



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051
Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950
E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov
Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 15, 2023

Lisa M. Houlihan, AICP, CZEO
Town Planner
Town of Ellington
55 Main Street, P.O. Box 187
Ellington, CT 06029-0187
LHoulihan@ellington-ct.gov

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 Lisa M. Houlihan:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of the Town of Ellington Planning and Zoning Commission's May 12, 2023 correspondence concerning the above-referenced petition. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with the comments.

At a public meeting held on March 16, 2023, the Council voted to hold a remote public hearing via Zoom Conferencing on May 18, 2023 for the benefit of the public.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-40, a copy of the petition is to be submitted to the municipality where the facility is to be located for review. Before reaching a final decision on a petition, the Council carefully considers all of the facts contained in the evidentiary record that is developed by the Council, the petitioner, parties and intervenors in the proceeding and all of the concerns received from members of the public who speak at the public hearing or submit written statements to the Council.

In the event that the Town of Ellington does not seek formal party or intervenor status under Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n, which provides full participation at the public hearing, including, but not limited to, cross examination of witnesses, parties and intervenors, your comments shall nevertheless become part of the official record in this proceeding in the form of a limited appearance defined under subsection (f) of Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n.

Copies of your correspondence will be distributed to the service list for the proceeding and will be administratively noticed in the record. Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this proceeding on our website at portal.ct.gov/csc under the "Pending Matters" link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Melanie A. Bachman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/lm

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



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
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TEL. (860) 870-3120 **TOWN PLANNER'S OFFICE** FAX (860) 870-3122

May 11, 2023

Connecticut Siting Council
c/o Melanie A. Bachman, Executive Director
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Sent via: siting.council@ct.gov

RE: **PETITION NO. 1558** – Community Power Group, LLC, petition for declaratory ruling for the proposed construction, maintenance, and operation of a 4MW AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility, 24 Middle Road, Ellington, CT.

Dear Connecticut Siting Council,

Thank you for holding a public hearing for Petition No. 1558 and providing an opportunity for interested parties to participate. The Ellington Planning and Zoning Commission (EPZC) reviewed the proposed solar facility and makes the following recommendations:

1. Most of the existing perimeter vegetation is deciduous and will be void of foliage for about six months a year. To properly screen the proposed solar facility from abutting properties, please require the planting of two rows of staggered evergreens every 6'-10' on center or portion thereof between the facility and abutting residentially developed property. Local regulations require buffer plantings to be 6' in height when planted and pruned. A mix of Green Giant arborvitae and in shaded areas Upright Cedar Skyrocket Junipers is recommended. Plantings should be maintained for the life of the facility and dead or dying plantings replaced as soon as practical in the present growing season or immediately upon the start of the next growing season.
2. The EPZC expresses concern with noise from inverters and transformers based on observations from a solar facility in neighboring East Windsor (East Road, Petition 1426). Please require the proposed inverters and transformer to be located to the south of the proposed solar array at a point furthest from existing developed property.
3. The site fronts on Middle Road and Route 286. Middle Road is a narrow country road with poor sightlines and Route 286 is a 28' wide paved arterial street with adequate sightlines. Please require access from Route 286. If this cannot be accomplished because of valid site constraints, please require construction traffic during build-out to exit onto Middle Road eastbound toward Route 286.
4. The EPZC finds the location of the proposed solar facility an inappropriate use of active farmland and expresses concerns for fragmentation of farming operations within Ellington's western farm belt. The site is adjacent to 400+ acres of farmland permanently protected by easement through purchase of development rights and fiscal partnership between agencies like the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, United States of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation District, and the Town of Ellington.

On behalf of the EPZC, thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,


Lisa M. Houlihan, AICP, CZEO
Ellington Town Planner