



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

November 22, 2022

Lee D. Hoffman, Esq.  
Pullman & Comley, LLC  
90 State House Square  
Hartford, CT 06103-3702  
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RE: **PETITION NO. 1541** – North Haven Solar One, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.625-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 122 Mill Road, North Haven, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Attorney Hoffman:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than December 13, 2022. Please submit an original and 15 copies to the Council's office and an electronic copy to [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov). In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan and in accordance with Section 16-50j-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Council requests all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

**Please be advised that the original and 15 copies are required to be submitted to the Council's office on or before the December 13, 2022 deadline.**

Copies of your responses are required to be provided to all parties and intervenors listed in the service list, which can be found on the Council's website under the "Pending Matters" link.

Any request for an extension of time to submit responses to interrogatories shall be submitted to the Council in writing pursuant to §16-50j-22a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Sincerely,

Melanie Bachman  
Executive Director

MB/MP

c: Service List dated October 3, 2022

**Petition No. 1541**  
**Interrogatories**  
**Set One**  
**November 22, 2022**

**Project Development**

1. What is the estimated cost of the project?
2. Is the project, or any portion of the project, proposed to be undertaken by state departments, institutions or agencies, or to be funded in whole or in part by the state through any contract or grant?
3. Referencing page 14 and 18 of the Petition, has the Town of North Haven and/or any abutters provided comments to North Haven Solar One, LLC (NHSO) since the Petition filing? If so, please summarize the comments and how these comments were addressed, including, but not limited to, any updates to visual mitigation.
4. Referencing page 4 of the Petition, the ZREC contract is for a period of 15 years.
  - a. Is more than one ZREC contract used for the 1.625 MW AC output, e.g. one 1 MW contract and one 0.625 MW contract? Explain.
  - b. Can these contract(s) be extended/renewed?
  - c. If there is no provision for extension or renewal, would the Petitioner decommission the facility at that time or seek other revenue mechanisms for the power produced by the facility?
5. If the project is approved, identify all permits necessary for construction and operation and which entity will hold the permit(s)?

**Proposed Site**

6. Please submit a map clearly depicting the boundaries of the solar project site and the boundaries of the host parcel. Under RCSA §16-50j-2a(29), "Site" means a contiguous parcel of property with specified boundaries, including, but not limited to, the leased area, right-of-way, access and easements on which a facility and associated equipment is located, shall be located or is proposed to be located.
7. In the lease agreement with the property owner, are there any provisions related to decommissioning or site restoration at the end of the project's useful life? If so, please describe and/or provide any such provisions.
8. 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? How would the project affect the use classification?
9. 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?
10. Referencing page 6 of the Petition, agricultural activities are taking place in the northern portion of the subject property. Would the proposed project impact any of the existing agricultural activities?

11. Provide the distance, direction and address of the nearest property line and nearest off-site residence from the solar field perimeter fence.

### **Energy Output**

12. What is the anticipated capacity factor of the project? Would the capacity of the system decline over time? If so, estimate annual losses.
13. 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 ZREC contract(s).
14. 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?
15. Would NHSO participate in the ISO-NE Forward Capacity Auction? If yes, which auction(s) and capacity commitment period(s)?

### **Site Components and Solar Equipment**

16. What is the maximum overall height of the panels above grade?
17. 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 animals?
18. Referencing Figure 6 – Drawing C-2.0, the proposed row spacing or aisle width is 14 feet. What is the minimum aisle width at which the solar panel rows could be installed?
19. Referencing Appendix A of the Petition, Drawing C-2.0, provide the approximate overall dimensions of each of the two proposed equipment pads.

### **Interconnection**

20. Provide the line voltage of the proposed electrical interconnection.
21. Is the project interconnection required to be reviewed by ISO-NE?
22. Is the existing electrical distribution on Mill Road three-phase, or would it have to be upgraded from single-phase to three-phase? Would any other modifications to the electrical distribution system be required for the project interconnection?
23. Referencing Appendix A of the Petition, Drawing C-2.0, describe the proposed electrical interconnection route. For example, would it be underground from the equipment pads to one new pole east of the wooded area adjacent to Mill Road and then overhead from that pole to an existing pole on Mill Road? Explain. Indicate the pole height(s), location(s) and quantity of poles. Would interconnection equipment near the poles be pole-mounted or pad mounted?
24. Are separate electrical interconnections to the existing overhead distribution necessary for each ZREC contract? Explain.

## **Public Safety**

25. Referencing pages 16 and 17 of the Petition, would the proposed project meet the applicable Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) noise standards at the property boundaries?
26. Would the project comply with the National Electrical Code, the National Electrical Safety Code and any applicable National Fire Protection Association codes and standards including, but not limited to, NFPA Code Section 11.12.3?
27. With regard to emergency response:
  - a. Would training be provided for local emergency responders in the event of a fire or other emergency at the site?
  - b. 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?

## **Environmental**

28. Please provide the following:
  - a. Acreage of tree clearing only; and
  - b. Acreage of tree clearing and grubbing.
29. Referencing page 19 of the Petition, how many acres of Prime Farmland Soils would be impacted by the proposed project?
30. How would NHSO protect wells, groundwater and/or water quality from construction impacts?
31. 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?
32. Where is the nearest publicly accessible recreational area from the proposed site? Describe the visibility of the proposed project from this recreational area.
33. Where is the nearest national, state and/or locally-designated scenic road from the proposed site? Describe the visibility of the proposed project from the nearby scenic road.
34. Referencing Appendix F of the Petition, were the Phase 1A Assessment and/or Phase 1B Survey submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)? If so, has NHSO received any responses from SHPO to date? If yes, provide a copy of such response.
35. Could any landscaping be installed along Mill Road in the area where clearing would extend to the road?
36. The Visual Impact Study shows predicted visibility from two locations. What would the view of the facility be from Mill Road, farther south than #147 Mill Road?
37. Submit photographs of the proposed solar facility site construction area with descriptive captions and/or a map identifying the locations of the photographs.

### **Facility Construction**

38. Referencing page 10 of Petition, has NHSO submitted an application for a General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities from DEEP?
39. With regard to earthwork required to developed the site, provide the following:
  - a) Will the site be graded? If so, in what areas?
  - b) What is the desired slope within the solar array areas?
  - c) Could the solar field areas be installed with minimal alteration to existing slopes?
  - d) If minimal alteration of slopes are proposed, can existing vegetation be maintained to provide ground cover during construction?
  - e) Estimate the amounts of cut and fill in cubic yards for the access road(s)
  - f) Estimate the amounts of cut and fill in cubic yards for solar field grading.
  - g) If there is excess cut, will this material be removed from the site property or deposited on the site property?
40. Would topsoil be stripped from the site prior to grading? If so, would the topsoil be spread over the disturbed areas once grading is complete? If not, how would growth of new vegetation/grasses be promoted within the graded areas if nutrient rich soils are not present?
41. Has a comprehensive geotechnical study been completed for the site to determine if site conditions support the overall Project design? If so, summarize the results. If not, has the Petitioner anticipated and designed the Project with assumed subsurface conditions? What are these assumed conditions?
42. If a geotechnical study will be performed, when would it be performed? What types of equipment would be required? Indicate if and where any tree clearing would be performed to accommodate such equipment and testing.
43. Referencing page 7 of the Petition, how would NHSO determine whether to use driven posts or ground screws? What would be the typical depths below grade for each? Which methods would be used to install the driven posts and the ground screws?
44. Referencing Appendix H of the Petition, DEEP Natural Diversity Database letter dated March 1, 2022, Site Design Recommendations, could the Petitioner utilize pollinator-friendly species plantings under and/or around the proposed solar panels? Explain.
45. Would the proposed project be located within 0.25-mile of a known northern long-eared bat (NLEB) hibernaculum or within 150 feet of a known NLEB maternity roost tree? Would the project be expected to impact the NLEB?

### **Maintenance/Decommissioning**

46. Would NHSO store any replacement modules on-site in the event solar panels are damaged or are not functioning properly? If so, where? How would damaged panels be detected?