



# 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](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

Web Site: [portal.ct.gov/csc](http://portal.ct.gov/csc)

### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 18, 2023

Lisa M. Houlihan  
Ellington Town Planner  
P.O. Box 187  
55 Main Street  
Ellington, CT 06029  
[lhoulihan@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:lhoulihan@ellington-ct.gov)

RE: **PETITION NO. 1589** – USS Somers Solar, 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 3.0-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 360 Somers Road, Ellington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Lisa Houlihan:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of the Town of Ellington Planning and Zoning Commission's Request for a Public Hearing, dated September 18, 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 A. Bachman  
Executive Director

MAB/IN/dll

c: Service List dated August 24, 2023  
Council Members



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

TEL. (860) 870-3120    **TOWN PLANNER'S OFFICE**    FAX (860) 870-3122

September 18, 2023

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

Sent via: [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

RE: Petition No. 1589 - USS Somers Solar, LLC, request for declaratory ruling for the construction, maintenance and operation of a 3.0-megawatt solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated electrical interconnection for 360 Somers Road, Ellington, Connecticut, located in an Industrial (I) Zone.

Dear Connecticut Siting Council,

The Ellington Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed Petition No. 1589 and has the following comments.

- Ellington Airport supports light general aviation traffic, a helicopter flight school, and one of the largest parachuting organizations in the northeast. In 2006, Ellington invested more than \$1,000,000, partially funded by the Small-Town Economic Assistance Program, to extend public sewers to Ellington Airport to retain existing businesses and promote future industrial growth. Due to limited sewer capacity, only approximately 4% of land in Ellington is zoned industrial. Given the limited potential for industrial development town-wide and past infrastructure improvements for Ellington Airport, the Planning and Zoning Commission does not support Petition No. 1589.
- The Federal Aviation Association and the Connecticut Department of Transportation partially funded a study in support of maintaining Ellington Airport as a regional transportation/aviation resource. The study concluded in 2010 and recommends the existing runway be extended 700' to allow it to serve 75% of small size aircraft and to increase aviation activities. The proposed solar facility conflicts with the Study's recommendations. (See attached Airside Alternative 4 plan)
- The proposed solar facility creates significant safety concerns for parachutists and small size aircraft. For example, in June of 2021 a plane associated with parachuting activities overshot the existing runway and landed in the runway protection zone on the property. And, in October of 2022 a two-seat plane with engine issues that was headed to Bradley International Airport was forced to land at Ellington Airport within a vacant field and in the runway protection zone.  
(NBC Connecticut / <https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/plane-lands-in-field-after-overshooting-runway-at-ellington-airport/2800326/>)  
(CT Insider/ <https://www.ctinsider.com/news/article/Plane-forced-to-land-at-Ellington-Airport-after-17527675.php/>)

Connecticut Siting Council

Petition No. 1589, 3MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility, 360 Somers Road, Ellington, CT

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The Ellington Planning and Zoning Commission respectfully requests the Council hold a public hearing to provide interested parties an opportunity to participate in Petition No. 1589. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments.

Best regards,



Lisa M. Houlihan, AICP, CZEO

Ellington Town Planner

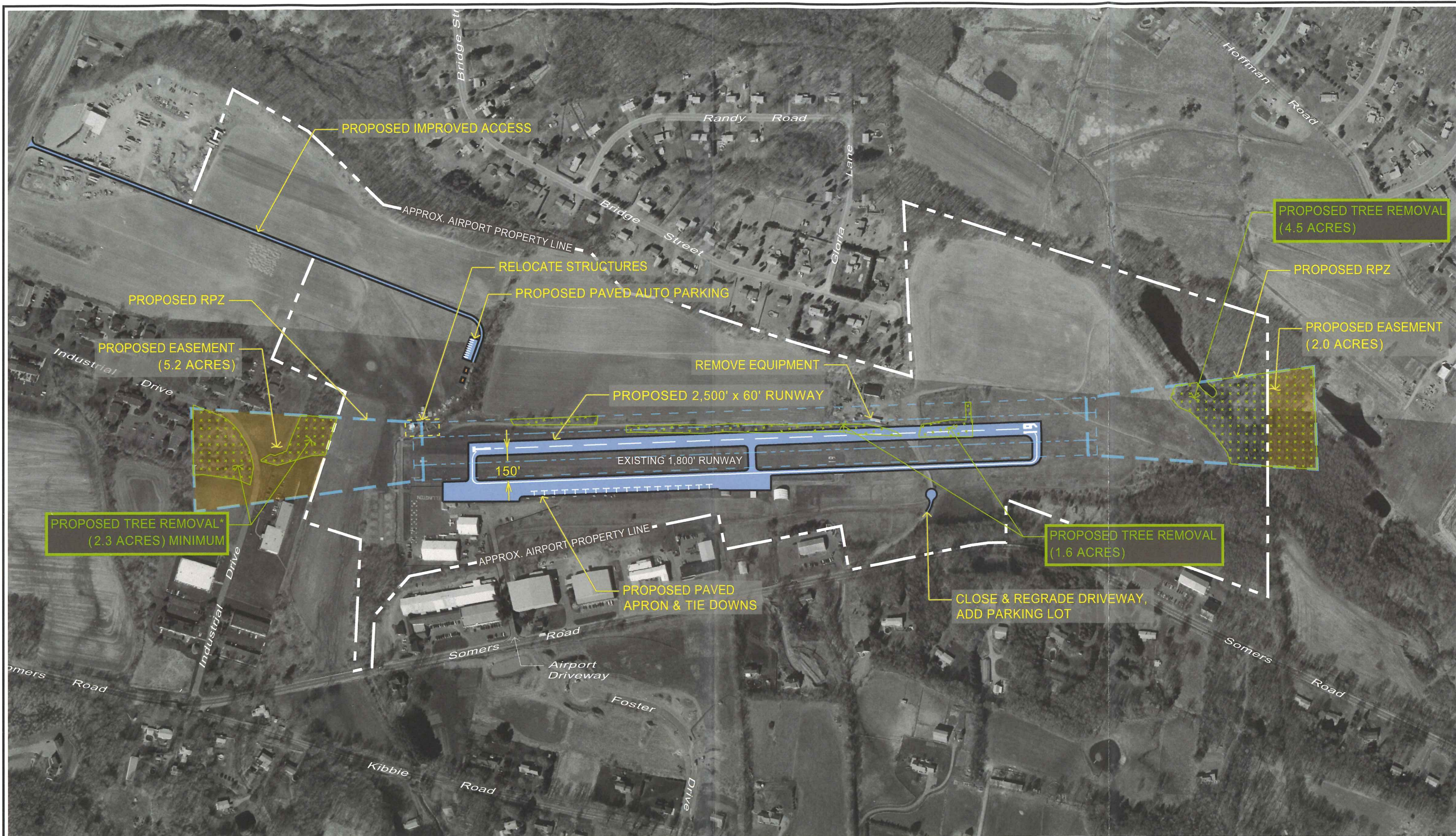
PO Box 187 / 55 Main Street / Ellington, CT 06029

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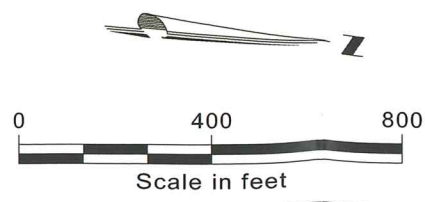
Website: [www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov) Email: [lhoulihan@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:lhoulihan@ellington-ct.gov)

cc: Pullman & Comley, c/o Attorney Lee D. Hoffman ([lhoffman@pullcom.com](mailto:lhoffman@pullcom.com))  
US Solar, c/o Dan Csaplar ([dan.csaplar@us-solar.com](mailto:dan.csaplar@us-solar.com))

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\*Additional tree clearing needed for Non-Precision instrument approach.



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AIRSIDE ALTERNATIVE 4  
2,500' RUNWAY

Ellington Airport Acquisition Feasibility Study

PROJECT NO. 19818
DATE: MAY 2010
FIGURE C-3