



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

February 28, 2023

Mary Cardin
32 Middle Road
Ellington, CT. 06029
mtaft32@comcast.net

RE: **PETITION NO. 1558** – Community Power Group 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 4-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 24 Middle Road, Ellington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Mary Cardin:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your request for a Public Hearing, dated February 27, 2023, for the above-referenced petition.

The Request for a Public Hearing will be placed on the next Council meeting agenda, a copy of which will be sent to you. You will be notified of the Council's determination immediately thereafter.

Please contact our office at 860-827-2935 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/laf

c: Council Members
Service List, dated January 31, 2023

From: mary <mtaft32@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 10:56 PM
To: CSC-DL Siting Council <Siting.Council@ct.gov>
Cc: mary <mtaft32@comcast.net>
Subject: Petition 1558

To the CT Siting Council:

I am writing regarding the referenced petition for a solar farm at 24 Middle Road in Ellington. I respectfully request that you hold a public hearing on the siting of this project so that all concerned citizens have the opportunity to be heard regarding this petition.

The proposed farm is too close to abutting properties. I am an abutting property owner, at 32 Middle Road. I was told by Community Power Group that the solar panels will be within 258 feet of our property line, and that other properties are similarly very close to the proposed project. Also, the inverters, which I understand produce noise, are extremely close to at least two residential properties, and very close to others also.

Further on the far end of Middle Road, which is part of East Windsor, there are many residents who are also extremely close to the location of another solar farm; that group of East Windsor residents are experiencing constant, high-pitched noise from that solar farm. It is very unfair to residents of the neighborhood to be subject to noise which will directly and indefinitely negatively impact the enjoyment of their properties and yards.

There is plenty of room on the subject site to move the inverters (and any other parts of the equipment which give off noise) to a location furthest from the residential properties abutting the site. There is also room in which to move the panels further away from the neighboring properties, preserving the residents' enjoyment of their properties.

We are also concerned about the proposed buffer plantings and fencing— the proposal does not describe buffers that will actually block view of the panels and equipment. Furthermore we have seen the lack of upkeep/maintenance of nearby solar farms. Who will enforce the project owner's responsibility to maintain live plantings that block view of the equipment?

Traffic on Middle Road will also be impacted. Middle Road is a very narrow, residential street and the location of the access drive to the site is between to two homes and across from several others. The traffic will impact the enjoyment of those properties and increase traffic on the road.

Further, the location of additional poles and equipment on the access road creates an unsightly view that is directly in sightline of the neighboring properties as well as by passersby.

We respectfully request that the Siting Council require the project owners to place the lines and equipment below ground level so that noise is mitigated and the impact to the view of abutting residents is also mitigated.

We are also concerned about how the Siting Council will hold the project owners to the responsibility of remediating the site after the solar equipment lifespan has been exhausted. Will an adequate sum be set aside/bonded to cover the costs in the future? Who will ensure this?

Has the Siting Council studied the safety of the equipment that will be used in the project? We are concerned about the dangers of the equipment, particularly as it degrades over time. Many of the residential properties surrounding the site have wells and because the site property is elevated in relation to the abutting properties, there is valid concern about run off from the site property.

In addition to the above issues, we are concerned about the use of prime farmland for a solar farm. Further, this will be the second property on this street that is being used for a solar farm. Does the Siting Council consider impact to neighborhoods and to towns on the placement of these solar farms? The proposed site does not seem well-suited for this project, and this neighborhood already has one solar farm in it. There is another solar farm being built a couple of miles away. If this project is approved it would be the third one in a very small radius.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary Cardin
32 Middle Road
Ellington CT