

**In The Matter Of:**  
*Petition from Chatfield Solar Fund, LLC*

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*PUBLIC HEARING*  
*February 21, 2019*

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*BCT Reporting LLC*  
*55 Whiting Street, Suite 1A*  
*Plainville, CT 06062*  
*860.302.1876*

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 1354

Petition from Chatfield Solar Fund, LLC, For a  
Declaratory Ruling 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

Public Hearing held at the Killingworth Fire  
Station, Meeting Room, Number 333, Route 81,  
Killingworth, Connecticut, Thursday, February 21, 2019,  
beginning at 6:30 p.m.

H e l d   B e f o r e :

JAMES J. MURPHY, JR., THE VICE CHAIRMAN

1     A p p e a r a n c e s :

2             C o u n c i l   M e m b e r s :

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4                     R O B E R T   H A N N O N ,

5                     D E E P   D e s i g n e e

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7                     L A R R Y   L E V E S Q U E ,   E S Q .

8                     P U R A   D e s i g n e e

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10                    R O B E R T   S I L V E S T R I

11                    M I C H A E L   H A R D E R

12                    E D W A R D   E D E L S O N

13                    D R .   M I C H A E L   W .   K L E M O N S

14                    D A N I E L   P .   L Y N C H ,   J R .

15

16             C o u n c i l   S t a f f :

17                    M E L A N I E   B A C H M A N ,   E S Q . ,

18                    E x e c u t i v e   D i r e c t o r   a n d   S t a f f   A t t o r n e y

19

20                    R O B E R T   M E R C I E R ,

21                    S i t i n g   A n a l y s t

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1    A p p e a r a n c e s:(cont'd)

2    For Chatfield Solar Fund, LLC:

3            MURTHA CULLINA

4            One Century Tower

5            265 Church Street, 9th Floor

6            New Haven, Connecticut 06510

7            By: BRUCE L. MCDERMOTT, ESQ.

8                    BMcDermott@murthalaw.com

9                    203.772.7787

10

11            and: SAMUEL R. VOLET, ESQ.

12                    SVolet@murthalaw.com

13                    203.772.7713

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1                   THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and  
2 gentlemen, could we have your attention, please?  
3 I'm James J. Murphy Jr. I'm the acting chairman  
4 of the Siting council.

5                   And I'm really going to break with  
6 protocol for -- normally we would start right off  
7 and do this, but tonight in view of the fact that  
8 we lost during the past few days one of the great  
9 men that I have met in my time who served for a  
10 number of years on this Council.

11                   He was a veteran of World War II and a  
12 Purple Heart recipient -- who was Eddie Wilensky  
13 who also served as the mayor of his hometown for  
14 ten years.

15                   So let's just open this meeting and  
16 respectfully ask that everyone observe the passing  
17 of this wonderful gentleman with a moment of  
18 silence.

19

20   (Pause.)

21

22                   THE VICE CHAIRMAN: I thank you very  
23 much.

24                   To the business at hand, I call this  
25 meeting to order this evening February the 21st,

1 2019, at approximately 6:30.

2 As I have indicated to you, I am James  
3 J. Murphy, Jr., the Acting Chairman of the  
4 Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of the  
5 Council who are here this evening is Robert Hannon  
6 who's the designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes,  
7 the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and  
8 Environmental Protection; Larry Levesque, the  
9 designee for the Acting Chairman John W. Betkoski,  
10 III, of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority;  
11 Robert Silvestri; Dr. Michael Klemens; Edward  
12 Edelson.

13 And members of our staff are Melanie  
14 Bachman, our Executive Director and Staff  
15 Attorney; and Robert Mercier, our siting analyst.

16 This is a continuation of a public  
17 hearing which began at 3 p.m. this afternoon.  
18 Copies of the hearing program and Council's  
19 citizens guide to Siting Council procedures are  
20 available up here to my left and to your right.

21 This meeting will be held pursuant to  
22 the provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut  
23 General Statutes and the Uniform Procedures Act  
24 upon a petition from Chatfield Solar Fund, LLC,  
25 for the declaratory ruling for the proposed

1 construction, maintenance and operation of a  
2 1.98-megawatt solar photovoltaic electric  
3 generating facility located generally south of  
4 North Branford Road and east of Chestnut Hill Road  
5 in Killingworth, and associated electrical  
6 interconnection to Eversource Energy's Green Hill  
7 subdivision station located at 755 Green Hill Road  
8 in Madison, Connecticut.

9 This petition was received by the  
10 Council on October 23, 2018. The Council's legal  
11 notice of the date and time of this hearing was  
12 published in the Middletown press on January 23,  
13 2019. Upon the Council's request the petitioner  
14 erected a sign at the proposed site so as to  
15 inform the public of the name of the petitioner,  
16 the type of facility, the hearing date and  
17 location, and contact information for this  
18 Council.

19 This afternoon members of the Council,  
20 staff and public personally conducted a field  
21 review of the proposed site in order to observe  
22 first-hand the potential effects of this proposal.  
23 In addition, the petitioner has submitted a video  
24 to the Council that shows existing site  
25 conditions. The video is available on the

1 Council's website for anyone who cares to view the  
2 same.

3 This hearing session this evening has  
4 been reserved for the public to make short  
5 statements into the record. These public  
6 statements are not subject to questions from the  
7 petitioner, the parties or the Council. And  
8 members of the public making statements may not  
9 ask questions of the petitioners, the parties or  
10 the Council. These statements will become part of  
11 the record for Council consideration. A sign-up  
12 sheet is available over to the left, as was  
13 previously indicated.

14 As a reminder to all, off-the-record  
15 communications with members of the Council or a  
16 member of the Council's staff upon the merits of  
17 this petition is prohibited by law.

18 I wish to note that the petitioner  
19 including the parties and their representatives  
20 and witnesses are not allowed to participate in  
21 the session this evening.

22 I wish to also note for those of you  
23 that are here and for the benefit of your friends  
24 and neighbors who are unable to join us for this  
25 public comment session, that you or they may send



1 written statements to this Council within 30 days  
2 of the date hereof and such written comments will  
3 become part of our record as if spoken this  
4 evening at the hearing.

5 We ask persons making public statements  
6 in this proceeding to confine his or her  
7 statements to the subject matter before the  
8 Council and to avoid unreasonable repetition so  
9 that we may hear all of the concerns you and your  
10 neighbors may have. Please be advised that the  
11 Council cannot answer questions from the public  
12 about this proposal.

13 A verbatim transcript will be made of  
14 this hearing and deposited at the Killingworth and  
15 Madison Town Clerks' offices for consideration of  
16 the public.

17 Before I call upon the first speaker who  
18 has a signed up -- and we have one sheet here and  
19 there are more over there if other people want to  
20 sign up. Before calling on the first person to  
21 speak, I'd like to ask a representative of the  
22 petitioner to make a short presentation indicating  
23 what it is they are proposing, and speaking  
24 briefly as to what plans they have for the  
25 project.

1                   BRANDON STEPHENS: Good evening  
2 everyone. My name is Brandon Stephens. I'm a  
3 project manager for Standard Solar, the company  
4 who will be contracting to build this, build this  
5 project.

6                   We're looking to build a 1.92 megawatt  
7 AC system on this site that you guys know on Route  
8 80. It will consist of roughly 6500 solar panels.  
9 Our goal would be, with Siting Council approval,  
10 to begin construction in the June timeframe with  
11 the goal of operating the system by the end of the  
12 year.

13                   What we're proposing is to build this  
14 facility with the least impact that we can to the  
15 property and the surrounding community and to, you  
16 know, produce clean renewable energy for the next  
17 20 to 25 years.

18                   Thank you.

19                   THE VICE CHAIRMAN: I just want to  
20 indicate for the information -- I see there's  
21 quite a crowd and that's wonderful.

22                   I have eight people to speak now, and I  
23 don't know how many others there are, but the  
24 practice -- and to advise people that are here  
25 that in the vicinity of nine o'clock we will close

1 this hearing and there will be a further time for  
2 people to participate in the public session, but  
3 that unfortunately is held in New Britain at  
4 another time.

5 If we're approaching nine o'clock and  
6 we're almost out of speakers we'll probably stay  
7 longer to accommodate, but I just wanted to  
8 indicate that there is kind of a time limitation  
9 as to how long the public program will go on  
10 tonight.

11 The first speaker I have on the list is  
12 Peter Stockman -- oh, excuse me. Sorry. Written  
13 in above -- and I apologize -- is the First  
14 Selectman Cathy Iino.

15 Sorry about that.

16 CATHY IINO: Hi. I'm Cathy Iino. I'm  
17 the First Selectwoman. I'd like to thank you for  
18 coming to hold proceedings in Killingworth today.  
19 You were able to see a little bit of our beautiful  
20 town and you can understand why protecting our  
21 environment and our landscape is so important to  
22 us.

23 I was able to attend some of the hearing  
24 this afternoon and I appreciate the seriousness  
25 with which you interrogated representatives from

1 Chatfield Solar, particularly about the  
2 environmental protections that will be needed to  
3 protect the site.

4 When I expressed my support for the  
5 project I did so contingent on the project meeting  
6 stringent environmental standards. I might not  
7 have stated that strongly enough, and I urge you  
8 along with the Connecticut Department of Energy  
9 and Environmental Protection to approve this  
10 project only if it will meet those standards  
11 during construction, and as long as it operates.

12 We are particularly concerned with how  
13 the project would be monitored in the long run,  
14 and I ask the commission to tell us what the  
15 longterm protocols would be -- not tonight, I  
16 understand -- to make sure that the system is  
17 operated and maintained as proposed and approved.

18 I also urge the Council to require  
19 additional plantings to visually screen the  
20 installation from Route 80 year round as a  
21 condition of approval. Although this portion of  
22 Route 80 is not officially a scenic road  
23 Killingworth's glory is its natural landscape  
24 throughout the town.

25 I have a couple of further things I

1 wanted to say. First in response to some  
2 questions that have been raised -- this is more  
3 for the crowd here. Killingworth's tax ordinances  
4 do not preclude taxing this system. A tax  
5 exemption was created for businesses that install  
6 net metered solar installation systems such as  
7 Killingworth True Value. It doesn't apply to this  
8 system.

9 Our town assessor looked at other  
10 taxable solar installations like this one in the  
11 state, and he estimates -- I should say  
12 guesstimates -- he'd probably be mad at me for  
13 even saying this -- that the proposed system would  
14 generate over \$80,000 in taxes annually.

15 Second, I appreciate the Council's  
16 concern expressed this afternoon for the fact that  
17 Killingworth has a volunteer fire company, which  
18 has generously let us use this space today. The  
19 KVFC has been exemplary in the level of training  
20 that its members get. So I want to allay any  
21 concerns about their capabilities as compared to  
22 professional departments.

23 I'm certain that they would appreciate  
24 any special training that could be offered  
25 concerning solar arrays such as this one -- but

1 they're fantastic. Thank you very much.

2 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, First  
3 Selectman Iino.

4 Peter Stockman, I guess you're on now.  
5 Sorry about that.

6 PETER STOCKMAN: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Chairman. My name is Peter Stockman. My wife  
8 Terry Stockman is sitting there. Our address is  
9 138 Chestnut Hill Road, probably a mile, a mile  
10 and a half from the facility. And we have owned  
11 our house in Killingworth since 1997.

12 Terry is an economist specializing in  
13 energy and the environment. I am trained as a  
14 financial economist. We're both career management  
15 consultants. My work has been in financial  
16 analysis for energy companies and financial firms  
17 investing in, among other things, large-scale  
18 alternative production of merchant power. Terry  
19 has worked on energy economics as well as  
20 corporate credit risk management.

21 We need to keep in mind how very small  
22 the benefits of the CHF project are when compared  
23 to the negative environmental impact of the  
24 project. CHF estimates that the net improvement  
25 in carbon reduction for the project will be 193

1 tons of CO2 equivalent per year.

2 The average U.S. household emits  
3 approximately 8 tons of CO2 equivalent per year.  
4 This means that the impact of the CHF project is  
5 equivalent to 240 households reducing their carbon  
6 footprint by only 10 percent. The project has the  
7 same benefits as a small number of households  
8 making only small conservation efforts.

9 In fact, the net carbon removal benefit  
10 of 193 tons of CO2 equivalent per year is a  
11 misleading figure. The CHF project will remove a  
12 CO2 equivalent for a project life of, say, 20 to  
13 30 years. Core forests removes carbon  
14 indefinitely.

15 There are too many gaps and  
16 inaccuracies in the petitioner's filing to cover  
17 in a brief a statement. The petitioner cannot  
18 even accurately state the current zoning of the  
19 property upon which it's building, although it did  
20 correct the record today at the evidentiary  
21 hearing. For this reason we will restrict our  
22 comments to consideration which is missing from  
23 the analysis of the environmental impact of the  
24 project, and that consideration that's missing  
25 from the analysis is project abandonment,

1 abandonment of the facility.

2 Number one, the petition provides no  
3 evidence that the project will be an economic  
4 success. That is it provides no evidence that the  
5 project will make money for its investors. On the  
6 contrary, the petition and the petitioner's  
7 responses to the Council's interrogatories and  
8 facts submitted by others provide evidence that  
9 the project will not make money, or at the very  
10 least CHF does not have sufficient competence to  
11 make the project a success.

12 I think one of the things we heard today  
13 was how cost -- how sensitive the economics of  
14 this project are to the underlying cost of the  
15 project. It is very much marginal. I think that  
16 came through loud and clear.

17 CHF does not know the lease payments.  
18 These are the sources of uncertainty about its  
19 economic viability. CHF does not know the lease  
20 payments it will need to make to the landowner  
21 yet. CHF does not have a power purchase agreement  
22 in place, so it does not know how much money it  
23 will make from the sale of some merchant power it  
24 produces. It does have a contract for demand  
25 coming through the -- I think they call it the



1 Z-REC program, but they actually only qualify for  
2 the L-REC program.

3 It does a contract for demand, but that  
4 price floats. That's a competitive bid process  
5 and there's no guarantee over 15-year intervals as  
6 to what price they'll get for their power. So  
7 while it might be viewable for the first 15 years,  
8 if Z-REC tariffs go down in the 15th year or the  
9 16th year when they need to renew, who knows what  
10 the revenue they'll be getting from power is?

11 CHF has underestimated the cost of  
12 building fire suppression capability on this  
13 industrial site, and that came through in the fire  
14 marshal's report. CHF does not -- sorry.

15 Just on the REC thing, prices for RECs  
16 have fallen 40 to 50 percent since the first year  
17 of this, the L-REC program, and they're volatile.  
18 CHF has botched the sizing of the decommissioning  
19 bond that it has taken out. CHF simply multiplies  
20 a per acre factor times 25 acres.

21 The standard calculation for  
22 decommissioning costs, and therefore the size of  
23 the decommissioning bond builds up the cost of  
24 decommissioning from factors and rates, i.e.,  
25 salvaged value rates which actually drive

1 decommissioning costs, not some arbitrary,  
2 unsupported factor times the acreage of the  
3 property.

4           If the project is not a financial  
5 success it will be in the interests of CHF to  
6 abandon the project. We have seen, I think -- and  
7 in the evidentiary hearing today how many ongoing  
8 maintenance costs there are to a project like  
9 this. The basins have to be cleaned out. The  
10 panels need to be cleaned. It is an ongoing  
11 investment and cost into this project over time.  
12 Abandonment would mean none of those things get  
13 done.

14           Upon abandonment what we'd be left  
15 with is an industrial site located in a rural  
16 residential district containing toxic metals  
17 deteriorating into wetlands upstream from lakes  
18 and streams used for recreational purposes. And  
19 the contention today at the evidentiary hearing  
20 that the amount of toxic materials is minuscule  
21 relative to the mass of the panes is correct, but  
22 irrelevant. Glass is heavy. Cadmium is light.  
23 Cadmium in small quantities is extremely toxic.

24           So I would ask the Council to pay no  
25 attention to those assurances that it received

1 today on the toxicity of these panels.

2 We ask the Council to accept our  
3 argument the abandonment of the site will  
4 exacerbate environmental damage and the lack of  
5 economic viability will lead to abandonment. It's  
6 a novel argument. In this regard we ask the  
7 Council to take the following actions to inform a  
8 more complete evaluation of the environmental  
9 impact.

10 One, require CHF to provide the Council  
11 with the financial model that is used to determine  
12 the economic viability of the project so the  
13 assumptions underlying this model can be examined  
14 and stress tested.

15 Two, require CHF to provide the Council  
16 with financial statements and SSI, Standard Solar,  
17 to provide the Council with the financial  
18 statements with which to assess the capacity of  
19 these two nested limited liability corporations to  
20 complete the project, or to operate the project  
21 should additional construction or decommissioning  
22 costs arise.

23 Three, require CHF to provide a detailed  
24 decommissioning plan. The estimate contained in  
25 the petition is not supported by any facts.

1           Four, require CHF to provide the  
2 Council with a copy of the decommissioning bond it  
3 has posted. There are any number of ways a surety  
4 can get out from underneath a bond. Essentially  
5 it's an insurance contract and it's adjusted upon  
6 a claim.

7           A surety bond is simply an invitation to  
8 litigate. The Council needs to understand whether  
9 a decommissioning bond will actually result in  
10 adequate site restoration and responsible disposal  
11 of the electronics.

12           Finally five, require that the structure  
13 of the decommissioning bond include an annual  
14 installment funding of the full cost of  
15 decommissioning with annual updates to the cost  
16 and salvage values behind that estimate.

17           The bond should fully be funded in 15,  
18 by the 15th operating year so as to coincide with  
19 the repricing of the power that they get from the  
20 REC program. And then it should be topped up or  
21 released as necessary for the remaining life of  
22 the project. That will ensure that the cost of  
23 the decommissioning are covered, unlocked.

24           In summary, abandonment of PV facilities  
25 creates serious environmental risks. The Council

1           should take into account these risks as it  
2           evaluates the environmental impact of the CHF  
3           project and how these risks compare with a small  
4           benefit of the project.

5                       The Town of Killingworth should  
6           understand that an abandoned industrial site will  
7           be its problem, not the problem of the landowner  
8           and not the problem of the State of Connecticut.

9                       I thank the Council for the opportunity  
10          to make this statement.

11                      THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

12                      The next speaker is Tom Paul to be  
13          followed by Matt Link.

14                      TOM PAUL: Yeah. I just wanted to point  
15          out to the Council that on the west side, on the  
16          border between Killingworth and Madison on Route  
17          80 was -- I was on the committee. We petitioned  
18          the Selectman and then the State, and it was  
19          approved to be a scenic highway.

20                      And we had hoped that from the  
21          Killingworth line, you know, possibly to the  
22          circle, that would be a continuation of the scenic  
23          highway.

24                      And then I look at the plans. I see  
25          that the panels are pretty close and low where

1 the dip is, pretty close to the road and probably  
2 wouldn't add to the scenic highway.

3 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: You want to identify  
4 yourself for the record.

5 TOM PAUL: Yeah, it's Tom Paul.

6 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Paul.

7 Matt Link to be followed by Lee J.

8 deLisle.

9 MATT LINK: Good evening, everyone. And  
10 Good evening, Siting Council. I want to second  
11 what Cathy Iino said about the due diligence that  
12 the Siting Council put in this afternoon. I was  
13 here for the three o'clock meeting that you had.

14 And it's obvious that you've read  
15 through all the paperwork in the report, and I  
16 appreciate the time and the questioning that you  
17 had. And on behalf of my wife and the neighbors  
18 we appreciate that work.

19 I live on 497, Route 80. And if anybody  
20 has driven by the site or did the walk-through  
21 today, I'm the little brown house that you can  
22 clearly see diagonally. It will be, you know,  
23 northwest of the proposed site. And my wife and I  
24 13 years ago knew that when we moved in. We would  
25 have Route 80 going through our front yard, and



1           LEE J. deLISLE: Good Evening and thanks  
2           for the opportunity to speak to you tonight. My  
3           name is Lee deLisle. I live on 2 North Chestnut  
4           Hill Road in Killingworth. We moved to  
5           Killingworth two years ago from the town of  
6           Prospect because we really loved the rural nature  
7           of Killingworth.

8           I have a few observations and a few  
9           concerns that I'd like to communicate to the  
10          Council tonight. My first being the management  
11          capacity of the potential landlord which is  
12          Rajvilla. They're out of New Haven. This is a  
13          single employee concern.

14          They have less than \$50,000 in annual  
15          revenue, and I don't know how a one-person  
16          operation would be able to oversee the project  
17          particularly over a long period of time. So I  
18          think that's a questionable part of this project.

19          Secondly, the project is depicted as  
20          being consistent -- and these are words directly  
21          from the report -- being consistent with local,  
22          state and federal land-use plans. Over the past  
23          two years I've had the opportunity to act as a  
24          consultant to the DEEP to develop their five-year  
25          state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan which



1 was submitted to and approved by the National Park  
2 Service. So I got a really good education on all  
3 the wonderful properties that are overseen by the  
4 DEEP in the State.

5 And from that education I'm quite sure  
6 that clearing 16 acres, clear cut of forest and  
7 disturbing critical wetlands is not consistent  
8 with the conservation guidelines of the State, nor  
9 quite frankly, has the Town of Killingworth or a  
10 representative of the solar company been able to  
11 cite the claim that this is also consistent with  
12 the 2018 conservation and development plan of  
13 Killingworth.

14 I asked the question at the last meeting  
15 and neither the Town nor the solar  
16 company could -- I don't think they knew it was  
17 even in the report quite honestly.

18 It also concerns me that there's very  
19 little written evidence that town officials have  
20 discussed it at any length in either committees or  
21 commission meetings since it was presented to the  
22 Town last fall.

23 I know that Connecticut has a long and  
24 admirable history of protecting coastal and inland  
25 wetlands. If the Siting Council does consider

1 this, approving this project I hope that they  
2 would restrict the panels that are in the south  
3 and west portion of the property -- I'm sure  
4 you've looked at the maps enough times -- where  
5 they're proposing to put bridges across wetlands  
6 to perhaps have another two or three dozen panels.  
7 That from any perspective doesn't make a lot of  
8 sense to me.

9 They would also have to -- some sort of  
10 travel path to go over these, what were described  
11 as very small bridges to bring fire suppressing  
12 vehicles into that sensitive wetland area.

13 Again, if the Council decides to go  
14 forward I would also suggest -- strongly suggest  
15 that the number of panels on the north side of the  
16 project which runs along Route 80 be reduced  
17 considerably to eliminate the destruction of the  
18 natural vistas on this portion of the roadway so  
19 that it's more consistent with the  
20 characterization of the 500 plus acres of  
21 Hammonasset Reservoir to the west and Chatfield  
22 Hollow State Park to the east.

23 It is a beautiful stretch of roadway.  
24 It is a scenic. It really helps to define what  
25 Hammonasset is, or what Killingworth is.

1           I also point out if tolls arrive for all  
2 vehicles in the State of Connecticut on 95,  
3 there's certainly going to be a lot more traffic  
4 on Route 80 that runs parallel to 95. And again,  
5 so we've got other threats coming to our pristine  
6 natural setting.

7           So in conclusion, to have this clear-cut  
8 industrial site line between these two pristine  
9 properties I think would be a grave error in  
10 judgment, and an action that would be  
11 contradictory to the character of our town.

12           Thank you.

13           THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Rhonda Larson to be  
14 followed by Janine Stoner.

15           RHONDA LARSON: Thank you for this  
16 opportunity. My name is Rhonda Larson and I live  
17 at 2 North Chestnut Hill Road with my husband Lee.  
18 I'm not used to speaking without a flute in my  
19 hands because I am privileged that that is my  
20 profession, as a professional flute player. So  
21 nature is an integral part of my daily life and  
22 that's where I'm coming from here.

23           I'm a big fan of solar energy and all  
24 sustainable energy interventions. It shows an  
25 attention to our present need for it and it

1       inspires a hope for a cleaner sustainable future.  
2       My problem with the current proposal is strictly  
3       about the location, the effect it will surely have  
4       on what I consider Killingworth's highest asset,  
5       the surrounding natural world.

6                 The location for this project is  
7       sandwiched in between Chatfield Hollow and  
8       Hammonasset Reservoir. Since the property is  
9       zoned for residential this indicates the property  
10      might be able to sustain one house without  
11      disrupting an ecosystem, but this out-of-state  
12      company got a deal from a landowner where they can  
13      lease it far cheaper than any commercially zoned  
14      place, and they have no interest in where it is  
15      located or what it will disrupt as long as the  
16      price is right.

17                And isn't it interesting to you -- it's  
18      interesting to me that it's a limited liability  
19      company on top of it. Further, this company has  
20      no prior knowledge or ties to Killingworth, or  
21      what it's special values are, nor will this matter  
22      to them because they will never be part of the  
23      community. And for them nature is something that  
24      is currently in their way here and will be  
25      greedily disposed of.

1           Does anyone realize what clear cutting  
2 16 acres of woodland wetlands will do. It will do  
3 just what it's designed to do, let in full hot  
4 sun, thereby drying up everything around it that  
5 sustains this ecosystem of plants and animals.

6           And let's not pretend that you have a  
7 grass -- that you can have a grass road that will  
8 be used to transport every panel without affecting  
9 or disrupting the vernal pools, and eventually the  
10 lower wetlands.

11           What is sustainable energy if it makes  
12 an ecosystem disappear, especially when there are  
13 so many places around here where these panels  
14 could go and not destroy an ecosystem? To me it  
15 is an important crossroads for Killingworth to  
16 decide something -- and the State, whether its  
17 pristine land is worth destroying in the name of  
18 some modest amount of money gained, or whether  
19 Killingworth values the uniqueness it contains  
20 which cannot be bought or sold.

21           The pristine natural world that endows  
22 us here every day, the woods, air, water,  
23 wildlife, silence, and beauty to the soul of all  
24 of us, Killingworth should fight to keep this.

25           Since we've all become aware that fossil

1 fuels are destroying the natural world around us,  
2 including ourselves, solar energy is no more an  
3 asset if it's first and lasting act is to destroy  
4 a pristine ecosystem.

5 Thank you.

6 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Janine Stoner  
7 followed by Tom Hagerty.

8 JANINE STONER: Hi. I'm Janine Stoner.  
9 My husband Art and I live right next door, the  
10 abutting property. I'll be brief. The only thing  
11 I really want to say is our biggest concern is  
12 changing the residential zoning to a commercial  
13 zone to have a commercial business in that area.

14 It doesn't make any sense to us, and our  
15 concern is also for the long-term effect of that.  
16 Once you've allowed that to happen you've now set  
17 a precedent. And we would worry that that would  
18 continue to be a commercially zoned area. And  
19 right now it should be left as it is, residential,  
20 which is why we all live there, and we would just  
21 like to make that known.

22 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

23 Tom Hagerty to be followed by Ben  
24 Stillman.

25 THOMAS HAGERTY: Good evening. Chairman

1           Murphy, thank you for coming out all this way to  
2           Killingworth today to hear everyone's comments.  
3           We really appreciate the effort.

4                     I'd like to say straight up, right in  
5           front I am a huge renewable energy fan, whether it  
6           be wind or solar or whatever. I would like to  
7           simply echo the points made by First Selectwoman  
8           Iino, provided that the factors that she stated  
9           are in fact listened to and adhered to. I think  
10          that solar is clean, it's safe and it's quiet.

11                    My sense is that I happen to be  
12          overwhelmingly in favor of this project, and my  
13          sense is that while you may hear a lot of negative  
14          comments tonight in opposition to the project, I  
15          think that's just simply the nature of this type  
16          of hearing. That's what -- that's what you hear.  
17          That's what comes out.

18                    You may not hear many positive comments,  
19          but from the conversations I've had with friends  
20          and residents around town I think there's a  
21          tremendous support for this project. You may just  
22          not hear about it tonight.

23                    And again, I think that's just the  
24          nature of the beast. Thanks for your time.

25                    A VOICE: Can you indicate where you

1 live?

2 THOMAS HAGERTY: Twenty-five Madison  
3 Hollow.

4 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Bill Stamm.

5 WILLIAM STAMM: I'd like to thank you  
6 guys for coming down way out here to Killingworth,  
7 which is kind of the point of this. A lot of  
8 people have made some good technical points  
9 already, so I won't reiterate them.

10 I will say a lot of us have been thrown  
11 into this type of understanding of legal  
12 documents, petitions. The petition and its  
13 inaccuracies are overwhelming. It's really --  
14 I could go on for about an hour about it. The  
15 commercial zone affidavit you received from the  
16 lawyer was extremely disturbing to say the least.

17 So with that in mind I'm going to speak  
18 on behalf of -- I do not live on Chestnut Hill. I  
19 live on Alders Bridge, miles away, but it could be  
20 my yard.

21 So I drove down Chestnut Hill the other  
22 day and they have a beautiful view out in the back  
23 yard that will be gone. Just because they can't  
24 see a panel per se -- and I don't even know that  
25 they will be able to see the panels or not -- the



1           vista will be gone. You're ripping out,  
2           destroying, gutting 16 acres of our town. We are  
3           in the woods because that's where we want to be.  
4           So I think you need to remember that we have these  
5           resources for us first.

6                         And I hate to say this, but I know Cathy  
7           Iino wrote a letter which she said it was on her  
8           behalf only -- on Killingworth Town letterhead as  
9           a Selectwoman. She does not represent most of the  
10          people -- I'm sorry -- that I talked to in this  
11          town that do not want this, but do want solar and  
12          renewable energy somewhere else in a more suitable  
13          area.

14                        Thank you.

15                        THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16                        The next speaker comes from the second  
17          list and it's Chris Little.

18                        And while Chris Little is coming up, a  
19          reminder. If you want to be heard this evening  
20          you have to sign up on the sign-up sheet. There  
21          are more sheets over there. I'm sorry for the  
22          interruption, but go ahead. He will be followed  
23          by Alyson Somerville.

24                        CHRISTOPHER LITTLE: I am one of the  
25          neighbors that live across the street and looks

1 out my window every day to these woods. I'm not  
2 going to waste everybody's time. They've said  
3 already what I have to say.

4 I just think it's -- it could be so put  
5 somewhere else. There's so much more property in  
6 the Town of Killingworth. Killingworth owns  
7 hundreds of acres, plenty of places where it could  
8 be put. Around schools, behind schools, wooded  
9 areas near schools that aren't part of vernal  
10 pools that feed into our town beach, which this  
11 does.

12 The other thing I'm afraid of is  
13 abandonment like everybody else talked about.  
14 Abandonment is the biggest thing. It's not a  
15 viable place. They're not going to make money off  
16 of it, and if it gets abandoned it's a huger  
17 eyesore for us, the neighbors. And if you'll find  
18 people are for it they don't live around it. Keep  
19 that in mind.

20 Thank you.

21 ALYSON SOMERVILLE: Hi, and thank you  
22 for coming. My name is Alyson Somerville and I  
23 live at 44 Chestnut Hill Road. And I have a very,  
24 very large parcel of land that's very close to  
25 this proposed site. There's only one piece of

1 property between me and the site and I back up to  
2 Mrs. Stoner's property there.

3 I've lived there my entire life. My  
4 brother co-owns it with me. He lives in Montana  
5 and I'm also speaking on Alfred's behalf tonight,  
6 Alfred Somerville also.

7 This is more emotional than anything. I  
8 do not want to see those beautiful pristine woods  
9 destroyed. And it will have an environmental  
10 effect on my property as well, so that's basically  
11 all I really want to say.

12 I'm, you know, I'm just very emotionally  
13 attached to that land and I don't want to see the  
14 environment of it destroyed, the wetlands and  
15 everything. I have wetlands on my property that  
16 might be affected by this.

17 Thank you very much.

18 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Next is Maryanne  
19 Little to be followed by Linda Anderson.

20 MARYANNE LITTLE: Hi. Good evening.  
21 Thank you for all -- the Chairman of the  
22 Connecticut Siting Council -- for coming, to  
23 listen to what we have to say today.

24 I too will not be repetitive in what  
25 already residents have said. I, my husband Chris

1 Little and I live across the street. We have a  
2 working farm. I have a child.

3 I will tell you that I would be putting  
4 up probably some cameras of any sort to record the  
5 noise levels and any other destructive levels that  
6 would come into cause -- for me and/or my daughter  
7 to become injured while working with our horses,  
8 or any other negative effects that we put on our  
9 farm such as water pollution, damage to our wells,  
10 damage to our cement foundation and anything else.

11 I was a biology major. My heart is in  
12 forestry and I appreciate everything that nature  
13 has to offer. I agree that I am not against a  
14 solar farm, however that area is not, in my  
15 opinion, an area where a solar farm should take  
16 place.

17 There are ecosystems that have developed  
18 over there that took hundreds of years. There are  
19 certain types of soils, plants, algae, microbials  
20 that we, to the naked eye cannot see. And I feel  
21 that putting solar panels and everything else  
22 up -- and again, all the inconsistencies that are  
23 going on with the answers from the Chatfield Solar  
24 Fund is very concerning to me at this point in the  
25 game. And the fact that they have a vested

1 interest in this -- if it does succeed I will try  
2 to find a way to appeal it. Thank you.

3 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

4 Linda Anderson followed by Jessie  
5 Larsen.

6 LINDA ANDERSON: Hi. I'm Linda  
7 Anderson. I live on Chestnut Hill and I agree  
8 with what's been said about the beauty, the  
9 decommissioning, all the prior comments.

10 The only comment that I feel wasn't  
11 addressed is I have a concern. When I come out of  
12 Chestnut Hill onto Route 80 it's hard to see  
13 traffic coming, heading eastward.

14 Now where this is being built, it's a  
15 little bit further down on Route 80. And if I'm  
16 at the crest or the top of the hill and coming out  
17 of Chestnut Hill and have poor vision, the person  
18 coming over the hill will also have poor vision of  
19 an exit or entrance road on Route 80.

20 I just think it's very poorly designed  
21 for the ecosystem, for the transportation and the  
22 destruction of the beautiful land is unbearable.

23 Thank you.

24 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

25 Jessie Larsen. I think the last one is

1 Alec -- I'm not sure -- last name is Martin.

2 JESSIE LARSEN: Hi. I'm Jessie Larsen.

3 I don't have anything really prepared as everybody  
4 else does, but they reiterate all my feelings. I  
5 don't live in the area, but I do live in  
6 Killingworth and I came here because of the beauty  
7 of the forest and the trees, and the hiking and  
8 whatnot. And my biggest concern, even though I am  
9 for solar is location.

10 You know, you're putting this in a  
11 residential area with a scenic highway and  
12 beautiful vistas and the environment, and that's  
13 all going to be taken away by this small little  
14 output of the solar farm. And I think that  
15 abandonment is a big issue. The inconsistencies  
16 that the company, when I tried to look up to see  
17 what their assets were, you know, I can't find  
18 anything that gives me any type of, you know,  
19 confidence that this is going to be taken care of  
20 should something go wrong.

21 We've had storms that cause all kinds of  
22 damage with trees falling down. In a year you  
23 know those solar panels could be damaged. Are  
24 they going to say, well, the cost is now too much  
25 for me to repair it, and just let it go after one

1 year? How does that risk cost benefit, you know,  
2 help in this situation?

3 So when I look at a situation I look,  
4 does the benefit outweigh the risk? And in this  
5 case I truly, with everything said tonight, don't  
6 believe that it does. So I'm totally against it.

7 Like I said, where it's located is the  
8 issue. It's not so much that it's a solar farm.  
9 I've seen solar farms work, you know, in North  
10 Carolina with big open fields and, you know, true  
11 farmland. And they can be very, very helpful to  
12 us. So I would just put that in your thoughts.

13 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

14 Alec Martin.

15 ALEC MARTIN: Hi. My name is Alec  
16 Martin. Now I live on 81, so I'm way away from  
17 where this is actually taking place. To the  
18 commission, thank you.

19 The big question in this is, if? And  
20 right now in America we are calling for renewable  
21 energy. There is a vast need for renewable  
22 energy. I am for solar energy and I know  
23 everybody has their specific why not, but I think  
24 if anything of all these why-nots, certainly they  
25 have to be addressed.

1           But I think at least talk of  
2           decommissioning, abandonment and I think all of  
3           these things can be held in bonds contracts, I  
4           mean really severe contracts that state  
5           specifically what takes place. And they -- there  
6           should be bonds on this held by the Town.

7           The company that is going to be doing  
8           this, their feet should be held to the fire if  
9           again -- the big if, if the siting committee says  
10          this is what we should do, and the Town doesn't  
11          have a real say in this.

12          I think the gist of the whole thing  
13          should be handled in really, really severe  
14          contracts holding this company, their feet to the  
15          fire, really holding their feet to the fire.

16          Thank you.

17          THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

18          We're now on the last list that we have  
19          so far. Don Venett.

20          DON VENUTI: There's an "I" on the end  
21          of that, Venuti, V-e-n-u-t-i.

22          THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Well, there's a dot,  
23          but no -- my apologies. In any event, Mr. Venuti,  
24          be our guest.

25          DONALD VENUTI: Don Venuti, 126 Burr



1 Hill Road, Killingworth, Connecticut. I'm one of  
2 the largest landowners in this town, me and my  
3 brothers. I've built several of these solar  
4 fields, quite a bit larger than this project. And  
5 I've looked at the plans. I could build this with  
6 my eyes closed.

7 Now I'm a hundred percent in favor of  
8 this thing. I know there's a lot of tension with  
9 the neighbors that are surrounding it and, you  
10 know, all that stuff goes around. But what I  
11 would like to say is I'm kind of in this spot  
12 myself.

13 But a few years -- well, it was probably  
14 10 years ago I had a piece of land in Madison,  
15 13 acres. And I wanted to dig a little pond, take  
16 the gravel out and build a house. I had a bigger  
17 squad than this come down and shut me down. Can't  
18 do this. Can't do that. Boom, Boom, Boom. So,  
19 you know, whatever.

20 So I went back to the drawing board and  
21 in about three months I went in for affordable  
22 housing, and I got ten houses on the 13 acres.  
23 All those people came down. The zoning board  
24 got up there right in front of everybody. He goes  
25 I cannot deny this. They meet every requirement

1           that there is. So they would have been better off  
2           with the pond and one house instead of ten houses  
3           on the 13 acres. But what I'm saying is --

4                        THE VICE CHAIRMAN: You're one of the  
5           few people that understood affordable housing  
6           really doesn't mean it either.

7                        DON VENUTI: Right. But what I'm trying  
8           to say is this person owns the land. And they're  
9           all hating the idea they're going to clear cut the  
10          23 acres, this and that. So down the road if this  
11          gets denied, this person could still -- you cannot  
12          deny a person the right to his land. So he could  
13          still do something that they have no say over and  
14          still cut them 23 acres of trees.

15                      So what you've got to look at is, what  
16          is the best thing for the property? You know, I  
17          was in a meeting the other night and their answer  
18          was, we're going to fight them then. So whatever  
19          this guy does they're still going to fight him,  
20          but I'm saying you cannot deny the man the use of  
21          his land. That's the most important thing.

22                      But I'm a hundred percent in favor of  
23          this project.

24                      THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,  
25          Mr. Venuti. George Brencher. And Megon Dudley

1 after Mr. Brencher.

2 GEORGE BRENCHER: Good evening. My name  
3 is George Brencher. I live at 17 Chestnut Hill  
4 Road. We've lived there for more than 20 years.  
5 We're on the west side of the road so we can't see  
6 this eyesore, but obviously I oppose the proposal.

7 I agree with Mr. Venuti. People can do  
8 what they want with their property within zoning,  
9 within environmental, and that's the world we live  
10 in. We don't just get to do anything we want with  
11 our property.

12 I know the Council has a large factual  
13 record before it, and I want to bring some big  
14 picture context that may not be apparent from the  
15 details of the record. Killingworth is not a  
16 highly affluent community like New Canaan or other  
17 towns in Fairfield County for example. It's a  
18 small rural town of typical means, yet despite  
19 that it has some of the strictest zoning and  
20 wetlands rules in the state.

21 We have these rules because we made a  
22 choice to preserve the rural character of our  
23 community and to protect our environment,  
24 especially our groundwater and wetlands. In short  
25 there's a reason that Killingworth looks different

1 from many of our neighboring towns. It's because  
2 people here have sacrificed for decades to  
3 preserve and protect what we have here.

4 This project flies right in the face of  
5 all that. We all discussed how this is in a  
6 residential zone. It's two miles from  
7 Killingworth's extremely compact commercial zone.  
8 It's right between the state scenic road that sees  
9 every use all year round. Hikers, cyclists,  
10 horseback riders. It's on lists of where you  
11 should go to do these things. People come from  
12 all over the state.

13 It's right next to a very popular state  
14 park. I went down there and leafletted for 20  
15 minutes last Saturday. I met 50 people. Not one  
16 of them was from Killingworth. This area is used  
17 by residents from all over the region. Obviously  
18 there's issues with the drainage down into Deer  
19 Lake and Hammonasset River. There's issues with  
20 the vernal pools and wetlands.

21 This area has an environmental benefit  
22 to communities in Killingworth and outside  
23 Killingworth because of its scenic beauty and  
24 because of its positive impact on species  
25 diversity and water quality.

1           The DEEP did a great report tearing  
2           apart these guys' petition. I'm sure you guys  
3           have been all over it. I don't need to reiterate  
4           for you the value of core forests. It's a top  
5           DEEP priority. We're now going to deforest  
6           25 acres along the edge of it. That makes no  
7           sense.

8           All right. They're going to cut within  
9           a few feet of vernal pools and wetlands. You  
10          can't do that in this town. Why should they be  
11          able to do that? They're going to destroy habitat  
12          right next to an NDDB area that they have admitted  
13          contains habitats that's suitable for these  
14          various different NDDB species.

15          The fact that they weren't able to find  
16          a green orchid or a whippoorwill in late November  
17          in Killingworth, not a real shocker. Okay? How  
18          about they do it in the spring. I guarantee they  
19          will find one.

20          I've been listening to whippoorwills in  
21          that neighborhood for the 20 years that I've been  
22          there. When my wife moved into our house right  
23          before our wedding in June, we had one in our  
24          yard. Nobody could sleep in the house with all  
25          these guests -- because we got married in our

1 yard. We had a whippoorwill right there. There's  
2 not going to be any whippoorwills after they clear  
3 cut. Okay? It's going to drive the vernal pools  
4 out. It's going to change the habitat.

5 The benefit to the Town is going to be  
6 negligible. If it's \$80,000, which I highly doubt  
7 because three days ago nobody could give us an  
8 estimate. You know, if I want to build an  
9 apartment building on my house and give you  
10 a couple hundred thousand dollars, I don't think  
11 you'd take it. So why are you going to take  
12 \$80,000 to do this?

13 Once they cut this forest down, I don't  
14 care if they abandon it and they have a bond,  
15 you're not going to grow the forest back. It's  
16 done. The damage is done. If you approve this  
17 project you might as well approve any project that  
18 comes before you. Don't waste people's time with  
19 the hearing. Put it on Guilford Green. I mean,  
20 this is ridiculous. It's hard. I know you have  
21 to go through a process, but it's absurd. In sum  
22 please reject the proposal.

23 MEGON DUDLEY: So my name is Megon  
24 Dudley. I am a resident of Chestnut Hill. And I  
25 have to be honest, I did not plan on meeting my

1 neighbors until I was exploiting all of you by  
2 peddling Girl Scout cookies in a couple of years.  
3 So this has been very nice.

4 One of the things that I think I'm just  
5 compelled to say is having moved onto Chestnut  
6 Hill two days before Sandy when we closed on our  
7 house, we were without power for a couple of  
8 weeks. The ice storm last year, we were without  
9 power for a week and a half. So everyone on  
10 Chestnut Hill pretty much has generators. That's  
11 the way it goes.

12 But one of the things that happened  
13 during last year's ice storm is trees took down  
14 the transformers, and it lit a fire at the top of  
15 Chestnut Hill in Madison that scorched the entire  
16 road. Firetrucks couldn't get down there because  
17 too many trees came down. That is a regular  
18 occurrence with every ice storm, every huge  
19 thunderstorm that happens on Chestnut Hill.

20 God forbid in the future there is  
21 another significant storm that takes out access to  
22 this farm's Route 80. How are they going to  
23 access the solar farm to put out fires, fire  
24 prevention? What happens if that fire spreads to  
25 the houses on Chestnut Hill, the remaining forest

1           that exists?

2                       When firetrucks can't get to it it's  
3 going to take it all out. So without an alternate  
4 access road to this that's not Chestnut Hill  
5 you're not going to be able to go through River  
6 Road. How is it going to happen?

7                       And just another thing. You know, to  
8 pretend that this wasn't already in the works or  
9 this is all happenstance, Eversource has been  
10 doing a lot of tree work on Green Hill Road and  
11 they're staging heavy equipment at the substation  
12 on Green Hill and putting in materials to move  
13 this forward. So I -- I think I'm just a little  
14 concerned that decisions are made without the  
15 appropriate consultation maybe of the folks that  
16 have to live with it literally in their backyard.

17                      And again, thank you for the  
18 opportunity -- everyone said, thank you for coming  
19 down. Thank you for coming down. Thank you for  
20 letting me say what I had to say. Thank you all  
21 for the Girl Scout cookies you will be buying in a  
22 couple of years. I appreciate it. Thanks.

23                      THE VICE CHAIRMAN: That is the last  
24 person who has signed up to speak. Is there  
25 anyone else who wishes to express their concerns



1 or what have you? Yes. Go ahead.

2 Would you give me your name?

3 SCOTT ROWLAND: No problem. My name is  
4 Scott Rowland. I live at 55 Chestnut Hill. I'm  
5 not in support of it. I think all the residents  
6 did a great job voicing their opinion. I don't  
7 need to repeat it.

8 However, I think it's important that I  
9 voice something that I've talked with my kids  
10 about in my household. Living on Chestnut Hill  
11 you see the signs now, no solar farm.

12 My eight-year-old daughter. What's  
13 going on, Daddy?

14 We explain what's going on, cutting down  
15 forests near the wetlands. Renewable energy is  
16 great though, honey. She went up on her laptop  
17 the other night and wrote a whole letter of why  
18 they shouldn't occur. And I'm not going to read  
19 the whole letter.

20 Kathy -- I think my wife sent it to you.  
21 But I want to read one paragraph that's very tough  
22 for me to explain to my daughter, so take this  
23 into consideration. And this is her words.

24 Another reason that you need -- another  
25 reason that this is not a good idea is that you

1 need to cut down trees, and some animals need  
2 trees like birds. Also, you need to clear lakes  
3 off, but also animals need water to live.

4 For example, they will be threatening  
5 their habitat and destroying it -- she holds it.

6 So the poor animals will have no water,  
7 no habitat. Imagine if that was you. How would  
8 you feel if that was your water and your habitat.  
9 She ends her letter, PS, I gave my reasons. By  
10 the way I'm only eight years old. Please no solar  
11 farm.

12 I thought it was important for you to  
13 hear a perspective from a child living on Chestnut  
14 Hill who's going to see forests taken down near  
15 the wetlands for renewable energy. It sounds like  
16 an oxymoron to me. So maybe if you approve this  
17 you can help me try to explain that to my  
18 daughter.

19 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Do we have anyone  
20 else? Yes.

21 ROBERT YOUNG: Hello. My name is Bob  
22 Young. I live on Champlin Road, which is off of  
23 Chestnut Hill and my house is at the very end  
24 which is between Foster's Pond and Deer Lake.

25 Last I knew, water runs downhill. So

1 all that runoff from this 16 or 25 acres, however  
2 much is cleared, will end up whether it's prior to  
3 abandonment or 10, 20 years after abandonment.  
4 This water will run off into Foster's Pond. It  
5 will eventually run off into Deer lake where  
6 there's a Boy Scout camp there. There's summer  
7 camps there. Kids swim in that water. I think  
8 this is a big mistake.

9 Furthermore, beyond Deer Lake -- I'm not  
10 positive, but I believe that water eventually runs  
11 down into River Road and further on down into  
12 Green Hill. So there's a number -- it's not just  
13 the Chestnut Hill, the Champlin Hill properties  
14 that are affected, not that end of town. I think  
15 there's going to be an impact on the other side of  
16 town, down near Green Hill Road. So I would like  
17 you to please take that into consideration.

18 Thank you.

19 THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

20 I'll ask again. Is there anyone else?

21 Yeah.

22 FREDERICK BOVA: Hi. My name is Fred  
23 Bova. I live on 3 North Chestnut Hill Road. I  
24 just moved here October. I find this like heaven  
25 on earth. I love this area and coming here and

1           seeing all my neighbors -- is pulling me away,  
2           because I see so much concern. I was here this  
3           afternoon and I watched. I sat right there and I  
4           watched you actually ask all the questions. And I  
5           was amazed, because you actually did your  
6           homework. I was expecting just something to get  
7           tossed off, but a lot of things came up this  
8           afternoon.

9                         One thing that came up was, as far as  
10           fire retardant, if there's a problem and there's a  
11           fire if they're not allowed to have water in the  
12           area, a certain amount of water you have to use  
13           foam. But then someone said, but in order to use  
14           foam you have to have water to activate the foam.

15                        There's just so many things that when  
16           you ask these people who are supposed to be in  
17           charge of this product they didn't have a clue.  
18           They had no answers at all. It would be like,  
19           we're going to get back to you. We're working on  
20           that. They're not working on it. They're just  
21           not going to do any of that homework unless you  
22           force them to do the homework.

23                        You asked some fantastic questions and  
24           you put their feet to the fire on some very  
25           important issues, and I thank you for that. I

1 really do.

2 And I hope that, you know, they do their  
3 homework and realize that the things that they  
4 would have to do to actually do this safely,  
5 they're not going to have a net gain. They're not  
6 going to get money out of this in the long run.  
7 And you know what? That's what it's really all  
8 about for them. It's all about money.

9 And as far as damage to the solar panels  
10 and in case of a fire, solar panels do have  
11 cadmium. Cadmium is a very, very dangerous  
12 element. You need a very small amount of that in  
13 your water, in your environment to create a huge  
14 problem. When you have 25 acres of that inside  
15 those panels with a big storm and damage, we're  
16 asking for a lot of trouble.

17 With that, I want to thank you again for  
18 everybody here for showing up. I love the fact  
19 that these are my neighbors now, and I thank you  
20 so much again because I came today, and I was  
21 actually renewed to the fact that people do their  
22 homework. And you really put in a phenomenal  
23 amount of time I can tell, because the questions  
24 that you put to them were very, very valid.

25 Thank you very much.

1                   THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Is there  
2 anyone else?

3

4                                   (No response.)

5

6                   THE VICE CHAIRMAN: If not, then we're  
7 going to close this public session of the Siting  
8 Council on this particular petition, and close  
9 this meeting.

10                                 And before doing so I'd like to announce  
11 that the evidentiary hearing which started this  
12 afternoon will be continued and heard in New  
13 Britain on Tuesday, March the 26th at 1 p.m.

14                                 Please note, as I have mentioned before,  
15 that anyone who has not become a party or  
16 intervener, but who desires to make his or her  
17 views known to the Council and were not able to do  
18 so tonight may file written statements with the  
19 Council until the public record closes which will  
20 be, like, 30 days after the hearing in March.

21                                 Copies of the transcript of this hearing  
22 will be filed at both the Killingworth and Madison  
23 Town Clerk's office. I hereby declare this  
24 meeting adjourned. I thank you for your  
25 participation and I really thank you tonight.

1                   For seeing such a large crowd I really  
2                   have to compliment you on not the number of people  
3                   who didn't come forward and say the same thing  
4                   that we heard over and over again. And it's  
5                   really appreciated because we go to a lot of  
6                   places and we've had some great experiences, but  
7                   we enjoy doing it.

8                   In any event, drive home carefully and  
9                   have a good night. Thank you.

10

11                   (Whereupon, the above proceedings were  
12                   concluded at 7:40 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 54 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the Public Hearing in Re: Petition No. 1354, PETITION FROM CHATFIELD SOLAR FUND, LLC, FOR A DECLARATORY RULING 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, which was held before JAMES J. MURPHY, JR., THE VICE CHAIRMAN, at the Killingworth Fire Station, Meeting Room, Number 333, Route 81, Killingworth, Connecticut, Thursday, February 21, 2019.



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Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857  
Notary Public  
BCT Reporting Service  
55 Whiting Street, Suite 1A  
Plainville, CT 06062  
My Commission Expires: 6/30/2020