

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Petition No. 1572

East Windsor Solar Two, 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
4.0-Megawatt AC Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating
Facility Located at 31 Thrall Road, East Windsor,
Connecticut, and Associated Electrical Interconnection

Zoom Remote Public Hearing (Teleconference),
on Thursday, September 7, 2023, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s :**

2 **Council Members:**

3 **JOHN MORISSETTE, (Hearing Officer)**

4
5 **BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI,**

6 **DEEP Designee**

7
8 **QUAT NGUYEN,**

9 **PURA Designee**

10
11 **ROBERT HANNON**

12 **ROBERT SILVESTRI**

13
14 **Council Staff:**

15 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,**

16 **Executive Director and Staff Attorney**

17
18 **MICHAEL PERRONE**

19 **Siting Analyst**

20
21 **LISA FONTAINE,**

22 **Fiscal Administrative Officer**

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s:(cont'd)**

2 **For East Windsor Solar II, LLC (EWS2):**

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4 **280 Trumbull Street**

5 **Hartford, Connecticut 06103**

6 **By: KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ.**

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10 **For The Town of East Windsor:**

11 **UPDIKE, KELLY & SPELLACY, P.C.**

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15 **By: ROBERT M. DeCRESCENZO, ESQ.**

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1 (Begin: 6:30 p.m.)

2
3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good evening ladies and
4 gentlemen, can everyone hear me okay?

5 Very good. Thank you.

6 This public comment session is called to
7 order this Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 6:30
8 p.m. My name is John Morissette, Member and
9 Presiding Officer of the Connecticut Siting
10 Council. Other members of the council are Brian
11 Golembiewski, designee for Commissioner Katie
12 Dykes of the Department of Energy and
13 Environmental Protection; Quat Nguyen, designee
14 for Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillett of the Public
15 Utilities Regulatory Authority.

16 We have Robert Hannon and Robert Silvestri.

17 Members of the staff are Melanie Bachman,
18 Executive Director and staff attorney; Michael
19 Perrone, siting analyst; and Lisa Fontaine, fiscal
20 administrative officer.

21 If you haven't done so already, I ask that
22 everyone please mute their computer audio and/or
23 telephones now.

24 This is a continuation of the public hearing
25 that began at 2 p.m., this afternoon. A copy of

1 the prepared agenda is available on the Council's
2 Petition 1572 webpage, along with a record of this
3 matter. The public hearing notice, instructions
4 for public access to this remote public hearing,
5 and the Council's Citizens Guide to Siting
6 Council's Procedures.

7 This hearing is held pursuant to the
8 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
9 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
10 Procedure Act upon a petition from East Windsor
11 Solar II, LLC, for a declaratory ruling pursuant
12 to Connecticut General Statute Section 4-176 and
13 Section 16-50k for the proposed construction,
14 maintenance, and operation of a four megawatt AC
15 solar photovoltaic electric generating facility
16 located at 31 Thrall Road, East Windsor,
17 Connecticut, and the associated electrical
18 interconnection.

19 The petition was received by the Council on
20 May 5, 2023. The Council's legal notice of the
21 date and time of this public hearing was published
22 in the Journal Inquirer on June 26, 2023. Upon
23 this Council's request, the petitioner erected a
24 sign in the vicinity of the proposed site so as to
25 inform the public of the name of the petitioner,

1 the type of the facility, the public hearing date,
2 and contact information for the Council, including
3 the website and phone number.

4 Please be advised that the Council does not
5 issue permits for stormwater management. If the
6 proposed project is approved by the Council, a
7 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection,
8 DEEP, stormwater permit is independently required.
9 DEEP could hold a public hearing on any stormwater
10 application.

11 Please also be advised that the Council's
12 project evaluation criteria under the statute does
13 not include consideration of property value.

14 As a reminder to all, off-the-record
15 communications with a member of the Council or a
16 member of the Council's staff upon the merits of
17 this petition is prohibited by law.

18 This public comment session is reserved for
19 members of the public who signed up in advance to
20 make brief statements. These limited appearance
21 statements are not subject to questions from the
22 parties or the council, and members of the public
23 making statements may not ask questions of the
24 parties or the council.

25 In accordance with the public hearing notice

1 and in fairness to everyone who signed up to
2 speak, these public statements will be limited to
3 three minutes. Please be advised that written
4 comments may be submitted by any person within 30
5 days of this public hearing.

6 I wish to note that parties and interveners,
7 including their representatives and witnesses are
8 not allowed to participate in the public comment
9 session.

10 I also wish to note for those who are here
11 and for the benefit of your friends and neighbors
12 who are unable to join us for the public comment
13 session, that you or they may send written
14 statements to the Council within 30 days of the
15 date hereof by mail or by e-mail.

16 Please be advised that any person may be
17 removed from the public comment session at the
18 discretion of the Council. We ask each person
19 making a limited appearance statement in this
20 proceeding to confine his or her statements to the
21 subject matter before the Council, and to avoid
22 unreasonable repetition so that we may hear all of
23 your concerns you and your neighbors may have.

24 Please be advised that the Council cannot
25 answer questions from the public about the

1 proposal.

2 A verbatim transcript will be made available
3 of this hearing and deposited at the East Windsor
4 Town Clerk's Office for the convenience of the
5 public.

6 At this time, I request the petitioner to
7 make a brief presentation to the public describing
8 the proposed facility. Mr. Parsons, I believe, is
9 making the presentation. Mr. Parsons?

10 THE WITNESS (Parsons): Good evening, Mr. Morissette.

11 Again, my name is Brad Parsons with East Windsor
12 Solar II. I'm here to make a presentation.

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Please continue, Mr. Parsons.

14 THE WITNESS (Parsons): Sorry about that. I could
15 speak up a little bit.

16 Thank you, Mr. Morissette. Again, my name is
17 Brad Parsons with East Windsor Solar II. I'm here
18 to make a brief presentation tonight about the
19 proposed facility and the project.

20 What we have here is a four megawatt AC solar
21 generating facility located at 31 Thrall Road in
22 East Windsor, Connecticut. The project is located
23 on a 35-acre parcel, and the project area is
24 comprised of approximately 24.58 acres.

25 The figure three shown on the screen here

1 shows the proposed facility. The access road for
2 the proposed facility -- access for the proposed
3 facility will be from the southwest corner of the
4 property along Thrall Road at the location of the
5 existing driveway.

6 The facility will be interconnected to the
7 existing electrical grid in -- in the same general
8 vicinity, and there will be screening included as
9 part of the project along Thrall Road consisting
10 of an eight-foot tall privacy fence with mesh
11 screening.

12 And additionally, with the privacy fence we
13 will have over 170 plantings along the frontage
14 where no existing vegetation exists today. And
15 that is shown on figure three in the green.
16 Additionally, the existing trees and other
17 vegetation on the east, north, west, and south,
18 southeast portions of the project will remain
19 intact.

20 The project is split -- the four megawatt
21 project is actually split into two systems. There
22 is a one megawatt system and a three megawatt
23 system. Each project was awarded a shared clean
24 energy contract, or SCEF through a competitive
25 selection process with Eversource.

1 The shared clean energy facility program with
2 Eversource provides benefits to low and moderate
3 income customers within the state of Connecticut,
4 as well as municipalities and small businesses,
5 and other residences in accordance with the
6 program rules. So as a result, this project will
7 be able to supply 60 percent of its benefits to
8 low and moderate income customers within the state
9 of Connecticut, as well as low income service
10 organizations as a result of the award of the two
11 contracts.

12 This results in a yearly benefit for the
13 program of over \$180,000 per year to low and
14 moderate income customers within the state of
15 Connecticut. And with that, that concludes our
16 presentation.

17 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, Mr. Parsons.

18 We'll now call on Robin Chesky to make a
19 public statement, followed by Lauri Desrosiers.
20 Robin Chesky, please?

21 **ROBIN CHESKY:** Thank you. I would like to thank the
22 Connecticut Siting Council for the opportunity to
23 comment on this petition. I did look at the
24 Connecticut Siting Council's responsibilities, and
25 in part, I know that the responsibility is to

1 assure the welfare and protection of the people of
2 Connecticut, and I have the fullest confidence
3 that they will do so in this matter.

4 I contacted North Central Health to find out
5 some more information on lead in the soil and in
6 drinking water. They sent me numerous documents,
7 and as I was reading through them, there was one
8 document by the EPA that really sort of struck me.

9 The EPA has set the maximum contamination
10 level for lead in drinking water at zero, because
11 lead can be harmful to human health at even low
12 levels.

13 According to the TCLP report attached to this
14 petition, lead was present in the solar panel that
15 was used, that was tested. In the report, the
16 level of 4.3 milligrams per liter was bolded in
17 the report, and it was called out in three
18 different places at that level of 4.3 milligrams
19 per liter. Six other metals were tested. Those
20 were cadmium, silver, arsenic, barium. All of
21 them, including others, were not detectable in the
22 sample.

23 Verigy plans on installing 9,932 solar panels
24 that contain lead. Why is this important? These
25 panels, if they were going in a brownfield or in a

1 commercial area, one might be able to overlook the
2 fact that they contain lead, but these are being
3 put in a residential area.

4 Verigy representatives have stated that the
5 lead in the panels fall within the industry
6 standards. They're a little high in the industry
7 standard, but you know, they do fall -- but again
8 these panels are going into a residential area,
9 and that is not acceptable.

10 These homes -- on four sides, this project
11 will be surrounded by wells. As you move out away
12 from the perimeter there are more homes that have
13 wells. As our First Selectman stated today, there
14 is no place to bring water, and to bring water to
15 those wells, if they became contaminated with
16 lead, would be cost prohibitive. Again, no levels
17 of lead are acceptable in drinking water,
18 according to the EPA.

19 If residential wells become contaminated with
20 lead, property values will decrease. You can
21 argue that, but I think not having water makes a
22 pretty strong statement for that. And the impact
23 on health and human safety really can't be
24 quantified.

25 There is a horse farm at 17 Thrall, and they

1 go through 250 gallons of water a day for their
2 horses. Contamination to their well would be
3 devastating.

4 I am asking the Siting Council to not approve
5 this petition, as it commercializes a residential
6 neighborhood in our town and brings potential --

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mrs. Chesky, for your
8 time this evening. Unfortunately, your three
9 minutes have run out.

10 We'll now call upon Lauri Desrosiers, please,
11 followed by Keith Yagaloff.

12 Lauri?

13 LAURI DESROSIERS: My name is Lauri Desrosiers. Dear
14 members of the Siting Council, I am very concerned
15 about the solar development proposal for 31 Thrall
16 Road in the Broad Brook section of East Windsor.

17 My concern is the following. The proposed
18 site is near water and on soil that is considered
19 most susceptible to erosion. Also, the location
20 is very close to the aquifer protection area.
21 There is a sub (unintelligible) basin that runs
22 through the property.

23 Drinking water surrounding 31 Thrall Road is
24 provided through wells, which can be contaminated.
25 Should they be contaminated, this would be a

1 devastating long-term effect on the area.

2 Solar development should not be put on
3 farmland, especially prime farmland. It is a
4 waste of the good land, especially in the
5 community that has recognized that agriculture has
6 been a part of its heritage, the future, and is
7 part of the character of the town.

8 East Windsor fire departments are made out of
9 mostly volunteers. So we have concerns about what
10 training and equipment they've been provided in
11 regards to handling a potential disaster in the
12 solar development.

13 As you know, East Windsor already has a large
14 amount of acreage approved for solar. Having the
15 largest solar development in New England is burden
16 enough for our small community. That certainly
17 should be enough.

18 I question (unintelligible) impact analysis
19 was not completed. According to the commission,
20 the company is assuming that the salvage or resell
21 of the components will be greater than the cost to
22 decommission the site. I feel that's not enough.

23 With too many unknowns decades down the road,
24 East Windsor Solar II needs to be held fully
25 accountable for decommissioning and having an

1 appropriate financial commitment in place will
2 help guarantee that there should (unintelligible)
3 should be no question that there will be no
4 walking away from responsibilities if the cost to
5 decommission is too high.

6 I hope it's your job to ensure that any
7 company submitting proposals will be a good
8 neighbor. This company has proven that they are
9 not, and by encouraging more solar proposals for
10 our community you are impacting our good farmers
11 that have been good neighbors and a part of our
12 community for decades.

13 As a resident of East Windsor for 25 years,
14 I'm requesting that you don't approve the proposed
15 solar development, or any more located in East
16 Windsor. Thank you for your consideration.

17 **THE REPORTER:** Pardon the interruption. This is the
18 reporter. I had a great difficulty hearing that.
19 I got most of it, but a lot of it did not come
20 through. Is that the same for you?

21 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** It was. I was quite choppy, Mrs.
22 Desrosier. If you could kindly also submit your
23 comments in writing, that would be helpful because
24 the Court Reporter was unable to take your full
25 statement because your connection was very choppy.

1 But you do have the opportunity to provide
2 your comments in writing as well. Thank you.

3 And the Court Reporter, thank you for
4 pointing that out to us.

5 Okay. We will now continue with public
6 statement by Keith Yagaloff, followed by James
7 O'Donnell. Mr. Yagaloff?

8 **KEITH YAGALOFF:** Hello. My name is Keith Yagaloff.

9 I'm a resident of East Windsor. I have
10 professional experience as a lawyer, as a
11 biochemist, and as a farmer. I also have
12 professional experience representing the
13 municipality before PURA and the Siting Council.
14 I previously submitted written comments.

15 First, I appreciate what you do. I support
16 the State's solar goals, however it's apparent
17 that the regulations are aligned against small
18 rural towns like East Windsor. Local planning and
19 zoning has no say in putting industrial solar into
20 our town. I hope you can recognize the absurdity
21 that putting a handful of sheep out for a few
22 hours a week makes it okay to construct on prime
23 farmland.

24 I looked at PURA's February 2023 energy
25 report. East Windsor currently has approved

1 non-residential and utility-scale solar that
2 represents 29 percent of the State's 445 megawatts
3 of approved solar projects. Nearly all of that in
4 East Windsor is located on either prime farmlands
5 or woodlands. You have already approved nearly
6 1,000 acres of solar projects in our rural
7 community.

8 The PURA's report map shows heavy development
9 along the Connecticut River. Developers are
10 concentrating their projects on prime farmlands
11 within the Connecticut River Valley. The current
12 Siting Council and state regulations require that
13 due consideration is given to the issue of
14 equitable sharing amongst Connecticut's towns and
15 cities of the burden of hosting industrial solar.

16 The Siting Council is obviously getting local
17 pushback now that residents are becoming educated
18 and we can actually see what these projects look
19 like and sound like when they are constructed.
20 You will eventually need to confront this issue of
21 equity, and I would like to suggest that the time
22 is now and this is the project.

23 East Windsor, having over 120 megawatts,
24 having over a thousand acres, having 29 percent of
25 the State's approved non-residential and

1 utility-scale solar in its small town, which by
2 the way represents only one half or 1 percent of
3 the total land area in Connecticut, has already
4 borne the brunt and adverse impacts.

5 You have the opportunity now to put equitable
6 safeguards in place by denying this application.
7 And by doing so, developers will look to put their
8 projects in towns that have not already met their
9 burden.

10 Right now, they look at East Windsor as a
11 blue collar town of know-nothings, ready to be
12 exploited with cheap land and tax deals. We as a
13 community are here to help put an end to that.
14 And we ask you to use this decision to keep our
15 State's alternative energy goals on track.

16 There's no reason for residents in small
17 rural towns to feel that you are against them and
18 in favor of the developers. You and we are
19 Connecticut residents, and we are in this
20 together.

21 Thank you.

22 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, Mr. Yagaloff. We
23 appreciate you coming out this evening.

24 We'll now continue with James O'Donnell
25 Followed by Christina Dahl. Mr. O'Donnell?

1 JAMES O'DONNELL: Can you hear me?

2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, I can. Thank you.

3 JAMES O'DONNELL: Yeah, my brother and I own the land
4 abutting the proposed site on the west border.

5 First, I want to say ditto to everything I've
6 heard so far. You know we all understand the need
7 of clean energy, but just as this previous speaker
8 said, why does East Windsor, and especially the
9 Windsorville side of East Windsor, have to give up
10 so much prime farmland for solar? It's just not
11 fair, period.

12 You know, if you go to the East Windsor
13 webpage, right on the front it says, welcome to
14 East Windsor, incorporated in 1760s. Today's East
15 Windsor strives to preserve its quiet, small-town
16 charm. These solar farms will change the rural
17 characteristics of the farm.

18 I do not feel that the Windsorville side of
19 East Windsor, or actually any more of East
20 Windsor, should have to absorb all of these solar
21 farms. I just hope the Siting Council, when they
22 do meet, will discuss this and realize how unfair
23 it is for this to happen on one section of East
24 Windsor, period.

25 Thank you. That's all.

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. O'Donnell.

2 We will now continue with Christina Dahl,
3 followed by Stephanie Phillips. Christina Dahl,
4 please?

5 CHRISTINA DAHL: Good evening, Councilmembers. Thank
6 you for allowing me time to comment.

7 Your Council plays a crucial role in
8 balancing the development of utility-scale solar
9 projects with the protection of the environment
10 and interests of the local communities.

11 Solar installations can vary greatly in
12 design and appearance. When not thoughtfully
13 planned out and integrated into the surrounding
14 environment, they can create a jarring contrast
15 with the existing homes and landscaping,
16 detracting from the overall attractiveness of the
17 neighborhood.

18 Our community, as you are aware, is currently
19 experiencing these unfortunate impacts with the
20 poorly designed East Windsor Solar I. This design
21 was put forth by the company that is here today,
22 Verigy, whom is seeking approval for East Windsor
23 Solar II.

24 Thrall Road is a heavily traveled and very
25 visible road. The current landscape plan proposed

1 will not adequately integrate the project into the
2 neighborhood and it will detract from the scenic
3 landscape. The site of rows of solar panels,
4 black chain-link fencing, additional telephone
5 poles, minimal landscaping and accompanying
6 equipment will alter the visual landscape of this
7 residential area. We must prioritize the
8 preservation of our scenic views and the character
9 of our community.

10 There's also concern for our homeowners who
11 have invested heavily in their properties and
12 communities, and unbeknownst to them, their
13 investment in their home will now have the view of
14 a public utility sited as a neighbor. I am sure
15 that is not anyone's expectation when purchasing a
16 home.

17 East Windsor is renowned for its picturesque
18 landscapes, open fields and farms, which
19 contribute to the unique character and identity of
20 our community. As a resident, I hold these
21 attributes close to my heart and I believe that
22 any development, including solar installations,
23 should respect and preserve the aesthetic
24 integrity of our residential zones.

25 Reviewing the documents provided by the

1 petitioner and their answers to the Council's and
2 the Town of East Windsor interrogatories, I see no
3 effort put in to preserve the aesthetic integrity
4 of our community.

5 The viewshed photos in appendix N are taken
6 from Middle Road and Jessie Lane. These photos do
7 not depict the viewshed from Thrall Road homes and
8 the abutters that live on either side. The
9 two-story homes situated across from the project
10 will have a direct view of the panels from the
11 second floor.

12 The proposed screening will not be adequate.
13 Taller plantings, both evergreen and deciduous,
14 would be necessary to potentially provide adequate
15 screening for these homes. For abutting neighbors
16 on either side of this proposed project, the plan
17 shows no plantings to screen the black fencing.

18 Furthermore, the proposed tree species that
19 are provided are not native species. It is
20 imperative to utilize native plantings and
21 vegetation in these areas, which will act as a
22 wildlife buffer for animals. Establishing these
23 buffers and setbacks around the project will
24 minimize direct impacts on our critical wildlife
25 corridors.

1 In conclusion, I strongly believe that we can
2 achieve our clean energy goals while also
3 representing respecting the esthetics and
4 character of our residential zones.

5 I kindly request that the Connecticut Siting
6 Council carefully consider the visual impact of
7 this utility grid solar installation.

8 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, Christina Dahl. Thank
9 you for coming out this evening.

10 We'll now continue with Stephanie Phillips,
11 followed by Richard Levesque.

12 **STEPHANIE PHILLIPS:** Hi, my name is Stephanie Phillips,
13 and I live at 305 East Road in East Windsor. I
14 actually live two houses away from the solar
15 arrays on Middle Road.

16 We chose to build our house here three years
17 ago on East Road because of the serene countryside
18 that surrounded our new neighborhood. The
19 farmland and the barns are absolutely beautiful to
20 us. Now I go outside, and to the left I see solar
21 arrays on Middle Road. And if approved, to the
22 west, I'll see solar arrays on Thrall Road.

23 The solar arrays on Middle Road are an
24 eyesore. The arborvitaes will take at least 10
25 years to cover the visibility of the solar farms.

1 This for certain is not what we had envisioned
2 when building our home here. Also, our concerns
3 with health and human safety concerns are of
4 utmost importance to us.

5 East Windsor has done more than their fair
6 share in hosting these solar farms, and I request
7 that the Thrall Road site be rejected, and the
8 Siting Council give consideration to other towns
9 to do their fair share as East Windsor has done.

10 Thank you.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Stephanie.

12 Next is Richard Levesque, and after that is
13 Mary Tarbell. Richard Levesque, please?

14 RICHARD LEVESQUE: Hello, my name is Richard Levesque.

15 I live at 6 Jessie Lane in Broad Brook. Jessie
16 Lane is parallel to Middle Road, so my backyard
17 faces the existing solar installation on Middle
18 Road.

19 My wife and I chose Broad Brook as our last
20 home to build in 2019 because of the quietness and
21 open nature of the town. When I heard the solar
22 power plant being installed in Middle Road, I had
23 no idea of the noise level that it would generate.
24 Suddenly our quiet retirement home wasn't so quiet
25 anymore.

1 After filing a complaint I heard back from
2 Mr. Herschel of Verigy, he responded to me and
3 gave me a detail of what was being done to
4 mitigate the noise. He also mentioned that they
5 have constructed projects similar to this one, and
6 this is the first time they've encountered noise
7 issues.

8 To date, no one disputes that the noise is
9 unacceptable, regardless of dB levels. So if the
10 installation on Middle Road was the first time
11 they encountered a noise issue, then one can only
12 conclude that this was their first installation in
13 a residential neighborhood.

14 And after almost two years of delays, the
15 approved solution to mitigate the noise is to
16 build a 12-foot concrete wall 270 feet long. So
17 the solution is building a prison wall eyesore to
18 eliminate noise pollution. This is hard to
19 fathom.

20 So now there is this petition for the
21 installation on Thrall Road, just down the road in
22 a similar residential neighborhood. What's going
23 to be different? The petition claims they will
24 use the same noise study as Middle Road. How is
25 this acceptable?

1 This installation will utilize trackers that
2 generate their own noises. There are no trackers
3 on Middle Road. The topography is different. My
4 experience is the sound level changes depending on
5 temperature, humidity, wind direction and sun
6 brightness. Where are the inverters going to be
7 installed? All these need to be factored and
8 analyzed.

9 At a minimum, there should be a detailed
10 noise study conducted specifically for this
11 project with proper abatement designed into the
12 project from the start, and we can't allow prison
13 walls to be the solution after the fact.

14 My house is about 500 feet from the current
15 installation, and I hear the nuisance noise. This
16 must be factored in the noise study as well.
17 Clearly, the current so-called acceptable dB
18 levels are not acceptable from a noise nuisance as
19 we are experiencing on Middle Road, East Road and
20 Jessie Lane.

21 If solar plants cannot be built without
22 generating nuisance noise, or if they require
23 eyesore barriers like concrete walls or any
24 resolution that impact views or noise, then they
25 don't belong in residential neighborhoods, and

1 this petition should not be approved.

2 Anything less has negative impact on quality
3 of outdoor living in our neighborhood and
4 community, and has a substantial negative impact
5 on our property values just as we are experiencing
6 on the 22 brand-new homes in our neighborhood. We
7 can't allow this to happen in any other
8 neighborhoods.

9 I want to share an incident about two weeks
10 ago. I took my four-year-old grandson for a bike
11 ride. He's just starting to ride. As we
12 approached the corner of East and Middle Road, he
13 said, Papa, what's that noise?

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Richard, for coming
15 out this evening. Unfortunately, your three
16 minutes is up.

17 We'll I'll continue with Mary Tarbell
18 followed by Brenda Crockett.

19 MARY TARBELL: Hi, I'm Mary Tarbell. And let me come
20 at this from a little different twist. I'm a
21 registered nurse, which I have been one for more
22 years than I want to answer to, and I now teach my
23 profession. I'm a professor of nursing.

24 In order to get to my place of employment, I
25 leave my house on Miller Road and I come to where,

1 Miller at the bottom of the hill, where we talked
2 about today -- and thank you for all the wonderful
3 conversation today, because I was on all of it --
4 where we come to the small bridge, where we cross
5 over, and we come to that tiny little five-corner
6 intersection.

7 Now, I drive through that every day, twice a
8 day, to go onto Thrall to get to where I need to
9 go to work. There are fishermen on the bridge
10 seasonally, but there's always people on both
11 sides of the bridge fishing.

12 Those five little sections to come off that
13 area can be very challenging at times because
14 there's five little corners, and this is right
15 next to where this proposal is, that people are
16 going to have to come through with trucks and
17 various vehicles.

18 So when you go north, there's a brand-new --
19 not brand-new, excuse me. There's an antique home
20 on the corner. Next to that is the equestrian
21 center that we just spoke about. Now, I don't
22 know the effects of this solar field on the horses
23 and the farm. That concerns me deeply because
24 it's very close to it.

25 And a little further down the road, there's

1 another equestrian center. It is on Thrall, but
2 it's probably about a mile and a quarter up the
3 road on the left.

4 When you come across that intersection and
5 you're going towards the solar field, there's two
6 or three more houses, and they're set back from
7 the road. But next to that, you come to the piece
8 of property where the house is, where the shed is,
9 and where the barn is.

10 In that barn -- my last driving through was
11 yesterday, and I did see tobacco in that barn. So
12 yesterday, I went into work a little bit later;
13 it's my privilege. And I went up and I started to
14 notice school buses around quarter to twelve in
15 the morning. It made no sense to me why I was
16 seeing school buses at that time of day, but I
17 found out later it was because of the heat.

18 But I followed those school buses all the way
19 down Thrall Road to where we crossed over, and I
20 ended up in Melrose. Those school buses were
21 stopping so frequently at so many different
22 driveways, I was shocked to see how many children
23 were getting on and off of school buses on Thrall
24 Road. That, as a nurse, upset me as well because
25 I hoped somebody was home when they were getting

1 off these buses.

2 So after that intersection, I drive that, as
3 I said, twice a day every day. I go in, in the
4 morning, and I come back in the afternoon. What I
5 see on Thrall Road is absolute beauty.

6 There is foliage. There are wild animals.
7 There are brooks. There are streams. There are
8 well-manicured areas, but what I see is beauty.
9 And I would hate to see that beauty taken away.

10 Now, as I said earlier, I'm on a piece of
11 property. We built this house in 1987. It was an
12 old Christmas tree farm. What we did is we
13 maintained as much of that Christmas tree farm as
14 we could. We only cleared enough trees to build a
15 house, put in a driveway, and give our kids --

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mary, for coming out
17 this evening, and thank you for your comments.

18 We'll now call upon Brenda Crockett, followed
19 by Michelle Hill. Brenda Crockett, please.

20 Brenda Crockett?

21 BRENDA CROCKETT: Yes. Can you hear me okay?

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, I can. Thank you.

23 BRENDA CROCKETT: Okay, great. My name is Brenda, and
24 I live in the Windsorville section of East
25 Windsor. I'm opposed to the proposed large-scale

1 solar development at 31 Thrall Road, which is a
2 residential zone less than one mile from our home.

3 Our home is surrounded by acres and acres of
4 beautiful scenic, actively farmed land, and as
5 much of East Windsor. When you hear reference to
6 scenic as it relates to our town, please allow me
7 to elaborate.

8 Imagine fields and fields of lush vegetation,
9 open views of beautiful blue skies, spectacular
10 sunrises and sunsets with colors beyond
11 description. Picture your drive along the ancient
12 country roads here, by the many horse farms where
13 the inhabitants are lazily grazing on the rich
14 green grass and clover, past the fields of fruit
15 orchards, flower farms, nurseries.

16 Watch for the many beehives that are
17 strategically placed near the crops by our
18 resident beekeepers to aid in the pollination of
19 the crops, as well as local honey production,
20 careful for the frequent deer crossings, fox, blue
21 herring.

22 Think about the camaraderie of those
23 partnering in this way; the hardworking farmers,
24 beekeepers, the community-spirited residents
25 supporting the fruits of labor by buying right

1 here in East Windsor.

2 We have the Connecticut Trolley Museum, the
3 nation's oldest organization dedicated to the
4 preservation of the trolley era, run completely by
5 passionate residents and volunteers. Our East
6 Windsor Historical Society that's captured the
7 rich, remarkable agricultural history of our town
8 dating back to 1768, which is also run by
9 passionate residents and volunteers.

10 While digging in an East Windsor well,
11 Connecticut, 1818, farmer Solomon Ellsworth
12 unearthed the fragmented fossil forelimbs of the
13 first found in the history of North and Central
14 Americas, right here in East Windsor. This is --
15 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, Ms. Crockett.

16 Unfortunately, your time expired.

17 We'll now call upon Michelle Hill, followed
18 by Bob Lyke. Michelle Hill, please?

19 Michelle Hill?

20 **MICHELLE HILL:** I'm so sorry. I think I was muted.

21 Can you hear me?

22 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Yes, I can. Thank you.

23 **MICHELLE HILL:** Oh, great. Thank you. Hello, my name
24 is Michelle Hill, and I live at 74 Thrall Road in
25 Broad Brook, Connecticut, where I've lived for

1 nine years. I would like to express my strong
2 opposition to the proposed solar field on 31
3 Thrall Road, which is less than a half a mile from
4 my house.

5 First, one of the reasons we chose and fell
6 in love with our home and neighborhood was because
7 of the beautiful and open farm field surrounding
8 it. I run and walk outside in the neighborhood
9 daily, as do many others, and I strongly
10 appreciate the beautiful natural setting and
11 scenery of this area, which contributes highly to
12 the quality of my life.

13 Over the past few years, however, I've
14 observed firsthand the construction and
15 not-so-good effects of the solar field placed less
16 than a mile away from my house on the intersection
17 of Middle and East Roads. I watched new houses
18 being built with a beautiful open field view to be
19 suddenly replaced with a fenced-in
20 industrial-looking field with solar panels.

21 No one -- not only was the scenic view
22 destroyed, but the perpetual hum of the solar
23 field is noisy and unpleasant. No big deal if you
24 are just passing by, but when this is your home it
25 changes the quality of your surroundings and your

1 life. I would be willing to bet that the families
2 who purchased those new homes did not know that
3 they would be looking outside to a humming solar
4 field.

5 In addition to this, obviously, I have
6 concerns about the construction materials such as
7 the lead that the panels are made from. These
8 points were already made, so I won't go over that
9 again. I just please ask that you do not put this
10 solar field up.

11 Thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms. Hill.

13 We'll now continue with Bob Lyke, followed by
14 Lisa Madsen. Bob Lyke, please?

15 Mr. Lyke, you're on mute.

16 ROBERT LYKE: I'm sorry. I didn't realize I was on
17 mute.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: You're all set now. Thank you.

19 ROBERT BLAKE: Okay. Bob Blake. I chose to move here
20 53 years ago to raise my family, and I chose to
21 leave my inheritance here and live out the rest of
22 my life here.

23 I've lived on both sides of town, the Broad
24 Brook section, the warehouse point section. I've
25 spent an integral part in the governing of this

1 fine rural progressive community, as well as the
2 economic development. And I want to go on the
3 record as saying I'm not against solar panel
4 projects.

5 I'm not against solar panel projects in East
6 Windsor, but I'm against this project on Thrall
7 Road. And I would prefer to see projects
8 elsewhere on Route 5, Route 91, and Route 140.

9 I want to give you a quick parallel, if I
10 can? When I was a member of the Board of
11 Selectmen years ago, I was also one of the first
12 members of the East Windsor Sportsman's Club. The
13 relevant factor is there that we are today,
14 abutting landowners to the 485 gravel pit project
15 that -- the solar panels were approved by the
16 Siting Council.

17 And back then, you know, I guess the
18 relevance is nobody wants to live next to a
19 shooting range. And you know what? Nobody wants
20 to live next to a solar panel farm either, for
21 whatever reasons that they may have.

22 And the people that are home builders or
23 buyers of new homes have the option of not moving
24 to Thrall Road, but the people that are already
25 there are going to have to live with all the

1 things that you've heard speak about today. And I
2 just -- I want to appeal to you in sort of an
3 emotional sense because it isn't the best place
4 for the project. I'd like you to see to deny it.

5 In a proactive way, as far as future
6 developers are concerned -- and it doesn't concern
7 the Siting Council, I'll take it upon myself to
8 help research the better places if they think they
9 belong in this town -- and we don't have our fair
10 share already. And I thank you for your time.

11 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, Mr. Lyke.

12 We'll now call upon Lisa Madsen followed by
13 Stan Poleski. Lisa Madsen?

14 Lisa Madsen?

15
16 (No response.)

17
18 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Okay, we'll come back to Lisa at
19 the end. We'll now call upon Stan Poleski. Stan
20 Poleski?

21 **STAN POLESKI:** Okay, hopefully unmuted. Stan Ploski,
22 Rye Street, Broad Brook East Windsor. I live next
23 to the Plantation Road Grid Solar.

24 I do not wish to have any other town
25 residents endure what we are enduring right now.

1 The incessant pounding of steel beams during the
2 daytime, trucks during the nighttime making
3 deliveries outside of hours; nobody on the Siting
4 Council is following up on that. Remember, no
5 farms, no food. I've spent countless hours on the
6 East Planning and Development -- in Plan and
7 Development, and none of it that we've ever worked
8 on has ever had a solar farm on it.

9 I'm going to go on to, in the DEP -- in the
10 Siting Council's publication, I cannot find
11 anything on EMI. EMI is electromagnetic
12 interference. There's nothing there. There's
13 nothing concerning the blocking and attenuation of
14 nearby radar. There's nothing citing anything for
15 blocking cell towers. You have a couple of them
16 right in that area and nothing has been done.

17 I have not seen anything for Bradley Airport
18 in any kind of study going back to them. The FAA
19 has identified interactions between PV and
20 aircraft communications in FAA 2000 tech guidance.
21 Nothing been said. This is getting brushed.

22 To date, there has been no solar project this
23 close to any residents to study the effects of EMI
24 on birth defects and prenatal issues. I do not
25 wish to see any other people end up with that.

1 And I look back on Plantation Road and I look
2 back into the DEP exhibits on page 16. There
3 is -- they did not do a study on the brown-eared
4 bat. Guess what? That area was loaded with bats
5 until they started taking down tobacco sheds. We
6 will be inundated with insects.

7 You put bat houses up, that's great, but the
8 electromagnetic interference is going to screw
9 with the bat sonar. You go ahead, you do it out
10 there. That is prime farmland that you're putting
11 this on and you're putting it right next to
12 residences.

13 The groundwater has been contaminated enough
14 from DDT from tobacco over the years, and we do
15 not need new lead. There is no good -- or no
16 reclamation and recycling of these solar panels.
17 It is not there. The --

18 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, Mr. Poleski.

19 I'll now call upon Lisa Madsen.

20 Lisa Madsen?

21 **LISA MADSEN:** Can you hear me?

22 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Yes, I can. Thank you.

23 **LISA MADSEN:** Okay, great. Thank you. Thank you for
24 giving me an extra try. Thank you.

25 Good evening, Connecticut Siting Council and

1 East Windsor residents. My name is Lisa Madsen.
2 I have loved living in the beautiful farm town of
3 East Windsor for 25 years.

4 I agree with most of what the other speaker's
5 statements are tonight. Tonight, I'd want to
6 bring to the Connecticut Siting Council's
7 attention some potential issues with industrial
8 solar siting in East Windsor. As you know, our
9 East Windsor PZC is opposed to any further
10 grid-scale solar being sited on agriculture or
11 residential land. I agree with our Planning and
12 Zoning Commission and object to any further siting
13 industrial solar unfairly in East Windsor.

14 We have been unfairly targeted and exploited
15 to house over 29 percent of all industrial solar
16 arrays in Connecticut. I ask the Connecticut
17 Siting Council to assess the whole Town of East
18 Windsor's burden since we've already lost 1,000
19 prime acres of farmland so far.

20 During my national solar research, I
21 identified other state's farming communities
22 enacting a two-mile radius moratorium of
23 industrial solar arrays from any school or aquifer
24 due to fire events or possible contamination of
25 the aquifer.

1 In 2022, Amazon warehouses located in
2 industrial zones took all their solar arrays
3 offline due to six fires. Currently, 40 percent
4 of East Windsor's residents and farmers rely on
5 well water.

6 A two-mile school aquifer moratorium is a
7 critical safety approach to guard our children and
8 drinking water. The Thrall Road petition, in
9 addition to the other approved East Windsor
10 industrial solar fields, are all located within
11 two miles of our East Windsor aquifer and the
12 following schools as well.

13 East Windsor's Elementary, Middle School,
14 High School, Ellington Elementary and High School,
15 and Eli Terry Elementary in South Windsor. This
16 Thrall solar petition plus all East Windsor
17 approved solar fields and nearby town petitions
18 should be risk assessed for cumulative impact.

19 The thrall Road petition proposes over 9,000
20 solar panels in a residential neighborhood that
21 tested for toxic lead on the TCLP report near our
22 aquifer. This is not deemed safe by the EPA at
23 any levels.

24 Questions to consider. If there was a strong
25 snowstorm and solar panels were knocked over, like

1 what occurred in December 2022 at Oak Hill Solar
2 in New York, would the Connecticut Siting Council
3 require Verigy and approved solar developers to
4 respond and clean up in 24 hours all broken panels
5 due to their proximity to our aquifer? Nearby --

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms. Madsen. Thank you
7 for coming out this evening and providing us with
8 your comments.

9 That concludes the public statements for this
10 evening. Thank you again, everyone, for coming
11 out. And before closing this hearing, the
12 Connecticut Siting Council announces that briefs
13 and proposed findings of fact may be filed with
14 the Council by any party or intervener no later
15 than October 7th, 2023.

16 The submission of briefs and proposed
17 findings of fact are not required by this Council.
18 Rather, we leave it to the choice of the parties
19 and interveners. Anyone who has not become a
20 party or intervener but who desires to make his or
21 her views known to the Council may file written
22 statements with the Council within 30 days of the
23 date hereof.

24 The Council will issue draft findings of
25 fact, and thereafter parties and interveners may

1 identify errors or inconsistencies between the
2 Council's draft findings of fact and the record.
3 However, no new information, no new evidence, no
4 new arguments, and no reply briefs without our
5 permission will be considered by the Council.

6 Copies of the transcript of this hearing will
7 be filed at the East Windsor Town Clerk's Office
8 for your convenience.

9 I hereby declare this hearing adjourned.
10 Thank you everyone for your participation.

11 And thank you and have a good evening.

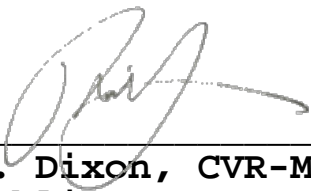
12 Good night.

13
14 (End: 7:29 p.m.)
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1
2 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
3 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
4

5 Petition No. 1572
6

7 I hereby certify that the foregoing 42 pages
8 are a complete and accurate computer-aided
9 transcription of my original verbatim notes taken
10 of the remote teleconference PUBLIC HEARING in Re:
11 PETITION NO.: 1572, EAST WINDSOR SOLAR II, LLC,
12 PETITION FOR A DECLARATORY RULING, PURSUANT TO
13 CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §4-176 AND §16-50K,
14 FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND
15 OPERATION OF A 4.0-MEGAWATT AC SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC
16 ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY LOCATED AT 31 THRALL
17 ROAD, EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT, AND ASSOCIATED
18 ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION, which was held before
19 JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer, on
20 September 7, 2023.

21
22 
23 _____
24 Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857
25 Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025