



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 6, 2024

Raymond Welnicki
121 Amanda Drive
Manchester, CT 06040
zedgar@cox.net

RE: **PETITION NO. 1609** – 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 250 Carter Street, Manchester, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Raymond Welnicki:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your additional correspondence and Request for a Public Hearing, dated March 6, 2024, for the above-referenced petition.

The Request for a Public Hearing will be placed on the next Council meeting agenda, a copy of which will be sent to you. You will be notified of the Council's determination immediately thereafter.

Please contact our office at 860-827-2935 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/dll

c: Service List dated January 26, 2024
Council Members

From: Ray W <zedgar@cox.net>

Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 2:51 PM

To: Bachman, Melanie <Melanie.Bachman@ct.gov>; CSC-DL Siting Council <Siting.Council@ct.gov>

Subject: Request for Public Hearing on Petition 1609

My name is Ray Welnicki and my residence at 121 Amanda Drive, Manchester abuts 250 Carter St., Manchester which is the location of the solar farm proposed in Petition 1609. I provided comments to Executive Director Bachman and the Siting Council via mail on March 1 and email on March 5. I now wish to formally request that the Siting Council hold a public hearing on this matter and I offer some new substantial adverse environmental effects that this proposed project could cause. These are as follows:

1. EMF induction causes corrosion of natural gas pipeline. Solar farms are known to emit electrical and magnetic frequencies (EMFs) which can induce electrical current in nearby metal pipelines such as the natural gas pipeline in the proximity of this proposed photovoltaic facility. These electrical currents can cause or accelerate corrosion of the pipeline creating the risk of a catastrophic gas leak.
2. EMF induction causes electrocution risk. Any such induced electrical current could also pose an electrocution risk to humans and wildlife that may come in contact with the above ground metal warning pipes that are located at intervals along the pipeline.
3. Conduction of electrical current to pipeline causes corrosion & electrocution risk. Electrical current can also be conducted to the metal natural gas pipeline via conduction through the ground as a result of electrical current leakage from the solar panels, inverters, storage batteries and conducting cables. Any such conducted current could cause a catastrophic gas leak or risk of electrocution of humans and wildlife as noted above.
4. Concentration of leaked gas. The stormwater management plan will lead to an increase in groundwater at certain locations along the natural gas pipeline resulting in damp soil at those locations. This would increase the risk of a natural gas explosion at those locations since damp soil concentrates any leaked gas unlike the dispersion of that gas through dry soils.
5. Erosion could cause catastrophic gas leak. The stormwater management plan demonstrably results in probable situations where hundreds of thousands of gallons of water would be released through an outlet pipe or culvert from the infiltration basin. That water would cascade downslope and likely cause erosion at and around the natural gas pipeline. This can expose the buried pipeline potentially causing bending of the pipe which could compromise pipe fittings and/or could also cause vortex induced vibrations, either of which could cause catastrophic gas leaks.

Any one of these possible situations could produce substantial if not catastrophic adverse environmental effects. These risks need to be evaluated further and fully pursued at a public hearing on Petition 1609.

Thank you for your consideration.

Raymond Welnicki
121 Amanda Drive
Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 803-1753