



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

December 23, 2022

TO: Service List, dated November 23, 2022

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director *MB*

RE: **PETITION NO. 1551** - C-Tec Solar, 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 1.3-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at the former New Britain landfill on Deming Road east of the intersection with Christian Lane, Berlin, Connecticut and associated electrical interconnection.

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Comments have been received from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on December 22, 2022. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MB/RDM/laf

c: Council Members

December 22, 2022

Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, Connecticut 06051

RE: 1.3-MW Photovoltaic Generating Facility  
C-TEC Solar LLC  
Berlin, Connecticut  
Petition No. 1551

Dear Members of the Connecticut Siting Council:

Staff of this department have reviewed the above-referenced Petition for Declaratory Ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need will be required for the construction of a 1.3-MW photovoltaic generating facility occupying five acres of a 43.3-acre site on Deming Road in Berlin. The site formerly served as the City of New Britain municipal landfill until it closed in 2014. In addition, a field review of the site was conducted on December 13, 2022. Based on these efforts, the following comments are offered to the Council for your consideration in this proceeding.

As in other recent DEEP comments concerning photovoltaic generating facilities, we note that the construction of facilities such as that proposed in this petition will aid in the achievement of Connecticut's vision for a more affordable, cleaner, and more reliable energy future for the ratepayers of Connecticut. Bringing more zero carbon energy projects on line is instrumental in furthering this vision as these resources help diversify the regional fuel mix, and they aid in implementing Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 3 that DEEP investigate pathways to achieve a 100% zero-carbon electric sector by 2040. Developing grid-scale renewables is also imperative to the state's success in achieving its statutory goal of reducing carbon emissions by 45% below 2001 levels by 2030 and by 80% below 2001 levels by 2050.

Further, the use of former landfill sites, such as the host site for this facility, is strongly encouraged by this department as a way to put such sites back into productive use while adding generating capacity at sites that involve only very modest environmental impacts.

#### Site Description

With the caveat that the proposed site was covered by a couple of inches of snow on the day of the site review, the project site, which as mentioned was the former New Britain municipal landfill, appeared well maintained and supporting a well-established grass cover. As only the very upper portions to the landfill landform are proposed to host solar panels, development of the steeply sloped sides of the landfill will be avoided. According to information from an October 18, 2022 pre-application meeting with representatives of C-TEC, the maximum slopes on the portions of the site which will host solar panels are 8-12%.

A series of four principal drainage swales extend vertically down the steepest slopes of the landform on the southeast corner, the southwest corner, the east side and the north side, each swale channelized within a brushed concrete trough. Unpaved lateral drainage swales constructed along the edges of the more gently sloping top portions of the landfill feed the principal paved swales from two directions. The drainage system appears to be functioning well. The four principal drainage swales each empty into concrete catchment basins from which they discharge, via underground piping, to surrounding watercourses.

The host site is surrounded by industrial land uses to the east, west and north. To the south, the forested floodplains of Webster Brook and Willow Brook merge at the southern boundaries of the site to form the Mattabasset River, buffering the landfill from the undeveloped properties to the south. The nearest residential properties, east of the site on Deming Road, are well removed from the project site.

The portion of the host site immediately adjacent to the entrance off Deming Road is a small, paved lot which shows evidence of previously serving as a recycling area. It currently hosts seven dumpsters and, curiously, a collection of a dozen or so park benches. Eversource transmission lines of circuits 1785 and 1769 abut the site to the east.

#### Construction Stormwater Management

Construction projects involving five or more acres of land disturbance, including this one, require either an individual NPDES discharge permit from DEEP or they may register for coverage under the Department's General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities (DEEP-WPED-GP-015). C-TEC Solar has submitted an application under the General Permit, and that submittal is currently under review.

#### Landfill Disruption Authorization

C-TEC Solar submitted its request for an Authorization for Disruption of a Solid Waste Disposal Area on December 14, 2022, and that submittal is currently under review.

DEEP reiterates its support for this proposal as a minimally impacting, beneficial reuse of a former landfill and a source of renewable, non-polluting, carbon free electricity.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this petition and to submit these comments to the Council. Should you, other Council members or Council staff have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (860) 424-4110 or at [frederick.riese@ct.gov](mailto:frederick.riese@ct.gov).

Respectfully yours,



Frederick L. Riese  
Senior Environmental Analyst

CC: Katie Dykes, Commissioner