



September 29, 2023

Ref: 43323.00

Bradley Parsons, PE, PMP
Verogy
124 LaSalle Road
West Hartford, Connecticut

Re: Vernal Pool Investigation Letter
3MW-AC Solar Project, 17 Wickham Road, Glastonbury, Connecticut

Bradley,

VHB completed an on-site investigation to determine the presence or absence of inland wetlands and watercourses at 17 Wickham Road (Glastonbury Assessor's MBL G5-2920-S0054) in Glastonbury, Connecticut as requested and authorized. In addition, and as is typical with our delineation field work, we include identifying potential vernal pools. This investigation encompassed the entire parcel (herein referred to as the Project Site) and was completed by a Certified Professional Soil Scientist.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

As defined in the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act §22a-38 CGS, 'watercourses' are defined as "rivers, streams, brooks, waterways, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, bogs and all other bodies of water, natural or artificial, **vernal or intermittent**, public or private, which are contained within, flow through or border upon the state or any portion thereof." Therefore, under state law, vernal pools, which contain a specific ecology, are one type of vernal watercourse. Vernal pools are seasonal depressional wetlands, which in the northeast occur in glaciated areas that are covered by shallow water for variable periods from winter to spring but may be completely dry during the summer and fall.

INVESTIGATION & METHODOLOGY

The Project Site was investigated on July 17 and August 31, 2023, during which time a delineation and potential vernal pool investigation based on criteria used in the State of Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Act were completed. Weather was seasonable, sunny with temperatures in the high-70's. The Project Area is an agricultural parcel spanning approximately 15 acres, surrounded by residential development.

The Project Site was investigated and any depressional areas with evidence of or having the potential evidence of suitable habitat for amphibian breeding activity. Due to the time of year the investigation occurred, egg masses were not able to be observed, however visual/auditory observations of vernal pool

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species, including turning over duff¹ and investigating any suspicious depressional areas that may exhibit a long enough hydroperiod in the spring time of the year was completed. and, if evidence of the site having the potential for vernal pools was found, these results would have been included in our Wetland and Watercourse Delineation Report noted above. Typical vernal pool species include wood frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*), spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*), marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*), Jefferson's salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*), and/or fairy shrimp (*Branchiopoda anostraca*).

No evidence of vernal pool species was observed within the Project Site. While the site was not investigated during the active amphibian breeding season, no auditory observations were heard or evidence of species hiding under duff or stones and only one wetland was observed and delineated on the southeast portion of the project area. As such, no impacts to vernal pool species are anticipated within the project area or additional studies recommended.

CLOSING

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on this Project. Please contact Jeffrey Shamas at 860-807-4388 if you have any questions or require additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sf".

Sara Berryman, CSS
Wetland Scientist
sberryman@vhb.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Shamas".

Jeffrey R. Shamas, CE, CSS, ENV SP, SPWS
Director, Energy & Natural Sciences
jshamas@vhb.com

¹ Forest duff: is the part of a [forest ecosystem](#) that is the aboveground portion of the [forest](#) and the mineral [soil](#), principally composed of dead and decaying plant matter such as rotting [wood](#) and shed [leaves](#).