

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

WINDSOR SOLAR ONE, LLC PETITION FOR A)	
DECLARATORY RULING, PURSUANT)	
TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES)	
§4-176 AND §16-50K, FOR THE PROPOSED)	PETITION NO. 1598
CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND)	
OPERATION OF A 3.0-MEGAWATT AC SOLAR)	
PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRIC GENERATING)	
FACILITY LOCATED AT 445 RIVER STREET)	
WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT AND)	FEBRUARY 2, 2024
ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION))	

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF ERIC BARZ

My name is Eric Barz and I have been the Town Planner for the Town of Windsor since March 6, 2006. I work in the Town of Windsor Town Hall located at 275 Broad Street, Windsor, CT 06095. I have a Master’s degree in Geography from the University of North Carolina and I am a member of the American Planning Association (APA), also holding an American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification. My resume is appended hereto as Attachment A.

The purpose of my testimony in this proceeding is to speak about the proposed screening, landscape buffers and berms, setbacks, and zoning regulations of the Town. I have reviewed Petition No. 1598 (the “Petition”) and related documentation filed by Windsor Solar One, LLC (“WSO”) with respect to screening, landscape buffers and berms, setbacks and the zoning regulations of the Town. After my review of the Petition, I am of the opinion that the proposed screening, landscape buffers and berms, and setbacks as currently presented are deficient.

It is my opinion that where there is insufficient existing vegetation along River Street to screen the facility from the street and adjacent residential properties, there should be a landscaped berm, undulating both vertically and horizontally, to appear natural, which contains sufficient height and vegetation to eventually screen the site. Where feasible, the existing mature vegetation along River Street can be enhanced with interspersed new plantings if it achieves similar results to the berm.

It is my opinion that the solar panels can be rearranged within the site to provide a more substantial buffer area to accommodate the berm between the site and River Street and allow the berm to turn east and screen the residential homes along the northern part of the site. Any mature trees removed from the eastern edge of the site to accommodate solar panels or improve solar access could open the residential neighborhood on River Street to more significant views of the Amazon facility above and to the east of the site.

The Town respectfully requests that the Connecticut Siting Council require WSO to complete following:

1. Construct a landscaped berm of sufficient height, with vertical and horizontal undulations to provide immediate total screening from ground level along the River Street frontage.
2. Construct a berm varying between 4 to 6 feet in height with a 1:2 slope on each side and a 3- to 4-foot-wide crown would be 19 to 28 feet wide within the 40-to-60-foot setback between the farm fence and the property line, providing ample room to allow the berm to meander horizontally.
3. Put a fence on the outside of the berm to allow sheep to graze on the berm grasses so that they do not become scrubby.
4. Maintain as much of the existing vegetation buffer while constructing the berm as possible.

ATTACHMENT A

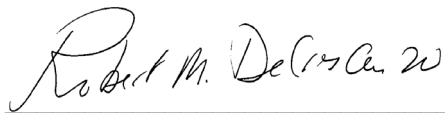
RESUME

“See Attached”

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that on this day that the forgoing was delivered by electronic mail in accordance with RCSA §16-50j-12, to all parties and intervenors of record as follows:

Lee D. Hoffman, Esq. Pullman & Comley, LLC 90 State House Square Hartford, CT 06103 lhoffman@pullcom.com	James Cerkanowicz Windsor Solar One, LLC 124 LaSalle Road, 2 nd Floor West Hartford, CT 06107 jcerkanowicz@verogy.com
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ROBERT M. DECRESCENZO, ESQ.

ERIC M. BARZ, AICP
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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
M.A. Geography, GPA 4.0

University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
B.S. Geography, GPA 3.2

- New England Economic Development Course, University of Southern Maine
- Team Connecticut Economic Development Training and Certification Program
- Inter-Company Leadership Training, Association for Quality and Participation Reinventing Government Program, American Public Works Association

RELEVANT SKILLS

- Site design
- Site plan review
- Zoning administration and enforcement
- Architectural review
- Cartography and map interpretation
- Plan and regulation writing
- Extensive knowledge of the Town of Windsor
- General knowledge of:
 - photovoltaic and other forms of solar power
 - light and noise transmission and abatement
 - trees and shrub growth habits and ecological values
 - agricultural practices
 - stormwater management;
 - erosion and sedimentation control
 - Connecticut general statutes on planning, zoning, and inland wetlands

HIGHLIGHTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

- 35 years of experience in all aspects of local and regional planning
- Acquired a wealth of planning knowledge and expertise working for 11 different municipalities
- Reviewed site plans for over 16.5 million sq. ft. of commercial/industrial space
- Reviewed subdivisions and site plans for more than 2,300 dwelling units
- Wrote plans of conservation and development for Shelton, Stonington, Somers, and Windsor (2)
- Updated zoning regulations for New Fairfield, Rocky Hill, and Windsor
- Participated in updating CT Farm Bureau's Zoning Regulations for Livestock: Best Practices
- Proficient in writing, public speaking, and testifying before town meetings, a General Assembly committee, and Connecticut Superior Courts
- Administered the design and construction of the Farmington River Trail for Burlington and Canton
- Implemented Windsor's first Geographic Information System in cooperation with the MDC
- Manage a staff of four with a \$500,000 budget
- Averted growth moratoriums by drafting comprehensive ordinances to address large-scale commercial development that were conceived, written, and adopted in two months

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Served as chair of the CRCOG Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
- Serve as chair of a Staff Review Team composed of various Town officials
- Served as liaison to the Canton Chamber of Commerce
- Twice averted growth moratoriums by drafting comprehensive ordinances to address large-scale commercial development that were conceived, written, and adopted in approximately two months
- Presenter and panelist on planning practices at regional planning and zoning conferences
- Served as a regular panelist for ConnDOT Context Sensitive Design workshops

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- **Town Planner**, *Town of Windsor, CT*, 2006 –
- **Senior Planner**, *Planimetrics, LLC*, Avon, CT, 2002 - 2005
- **Director of Community Development**, *Town of Canton, CT*, 1995 - 2002
- **Assistant Town Planner**, *Town of Windsor, CT*, 1989-- 1995
- **Planning Intern**, *City of Rock Hill, SC*, 1988 - 1989
- **Planning Intern**, *Centralina Council of Governments*, Charlotte, NC, 1988
- **Data Entry Supervisor**, *Institute for Transportation Research and Education*, 1987 - 1988
- **Planning Assistant**, *Charlotte Fire Department*, Charlotte, NC, 1986 -1987

HONORS

- Gamma Theta Upsilon (International Geographical Honor Society), chapter President and Vice-President
- Public Policy Award - Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association for the Stonington Plan of Conservation and Development
- Transparency Award - Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association for information accessibility in Windsor's regulations and web pages.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

American Planning Association (APA)

Connecticut Chapter of the APA