



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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www.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 21, 2019

Thomas L. Lentz
Chairman, Killingworth Planning & Zoning Commission
Town Office Building
323 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419-1298

RE: **PETITION NO. 1354** – Chatfield Solar Fund, LLC, petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 1.98-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility on approximately 25 acres located generally south of Route 80 (North Branford Road) and east of Chestnut Hill Road in Killingworth, Connecticut, and associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy's Green Hill Substation located at 775 Green Hill Road, Madison, Connecticut.

Dear Chairman Lentz:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated March 20, 2019, concerning the above-referenced petition. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with your comments.

At a public meeting held on January 17, 2019, the Council voted to hold a public hearing on this matter, the public hearing was held in the Town of Killingworth on Thursday, February 21, 2019, at the Killingworth Fire Station Meeting Room for the benefit of the public. The evidentiary session of the hearing will continue at the Council's office in New Britain on March 26, 2019.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-40, a copy of the petition is to be submitted to the municipality where the facility is to be located for review. Before reaching a final decision on a petition, the Council carefully considers all of the facts contained in the evidentiary record that is developed by the Council, the petitioner, parties and intervenors in the proceeding and members of the public who speak at the public hearing or submit written statements to the Council.

Your March 20, 2019 correspondence will be part of the official record in this proceeding in the form of a limited appearance defined under subsection (f) of Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n.

Therefore, copies of your correspondence will be distributed to all participants in the proceeding and will be administratively noticed in the record. Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this proceeding on our website at www.ct.gov/csc under the "Pending Matters" link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this matter.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/lm

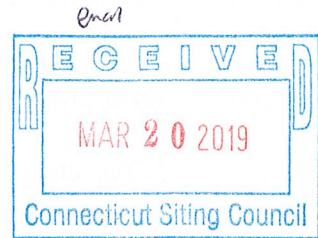
C: Parties and Intervenors
Council Members



CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

KILLINGWORTH PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
323 ROUTE 81
KILLINGWORTH, CONNECTICUT 06419-1298



Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

March 20, 2019

Re: Petition 1354

Dear Council Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Killingworth Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the proposed Chatfield Solar Farm in Killingworth.

Of great concern are the comments of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Their report notes that the site is characterized by forest, wetlands, streams, and slopes. Adequate stormwater management has not been addressed and is required because of the topography of the site and the fact that it would be clear cut. There are three species of concern on the site: sand blackberry, pale green orchid, and the whippoorwill. Only a ten foot buffer is proposed around wetlands instead of the usual 75 to 100 feet. Insufficient buffers around vernal pools are proposed. DEEP notes that the site is part of a core forest of over 1,000 acres and that forests of the size are increasingly rare in Connecticut.

As noted by DEEP, adequate stormwater management is crucial. Deer Lake and a tributary of the Hammonasset River lie to the south of the site. Because of the clear cutting and slopes, there is the potential for runoff into these waters.

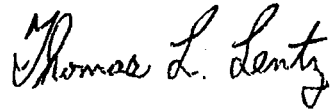
The applicant states that there are no historical features on the site. However, this is not known because there has been no historical and archaeological review by the State Archaeologist. It is known that Native Americans occupied the nearby Chatfield Hollow State Park and it should be determined if there was activity on this site. There are stone walls indicating Colonial activity.

The site is located in a rural-residential zone in Killingworth (not Commercial as the applicant stated in the original application). A commercial operation of this type in a residential zone is not permitted in the Zoning Regulations and the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. It would have an adverse effect on neighboring residential properties and the nearby Chatfield Hollow and Forster Pond State Parks. It should be noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission is not opposed to solar energy. There are provisions for small residential solar systems in the regulations and the Commission would not object to large systems such as this provided they were in a suitable location.

The Commission is also concerned that there appears to be no provision for remediation of the site in the event of possible future abandonment of the project.

In summary, the Killingworth Planning and Zoning Commission believes that this is not an appropriate site for a solar farm and that the application should be denied.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas L. Lentz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "L".

Thomas L. Lentz
Chairman, Killingworth Planning and Zoning Commission

This letter is being sent by email with a hard copy to follow by mail.