STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 27, 2025

TO: Service List, dated August 8, 2025

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director MAB

RE: **PETITION NO. 1685** – Willington Solar One, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.975-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at Parcel No. 046-004-00, Lohse Road, Willington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Comments have been received from the Council on Environmental Quality on August 27, 2025. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MAB/ANM/dll

c: Council Members
CGS §16-50j(i) State Agency Comment List (via electronic mail)

Keith Ainsworth
Acting Chair

Timothy J. Bishop

Linda Bowers

Christopher Donnelly

David Kalafa

Cinzia Lettieri

Aimee Petras

Denise Rodosevich

William Warzecha

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 27, 2025

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
Melanie.Bachman@ct.gov

PETITION NO. 1685 – Willington Solar One, LLC (Petitioner) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.975-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and associated equipment located at Parcel No. 046-004-00, Lohse Road, Willington, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection.

Dear Attorney Bachman,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) supports the development of clean energy facilities on appropriate sites in Connecticut. The Council offers the following comments regarding Petition 1685.

Wildlife
The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Conservation (IPAC) tool indicates that there is the possibility that tricolored bat, a species proposed for official listing as endangered, might occur in the vicinity of the proposed project area. Since the Petitioner notes that tree clearing will be needed on the proposed site, the Council recommends that the Petitioner consult with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Wildlife Division regarding protective measures, such as time of year restrictions on tree removal, to minimize any potential impacts on tricolored bat.

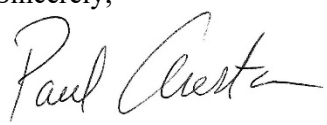
Visibility
The Petitioner states that "views into the Project Area from surrounding area are naturally mitigated due to a variety of distance, topography, and existing vegetation." The cross-sections in Appendix J Visual Impact Study indicate that the proposed facility would be located upgradient from two residences (4 and 8 Kucko Road) with existing vegetation providing some amount of screening of the proposed project. However, Appendix A Sheet C-4.0 depicts the proposed limit of disturbance within the existing tree line, especially near the sediment basin opposite the property at 8 Kucko Road and along the eastern side opposite the property at 4 Kucko Road. The Council suggests that the Petitioner minimize the removal of vegetation on the proposed site to the greatest extent practicable and/or provide screening of the proposed facility in those areas.

The Council's comments above address only certain elements of the materials provided by the Petitioner at the time of the filing. Additional information can become evident through comments offered by other parties and during the Siting Council's administrative hearing process. The absence of comment(s) by this Council about any Petition or Application, or any

aspects thereof, may not be interpreted as an endorsement of a proposed project, or its components or that this Council might not have comments or concerns on more specific issues raised during the hearing process.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,



Paul Aresta
Executive Director