

# **Exhibit H**

# **Decommissionin**

# **Plan**

## **North Branford Solar Projects - Decommissioning Memo**

This memo describes a Decommissioning Plan that establishes the approach to conduct decommissioning activities for the permanent closure of the Facilities at the end of the Facilities' useful life or the permanent cessation of the Facilities' operation, whichever comes first. The Plan describes the approach for removal and/or abandonment of facilities and equipment associated with the Facilities and describes anticipated land-restoration activities. The two solar projects that are being proposed may be referred to in this memo collectively as a "Facility" or separately as "Facilities".

### **DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES**

Decommissioning will involve removal and disposal or recycling of all above-surface Project components. All recyclable materials will be transported to the appropriate nearby recycling facilities. Any non-recyclable materials will be properly disposed of at a nearby landfill. 95% or greater of the Facilities' components will be recyclable.

#### **Decommissioning Preparation:**

The first step in the decommissioning process will be to assess existing site conditions and prepare the site for demolition. Site decommissioning and equipment removal can take up to six months to complete for a project of this size. Therefore, access roads, fencing, and electrical power will temporarily remain in place for use by the decommissioning and site restoration workers until no longer needed. Demolition debris will be placed in temporary on-site storage areas pending final transportation and disposal/recycling according to the procedures listed below.

#### **PV Equipment Removal and Recycling:**

During decommissioning, all Facility components will be either removed from the site and recycled or abandoned in place 12 inches below grade (for underground conduit and conductors). Equipment removal will include all pad-mounted cabinets, above ground wiring, solar modules, solar module racking, string inverters, and panel boards. Steel h- beams that supported the module racking and inverters/panelboards will be mechanically pulled out of the ground; any resulting holes will be backfilled with locally imported soil to match existing site soil conditions. The concrete transformer and interconnection equipment pads will be broken up and removed.

The demolition debris and removed equipment may be cut or dismantled into pieces that can be safely lifted or carried with the on-site equipment being used. The majority of glass, steel and aluminum will be processed for transportation and delivery to an off-site recycling center. The solar modules will be transported to and recycled at the nearest facility that will accept them. Minimal non-recyclable materials are anticipated; these will be properly disposed of at the nearest qualified disposal facility.

### Internal Power Collection System

The DC and AC power collection system will be dismantled and removed. All underground cables and conduit will remain in place at a depth of 12 inches below ground surface. All conduit and cabling that is removed will be recycled.

### Access Roads

The onsite 12-foot-wide access driveway will remain in place to accomplish decommissioning at the end of the facility's life. At the time of decommissioning, if the landowner determines that this road will be beneficial for the future use of the site, the access road may remain after decommissioning. The future use of the site is currently undetermined. Roads that will not be used will be restored to pre-construction conditions by removal of the aggregate base material, fill of the compacted base section with locally imported soil to match existing onsite soils, and a hydroseeding of a seed mix to match existing onsite groundcover.

### Security Fence

The chain link perimeter security fence will remain in place during decommissioning activities for site safety and security purposes. At the time of decommissioning, if the landowner determines that this fence will be beneficial for the future use of the site, the fence may remain after decommissioning. The future use of the site is currently undetermined. If the fencing is not used, it will be removed and transported to the nearest steel recycling facility. Holes left behind by the fence support posts will be backfilled with locally imported soil to match existing onsite soils, and a hydroseeding of a seed mix to match existing onsite groundcover.

### Landscaping

The screening vegetation surrounding the perimeter of the Site will remain in place during decommissioning activities for site safety and security purposes. At the time of decommissioning, if the landowner determines that this landscaping will be beneficial for the future use of the site, the landscaping may remain after decommissioning. The future use of the site is undetermined at this time. If the landscaping is not used, it will be removed and transported to the nearest plant material disposal facility for composting or mulching. Shrubs, bushes, and trees would be stump cut to just below ground level.

### 13.8 kV Interconnection Line

The distribution interconnection facilities/electric service line that will be constructed to interconnect the projects to UI's 13.8 kV distribution circuit on Maple Road will remain in place during decommissioning activities to provide electric service onsite during decommissioning. At the time of

decommissioning, if the landowner determines that this electric service line will be beneficial for the future use of the site, the line may remain after decommissioning. If the line is not used, it will be removed per United Illuminating guidelines and transported offsite to the nearest recycling facility. Underground cabling and conduit on private property will remain in place at a depth of 12 inches below ground level.

Underground cabling and conduit within a public right-of-way will be removed completely, and the resulting trenches will be backfilled with locally imported soil to match existing onsite soils, and a hydroseeding of a seed mix to match existing onsite groundcover.

## SITE RECLAMATION

After the Facility is completely decommissioned, and all Facility equipment has been removed from the Site, additional activities will be performed to return the resultantly vacant property back to pre-construction conditions.

### Restoration Process

The decommissioning process will remove Project-related structures and infrastructure as described in the previous sections. Following decommissioning, site reclamation activities will occur. Reclamation will restore landform features, vegetative cover, and hydrologic function after the closure of the facility. The process will involve (where needed) the replacement of topsoil and vegetation, as well as modification of site topography where necessary to bring the Site back to pre-construction conditions. Restoration will bring the Site back to a natural pre-construction condition that is compatible with the adjacent surroundings.

If any excavated areas remain after removal of equipment pads or access road base material, these areas will be backfilled and compacted with locally imported soil to match existing onsite soils, and a hydroseeding of a seed mix to match existing onsite groundcover. Any other areas of lower than average ground surface level will receive the same treatment.

If any soils are determined to be compacted at levels that would affect successful revegetation, decompaction will occur. The method of decompaction will depend on how compacted the soil has become over the life of the Project. Following decompaction, re-contouring of the site will be conducted, if necessary, to return the Site to approximately match the pre-construction surface conditions and the surrounding area conditions. Original site drainage characteristics will be restored if they have not been maintained. It is unlikely that any or a significant amount of earthwork will be required, as the Project construction plan calls for minimal or no disturbance of the Site during Project construction. Grading activities will be limited to previously disturbed areas that require re-contouring. Efforts will be made to disturb as little of the natural drainages and existing natural vegetation that remain post-decommissioning as possible.

Any areas identified as remaining in bare earth will be hydroseeded with a seed mix to match existing onsite groundcover.

Site Restoration activities are anticipated to be very minimal, as the pre-construction conditions of the site are not planned to be significantly altered during Project construction. However, these activities as described, as well as any others that become necessary, will be performed to return the Site to a pre-construction condition.

#### Monitoring Activities

The Site will be monitored after Site Restoration activities are complete to confirm that any earthwork and revegetation were performed correctly and last permanently. The Site will be periodically inspected (at least twice annually) to check for any eroded earthwork or failed revegetation. Any deficiencies will be immediately corrected. This monitoring will continue for a period of five years, or until the Site is redeveloped for another future purpose, whichever comes first.