



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

December 21, 2016

Bradley J. Parsons, PE
Project Manager
All-Points Technology Corporation, P.C.
3 Saddlebrook Drive
Killingworth, CT 06419

RE: **PETITION NO. 1247** – C-TEC Solar, LLC declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance, and operation of a 3.75 MW solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 1 Ballard Road, Thompson, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Parsons:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than December 28, 2016. 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, as well as a copy via electronic mail. 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.

Any request for an extension of time to submit responses to interrogatories shall be submitted to the Council in writing pursuant to §16-50j-22a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Yours very truly,

Melanie A. Bachman
Acting Executive Director

MB/MP

c: Council Members
Brad N. Mondschein, Esq.

Petition No. 1247
Interrogatories
D&M Plan Phases II and III
Set One
December 21, 2016

1. Was a copy of C-TEC Solar LLC's (C-TEC) Phase II and Phase III Development and Management Plans (D&M Plans) submitted to the Town of Thompson (Town) per Condition 3 of the Connecticut Siting Council's (Council) Decision on September 1, 2016? If no, could a copy of the Phase II and Phase III D&M Plans be submitted to the Town as soon as possible?
2. C-TEC photovoltaic facility was approved by the Council for approximately 3.75 megawatts (MW) direct current (DC) or approximately 2.70 MW alternating current (AC). This was based on approximately 11,200 solar panels. Based on Sheet SP-1 of the Phase II Development and Management Plan (Phase II D&M Plan), 7,144 solar panels are planned at this time. With the currently planned 7,144 solar panels, provide the MW AC and MW DC for this project.
3. What is the status of the "Future" 4,056 solar panels as indicated on Sheet SP-1 of the Phase II D&M Plan? Would C-TEC submit another D&M Plan phase in the future for the remaining approximately 4,056 solar panels? Provide the MW AC and MW DC based on the 4,056 panels for the future project.
4. Sheet DN-1 of the Phase II D&M Plan does not include the angle of the solar panels with the horizontal or maximum height of the panels. Based on the Council staff report for Petition No. 1247, the top of the solar panels would be approximately 7-foot 10-inches and oriented at 25 degrees above the horizontal. Are these specifications still correct? If no, please update.
5. Would the overhead electrical feeder that connects the equipment compound to the existing electrical distribution on Route 193 be sized to support the planned and future power output or just the planned? While an overhead utility crossing of Route 193 is planned, has C-TEC considered an underground (i.e. trenching) utility route to cross Route 193? Has C-TEC confirmed with Eversource that the distribution system can support the planned MW AC at this time?
6. Would C-TEC need to apply for a Highway Encroachment Permit from the Connecticut Department of Transportation for any work performed within the Route 193 right-of-way?
7. Would the existing gravel maintenance drive need to be upgraded prior to construction traffic to construct the solar facility? Would the entire access drive require a gravel upgrade or just select portions?
8. Even though Sheet SP-1 of the Phase II D&M Plan identifies the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100-year flood line as "Approximate," did C-TEC ensure that it accurately reflects the 1984 FEMA data that C-TEC references in the cover letter of its Phase II D&M Plan?
9. With a 100-year flood line established by FEMA, one could reasonably expect to find a fair amount of flooding evidence having occurred in this area of the site in the past. Were alluvial and/or floodplain soils identified in the northern portion of the site in the vicinity of the 100-year flood line? How would C-TEC explain a 100-foot wetland setback encroaching into a FEMA 100-year flood area?

10. Sheet DN-1 of the Phase II D&M Plan shows a gap of up to 1.5 inches under the proposed fence. Would there be any wildlife protective value associated with elevating the bottom of the fence (surrounding the solar array and the equipment compound) by roughly six inches above grade in order to allow wildlife such as turtles to pass through and reduce the risk of entrapment? Explain. If yes, could such a gap (or different size gap as recommended) be accommodated?
11. Per Condition 3(b) of the Council's Decision on September 1, 2016, would the Vernal Pool Buffer Enhancement Plantings as identified on Sheet DN-4 of the Phase III D&M Plan also help mitigate the visual impacts of the project as viewed from the Airline Trail?
12. According to Note 3 of Sheet DN-4 of the Phase III D&M Plan, six inches of topsoil will be installed in the Vernal Pool Enhancement Area. Will the top soil be obtained from other areas of the project footprint, or will this material be trucked onto the site? Approximately how many acres in area is the Vernal Pool Enhancement Area as identified on Sheet GD-1 of the Phase III D&M Plan?
13. If the Phase II and Phase III D&M Plans are approved by the Council, approximately when would construction be completed? Provide the planned construction hours and days of the week, e.g. Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.