

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

DWW SOLAR II, LLC PETITION FOR PETITION NO. 1313
DECLARATORY RULING THAT NO :
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL :
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED :
IS REQUIRED FOR A 26.4 MEGAWATT :
AC SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRIC :
GENERATING FACILITY IN SIMSBURY :
CONNECTICUT : AUGUST 29, 2017

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S INTERROGATORIES
TO DWW SOLAR II, LLC

1. To what extent did the petitioner consider statewide and locally important farmland soils (estimated to comprise approximately 115 acres) in the petition?
2. Was a site specific or more detailed soil survey considered for this project to map current agricultural soils and their range of characteristics throughout the site and if not, why was it not considered and performed? Was there a verification of the NRCS Soil Survey map of the upland soils?
3. Given the importance of developing a meaningful restoration plan for the agricultural soils contained on this site, would the petitioner agree to conduct a site specific survey of agricultural soils, using a soil scientist qualified for conducting such survey?
4. In addition to the process cited in the decommissioning plan, which seems to indicate an attempt to restore the site to previously existing conditions, was any mitigation considered for this project, including but not limited to purchasing development rights on an equivalent property or restoration of farmland in the area, to offset the loss of available agricultural land in the region?
5. Were any easements secured to enable the petitioner to claim in Section 4 (page 13) that the project will result in the "preservation of 133 acres of forest, wetlands and open space"?

6. In section 3.5 of the petition (page 9), the petitioner states: "The solar panels will be mounted on fixed metal framework or "racking". The racks will be arranged in rows facing due south and will be supported on pile foundations arranged in rows spaced approximately 13 feet apart to enable access by pickup truck or ATV." Please quantify, to the extent possible, (1) the number of rows of racking that will be placed on prime farmland soils, (2) the number of rows of racking that will be placed on statewide or locally important farmland soils, (3) the number of racking posts that will be driven into prime farmland soils and their approximate depth, and (4) the number of racking posts being driven into statewide and locally important farmland soils and their approximate depth.

7. Please calculate and display the footprint and approximate location and acreage of all trenching, grading, equipment pad areas overlain on the soil map to better display and quantify soil disturbance.

8. Did the petitioner consider designing for any production agriculture on the site, in concert with the solar project (e.g., providing space and access for bee hives and/or grazing animals)?

9. What, if any, fertilizers or pesticides are expected to be used during the life of the project, and for what reason(s)?

10. Were more environmentally friendly alternatives explored for supporting the myriad panels to be installed at the site? Please explain how the developer arrived at the choices selected (it is somewhat unclear in the documentation provided).

11. Please describe the process by which this site was selected and prioritized over other sites which may have had less of an impact to prime, statewide or locally important farmland.

12. Will topsoil, subsoil, and substratum soil material be stockpiled for reuse? Where will this be located and how will it be stabilized? What mechanisms are in place to assure these materials will stay on site?

13. Were any samples taken and georeferenced to determine existing soil physical and chemical properties to use as a baseline?

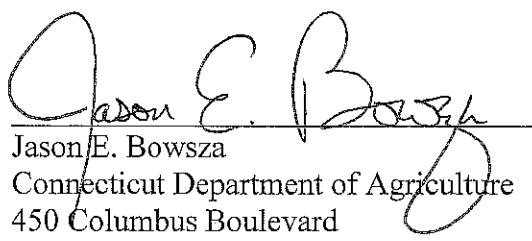
14. Will there be a soil scientist on site during soil disturbance activities to assist in directing trenching and grading to correctly separate and replace soil horizons and stockpiling?

15. Is the petitioner willing to prepare and submit more detailed site development and restoration plans and if so, when can this be submitted?

16. Is the petitioner willing to set aside separate bonding for soil restoration activities and if so, when will this be incorporated into the decommissioning plan?

STEVEN K. REVICZKY, COMMISSIONER
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

By:



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Certification of Service

I, Jason E. Bowsza hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Department of Agriculture's Interrogatories to DWW Solar II, LLC was sent on August 29, 2017, by e-mail and by first class mail, postage prepaid to the following parties on the Service List in this matter:

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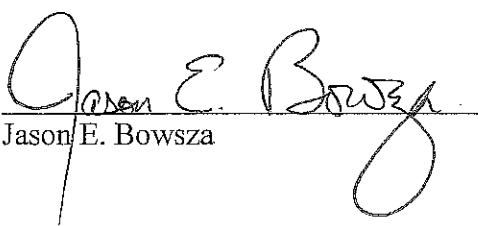
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