



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051
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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 23, 2023

Christina Dahl
Robin Chesky
o/b/o East Windsor Citizens for
Responsible Solar Development
102 Reservoir Avenue
Broad Brook, CT 06106
cdahl@snet.net

Brenda Crocket
10 Rockville Road
Broad Brook, CT 06106
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Lisa Madsen
36 Barber Hill Road
Broad Brook, CT 06106
madsen.l.bus@gmail.com

RE: **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.

Dear East Windsor Citizens for Responsible Solar Development:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your Request for a Public Hearing, dated May 22, 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 Bachman
Executive Director

MB/MP/laf

c: Service List dated May 8, 2023
Council Members

The Honorable Carol Hall, State Representative – 59th District carol.hall@housegop.ct.gov

The Honorable Jaime Foster, State Representative – 57th District jaime.foster@cga.ct.gov

The Honorable Saud Anwar, State Senator - 3rd District saud.anwar@cga.ct.gov

The Honorable Jason Bowsza, First Selectman, Town of East Windsor
jbowsza@eastwindsorct.com

Ruthanne Calabrese, Director of Planning & Community Development, Town of East Windsor
rcalabrese@eastwindsorct.com

From: CHRISTINA DAHL <cdahl@snet.net>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 12:23 PM
To: Bachman, Melanie <Melanie.Bachman@ct.gov>
Cc: Jaime Rep. Foster <jaimie.foster@cga.ct.gov>; ZRepresentative Carol Hall <carol.hall@housegop.ct.gov>; saud.anwar@cga.ct.gov; Jason Bowsza <jbowsza@eastwindsorct.com>; Ruthanne Calabrese <rcalabrese@eastwindsorct.com>; Brenda Crockett <bcrockett812@cox.net>; L. Madsen <madsen.l.bus@gmail.com>
Subject: Petition 1572 - East Windsor Solar Two, LLC petition - 31 Thrall Rd

Hi Ms Bachman,

Attached is a letter requesting a public hearing for Petition 1572.

Christina Dahl

May 22th, 2023

Ms. Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Members of the Connecticut Siting Council,

This letter is in regards to Petition 1572 – East Windsor Solar Two, LLC for proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 4MW solar facility at 31 Thrall Rd, East Windsor CT. As residents of East Windsor, we have great concern over the large amount of land being developed into utility-scale solar in our town. Currently we have 6 solar projects approved; 3 are in operation, 1 is currently being built and 2 have been approved to be built soon. When completed, they will encompass 526.3 acres of land with the total acreage for the projects at 929.3 acres, producing approximately 140 total megawatts. Gravel Pit Solar when completed will be the largest in New England encompassing 485 acres. East Windsor residents are now seeing the effect of Gravel Pit Solar on the town with the immense loss of farmland and forest which we cherish greatly. Due to these concerns we formed a citizen action group called “East Windsor Citizens for Responsible Solar Development”.

As representatives of our group we are asking the Siting Council to hold a local public hearing in East Windsor on Petition 1572 to give abutters and citizens an opportunity to address their concerns. Verogy, working with East Windsor Solar One, has completed a utility-scale solar project on 341 East Rd which is now operational. Concerns have been raised by the residents of Middle Road and Jessie Lane, along with the town, regarding continued noise from the facility, for over a year. Concerns have also been raised regarding the landscape buffer of evergreens which were planted, and have died, (photos attached below). No remediation by East Windsor Solar One has occurred, despite an agreement that it would be addressed. Because of these pending issues, we worry that without input from our residents, there will be similar issues with their new facility.

Here are our list of concerns:

- The development is situated in an R3 zone, surrounded by homes. This is not consistent with our POCD and Zoning regulations, therefore, industrializing our residential zone.
- Low tonal noise from the location of the inverters and transformers creating a nuisance for nearby homes. Being a low frequency the sound will travel further distances across flat land.
- Loss of more usable, prime farmland, resulting in a future of our town without agriculture. Our farmed land will become more scarce and expensive forcing farmers in our town to leave the profession due to competition for acreage.
- Impact to the property values of abutting residents.
- Quality of life concerns regarding landscape buffers, location of poles and proposed setbacks which will still be seen by abutters and those driving by.
- Lack of emergency response infrastructure, planning and training for our small volunteer fire department.
- No planning for natural disasters such as, lightning strikes, tornados, brush fires, etc.
- Dwindling habitats for wildlife and the wildlife being pushed out to residential areas.
- Decommissioning plans for the arrays and assurance that this decommission will happen.
- Health concerns from the panels, racking, wiring, inverters, and transformers that comprise the system and further environmental concerns for homes in this area that rely on wells. There is no

infrastructure for public water in this area of our town, if wells are contaminated by equipment runoff. This would be catastrophic to home values.

Our Town's Planning and Zoning department has sent the council a Resolution regarding Grid Scale Solar and we support their position. In addition, in 2011 our town passed a "Right to Farm" ordinance. The Purpose and Intent states that "Agriculture plays a significant role in East Windsor's heritage and future. The Town officially recognizes the importance of farming to its rural quality of life, heritage, public health, scenic vistas, tax base, wetlands, wildlife, and economy. This ordinance encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities and protects farmland within East Windsor by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies". Large, utility-scale solar development is in direct conflict with our town's ordinance. How can East Windsor continue to support agriculture and remain a critical farming community, if these solar projects are prioritized over prime farmland?

We hope the Siting Council will take into consideration these concerns and approve a public hearing for East Windsor citizens to provide comments. Our small community cannot continue to support more large, utility-scaled solar projects and maintain its agricultural significance to the state of CT and beyond.

Respectfully yours,



Christina Dahl
Robin Chesky
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Broad Brook, CT 06016

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