



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Office of the Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer



March 16, 2022

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

Re: Enfield Solar One, LLC – 110 North Street, Enfield

Dear Executive Director Bachman:

Pursuant to 16-50k(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, we have reviewed the above cited project with respect to agricultural impacts, specifically, to determine whether "...such project will not materially affect the status of such land as prime farmland..."

This project will be located at 110 North Street in Enfield, on land owned by the Catholic Cemeteries Association. The project consists of a single parcel which is 73.88 acres in size. The parcel contains 48.6 acres of prime farmland, and there are approximately 15.6 acres of prime farmland within the project area (approximately 32 percent of the prime farmland on the parcel). The developers state that there is no production agriculture currently conducted within the project footprint.

In a letter to the Department of Agriculture (DoAg), dated September 28, 2021 and follow-up correspondence dated February 4, 2022, the developers (Verogy) have stated that they intend to develop this project with co-uses which include creation of pollinator habitat and rotational sheep grazing. Preliminary details of these co-uses are represented to the Department as follows:

- 1) Verogy will be implementing a rotational grazing system. The site will be stocked with sheep at a density that would adequately manage the vegetative growth of grasses and forbs within the perimeter fence at the site;
- 2) Verogy has also stated that a Connecticut based farmer would manage the grazing program. A draft Sheep Grazing Plan, prepared by Verogy, in conjunction with Agrivoltaic Solutions LLC, is attached to the aforementioned letter from the developers; and
- 3) Verogy intends to use a seed mix that is developed specifically for a combination of sheep grazing and pollinator habitats, one that will address the nutritional needs of the sheep while also providing nectar for native pollinator species. This would likely be a seed mix developed by Ernst Conservation Seeds, called the "Fuzz & Buzz" mix.

Based on preliminary information provided to DoAg (enclosed), and the successful implementation of the co-uses and continuing farming activities described above, the Department of Agriculture concludes this project will not materially affect the status of project land as prime farmland. The Department of Agriculture will continue to monitor the proposed project and should changes or additions to the proposal raise concerns to the Department, we reserve the right to modify our position on this project, including opposing it, as detailed plans are provided by the developers.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Holly Lalime of my staff. Holly can be reached at Holly.Lalime@ct.gov or at (860) 969-7053.

Sincerely,



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

Enc.

Cc: Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
William Herchel, Verogy