Petition No. 1295
NORCAP South Solar Facility
East Windsor, CT
Responses to Interrogatories

1. The petition describes on-site soils as bare/exposed. Would topsoil be imported to the site to create favorable conditions for site seeding? If so, to what thickness would the topsoil be applied? Estimate the amount of imported topsoil required to create favorable growing conditions.

   The Site Plan calls for all disturbed areas to be loamed (i.e. topsoil spread) and seeded. The minimum depth of topsoil to be installed is 3 inches. The eastern end of the site does currently contain topsoil which can be respread. The remaining disturbed area requiring topsoil is approximately 7.0 acres. This corresponds to approximately 2,823 cubic yards of topsoil.

2. If low-growth ground cover is being used, how would site run-off be handled until the specified vegetation reaches full growth?

   During construction and until vegetation is established, the site runoff will be allowed to continue to sheet flow to the depressed area of the gravel pit to the west of the solar array, mimicking the existing condition. As discussed in the Stormwater Section of the Petition, no runoff leaves the property.

3. Petition page 14 describes an existing stormwater flow pattern that drains to a "low spot" on the property. Identify the location of this low spot. Would this low spot be transformed into a temporary or permanent detention basin?

   The attached Existing Conditions Plan shows the low spot located approximately 800 feet west of the western edge of the lease area within the footprint of the gravel pit on the property. The majority of the low spot is within an area of the gravel pit that is no longer active and has been restored with vegetation. There are no plans for the transformation of this low spot associated with the plans for the solar array or future plans for the gravel pit.

4. Was a stormwater analysis of the site performed? If so, please submit.

   As discussed in the Stormwater Section of the Petition, all runoff from the site currently sheet flows to the low spot on the property to the west where it infiltrates back into the ground. As a result, there is no discharge of runoff from the property. The proposed site conditions at the conclusion of project construction will mimic the existing conditions with the exception of the establishment of vegetation within the area of the solar array where bare soils currently exist. The establishment of vegetation will reduce the runoff coefficient and associated runoff from the site. As a result of the reduction in runoff resulting from the project and the fact that there is no discharge from the property, a detailed stormwater analysis was not deemed necessary.

5. What is the distance/direction to the nearest known wetland?

   According to the Town of East Windsor GIS Mapping, the nearest wetland to the project site appears to be a small pond associated with Dry Brook located across Wapping Road approximately 825 feet to the southeast.

6. Once ground cover is established, would the Petitioner use herbicides and/or pesticides to maintain healthy growth?

   The facility will be seeded with a low growth solar mix and mowed twice a year. We do not anticipate the need to use herbicides or pesticides to maintain healthy growth.

7. Does the proposed site contain mapped prime farmland soils? If so, do any prime farmland soils remain at the site due to past land use?

   Based on the Farmland Classification Map available on the Natural Resource Conservation Service Web Soil Survey (see attached), the parcel is mapped as prime farmland. However, based on the historic soil disturbance at the site, it does not appear that any of the prime farmland soils remain at the site.

8. What are the proposed construction work hours for the facility?

   Proposed construction hours are 7am – 7pm weekdays and Saturdays, or otherwise in compliance with the local authority having jurisdiction.

9. What is the anticipated life-span of the proposed facility? Please submit a facility Decommissioning Plan.

   The facility is expected to have a lifespan of at least 20 years. A decommissioning plan is attached.

10. Petition pages 11-12 lists several Town meetings attended by the Petitioner. Did the Town request specific changes to the Project, and if so, were these changes made prior to submission of the Petition to the Council?

    No specific changes to the plan were requested by the Town at the meetings with the Town Boards and Commissions.

11. Is the site property within the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture Farmland Preservation Program? If so, is a solar facility a permitted use? Please explain.

    No easements or deeds were found in the Town Land Records indicating that the site property is part of the Farmland Preservation Program.

12. Are there trees adjacent to the site that would shade portions of the solar field?

    Limits of clearing are represented on the site plan. Shading loss from adjacent trees is minimal. Any shading of panels would be primarily in early morning conditions.

13. What is the length of the racking posts and to what depth would the posts be driven into the ground to provide structural stability?

    The typical depth that posts are driven to is 6-8' below grade.

14. What is the minimum ground clearance beneath the solar panels?

    30 inches

15. What are the dimensions of the transformer/inverter pads?

76 inches by 70 inches

16. Provide specifications sheets for the proposed inverters and solar photovoltaic panels.

Please see the attached specification sheets.

17. Are there fans associated with the inverters? Would operation of the inverters meet State noise standards?

Per the provided specification sheet for the proposed inverters, the maximum decibel rating of each string inverter is <55 dBA. The East Windsor Sound Ordinance, which has been approved by the State, requires that noise on neighboring parcels in the Residential/Agricultural zones be below 55 dBA during daytime hours (when the solar inverters would be operating). Given that the peak noise levels of the inverters are less than 55 dBA and that the project will be setback from the parcel boundaries, no detrimental noise impacts are expected.