



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
Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 9, 2024

Lee D. Hoffman, Esq.
Pullman & Comley, LLC
90 State House Square
Hartford, CT 06095
lhoffman@pullcom.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1598** – Windsor Solar One, 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 445 River Street, Windsor, 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 23, 2024. Please submit an original and 15 copies to the Council's office and an electronic copy to 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 23, 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 December 21, 2023

Petition No. 1598
Windsor Solar One, LLC
445 River Street, Windsor, Connecticut

Interrogatories
January 9, 2024

Notice

1. Referencing Petition pp. 14-15, has Windsor Solar One, LLC (WSO) received any comments since the petition was submitted to the Council? If yes, summarize the comments and how these comments were addressed.
2. Referencing Petition Appendix I- Public Outreach, the letters to the abutters and public officials refer to a project on a closed landfill. No other documentation within the Petition refers to a landfill. Clarify.

Project Development

3. If the project is approved, identify all permits necessary for construction and operation and which entity will hold the permit(s)?
4. What is the estimated cost of the project?
5. 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?
6. If the facility operates beyond the terms of the SCEF Agreement, will WSO decommission the facility or seek other revenue mechanisms for the power produced by the facility?
7. If WSO transfers the facility to another entity, would WSO 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

8. 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.
9. The October 3, 2023 and November 27, 2023 DOAg correspondence references the site as located at “445 & 427 River Street,” but the Petition narrative and Petition Figure 3 (property card) do not include a reference to the parcel at 427 River Street. Have the two parcels been merged or is 427 River Street a separate parcel? Explain.

10. Referencing Petition p. 15 and Figure 4, several existing barns are located on the host parcel. Are these barns located on the proposed facility site, as that term is defined under RCSA, or outside of the facility site?
11. If the project is approved, how would its construction and operation be managed to avoid any interference with the property owner's use of the barns and other structures located on the host parcel?
12. What is the length of the lease agreement with the property owner? Describe options for lease extension(s), if any.
13. Does the lease agreement(s) with the property owner contain provisions for agricultural co-uses at the site? If yes, describe these co-uses.
14. 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?
15. Referencing Petition p. 6, are the host parcels currently farmed by the property owner or by a third party? If by a third party, is this use subject to a lease agreement and if so, when does the lease expire?
16. Referencing Petition p. 6, the host parcel is currently used for animal grazing. What animals are grazing? Do current grazing activities occur within the proposed facility site?
17. Referencing Petition Figure 3, the host parcel is part of the Public Act 490 Program. How would the project affect the use classification?
18. Has the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DOAg) purchased any development rights for the facility site or any portion of the facility site as part of the State Program for the Preservation of Agricultural Land?
19. On November 16, 2023, DOAg submitted correspondence to the Council that it revoked 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." On November 27, 2023, DOAg submitted a revised No Material Impact Letter referencing a revised site plan dated November 2, 2023. Provide the revised site plan dated November 2, 2023.
20. Provide the distance, direction and address of the nearest property line and nearest off-site residence from the solar field perimeter fence.

Energy Output

21. 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 SCEF Agreement.

22. 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?
23. Would WSO participate in an ISO-NE Forward Capacity Auction? If yes, which auction(s) and capacity commitment period(s)?
24. Referencing Petition p. 8, what electrical loss assumptions been factored into the output of the facility?
25. Would WSO construct the facility if the solar array footprint was reduced and/or if the facility design features (ex. row spacing, panel height, etc.) were modified? Explain.

Proposed Facility and Associated Equipment

26. What is the height and width of the panels from top edge to bottom edge, assuming maximum tilt?
27. 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?
28. 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?
29. Referencing Petition p. 7, how many tracker unit motors would be installed? What is the lifespan of the tracker motors?
30. List the equipment that would be installed on the proposed equipment pad.

Electrical Interconnection

31. Referencing Petition p. 8, does the Project interconnection require a review from ISO-NE?
32. Would any off-site upgrades to the existing electric distribution system be required? If yes, describe.
33. Petition p. 4 states "... at least 60% of the total capacity of the facility will be supplied to low-and moderate-income customers..." Where will the remaining approximately 40% be supplied?
34. How many utility poles are required for the interconnection? Identify the equipment that would be installed on the proposed utility poles.

Public Safety

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

37. Will training be provided for local emergency responders regarding site operation and safety in the event of a fire or other emergency at the site?
38. In the event of a brush or electrical fire, how are potential electric hazards that could be encountered by emergency response personnel mitigated? What type of media and/or specialized equipment would be necessary to extinguish a solar panel/electrical component fire?
39. Referencing Petition pp. 16-18, would the results of the acoustical design study be impacted by cumulative noise from the transformers and the panel tracking system? Explain.
40. What noise-generating equipment would be installed at the site? Would operation of the proposed facility meet the applicable Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Noise Standards at the nearest property boundary?
41. Referencing Petition p. 17, it states noise sound levels were based on a previously completed sound analysis that determined a combined inverter bank has a calculated sound power level of under 85 dBA. What inverter manufacture/model, and quantity of, were used in the previously completed combined inverter bank analysis?
42. Referencing Petition p. 16, do the transformers have an insulating oil containment system in the event of a leak? Can the remote-monitoring system detect an insulating oil leak?
43. Referencing Petition p. 19, identify the distance/direction of the nearest federally-obligated airport from the proposed site.
44. 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?
45. Referencing the Rotational Sheep Grazing Plan Attached to the November 27, 2023 DOAg correspondence, if temporary electric fence is used at the site to create defined pasture areas within the solar field, what types of safety measures are in place to prevent electric fence shock hazards?

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

46. Referencing Petition p. 20, why did WSO propose rotational sheep grazing at the site if site construction would not disturb/occupy any prime farmland soil?
47. Will livestock manure affect water quality in the downgradient wetland/watercourse? How can such effects be mitigated?
48. Referencing Petition p. 20, what is the status of the Phase 1B Cultural Resources survey?
49. Referencing Petition p. 18, during design of the Project, was there any consideration of relocating panels from the western portion of the host parcel to the eastern portion to reduce visibility from the River Street area? Explain.
50. Referencing Petition p. 22, what is the status of the DEEP Natural Diversity Data Base request?

51. 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

52. Referencing Petition p. 11, has WSO 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?
53. Petition Site Plan 2.0 shows an existing catch basin on the east side of River Street, adjacent to the limit of disturbance and the proposed access drive. What measures will be taken to protect the catch basin from construction-related impacts?
54. What is the acreage of the construction limit of disturbance?

Facility Maintenance/Decommissioning

55. Would the inverters last the life of the project? If not, at what time interval would the inverters need to be replaced?
56. Would replacement modules be stored on-site in the event solar panels are damaged or are not functioning properly? If yes, in what location?