



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 10, 2023

Brian Eitzer
Chairperson
Bethany Conservation Commission
40 Peck Road
Bethany CT 06524
brian.e.email@comcast.net

RE: **PETITION NO. 1583** – TRITEC Americas, LLC notice of election to waive exclusion from Connecticut Siting Council jurisdiction, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §16-50k(e), and petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 0.999-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at Parcel Nos. 113-1 and 113-1-A, 428 Bethmour Road, Bethany, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Brian Eitzer:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of the Town of Bethany (Town) Conservation Commission's August 9, 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 August 3, 2023, the Council voted to hold a public hearing on the petition for the benefit of the public. A schedule for the public hearing will be developed and publicly noticed in compliance with Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §4-177(b).

Please be advised that the Town has a request for Party and Connecticut Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) status pending before the Council in this proceeding. The Town's request for status will be taken up during the Council's August 17, 2023 regular meeting. If the Town's request for status is granted, the Town Conservation Commission's August 9, 2023 correspondence will be considered part of the Town's pre-filed testimony in this proceeding.

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 consider all of the concerns received from members of the public who speak at the public hearing or submit written statements to the Council.

At this time, 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/laf

c: Service List, July 11, 2023
Council Members

Brian Eitzer, Chair
Bethany Conservation Commission
40 Peck Road, Bethany CT 06524
August 9, 2023

Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
siting.council@ct.gov

To: Connecticut Siting Council
From: Town of Bethany Conservation Commission
Re: Petition No. 1583, Proposed Solar Array at 428 Bethmour Road, Bethany, CT

The Bethany Conservation Commission is strongly opposed to the granting of the above petition. Allowing this site to be used for the commercial generation of electricity would introduce an industrial use into a residential area. It would thus be incompatible with Bethany's Plan of Conservation and Development and Open Space Plan.

This approximately twenty acre property currently consists of woods, historic stone walls, overgrown brush and wetlands. It is completely surrounded by nineteen single family homes. It provides open space and animal habitat, and the wooded areas sequester carbon. It is the opinion of the Bethany Conservation Commission that clearing woods to construct solar arrays is not an appropriate use of this residentially zoned parcel and is counterproductive to the goal of increasing sustainable energy.

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Bethany supports commercial solar projects in properly zoned areas such as already disturbed areas to be consistent with Bethany's Open Space Plan.

The petitioner belatedly submitted an alternative plan for its facility to be built on the Bethany Airport property. This is not a realistic alternative, and it has not been discussed with town officials. Not only would it cover areas the town currently uses for town activities, but it would eliminate large areas of trees at the back of the property, which is specifically listed in our Open Space Plan as part of the town's existing open space assets.

The town has other sites in the business and industrial zone that would be appropriate for the development of solar energy generation. A solar project in one of these properly zoned areas would be welcomed; it just isn't appropriate for an entirely residential area.

The petitioner has failed to comply with many of the procedural requirements of the Siting Council, as noted in the resolution of the Bethany Board of Selectmen in their submission to the Council. The Bethany Conservation Commission concurs with the Board of Selectmen that the petition should be denied, and approves of the decision to hold a public hearing. In the meantime the petitioner should pursue options other than the site on Bethmour Road.

Sincerely,

Brian Eitzer, Bethany Conservation Commission