



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

July 27, 2023

Cynthia Pecca
18 Rolling Green Rd
Bethany, CT 06524
cpecca@gmail.com

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 Cynthia Pecca:

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

MB/RDM/laf

c: Service List dated July 11, 2023
Council Members

From: Cynthia Pecca <cpecca@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2023 12:11 PM
To: Bachman, Melanie <Melanie.Bachman@ct.gov>; sitingcouncil@ct.gov
Subject: PETITION NO. 1583 - Bethany CT

Hello Ms. Bachman & Council Members

I am REQUESTING A HEARING on PETITION NO. 1583 for a 0.999-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility at 428 Bethmour Road, Bethany, CT for the following reasons:

- I oppose this project.
- This is a residential zone and the proposal is for a commercial facility.
- All residents of Bethany have well water. Despite the statements made in the Petition I remain concerned that the water supply, wetlands, and nearby stream could be contaminated.
- I have invested a great deal of money into my home and property. I do not want its value to decline because a solar field can be seen out my window.
- My neighbors and I have collected more than 800 signatures in an online petition from community members who also oppose this project.

On September 27, 2022 I was the recipient of a letter from Michaud Law Group, Middletown, CT., representing TRITEC Americas which described the intended development of a currently undeveloped, wooded 19.65-parcel. This 19.65-acre lot immediately abuts my residential property to the south.

My family and I have resided at our home (18 Rolling Green Road) since 1994. We chose the location of our home for several reasons, one being the rural and natural environment which we and our children have enjoyed for almost three decades. We've engaged in wildlife observation, which appears frequently in our backyard. We've come to observe many natural inhabitants, including deer, groundhogs, coyotes, foxes, an array of birds, and, while rare, even bobcats and bears. The project proposed by TRITEC Americas requires the deliberate destruction of this 19.65-acres of virgin wooded land. In addition to biomass destruction, the project would also directly cause the displacement of the animals and insects which currently live within the landscape. As someone who understands the importance of nature conservation, I would like to review the findings of the environmental impact statements which should be presented by TRITEC Americas. The potential destruction this project poses is very troubling, and we as citizens must voice our concerns as environmental stewards and advocate for responsible conservation and preservation of our natural environment.

The intent of my letter correspondence is to voice my concern as an environmental steward who has enjoyed the backyard wildlife for over 28 years, and as a resident of the Town of Bethany, who will also witness and be forced into the human-effects of this project. This project will impact our property value, general property taxes and zoning variances, being within a residential zone. We as immediately adjacent residents will also be forced into coping with unnecessary light and noise pollution, as the operations and maintenance of such a facility requires overhead lights, groundskeeping, panel/array clearance (snow) and cleaning (dirt/debris). While these activities may not be easily relatable, these activities are drastically different from the living conditions we've previously enjoyed for the last 28+ years.

Additional concerns resulting from the construction, operation, maintenance of the facility include:

- surface water runoff;
- inland wetland mitigation and changes to the localized shallow water table;
- increase in flooding risk;
- chemical/pesticide/rodenticide use;
- electrical component fatigue, failure, and subsequent surface releases of fluids within operating equipment;
- general safety hazard of overhead high voltage wires.

The proposed area of development is surrounded by residential properties which all reside on individual

private potable wells and septic systems. Every single residence which abuts the 19.65-acre parcel will be impacted.

Regarding procedure, TRITEC Americas is utilizing the Connecticut Siting Council to bypass regulations set forth by the Town of Bethany. Typically, developments such as this are proposed to the Town and residents for discussion and evaluation. In this case, TRITEC Americas has chosen to avoid the conventional regulatory approach and completely disregard conversations with those of us who live immediately adjacent to this parcel. If this project is allowed to proceed, we as residents will be forced into permanent changes without our consent. If this project is allowed to proceed, the natural environment, ecosystem, and landscape will be permanently eroded.

It is for these reasons that I voice my disapproval of the project proposed by TRITEC Americas. I urge you and the entirety of the Connecticut Siting Council to deny the TRITEC Americas facility proposed for the property at 428 Bethmour Road, Bethany, CT. The Town of Bethany has verbally suggested several other properties located in the Town of Bethany which would be better suited for the TRITEC solar photovoltaic facility. These other properties consist of already-developed land and would not require the destruction of virgin woodlands.

I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If additional questions exist, I can be reached via email: cpecca@gmail.com or 203-314-3916.

Cynthia A Pecca
18 Rolling Green Road
Bethany CT 06524^{[[[}_{SEP]}
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