basin retain water during the Spring due to an elevated water table? If so, what measures, if any, can be deployed to prevent the stormwater basin from acting as a decoy pool for vernal obligate species?

Petitioner designed the stormwater basin so it would be regraded to minimize intrusion into the seasonal high water elevation. The estimated seasonal high groundwater elevation is 1,561 based on the test pit dug in the east end of the stormwater basin area. The lowest elevation of the stormwater basin is 1561.0 and Petitioner does not anticipate that the stormwater basin would retain water for long durations during periods of seasonal high water.

Facility Construction

30. 21 Referring to Petition p. 11, describe any recommendations, comments or concerns about the project provided by the DEEP Stormwater Division and how those issues were addressed.

As a follow-up to the pre-application meeting, the DEEP confirmed that the project would require a General Permit. In addition, the Dam Safety division noted while the project does not require a Dam Safety permit, due to negligible risk of downstream hazard, the stormwater basin (a Class AA dam) must be registered with Dam Safety; the appropriate form was provided.

Other recommendations included: (1) a robust planting plan with pollinator mix for areas of the site where a 100 foot buffer to delineated wetlands cannot be maintained; (2) agricultural co-use of the land; (3) the use of pollinator species throughout the project site for stabilization; and (4) consideration of the use of modules that have passed the TCLP test as they might lessen decommissioning costs. Petitioner has incorporated these recommendations into the design of the proposed project. With regard to recommendation (1), Petitioner would seed the stormwater basin with a pollinator mix, as well as any areas along the western side of the access road and fence that might fall within the wetland buffer. The fence along the eastern project area is also sited just within the 100 foot buffer, however, installation of the fence should not result in a loss of or change to vegetation. As part of the agricultural co-use plan, grapes would be planted along a portion of the fence within what is currently considered meadow. See also Petitioner's response to Interrogatory No. 25.

31. The Site Plans specify a 14-foot wide aisle between the rows of panels. Detail Sheet SD-2 depicts a 13-foot wide aisle. Please clarify.

Petitioner designed the aisles between the rows of panels to be fourteen feet wide. Petitioner has revised Detail Sheet SD-2 to show the correct width, which is appended hereto as <u>Attachment 1</u>. 32. What are cut and fills for the proposed project? If there is excess cut, where would it be disposed of?

There would be approximately 2,115 cubic yards of cut for the project associated with the stormwater management basin grading and installation of the gravel access road. The contractor would be responsible for disposing of excess material off-site, if necessary, in accordance with applicable law.

33. Clarify proposed construction hours/work days as differing times/days were provided in the Petition.

As noted in Petition Section 3.4 – Construction Schedule and Phasing, Petitioner anticipates the following expected/tentative construction schedule: Monday through Friday between 7:30 AM. and 5:30 PM. If weekend hours are required, then Petitioner would implement a modified schedule of 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. As noted in Petition Section 6.2 – Public Health and Safety, construction activity and associated traffic would take place generally within the hours of 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM daily Monday through Fridays. This is also reflected in Figure 8 of the Petition.

34. Did the Connecticut Airport Authority comment on the Glare Analysis? If so, provide the comments.

No. Petitioner has not received any response from the Connecticut Airport Authority with regard to the Glare Analysis.

Facility Maintenance

35. Would the Petitioner store any replacement modules on-site? If so, is a shed or similar structure proposed? In what location?

No.

36. Would pesticides/herbicides be used at the site? If so, what protocols would be followed?

No.

37. Would heavy accumulations of snow or ice be removed from the panels to maintain power output?

Typically, this style of system does not suffer from snow accumulation on the modules due to the tilt. In the event of minimal buildup, Petitioner typically does not remove the snow because the system is already in its lowest production months and projections for the output of the system take into account snow loss in snowy regions. If snow removal is required, then Petitioner would use soft window cleaning brushes to remove snow from the modules. Respectfully submitted by,

GREENSKIES CLEAN ENERGY, LLC

On A. M

By: ____

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ATTACHMENT 1

(Revised Detail Sheet SD-2)









PLACEMENT ON SITE. THE CONCRETE WASHOUT AREA SHALL BE ENTIRELY

SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PLAN AND SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE ENGINEER.

ANY STREAM, WETLAND, STORM DRAINS, OR OTHER SENSITIVE RESOURCE. THE FLOOD CONTINGENCY PLAN MUST ADDRESS THE CONCRETE WASHOUT IF THE WASHOUT IS TO BE LOCATED WITHIN THE FLOODPLAIN.

AND CONCRETE WASTE GENERATED BY WASHOUT OPERATIONS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH GROUT AND MORTAR.

AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE CONCRETE WASHOUT AREA FOR CONTAINMENT. 4. SIGNS SHOULD BE PLACED AT THE CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE, AT THE

THE LOCATION OF THE CONCRETE WASHOUT TO OPERATORS OF CONCRETE TRUCKS AND PUMP RIGS. WASHOUT AREA(S) SHOULD BE FLAGGED WITH SAFETY FENCING OR OTHER APPROVED METHOD.

STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY, ADEQUATE HOLDING CAPACITY AND CHECKED FOR LEAKS, TEARS, OR OVERFLOWS. (AS REQUIRED BY THE CONSTRUCTION SITE ENVIRÓNMENTAL INSPECTION REPORT) WASHOUT AREA(S) SHOULD BE CHECKED AFTER HEAVY RAINS.

WHEN THE WASTE HAS ACCUMULATED TO HALF OF THE CONCRETE WASHOUT'S HEIGHT. THE WASTE CAN BE STORED AT AN UPLAND LOCATION, AS APPROVED BY THE ENGINEER. ALL CONCRETE WASTE SHALL BE DISPOSED OF IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND