



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 27, 2024

The Honorable Elinor C. Carbone
Mayor
City of Torrington
Municipal Building
140 Main Street
Torrington, CT 06790-5245
elinor_carbone@torringtonct.org

RE: **PETITION NO. 1638** – LSE Sextans LLC and LSE Sextans II 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 3.0-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at Parcel Nos. 221-3-1 and 222-4-26, Lovers Lane, Torrington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Mayor Carbone:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of the City of Torrington's correspondence dated September 26, 2024 concerning the above-referenced petition. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with the comments.

This petition will be placed on a future Council meeting agenda for discussion and decision.

Before reaching a final decision on any petition, the Council must carefully consider all of the facts contained in the record that is developed by the Council, the petitioner, parties and intervenors to the petition, and consider all of the concerns received from members of the public who submit written statements to the Council.

Copies of your correspondence will be distributed to the service list for the petition and administratively noticed in the record.

Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this proceeding on our website at <https://portal.ct.gov/csc> under the "Decisions" link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and meeting agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/MP/dll

c: Service List, dated August 16, 2024
Council Members

City Of Torrington



ELINOR CARBONE
Mayor

140 Main Street
Torrington, CT 06790-5245
elinor_carbone@torringtonct.org
Tel: (860) 489-2228
Fax: (860) 489-2541

September 26, 2024

Via email to siting.council@ct.gov

Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

RE: Opposition to PETITION NO. 1638 – LSE Sextans LLC and LSE Sextans II 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 3.0-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at Parcel Nos. 221-3-1 and 222-4-26, Lovers Lane, Torrington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection

Dear Members of the Siting Council:

At the request of the Board of Councilmen of the City of Torrington, I am writing to express our opposition to PETITION NO. 1638 – LSE Sextans LLC and LSE Sextans II LLC (Lodestar Energy) for the following reasons.

1. The curved, steep geometry create limited sightlines on Lovers Lane making it a very difficult road to navigate. The clear-cutting and construction of the Lovers Lane property will cause traffic concerns for public safety, public works and residents.
2. As a distressed municipality, we have concerns relative to the construction of what would become a **fourth** solar array in the City of Torrington and the economic impact of losing tax revenue on the acreage that these solar arrays occupy.
3. Excluding the solar array proposed to be constructed on the landfill in the City of Torrington, a total of 95.5 acres of land is being and/or has already been dedicated to solar panels. Adding another 14 acres of land at Lovers Lane will result in the encumbrance of over 110 acres of, otherwise, developable, tax-generating property.
4. The petition states the City of Torrington will get direct tax benefits from the facility. However, the petition does not indicate what those tax benefits will be. Based on the proposed size and recent state legislation, the City will, in fact, lose tax revenue.

5. The petition states that the project will “encourage participation by customers in underserved and environmental justice communities.” Torrington has been identified as a “distressed municipality” and qualifies as an environmental justice community, but this project will not encourage Torrington customers to participate since Lodestar has already entered into a net metering agreement with the City of Hartford “at a discount to offset their energy costs.” Thus, only Hartford customers will “participate” and benefit from this project, not Torrington.

As a small city, and largest urban center for Litchfield County, Torrington struggles with the loss of tax revenue on tax exempt properties that support many non-profit, social service organizations, hospital services, and state properties that provide services to the entire northwest corner. We are a community that is already subsidizing two solar arrays that have been built on former agricultural land and located in the limited rural areas located in the city.

Exhibit 7 to the petition states that the project will benefit the local community by improving electrical service for existing and future development through the availability of enhanced local generating capacity that does not rely solely on the congested regional electrical transmission network. (Ex. 7, pg. 10). That is inaccurate, since the petition also states that the project will connect to an existing distribution network, no additional enhancements will be made. Further, the local community, Torrington, will not benefit at all from this project since, again, the “enhanced generating capacity” is being sold to Hartford, not Torrington. Torrington will continue to be reliant “solely on the congested regional electrical transmission network.” There is absolutely no benefit to the local community, Torrington only detrimental effects.

The City of Torrington is dedicated to environmental sustainability. Our commitment to working with developers to bring solar and battery storage technology to our landfill speaks to our dedication to environmental sustainability and energy alternatives.

On August 1, 2024 the siting council denied a similar project in Hamden proposed by the same company, (Petition No. 1627). The same rationale in that decision should apply here to deny this petition.

For these reasons, we are asking the Siting Council members to carefully consider the impact that a fourth solar array will have on the City of Torrington and our residents and deny Petition No. 1638.

Regards,



Elinor Carbone
Mayor
City of Torrington
140 Main Street
Torrington, CT 06790