



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

February 7, 2024

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RE: **PETITION NO. 1601** – 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 958 Route 163, Montville, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. **Council Interrogatories to Petitioner.**

Dear Attorney Michaud:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than February 28, 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 February 28, 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 15, 2023

**Petition No. 1601**  
**TRITEC Americas, LLC**  
**958 Route 163, Montville, Connecticut**

**Interrogatories**  
**February 7 2024**

**Notice**

1. Has TRITEC received any comments since the petition was submitted to the Council? If yes, summarize the comments and state how these comments were addressed.
2. Referencing Petition p. 4, how would the Project benefit abutting property owners, the Town of Montville and the state?

**Project Development**

3. Referencing Petition p. 7, which entity will hold the permit(s)?
4. Referring to Petition p. 12, would the total capacity of the facility be supplied to the NRES Program?
5. Referring to Petition p. 13, what is the approximate capacity of the facility, expressed as a percentage, that would be allotted to the City of Torrington, Meriden Public Schools, and the Town of Windham?
6. If TRITEC transfers the facility to another entity, would TRITEC 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(s). 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. Referring to pp. 13 and 14, what entity currently manages the apiaries? Would the same entity manage the future agricultural co-use of the parcel? What other agricultural activities are contemplated for the site, if any?
9. 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?
10. The Town of Montville Land Use Office submitted comments to the Council on December 28, 2023 regarding an application for a residential lot subdivision of the host parcel and related easement encroachments. The Council provided a copy of the Town’s comments to TRITEC on December 28, 2023. Please respond to the Town’s comments and concerns.

### **Energy Output**

11. Referencing Petition p. 9, what electrical loss assumptions have been factored into the output of the facility?
12. Was a shade study conducted? Would shading from adjacent forested areas interfere with energy production at the site?
13. 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?

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

14. Referencing Petition p. 8, how many tracker unit motors would be installed? What is the lifespan of the tracker motors?
15. Referencing Petition Exhibit G, p. 2, to what approximate depth would the tracker support posts be driven into the ground?
16. How are the tracker motors powered?
17. What are the approximate dimensions of the transformer and switchgear that would be installed on the concrete pad adjacent to the proposed access drive?
18. Referencing Petition Site Plan 2.11, are the inverters mounted on concrete pads or on posts?

### **Electrical Interconnection**

19. Will the interconnection provide energy to a substation? If yes, which one?
20. Referencing Petition Site Plan 2.11, what equipment would be installed on each utility pole? Can the number of poles be reduced by consolidating equipment?
21. Referencing Petition Site Plan 2.11, why do the utility poles need to be within 10 feet of each other? Can some or all the utility poles be located farther to the west?
22. Referencing Petition Site Plan 2.11, the proposed interconnection route is shown passing through a vegetated area. Describe clearing necessary to install the interconnection line.
23. Referencing Petition Exhibit G, p. 4, it states Eversource does not pad-mount their equipment. Where was this information obtained?

### **Public Safety**

24. What are industry Best Management Practices for Electric and Magnetic Fields at solar facilities? Would the site design conform to these practices.
25. 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?

26. Are there manual facility shut-off switches that can be operated by emergency personnel? If yes, in what location(s)?
27. 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?
28. Provide an Emergency Response Plan for the proposed facility.
29. Referencing Petition p. 9, does the transformer have a containment system in the event of an insulating mineral oil leak? Can the SCADA system detect an insulating mineral oil leak?
30. Would the installation of racking posts affect well water quality from construction impacts, such as from vibrations and sedimentation?
31. Referencing Petition p. 12, submit the noise study that determined the noise level complies with Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Noise Standards at the nearest property line. Was operation of the tracker motors considered in the noise analysis?

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

32. Referencing Petition Site Plan 3.01- Fence Detail, can the bottom of the perimeter fence fabric be raised to a height of six-inches above grade to allow for small wildlife movement?
33. Referencing Petition p. 14, has the Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment Survey been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office? If yes, provide a copy of their response, if available.
34. Has TRITEC 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?
35. Referencing Petition Exhibit H, identify the property with a visible structure in Photo 20 Northeast.

#### **Facility Construction**

36. Will blasting be required to construct the site? If not, how will bedrock be removed if encountered?
37. Referencing Petition Exhibit G, p. 11, where will the 5,700 cubic yards of material be disposed of? What would this material be composed of? What is the total estimate of cut and fill?
38. Petition Site Plan 2.31 shows the stormwater detention basin as being constructed as part of Phase 1; however, the Site Plan 2.32- Phase 2 narrative describes the basin as being constructed after the installation of the solar panels. Clarify.
39. Referencing Petition Exhibit B, p. 6 describes a temporary sediment trap. In what location is the trap? If the trap is in the location of the permanent stormwater basin, provide procedures on the Site Plan for construction, cleaning and conversion of the trap into the stormwater basin.
40. Referencing Petition Site Plan 2.21, provide more information of the function of the “yard drain” and how stormwater will be directed to the drain.

41. How will stormwater be controlled along the access drive and at the entrance point on Route 163? Will a Department of Transportation permit be required for the new entrance and for the discharge of stormwater onto Route 163?
42. Referencing Petition Site Plan 2.21, why was the access drive proposed in an area that requires extensive grading? Discuss the feasibility of relocating the access drive to the north of the interconnection point, in the area with moderate grades.

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

43. Revise the Petition Operations and Maintenance Plan (Exhibit C) to include procedures for pesticide/herbicide use, panel washing, and inspection and replacement of landscaping if die off occurs.