



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051
Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950
E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov
www.ct.gov/csc

July 19, 2016

Susan J. Kelsey, Secretary
Canaan Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
108 Main Street
P.O. Box 47
Falls Village, CT 06031

RE: **PETITION NO. 1234** - SolarCity Corporation 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 2.8 Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating facility located at Becton, Dickinson & Company, 7 Grace Way, North Canaan, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Kelsey:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of the Town of Canaan Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission's correspondence, dated July 15, 2016, concerning the above-referenced petition. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with your comments.

This petition has been placed on the July 21, 2016 Council meeting agenda for discussion and decision. Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this petition on our website at www.ct.gov/csc under the "Pending Proceedings" link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda. If the Council decides to hold a public hearing, public notice of the hearing location, date and time will be provided.

Before reaching a final decision on a petition, the Council carefully considers all of the facts contained in the record that is developed by the Council, the petitioner, parties and intervenors to the petition, and members of the public who attend the field review and submit written statements to the Council.

Your comments shall become part of the official record in this matter in the form of a limited appearance defined under subsection (f) of Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n. Copies of your correspondence will be distributed to the petitioner and parties and intervenors to the petition.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this matter.

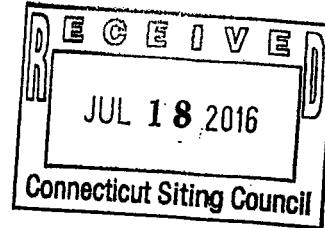
Very truly yours,

Melanie A. Bachman
Acting Executive Director

MAB/MP/laf

c: Parties and Intervenors (via electronic mail)
Council Members

**Town of Canaan (Falls Village)
Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
108 Main Street
P.O. Box 47
Falls Village, Connecticut 06031
(860) 824-0707**



July 15, 2016

Melanie A. Bachman
State of Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Petition No. 1234 - SolarCity Corporation – Petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the Construction and Operation of a Solar Photovoltaic Electric Facility at 7 Grace Way in North Canaan, Connecticut

Dear Ms. Bachman:

We are writing as our Commission has received a notice from both Robinson and Cole (as representative of SolarCity) and The Connecticut Siting Council that Becton, Dickinson and Company intends to have SolarCity install a solar photovoltaic electric generating facility at 7 Grace Way in North Canaan, CT. In concept, the Commission supports the plan to install the said facility but feels that due to the location of the proposed activity in proximity to Robbins Swamp, the project needs to proceed with diligence to ensure the ecology of said Swamp is not compromised.

An "Existing Conditions Map" supplied to our Commission from SolarCity (via Robinson and Cole) shows that it is the intent to clear approximately 9 acres ± of woodland. To the north of the area proposed for clearing, there are wetlands and vernal pools within approximately 400 feet (scaled). To the west, the proposed clearing will be within 200 feet (scaled) of the FEMA 100-year flood line. Upon review of the Natural Diversity Data Base map for this area, it becomes apparent that the general area in which this activity is proposed supports many rare and endangered species that inhabit Robbins Swamp, the largest (calcareous) inland wetland within the State of Connecticut. It is also important to realize that due to the site's location at the northernmost edge of Robbins Swamp, any activity proposed for this site could have the potential for impacting the entire swamp to the south.

The proposed activity of clearcutting will alter the habitat of nine acres adjacent to Robbins Swamp. A close examination of this area prior to construction of the said solar generating facility and prescribed measures to prevent sedimentation of the swamp during land clearing appears prudent to our Commission.

It is the consensus of our Commission that some form of oversight of this project is essential to ensure the integrity of Robbins Swamp. At minimum, an acknowledged guarantee of oversight by the North Canaan Inland Wetlands Commission to the Siting Council would seem prudent prior to the Siting Council issuing a declaratory ruling that no 'Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need' is required.

If our Commission can be of further assistance in aiding your decision, we encourage you to contact us at the above address. Robbins Swamp is one of our State's ecological gems and warrants protection.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Kelsey

Susan J. Kelsey, secretary

Canaan (Falls Village) Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission

Cc: North Canaan Inland Wetlands Commission
North Canaan First Selectman
Canaan First Selectman
Robinson and Cole