

DRAFT

**Petition No. 1347A
GRE GACRUX LLC
117 Oil Mill Road, Waterford**

**Partial Development & Management Plan
Staff Report
September 17, 2021**

On November 9, 2020, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Declaratory Ruling to GRE GACRUX LLC (GRE), pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the construction, maintenance, and operation of an approximately 16.78-megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 117 Oil Mill Road in Waterford and an associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy's existing substation at 325 Waterford Parkway North in Waterford. In its Declaratory Ruling, the Council required GRE to submit a Development and Management Plan (D&M Plan).

On February 3, 2021 GRE submitted a Partial D&M Plan to comply with D&M Plan items (a) through (e) and (g) through (i) as required by the Council's Declaratory Ruling Condition 2 that included site plans and documentation specific to the pre-construction phase of the project. The Council approved the Partial D&M Plan with conditions on March 26, 2021. GRE submitted additional information on March 26, 2021 to comply with the Council's conditions.

On August 11, 2021, GRE submitted a second Partial D&M Plan to comply with the remaining D&M Plan items as required by the Council's Declaratory Ruling Condition 2. As required by the Council's Declaratory Ruling Condition 2, the second Partial D&M Plan was served on the parties and intervenors listed on the service list, including, but not limited to, the Town of Waterford (Town), for comment. No comments regarding the second Partial D&M Plan were received.

Pursuant to Condition 2 of the Council's Declaratory Ruling, the following required information was submitted with the second Partial D&M Plan:

f. Final structural design for the racking system stamped by a Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut;

Site plan details of the racking system stamped by a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Connecticut have been provided. The site plans include tolerances for wind and snow loading.

j. Details of how the project complies with the CT State Fire Prevention Code, Ground Mounted Photovoltaic System Installations, Section 11.12.3;

GRE submitted a Town of Waterford approved electric permit and building permit that was signed by the Town Engineer on June 4, 2021.

The project is designed to comply with the CT Fire Code Section 11.12.3 as follows:

a) vegetation in the solar field area will consist of low cut grass composed mostly of fescue and bluegrass; b) security barriers will consist of seven-foot high chain-link fencing around the perimeter of the site; and c) A minimum ten-foot clearance will be maintained between the solar arrays and perimeter fence.

- k. Post-Construction Operations and Maintenance Plan that includes inspections of facility components, vegetation and stormwater basin/controls, corrective/remediation measures, vegetation management procedures that incorporates any DEEP-required seasonal restrictions, and monitoring protocol of stormwater basins #1 and #16 for vernal pool species; and**

A post-construction Operations and Maintenance Program has been established that includes provisions for annual site inspections of physical site features and structural and electrical components.

The Stormwater Management System would be inspected twice per year. Inspections include the drainage swales, pre-treatment sediment basins and the solar field/perimeter areas.

The solar field would be mowed two to three times per year by a third-party contractor. No Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)-required seasonal restrictions pertaining to post-construction vegetation management were specified in DEEP's Natural Diversity Database Determination letter issued on February 28, 2020.

A protocol has been developed to monitor Stormwater Basins #1 and #16 for a period of three years. If vernal pool obligate species are using the ponds, corrective actions will be taken that will include, but are not limited to, repair of exclusionary fencing, reducing pathways into the basins, and translocation of egg masses from the basins to the on-site vernal pools.

l. Decommissioning Plan.

Project decommissioning includes the removal of all facility infrastructure followed by site restoration. All wirings, cables, conduits, inverters, transformers, solar modules, steel racking/posts and fencing would be removed and recycled as applicable. Subsurface conduits and cables will be removed to a minimum depth of 24 inches below grade.

Decommissioning will be conducted in accordance with all permits and applicable rules and regulations. Disposal of all solid and, if applicable, hazardous waste will be conducted in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations.

Disturbed areas will be re-graded and stabilized/restored using mulch and seed mix.

Gravel access roads, visual screening and/or stormwater features will be left in place if requested by the landowner.