



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 22, 2024

Paul R. Michaud, Esq.
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RE: **PETITION NO. 1612** – 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 37 Hunters Lane, Southington, 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 May 13, 2024. Please submit an original and 15 copies to the Council's office and an electronic copy to 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 13, 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/IN

c: Service List dated February 9, 2024

Petition No. 1612
TRITEC Americas, LLC
37 Hunters Lane, Southington, Connecticut

Interrogatories
April 22, 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. 3, which Town officials and abutters were present at the November 3, 2023, and November 16, 2023 video conferences? How were the comments related to visibility and noise from the Town officials and abutters addressed?

Project Development

3. Referencing Petition p. 4,
 - a. by what mechanism would the energy from the proposed facility provide electricity only to the Town of Southington?
 - b. would the proposed facility produce energy 24/7? If not, how would the proposed facility provide a stable electricity supply for the electric grid?
 - c. what substantial grid improvements would occur in the vicinity of the proposed facility?
4. Referencing Petition Exhibit A, the second to last slide entitled, “Solar Project Benefits” states that the “project will provide substantial property tax income to the **Town of Suffield.**” Explain.
5. Referencing Petition p. 6, identify which entity will hold each permit?
6. Referring to Petition p. 11, when will the Project be bid into the NRES Program? Would the total capacity of the facility be supplied to the NRES Program? If the project was bid into the program and was selected, what distressed municipalities would benefit from the project?
7. If the facility is not selected in the NRES Program, would TRITEC withdraw this Petition?
8. If the facility operates beyond the terms of the NRES Agreement, will TRITEC decommission the facility or seek other revenue mechanisms for the power produced by the facility?
9. 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

10. 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.

11. What is the length of the lease agreement with the property owner? Describe options for a lease extension, if any.
12. In the lease agreement with the property owner, 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.
13. Does the lease agreement with the property owner contain provisions for agricultural co-uses at the site? If yes, describe the co-uses.
14. Referring to Petition p.12, what entity currently manages the apiaries and where are they located on the host parcel? What other agricultural activities are contemplated for the site, who would manage them and where would they be located?
15. 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?
16. Referring to Petition p. 12, are the proposed agricultural co-use areas all located within the facility "site?" If yes, provide the following information for these agricultural co-use areas.
 - a. What entity would manage these areas?
 - b. If the project is sold and/or transferred to another entity, would the sale and/or transfer include management and maintenance of these agricultural co-use areas?
 - c. Would parking and access for emergency vehicles be available?
 - d. Would the hours of accessibility be limited or unlimited? Explain.
 - e. Will signs be posted related to the hours of accessibility, permitted and prohibited uses, etc.?
 - f. Who would be liable for any personal injury?
 - g. Who would be responsible for maintenance of the agricultural co-uses described above? What type of maintenance is necessary and how frequently would maintenance activities occur?
 - h. Identify the water source for these agricultural co-use areas.
 - i. Could the lease agreement with the host property owner be amended to remove these agricultural co-use areas from the solar facility "site," as defined under RCSA §16-50j-2a(29)?
17. Referring to Petition, Appendix B, Existing Conditions Plan, a "Limit of Environmental Land Use Restriction" (ELUR) is identified in the site development area with a note, "Per Map Reference C." Provide Map Reference C.
18. Define the origin and purpose of the ELUR.
19. Does the presence of the ELUR preclude development of the site? Explain.
20. Is the site and/or host parcel within a Town of Southington-designated conservation easement?

Energy Output

21. Was a shade study conducted? Would shading from adjacent woodland areas interfere with energy production at the site?

Proposed Facility and Associated Equipment

22. Referencing Petition Exhibit F, p. 2,
 - 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. What are the approximate dimensions of the transformer and switchgear that would be installed on the concrete pad located in the eastern corner of the facility compound?
24. Referencing Petition Site Plan 2.11, are the inverters mounted on concrete pads or on posts?
25. Petition Appendix F contains specification sheets for two different solar panels. Which solar panels passed the TCLP test and would be installed at the site? What solar panel output was used to calculate the generation capacity of the proposed facility?

Electrical Interconnection

26. Provide the distance of the interconnection point from the facility equipment pad.
27. Will the interconnection provide energy to a substation? If yes, which one?
28. Petition Exhibit F, p. 2 refers to proposed utility interconnection service poles by Eversource in the northeast corner of the site adjacent to Metals Drive. How many utility interconnection poles are proposed?
29. Referencing Petition Appendix B, Site Plan 2.11 and Petition Appendix F, p. 2, is the rest of the interconnection underground? Would any utility poles be required for the interconnection? If so, provide the number of utility poles required, their proposed location and the equipment to be installed?
30. Referencing Petition p. 7, what is the status of the Eversource System Impact Study?
31. Does the interconnection require a review from ISO-NE?
32. Referencing Petition Appendix B, Site Plan 2.11, the underground electrical connection traverses a wetland area on the host parcel. Was an alternative electrical connection considered to avoid disturbance to the wetland? Explain.
33. Referencing Petition Appendix B, Site Plan 2.31 a culvert is shown at the edge of the limit of disturbance associated with the underground electrical line in the northeast corner of the host parcel. Is a culvert inlet or outlet structure shown at the demarcation of the limit of disturbance? How will the installation of the underground electric line with a trench affect above ground, and underground, water flow in the culvert area?

Public Safety

34. Referencing Petition p. 11, how does the project comply with industry Best Management Practices for Electric and Magnetic Fields at solar facilities?
35. Provide the distance of the proposed gravel road entrance to the nearest residential structure.
36. Provide the distance of the nearest residential structure from the perimeter fence and the inverters at their closest points.
37. Referencing Petition p. 9, 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?
38. Are there manual facility shut-off switches that can be operated by emergency personnel? If yes, in what location(s)?
39. 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?
40. Provide an Emergency Response Plan for the proposed facility.
41. 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? Is the mineral oil biodegradable?
42. Would the installation of racking posts affect well water quality from construction impacts, such as from vibrations and well water sedimentation?
43. 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?
44. What is the noise profile of the selected transformer?
45. Referencing Petition Exhibit F, p. 19, submit a detailed sound level calculation work sheet or a sound study that accounts for noise levels from the proposed inverters and transformer at the nearest abutting property line.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

46. Could the Petitioner extend the southern portion of the evergreen plantings/landscaping to the north and up to the access road to provide additional screening to the housing development that is located west of the proposed facility?
47. Provide the length of conduit to be installed within the wetland.
48. Referencing Petition Site Plan 2.31, Note 1, is the preliminary design of the Project at least 50 percent complete? If not, would construction comply with the Connecticut Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines and Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual, effective March 30, 2024?
49. 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?

50. Referencing Petition Exhibit F, p. 18, it states there is no prime farmland soil on the site. Referencing the Prime Farmland Map behind Appendix A, the eastern portion of the proposed site contains 3.6 acres of prime farmland. Clarify.
51. Referencing Petition p. 13 and Appendix E, 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.
52. Referencing Petition Appendix B Site Plan 2.10 provide the distance of the proposed gravel access road from the wetland area to the west.
53. 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?
54. Referencing Petition Exhibit G, identify the addresses of the properties with visible residential structures in Photos 2 north, 4 north and 4 southwest, 5 north, 5 south and 5 southwest, 6 south and 6 west, 11 south, 12 west, 13 south and 13 west, 14 southwest, 18 south, 22 south, 23 south and 24 north.
55. Referencing Petition Appendix C, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC) review documentation appears incomplete. For example, the Project Questionnaire portion of the review has no information. Explain.
56. Referencing Petition Exhibit B, Site Plan 2.10, would box turtles use upland forested areas for habitat? If yes, how much upland forested habitat would remain post-development?

Facility Construction

57. Will blasting be required to construct the site? If not, how will bedrock be removed if encountered?
58. Referencing Petition Exhibit F, p. 18, what is the 1,250 cubic yards of material composed of and where would it be disposed? What is the total estimate of cut and fill. Where Would the stockpile of stripped topsoil be located.
59. What type of construction vehicles would be expected to enter the site during construction and where would they park? How would construction activities impact traffic and the surrounding area?
60. Referencing Petition p. 9, identify the location of the construction staging area within the proposed site.

Facility Maintenance/Decommissioning

61. Revise the Petition Operations and Maintenance Plan (Exhibit C) to include procedures for panel washing, and inspection and replacement of landscaping if die off occurs.
62. Under what circumstances would pesticide and/or herbicides be used at the site? What specific precautions are taken for use of these products to prevent effects on water quality and human health?
63. Referring to Petition page 10, at what depth would snow be on the panels before it is shed by the trackers?