



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 4, 2017

Kirsten S.P. Rigney
Bureau of Energy Technology Policy
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

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.

Dear Attorney Rigney:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than October 24, 2017. 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.

Copies of your responses shall be provided to all parties and intervenors listed on the service list, which can be found on the Council's pending matters website.

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
Executive Director

MB/MP/laf

c: Parties and Intervenors

Petition No. 1312
Interrogatories to DEEP
Set One
October 3, 2017

1. Has CT selected any projects in other states as part of any competitive procurement processes either jointly with other ISO-New England, Inc. (ISO-NE) region states or on its own? If so, for each, please list:
 - a. Project name, developer and location of the project;
 - b. When project was selected, why was the project selected and through what Request for Proposals (RFP);
 - c. Fuel, generating capacity in megawatts and capacity factor of the project;
 - d. Permitting requirements for the project in the host state;
 - e. Status of the facility (ex. Under construction, operational, etc.); and
 - f. How the project relates to and/or meets renewable energy credits (RECs) and renewable portfolio standards (RPS) goals.
2. Are any of the projects listed above sited on prime farmland or core forest? Please describe.
3. What were the goals and purpose for the Tri-State Clean Energy RFP?
4. Please describe the project evaluation and selection criteria that were used in the Tri-State Clean Energy RFP.
5. What are the implications of other states selecting projects in Connecticut during competitive procurement processes? For example, in this instance, will the electricity generated by the proposed project be transmitted exclusively to Massachusetts and Rhode Island? Or, is the sale of electricity (across state boundaries) very different and unrelated to the actual physical flow of electricity? How would the ratepayer and environmental attributes be treated? Please explain.
6. Did Connecticut participate in the New England Governors' Commitment to Regional Cooperation on Energy Infrastructure Issues in 2013? If so, please describe the goals and purpose for this commitment.
7. Did Connecticut participate in the New England Governors' Renewed Commitment to Regional Cooperation on Energy Infrastructure Issues in 2015? If so, please describe the goals and purpose for this renewed commitment.
8. Why didn't the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) select this project?
9. Generally, is it correct to say that RPS goals are specific to each state, and there are no known federal RPS requirements at this time?
10. Is it also correct to say that RPS goals are based on electrical energy, e.g. megawatt-hours, rather than capacity, e.g. megawatts?

11. On page 4 of DEEP's Comments dated September 21, 2017, DEEP notes that, "Many threatened and endangered species prefer or need large areas of core forest to survive and, as this habitat type is reduced, it becomes harder to keep or reestablish these species." Page 6 of DEEP's Comments lists the State-listed species that are known to occur within or close to the boundaries of the project based on the Natural Diversity Database. Which, if any, of the threatened and/or endangered species noted on that list "need large areas of core forest to survive" and would have more difficulty keeping or reestablishing species as core forest habitat is reduced?
12. Does Connecticut have a viable farm energy policy? Please describe.
13. Is fertilizer runoff a detriment to water quality of nearby streams and wetlands?
14. Could exposed agricultural soils during spring planting lead to stormwater runoff and sedimentation to adjacent streams and wetlands during heavy rain events?