



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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September 8, 2015

Philip M. Small, Esq.
Brown Rudnick LLP
185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: **PETITION NO. 1150** – SolarCity Corporation declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction and operation of a 3.1 Megawatt Community Shared Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating facility located on Brush Hill Road in Bozrah, Connecticut. Development & Management Plan.

Dear Attorney Small:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on September 3, 2015, the Council considered and approved the Development and Management (D&M) Plan submitted for this project on August 3, 2015.

This approval applies only to the D&M Plan submitted on August 3, 2015. Requests for any changes to the D&M Plan shall be approved by Council staff in accordance with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section (RCSA) §16-50j-62(b). Furthermore, the project developer is responsible for reporting requirements pursuant to RCSA 16-50j-62.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition dated April 2, 2015 and in the D&M Plan dated August 3, 2015.

Enclosed is a copy of the staff report on this D&M Plan, dated September 3, 2015.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/RDM/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated September 3, 2015

c: The Honorable William E. Ballinger, First Selectman, Town of Bozrah
Seymour Adelman, Planning and Zoning Chairman, Town of Bozrah
Thomas J. Regan, Esq., Brown Rudnick LLP
Robert Miller, SolarCity Corporation
Julie D. Kohler, Esq., Cohen and Wolf, P.C.



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Petition No. 1150

SolarCity Corporation – 3.1 Megawatt Solar Project

Bozrah, Connecticut

Staff Report

September 3, 2015

On June 11, 2015, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Declaratory Ruling to SolarCity Corporation (SolarCity) that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 3.1 megawatt community shared solar photovoltaic facility located on Brush Hill Road in Bozrah, Connecticut. As required by the Council's decision of this petition, SolarCity submitted a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for the project on August 3, 2015. Copies of the D&M Plan were provided to the Town of Bozrah, a party to the petition. No comments were received to date.

Consistent with the Council's decision, the D&M Plan contains equipment specifications, site construction details, erosion and sedimentation controls consistent with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, a wetland protection program, a construction work hour schedule, environmental notes addressing site clearing, site monitoring and box turtle awareness procedures, and a facility decommissioning plan.

The project is located on a 25.2 acre undeveloped parcel on the east side of Brush Hill Road. The parcel, zoned industrial, is mostly wooded except for a 5.8 acre old field area that fronts Brush Hill Road. Although no regulated wetlands were identified on-site, four intermittent water channels were identified on the parcel. Project construction will occur outside of the identified water channels to prevent degradation of the water quality functions and associated wildlife values they provide.

The solar facility will occupy 15.8 acres of the parcel, mostly along ridge that extends through the center of the parcel. The solar field, consisting of the solar arrays, access road and electrical equipment, will comprise 11.5 acres of the development area.

A construction phasing plan has been developed that first specifies the clearing of nine acres of woodland. Consistent with the spring/early summer seasonal clearing restriction, tree clearing will occur from August 15 to April 30 to avoid potential nesting birds. Once cleared, the logged trees would be chipped on-site and used to construct 2.5 foot high berms for use as a perimeter erosion and sediment control barrier. The wood chip berms will be installed on the north and south sides of the construction area, as necessary.

Consistent with the wetland protection plan, silt fencing will be installed beyond the wood chip berms and along the east side of the construction area to provide additional protection to adjacent environmental resources and to prevent herpetofauna from migrating into the work area. An environmental monitor will visit the project site periodically to inspect the silt fence barriers and to check for any herpetofauna that may have migrated into the project area.

After the wood chip berms and silt fencing are installed, a 20-foot wide, 1,460-foot long gravel access drive and two stormwater control basins south of the access drive will be constructed. The basins, two to three feet deep, will serve as temporary sediment traps during construction. Four stormwater retention areas will also be constructed on the eastern half of the solar field to control runoff from the site. Stone check dams will be installed as necessary to slow down stormwater runoff. Seeding/mulching of finished slopes associated with the access drive and basins will occur once final access drive grading is complete. A temporary chain link security fence will surround the construction area.



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Stump removal and site grading will occur in two phases. Stumps in cleared areas outside the solar field will be left in place to minimize soil disruption. Usable topsoil stripped from construction areas will be temporarily stockpiled in specified areas prior to reuse. Final seeding is not anticipated until Spring 2016; in the interim, the site will be mulched for winter stabilization.

The solar field will consist of 10,350 Canadian Solar CS6X-305-P solar modules, each measuring 6.4 feet by 3.1 feet. The modules will be installed on a GameChange rack system mounted on concrete anchor ballasts. The ballasts consist of plastic tubs filled with concrete placed on the ground. Solar panel support framing will arrange the panels in linear rows, with solar modules installed at a 25 degree angle. The support racks will be constructed so that a 24 inch minimum ground clearance will be maintained from the bottom of the modules. Three inverters will be installed on concrete pads, located along the access drive. The inverters will be connected to switchgear located in a separate fenced area adjacent to the access drive entrance. One new utility wood pole will be installed on the east side of Brush Hill Road to connect the switchgear to the Bozrah Light and Power electric distribution system.

The solar field will be surrounded by a six-foot high chain link fence using concrete footings installed below grade. The fence will be of two-inch mesh except for fencing installed within 100 feet of Brush Hill Road where a 1.5 inch non-climbable mesh will be used. A 20-foot wide swing gate will be installed at the access drive entrance. A second gate will access the switchgear compound.

Once construction is completed, SolarCity will plant shrubs (holly) along the property frontage on Brush Hill Road. A row of arborvitae will be installed along the south edge of the solar field between stormwater basin #1 and an abutting residence.

Construction hours are between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., seven days per week. Construction is expected to take 12 weeks.

Council staff recommends approval with the condition that approval of requested significant changes to the approved D&M Plan be delegated to Council staff in accordance with Section 16-50j-62(b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. In accordance with that section, if advance written notice is impractical, SolarCity shall provide verbal notice of the changes and shall submit written specifications to the Council within 48 hours after the verbal notice.