



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 25, 2016

Lee D. Hoffman, Esq.  
Pullman & Comley, LLC  
90 State House Square  
Hartford, CT 06103-3702

RE: **PETITION NO. 1224** – Woods Hill Solar, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 17.61 Megawatt AC Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating facility located at 90 and 101 Woods Hill Road, Pomfret, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Hoffman:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than May 5, 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/CW/lm

c: Council Members  
Daniel Boyd, RES America Developments, Inc.

**Petition No. 1224**  
**Interrogatories**  
**April 25, 2016**

1. Provide the specifications sheets for the proposed solar photovoltaic panels and for the proposed inverters.
2. In general, in the case of fixed solar panels, does orienting your solar panels to the south provide a balance (in terms of sun exposure) between the sun rising in the east and setting in the west and ultimately result in optimizing (or attempting to maximize) your total annual energy production (in kilowatt-hours) and your capacity factor? Is it correct to say that the objective of the project, as proposed, is to maximize annual energy production in kilowatt-hours for economic and environmental benefits (e.g. reducing carbon emissions by causing traditional generation including fossil-fueled plants to “ramp down” as renewable power is added to the grid) as opposed to a solar plant designed for peak load shaving?
3. Please provide the numbers that went into the EPA calculator provided in Tab Q. Given the amount of proposed tree clearing, what is the number of days, months, or years it would take to “break even” with carbon dioxide or when the carbon dioxide emissions reductions would equal the sequestration loss. (Data source: <http://www.epa.gov/energy/ghg-equivalencies-calculator-calculations-and-references>)
4. Does the Petitioner propose to install security fencing around any portion of the solar field? If so, please provide specifications.
5. What is the proposed height of the fence that would surround the electrical equipment? What is the proposed mesh size of the fence?
6. Is there or could there be a battery storage system proposed?
7. Please provide the Federal Aviation Administration determination if it is available at this time.
8. Where is the nearest off-site residence located? Provide the distance, direction, and address of such off-site residence.
9. Would the proposed project meet the applicable Department of Energy and Environmental Protection noise standards at the property boundaries? (Sources of noise might include but not be limited to inverters, transformers, etc.)
10. Has Woods Hill Solar (WHS) done any analysis to determine structural limits of snow accumulation on the solar panels and steel support structures, assuming heavy, wet snow? What accumulation of snow could the structures handle? Would WHS clear snow from the panels when it approached the limit?
11. What is the status of the “Facilities and Transmission” studies that are part of the electrical interconnection as referred to on page 3-5 of the petition? Are there any additional steps/studies required before it enters into an Interconnection Agreement?
12. What is the electrical capacity of the Tracy Road Substation?
13. What is the proposed route of the underground conduits from the proposed facility to the Eversource interconnection point?

14. What is the proposed interconnection on Figure 5 behind Tab B connecting to? (i.e. line number, voltage, etc.)
15. Page 3-2 of the Petition states that the 90 Woods Hill Road parcel would be referred to as Parcel B and the 101 Woods Hill Road parcel would be referred to as Parcel A. On page 3-3 of the Petition the bulleted items state that 90 Woods Hill Road is Parcel A and 101 Woods Hill Road is Parcel B. Please clarify which is referred to as Parcel A and which is referred to as Parcel B throughout the Petition.
16. Given the location of the proposed site and the proximity to the Quinebaug River, what is the expected impact to Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor?
17. Please provide the average percent slope of each parcel.
18. Are ten inverters proposed for the project?
19. What is the height of the proposed electrical equipment?
20. Page 6-1 of the petition states that the proposed racking will be designed to meet applicable local building codes for wind and snow loads. What is the wind threshold? What is the amount of snow accumulation designed for in the building codes?
21. What is the status of the Phase 1A Cultural Resources Assessment that the Connecticut SHPO requested as stated on page 6-4 of the Petition?
22. What is the status of the vernal pool and plant survey? What is the estimated time for completion of such a survey?
23. What is the distance and direction of the nearest Important Bird Area to the proposed site?
24. What effect would runoff from the drip edge of each row of solar panels have on the ground beneath it? Would channelization along the drip edge be expected? If not, why not?
25. Would the tree clearing be performed in stages (e.g. five acres at a time), or would the clearing all be performed together as one stage of construction? (Note: Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection "DEEP" General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities states that, "Whenever possible, the site shall be phased to avoid the disturbance of over five acres at a time...")
26. Estimate the amounts of cut and fill in cubic yards.
27. What are the estimated construction days of the week and hours?
28. Has any analysis been conducted to determine structural limits of snow accumulation on the solar panels and steel support structures, assuming heavy, wet snow and or ice? What accumulation of snow could the structures handle? Would the Petitioner clear snow from the panels when it approached the limit?
29. Would the installed solar panels require regular cleaning or other, similar, maintenance? How would this be accomplished?