



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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www.ct.gov/csc

September 1, 2017

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director *MAB*

RE: **PETITION NO. 1312** – Candlewood 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 20 megawatt AC (26.5 megawatt DC) solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located on a 163 acre parcel at 197 Candlewood Mountain Road and associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy's Rocky River Substation on Kent Road in New Milford, Connecticut.

Comments have been received from the Department of Transportation, dated August 28, 2017. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MB/MP/bm

c: Council Members



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

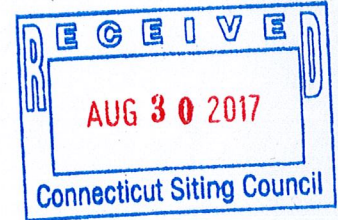


2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone:

Ms. Melanie Bachman
Acting Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

August 28, 2017



Dear Ms. Bachman:

Subject: Petition No. 1312
20.0 Megawatt AC Solar Facility
187 Candlewood Mountain Road
Town of New Milford

The Department of Transportation has reviewed the above-mentioned Petition and offers the following comment.

The proposed project may result in an associated work within the state right of way including but not limited to overhead or underground utility work from Route 7 to the project site. Therefore, Candlewood Solar must attain a Highway Encroachment Permit in conjunction with the Connecticut General Statutes prior to performing any work within the right of way. The District 4 Permit Office will need review three complete sets of construction plans which show all work within the State highway right of way, all site work, any required easements and standard details for highway construction prior to issuing the encroachment permit.

The District 4 Permit Office will determine the bond amount, insurance coverage, maintenance and protection of traffic, inspection, roadway restoration and pavement restoration requirements. Please see attached D.O.T. Screening Check List.

Should you have any further questions, please contact, Ms. Latoya Smith, Utility Engineer (Utilities), at (860) 594-2533.

Very truly yours,

Sohrab Afrazi
Transportation Principal Engineer
Bureau of Engineering and Construction

Fax: 508-598-3330
Email: jawalker@ameresco.com

Joel S. Lindsay
Director
Ameresco, inc.
111 Speen Street, Suite 410
Framingham, MA 01701
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C. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Candlewood Solar project was developed by the petitioner in response to the Tri-State Clean Energy RFP (the "RFP") issued by the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island in October 2015. The RFP was a cooperative effort of all three states and the investor-owned utilities within them to procure clean energy for input into the NE-ISO grid, thereby decreasing dependence on non-renewable sources of electric power within the region. In October of 2016, Ameresco's Candlewood Solar project was one of six bidders selected by the RFP selection committee to move ahead with 20-year power purchase agreement ("PPA") negotiation. Currently, PPA negotiations have completed and the PPA has been executed between the petitioner and the participating utilities – Eversource Energy, National Grid, and Unitil. Community outreach, coordination with local government officials and departments, and associated development activities including interconnection studies have proceeded in parallel with PPA negotiations. The Candlewood Solar project is located less than one mile from the rocky river substation, which is a PTF node on the NE-ISO grid system. The facility will interconnect at the Rocky River substation on Route 7 in New Milford.

The overall project schedule calls for completion of development and permitting by Fall of 2017, and construction from late Fall 2017 through Spring of 2018, with anticipated commencement of operations in mid-2018. The facility will provide up to 20 MW of AC power directly to the grid via an interconnection at the Rocky River substation on Route 7 in New Milford, CT. The project is located on Candlewood Mountain on a combination of open field and wooded areas.

The Petitioner is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ameresco. Ameresco specializes in the development of projects with utility, commercial, federal, and municipal customers across the United States, with a strong focus on the New England region. Ameresco has built over 100 MW of solar pv projects in the United States, with another 150 MW awarded or in the construction phase. Ameresco's portfolio of projects includes an 18.6 MW ground mount solar system for the United States Army, and multiple projects between 2 MW and 6 MW in New England for municipal and utility customers. On all of our solar pv projects, Ameresco acts as the lead project developer responsible for: providing construction financing, in-house engineering, local distribution company interconnection agreement(s), equipment procurement, construction management and oversight, system commissioning, and operations and maintenance.

Ameresco, as sole owner of Candlewood Solar LLC, has the capital and bank credit lines to immediately start construction upon completion of permitting using our in-place construction financing facilities. Ameresco has extensive experience financing projects through the PPA structure. Over the last thirteen years, Ameresco has entered into more than forty PPAs for various renewable energy projects throughout the United States and Canada, including 19 solar PPAs in new england. Ameresco has sourced and raised more than \$1.5 billion of project



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Screening Checklist
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Potential Transportation Infrastructure Impacts
Connecticut Siting Council Petition # 1312

Location : New Milford

1. Is the proposed facility abutting the right-of-way of a State maintained highway?

No
 Yes - Specify the location and show location on a detail site plan.

2. Is access for construction and maintenance of the proposed facility needed directly from a State maintained highway.

No
 Yes - Identify specify needs and access location.

3. Is the proposed facility within or abutting a State owned Railroad Right-of Way?

No
 Yes - Please provide an area and site plan.

4. Is the proposed facility within a two mile radius of any lands classified as preserved scenic land in accordance with CGS Section 13a-85a, "Acquisition of land adjacent to state highways for preservation and enhancement of scenic beauty and development of rest and recreation areas", or any designated scenic road in accordance with CGS Section 13b-31c, "Designation of scenic roads"?

No
 Yes



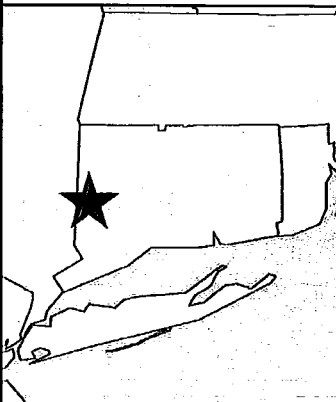


EXISTING CONDITIONS MAP

Candlewood Solar LLC

Candlewood Solar Project
New Milford, Connecticut

Location of Site



Legend

- Proposed Work Area
- Approximate Outline of Proposed Solar Array
- Parcel Boundary
- Forested Wetland
- Forested and/or Shrub Wetland
- Vernal Pool
- Proposed Interconnect
- Culvert
- Stream
- Existing Access Road
- Existing Paved Road
- Existing Gravel Road
- Existing Unpaved Path

Notes & Sources



amec
foster
wheeler
Amec Foster Wheeler
Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.
271 Mill Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824
(978) 692-9090

FIGURE
2

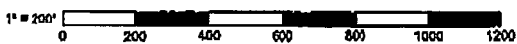
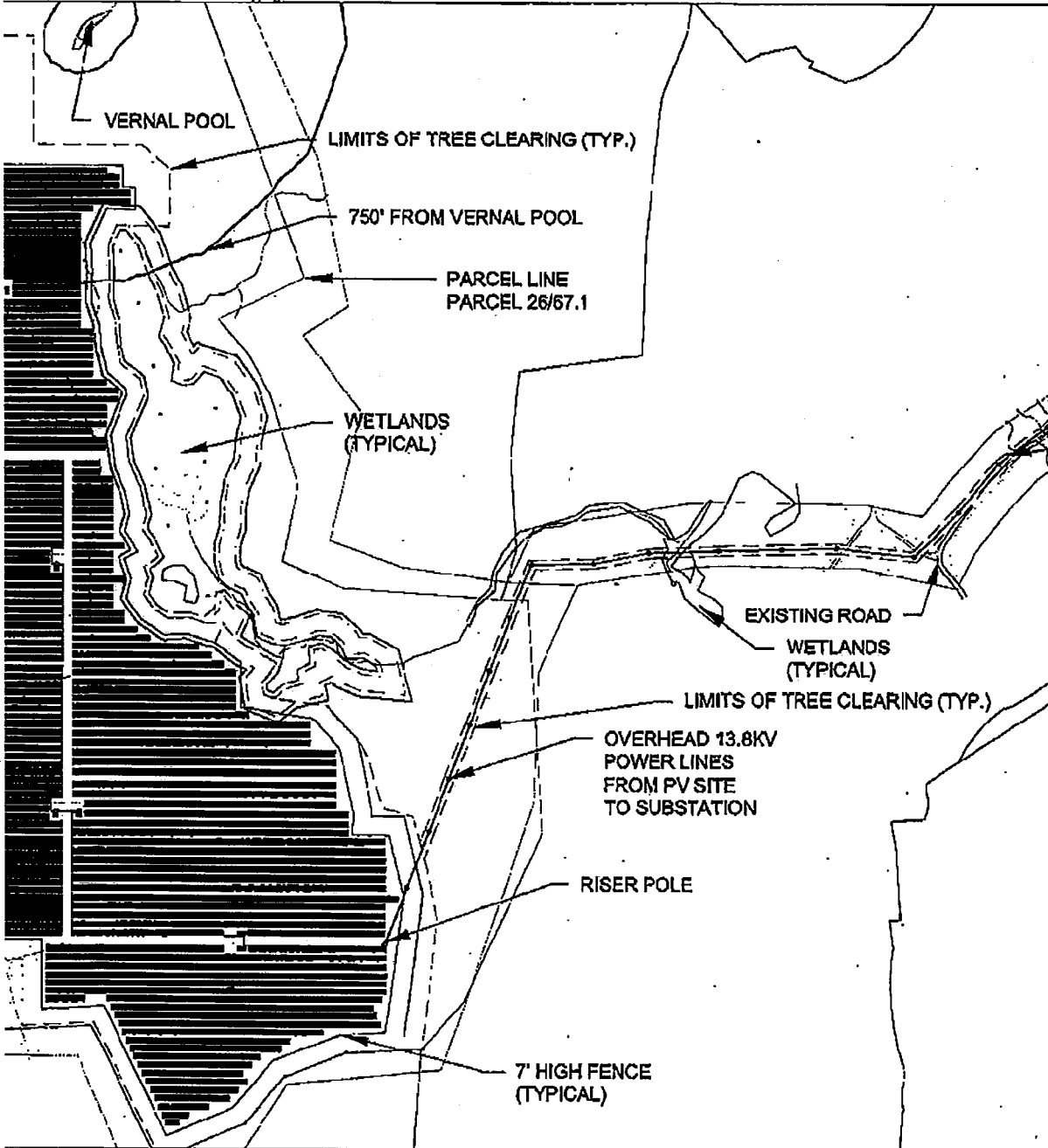
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

INVERTER				TRANSFORMER			
TYPE	SIZE (KW)	QTY	EFFICIENCY	KWAC	TYPE	QTY	RATING
EATON POWERXPERT	2500	8	98.0%	20,000	PAD MOUNT	8	(8) 2500KVA 570V/13.8KV

NOTES:

1. WINDING PATTERN IS CALCULATED BASED ON JAN 21ST FROM 7:30AM TO 4:30PM, FEBRUARY 21ST FROM 9AM TO 3PM, AND DECEMBER 21ST AT NOON, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SITE LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE.
2. GROUND SNOW LOAD = 31 PSF, ASCE 7-16 BASIC WIND SPEED = 105 MPH (RISK CATEGORY 1), EXPOSURE TYPE C.

SCALE: 1" = 200' WHEN PRINTED 36" x 24"
 DRAWN BY: PD
 CHECKED BY:
 DATE: 06/22/2017
 REVISIONS:



NEW MILFORD SOLAR PV
 197 CANDLEWOOD MOUNTAIN RD
 NEW MILFORD, CT
 GROUND MOUNT PV ARRAY
 26,509 kWh DC STC PV ARRAY INSTALLATION
 PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAY LAYOUT

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