



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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November 20, 2015

Phillip M. Small, Esq.  
Brown Rudnick LLP  
185 Asylum Street, 38<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: **PETITION NO. 1181** – SolarCity Corporation petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction and operation of a 4.93 Megawatt Community Shared Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating facility located at 9 Stott Avenue & 292 Plain Hill Road, Norwich, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Small:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than December 4, 2015. To help expedite the Council's review, please file individual responses as soon as they are available.

Please forward an original and 15 copies to this office and a pdf copy. In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan, the Council is requesting that all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

Yours very truly,

Melanie Bachman  
Acting Executive Director

c: Council Members

**Petition 1181: Solarcity  
Norwich, Connecticut  
Interrogatories – D&M Plan Revision: Tree Cutting**

1. Confirm whether the proposed tree clearing is to mitigate “shading” of the solar panels?
2. The description of vegetation in the environmental assessment in the petition did not list bittersweet. How is it now so intrusive to be an impediment?
3. How were the branch trimming and health of the trees determined? Is it possible that trimming branches is feasible?
4. Provide the number, diameter at breast height and height of the trees to be removed?
5. Provide a map that shows location of the trees to be removed with regards to the wetland delineation and solar panels?
6. What is the distance between the trees to be cleared and the adjacent wetland?
7. Please provide a description of the vegetation currently growing in the adjacent wetland other than the trees to be removed. What is the function of the tree canopy associated with the adjacent wetland?
8. Please describe in detail, per an accepted method, the functions and values of this wetland.
9. What changes to the wetland values will occur as a result of the proposed tree cutting?
10. A stone wall is located parallel to the access road, which side of the stone wall are the trees located? If the trees are on the west side of the stone wall what impacts would be expected to the adjacent wetland?
11. How would the proposed clearing affect wildlife habitat?
12. How would the proposed clearing affect the carbon debt analysis?
13. As the D&M plan is now proposing wetlands impacts where there were none before, what additional consultations may now be required with the Army Corp of Engineer, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the City of Norwich?
14. Would trees be cleared and grubbed consistent with the 49 trees planned for clearing previously?
15. Has tree cutting without stump removal been considered? How would this method impact the wetland?
16. Was avoidance (i.e. not cutting the trees or relocation of the solar arrays) considered as mitigation? If so, what were the reasons avoidance was rejected?