



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 18, 2024

Carrie Larson Ortolano, Esq.  
General Counsel  
LSE Scutum LLC and LSE Bootes LLC  
c/o Lodestar Energy LLC  
40 Tower Lane, Suite 201  
Avon, CT 06001  
[cortolano@lodestarenergy.com](mailto:cortolano@lodestarenergy.com)

RE: **PETITION NO. 1611** – LSE Scutum LLC and LSE Bootes LLC (Lodestar Energy) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.93-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 141 Town Farm Road, and Parcel Nos. 86-326 and 86-164, Abbe Road, Enfield, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection. **Council Interrogatories to Petitioner.**

Dear Attorney Ortolano:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than May 9, 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 May 9, 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

c: Service List dated March 28, 2024

MAB/RDM

**Petition No. 1611**  
**LSE Scutum LLC and LSE Bootes LLC (Lodestar)**  
**141 Town Farm Road, and Parcel Nos. 86-326 and 86-164, Abbe Road, Enfield**

**Pre-Hearing Interrogatories**  
**April 18, 2024**

**Notice**

1. Has Lodestar received any comments since the petition was submitted to the Council? If yes, summarize the comments and how these comments were addressed.

**Project Development**

2. If the project is approved, identify all permits necessary for construction and operation and which entity will hold the permit(s)?
3. What is the estimated cost of the project?
4. Referencing Petition p. 4, identify the location of any alternate sites that were considered for solar development and the reasons they were rejected.
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. Referring to Petition p. 1, if the facility operates beyond the terms of the NRES Agreement, will Lodestar decommission the facility or seek other revenue mechanisms for the power produced by the facility?
7. If Lodestar transfers the facility to another entity, would Lodestar 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(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.
9. What is the length of the lease agreement with the property owners? Describe options for a lease extension(s), if any.
10. In the lease agreement with the property owners, are there any provisions related to decommissioning or Site restoration at the end of the project's useful life? If so, please describe and/or provide any such provisions.

11. Is the site, or any portion of the host parcel(s), part of the Public Act 490 Program? If so, how does the municipal land use code classify the parcel(s)? How would the project affect the use classification?
12. Has the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture 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?
13. Is the host parcel 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?

### **Energy Output**

14. 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 any contract(s).
15. 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?
16. Would Lodestar participate in an ISO-NE Forward Capacity Auction? If yes, which auction(s) and capacity commitment period(s)?
17. What is the anticipated capacity factor of the project? Identify what electrical loss assumptions been factored into the output of the facility, if any.
18. Would Lodestar construct the facilities if the solar array area footprints were reduced and/or if the facility design features (ex. row spacing, panel height, etc.) were modified? Explain.

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

19. What is the length of each access drive?
20. Are the inverters located on concrete pads or on post-supported racking?
21. What are the approximate dimensions of the transformer and switchgear that would be installed on the concrete pads?
22. Referencing Petition, p. 6,
  - a. to what approximate depth would the tracker support posts be driven into the ground?
  - b. how many tracker unit motors would be installed?
  - c. what is the lifespan of the tracker motors?
  - d. how are the tracker motors powered?
  - e. at what height above grade are the tracker motors located?
23. Referencing Petition p. 20, is the wiring from the 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, or animals?
24. Referencing Petition Overall Aerial Plan - Sheet 3, has the lot identified as 086-0323-Piro Ndoci (205 Abbe Rd) been developed with a residence since the date the aerial image was taken?

25. What is the distance from the proposed perimeter fence to the nearest residential building on Abbe Road and Town Farm Road?

### **Electrical Interconnection**

26. Does the interconnection require a review from ISO-NE?
27. Besides the interconnection poles to be owned by Eversource, describe any other off-site distribution system upgrades necessary to facilitate the Project interconnection, if applicable.
28. Will the interconnection provide energy to a substation? If yes, which one?
29. Have there been any discussions with Eversource to use pad-mounted equipment rather than pole-mounted equipment? Provide cost estimates for both an overhead and underground interconnection.
30. What is the height above grade of the proposed utility poles?
31. Referencing Petition Array Site Plan - Sheet 4, what is the distance between the four utility poles at each interconnection location? Can the distance between the poles be increased to avoid clustering of the poles at each access drive entrance area?

### **Public Safety**

32. Would the project comply with the current Connecticut State Building Code, National Electrical Code and Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code?
33. What are industry Best Management Practices for Electric and Magnetic Fields at solar facilities? Would the site design conform to these practices?
34. Would notice to the Federal Aviation Administration be necessary for the temporary use of a crane during construction?
35. 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?
36. Provide an Emergency Response Plan for the proposed facility.
37. Could a fire truck or other large emergency service vehicle that is utilizing the proposed access road maneuver around the on-site wetland to reach the solar array areas? What are the points of access for emergency response?
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. What is the distance of the nearest municipal fire hydrant to the proposed facility? What alternative water sources are available to the fire department? How would water be brought to the site in the event of a fire?

40. Would firewater or other runoff from a solar panel/electrical fire be considered hazardous and require cleanup by a hazardous materials response contractor?
41. What type of insulating oil is used within the transformers? Is it biodegradable? Do the transformers have a containment system in the event of an insulating oil leak? Can the SCADA system detect an insulating oil leak?
42. If private water wells are located on properties abutting the site, would vibrations from the installation of racking posts affect well function and/or water quality, such as well water sedimentation?
43. Referencing Petition Attachment 8- Noise Analysis, p. 5, it states “The closest residence is 315 ft away from the southern equipment pad.” Identify the address of this residence.
44. What is the distance from the southern equipment pad to both the property line and residence at 2 Cornfield Lane? What would be the noise level from operation of the facility at the 2 Cornfield Lane property line?
45. Can the southern equipment pad be moved farther to the north to increase the distance to the residences on Town Farm Road and Cornfield Lane?

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

46. Referencing Petition p. 16, it states construction would be in accordance with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* and the *2004 Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual*. Is the preliminary design of the Project at least 50 percent complete? If not, would construction comply with both the Connecticut Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines and Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual, effective March 30, 2024?
47. Referencing Petition p. 16 and Attachment 7, p. 9, has Lodestar received any comments from the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the Phase IB investigation?
48. Referencing Petition Overall Aerial Plan - Sheet 3, is it possible to relocate the access drive and underground electrical line to avoid tree clearing north of the wetland?
49. 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 shown (e.g., physical staking/flagging or other means of marking the subject area).

### **Facility Construction**

50. Will blasting be required to construct the site? If not, how will racking posts be installed if bedrock is encountered?
51. Would construction of the two solar array areas occur concurrently or in phases?
52. Referencing Petition p. 15, what is meant by "...seed the fields right away once the harvest is complete"?
53. Referencing Petition p. 15, why does the stormwater swale need to be registered with DEEP? If the process is separate from the General Permit application process, what is the registration process for a stormwater swale?

### **Facility Maintenance/Decommissioning**

54. Revise the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan to include the following:
  - a. Inspection and maintenance procedures for the tracker motors.
  - b. section E- Emergency Response –correct the reference to the Willimantic fire and police departments.
  - c. Water source for the periodic panel washing.
  - d. Provisions for landscape watering for a full year after planting.
  - e. Provisions for replacement of dead plantings for the life of the project.
55. Referring to the O&M Plan, Section II, Spill Prevention Control Plan- Reporting, if a spill occurs, what entity is responsible for notifying area residents that have water wells?
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?
57. Would project decommissioning include the two access drives and perimeter fencing?
58. Has the manufacturer of the proposed solar panels conducted Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) testing to determine if the panels would be characterized as hazardous waste at the time of disposal under current regulatory criteria? If so, submit information that indicates the proposed solar modules would not be characterized as hazardous waste. If not, would Lodestar agree to install solar panels that are not classified as hazardous waste through TCLP testing?