



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

December 18, 2023

Lee D. Hoffman, Esq.  
Pullman & Comley, LLC  
90 State House Square  
Hartford, CT 06095  
[lhoffman@pullcom.com](mailto:lhoffman@pullcom.com)

RE: **PETITION NO. 1597** – Greenskies Clean Energy 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 3.74-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at Parcel No. 017-150-066, Spencer Hill Road, Winchester, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. **Council Interrogatories to Petitioner.**

Dear Attorney Hoffman:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than January 8, 2024. Please submit an original and 15 copies to the Council's office and an electronic copy to [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov). In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan and in accordance with Section 16-50j-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Council requests all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

**Please be advised that the original and 15 copies are required to be submitted to the Council's office on or before the January 8, 2024 deadline.**

Copies of your responses are required to be provided to all parties and intervenors listed in the service list, which can be found on the Council's website under the "Pending Matters" link.

Any request for an extension of time to submit responses to interrogatories shall be submitted to the Council in writing pursuant to §16-50j-22a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Sincerely,

Melanie Bachman  
Executive Director

MAB/RDM

c: Service List dated November 7, 2023

**Petition No. 1597**  
**Greenskies Clean Energy LLC**  
**Spencer Hill Road, Winchester, Connecticut**

**Interrogatories**  
**December 18, 2023**

**Notice**

1. Has Greenskies Clean Energy LLC (GCE) received any comments since the petition was submitted to the Council? If yes, summarize the comments and how these comments were addressed.

**Project Development**

2. If the project is approved, identify all permits necessary for construction and operation and which entity will hold the permit(s)?
3. What is the estimated cost of the project?
4. Is the project, or any portion of the project, proposed to be undertaken by state departments, institutions or agencies, or to be funded in whole or in part by the state through any contract or grant?
5. If the facility operates beyond the terms of the NRES Agreement, will GCE decommission the facility or seek other revenue mechanisms for the power produced by the facility?
6. If GCE transfers the facility to another entity, would GCE provide the Council with a written agreement as to the entity responsible for any outstanding conditions of the Declaratory Ruling and quarterly assessment charges under CGS §16-50v(b)(2) that may be associated with this facility, including contact information for the individual acting on behalf of the transferee?

**Proposed Site**

7. Submit a map clearly depicting the boundaries of the solar facility site and the boundaries of the host parcel. Under Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-2a(29), “**Site**” means a contiguous parcel of property with specified boundaries, including, but not limited to, the leased area, right-of-way, access and easements on which a facility and associated equipment is located, shall be located or is proposed to be located.
8. What is the length of the lease agreement with the property owner? Describe options for a lease extension, if any.
9. Does the lease agreement with the property owner contain provisions for agricultural co-uses at the site? If yes, describe these co-uses.
10. If agricultural co-uses are implemented at the site, who would be responsible for responding to concerns and/or complaints related to these agricultural co-uses? How would contact information be provided for complaints?

11. Referring to Petition pp. 27-30 and Appendix M, are the proposed beekeeping area, herb planting area and agri-voltaics experimentation area all located within the facility “site?” If yes, provide the following information for these agricultural co-use areas.
- a. What entity would manage these areas?
  - b. If the project is sold and/or transferred to another entity, would the sale and/or transfer include management and maintenance of these agricultural co-use areas;
  - c. Has GCE discussed implementation or entered into any agreement related to agri-voltaics experimentation with the Town or other organization? If so, please describe the discussions and submit any agreement.
  - d. Would parking and access for emergency vehicles be available?
  - e. Would the hours of accessibility be limited or unlimited? Explain.
  - f. Will signs be posted related to the hours of accessibility, permitted and prohibited uses, etc.?
  - g. Who would be liable for any personal injury?
  - h. Who would be responsible for maintenance of the agricultural co-uses described above? What type of maintenance is necessary and how frequently would maintenance activities occur?
  - i. Identify the water source for these agricultural co-use areas.
  - j. Could the lease agreement with the host property owner be amended to remove these agricultural co-use areas from the solar facility “site,” as defined under RCSA §16-50j-2a(29)?
12. Referencing Petition p. 9, the host parcel is currently farmed by a tenant farmer. Is this use subject to a lease agreement and if so, when does the lease expire?
13. On November 16, 2023, DoAg submitted correspondence to the Council that it is revoking its October 3, 2023 No Material Impact to Prime Farmland Determination Letter due to stormwater requirements that conflict with DOAg’s conditions in its letter, specifically, “... no grading, cutting or filling, topsoil removal, or other actions associated with the project’s installation and ultimate deconstruction.” Has GCE had any further discussions with DOAg since November 16, 2023? If so, describe in detail.

### **Energy Output**

14. Is the project being designed to accommodate a potential future battery storage system? If so, please indicate the anticipated size of the system, where it may be located on the site, and the impact it may have on the NRES Agreement.
15. If one section of the solar array experiences electrical problems causing the section to shut down, could other sections of the system still operate and transmit power to the grid? By what mechanism are sections electrically isolated from each other?
16. Would GCE participate in an ISO-NE Forward Capacity Auction? If yes, which auction(s) and capacity commitment period(s)?
17. What is the projected capacity factor (expressed as a percentage) for the proposed project?
18. Have electrical loss assumptions been factored into the output of the facility?

19. Would the power output of the solar panels decline as the panels age? If so, estimate the percent per year.
20. When the NRES Agreement contract expires and the solar facility has not reached the end of its lifespan, will GCE decommission the facility or seek other revenue mechanisms for the power produced by the facility?
21. Would GCE construct the facility if the solar array footprint was further reduced and/or if the facility design features (ex. row spacing, panel height, etc.) were modified? Explain.

### **Proposed Facility and Associated Equipment**

22. What is the height and width of the panels from top edge to bottom edge?
23. What is the distance of the vegetated aisle between solar rows from the top edge of the panels to the bottom edge of panels on the adjacent row?
24. Provide the distance, direction and address of the nearest property line and nearest off-site residence from the solar field perimeter fence, transformer pads, and the proposed access drive.
25. Is the wiring from panels to the inverters installed on the racking system? If wiring is external, how would it be protected from potential damage from weather exposure, vegetation maintenance, farming activities or animals?
26. What is the expected useful life of the proposed solar facility?
27. How could GCE minimize the solar facility footprint and its visibility to the maximum possible extent without provisions for agricultural co-uses (ex. slimmer row spacing, lower panel height)?

### **Electrical Interconnection**

28. Referencing Petition p. 12, what is the status of the electrical layout and Impact Study?
29. Approximately how many utility poles will be required for the Project interconnection? What are the heights of the proposed utility poles?
30. Have there been any discussions with Eversource to use pad-mounted equipment rather than pole-mounted equipment? Provide cost estimates for both an overhead and underground interconnection.
31. Referring to petition p. 12, explain the statement, “This is due to generation nesting up to the bulk substation, Campville 14R”.

### **Public Safety**

32. Would the project comply with the current Connecticut State Building Code, National Electrical Code and Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code?
33. What are industry Best Management Practices for Electric and Magnetic Fields at solar facilities? Would the site design conform to these practices.

34. Would training be provided for local emergency responders regarding site operation and safety in the event of a fire or other emergency at the site?
35. In the event of a brush or electrical fire, how are potential electric hazards that could be encountered by emergency response personnel mitigated?
36. What type of media and/or specialized equipment would be necessary to extinguish a solar panel/electrical component fire?
37. What type of oil is within the transformers? Do the transformers have a containment system in the event of a leak? Can the remote-monitoring system detect an insulating oil leak?
38. Identify the distance/direction of the nearest federally-obligated airport from the proposed site.
39. Are there any water supply wells in the vicinity of the site? If yes, would the installation of racking posts affect well water quality from construction impacts, such as vibrations and sedimentation?
40. Referencing Petition p. 25, does the 73 dBA noise value at one meter represent one inverter unit or a bank of inverters operating simultaneously? Based on the noise profile information for the selected inverter, what is the collective operational noise level of the inverters at the nearest property boundary? Does this noise level meet applicable Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Noise Standards at the nearest property boundary?

#### **Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures**

41. Referencing Petition Exhibit M, April 14, 2023 letter from GCE to DOAg, the Energy Project Information section (p. 2) describes the project footprint as occurring entirely on prime farmland soil (13 acres) whereas the referenced Prime Farmland Soil Map (Letter Exhibit A) indicates 6.6 acres of prime farmland soil is present in the project footprint. Clarify.
42. Referencing Petition Exhibit M, April 14, 2023 letter from GCE to DOAg, regenerative herb farming is proposed as an agricultural co-use. How much space is required under and adjacent to the panels for herb farming? Would on-site herb farming be conducted by a third-party farmer or the property owner?
43. Referencing Petition p. 22, could hay farming still be conducted within the fenced solar array area?
44. Referencing Petition Exhibit M, July 31, 2023 email from DOAg to GCE states “DOAg’s concerns regarding the proposed project was the lack of funding for an Agri-voltaic research project at the site.” What entity is providing funding for the research project? Did GCE specify a one-acre area for the research project? If yes, in what location?
45. Referencing Petition p. 8 it states wood harvesting would continue to occur on the host parcel. Is wood harvesting considered an agricultural activity?
46. Referencing Petition p. 14, indicate the type and location of proposed landscaping.
47. Submit photographic site documentation with notations linked to the site plans or a detailed aerial image that identify locations of site-specific and representative site features. The submission should include photographs of the site from public road(s) or publicly accessible area(s) as well as

Site-specific locations depicting site features including, but not necessarily limited to, the following locations as applicable:

For each photo, please indicate the photo viewpoint direction and stake or flag the locations of site-specific and representative site features. Site-specific and representative site features include, but are not limited to, as applicable:

1. wetlands, watercourses and vernal pools;
2. forest/forest edge areas;
3. agricultural soil areas;
4. sloping terrain;
5. proposed stormwater control features;
6. nearest residences;
7. Site access and interior access road(s);
8. utility pads/electrical interconnection(s);
9. clearing limits/property lines;
10. mitigation areas; and
11. any other noteworthy features relative to the Project.

A photolog graphic must accompany the submission, using a site plan or a detailed aerial image, depicting each numbered photograph for reference. For each photo, indicate the photo location number and viewpoint direction, and clearly identify the locations of site-specific and representative site features show (e.g., physical staking/flagging or other means of marking the subject area).

#### **Facility Construction**

48. Has GCE submitted an application for a General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities to DEEP? If yes, what is the status of such permit?
49. DEEP's General Permit Appendix I states 50-foot wetland buffers shall be comprised of existing dense herbaceous vegetative ground cover. Provide information regarding the presence of this ground cover type within the proposed wetland buffer areas.
50. Submit a construction fuel materials storage, refueling and spill response plan with applicable contact information.

#### **Facility Maintenance/Decommissioning**

51. Would the inverters last the life of the project? If not, at what time interval would the inverters need to be replaced?
52. Referencing Petition p. 32, how often would the panels be cleaned? What equipment and substances would be used?
53. Referencing Petition p. 11, would GCE agree to install solar panels that are not classified as hazardous waste through Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure testing?
54. Would replacement modules be stored on-site in the event solar panels are damaged or are not functioning properly? If yes, in what location?